

Order of the State Secretary of Foreign Affairs of 21 September 2025, no. BZ252014, laying down administrative rules and a ceiling for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 (Ukraine Partnership Facility 2025)

The State Secretary of Foreign Affairs,

Having regard to articles 6 and 7 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree;

Having regard to articles 5.1 and 7.2 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006;

Orders:

Article 1

The administrative rules appended as an annexe to this Order apply to grants awarded under articles 5.1 and 7.2 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 for activities that contribute to the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine from the date on which this Order enters into force up to and including 31 December 2026.

Article 2

1. Grant applications under the Ukraine Partnership Facility may be submitted from 10.00 CET on 30 January 2026 until 17.00 CEST on 30 April 2026.
2. Grant applications under the Ukraine Partnership Facility 2025 must be submitted using the application form made available by the Minister and must be accompanied by the documents stipulated on that form.¹
3. Before submitting a grant application under the Ukraine Partnership Facility 2025, applicants must submit a quick scan in the period from 10.00 CEST on 17 October 2025 to 17.00 CET on 21 November 2025.
4. Quick scans must be submitted using the form made available by the Minister and must be accompanied by the documents stipulated on that form.¹

Article 3

A ceiling of €26.5 million applies to grants awarded under the Ukraine Partnership Facility 2025 from the date on which this Order enters into force up to and including 31 December 2026.

Article 4

The Order of the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development of 16 August 2024, no. BZ2404502, laying down administrative rules and a ceiling for grants awarded under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 (Ukraine Partnership Facility 2024)² is repealed, with the proviso that it continues to apply to grants awarded pursuant to it.

Article 5

This Order enters into force on the day after the date of the Government Gazette in which it appears and lapses with effect from 1 January 2027, with the proviso that it continues to apply to applications submitted and grants awarded prior to that date.

This Order and its accompanying annexe will be published in the Government Gazette.

P. Grotenhuis

Director-General for International Cooperation

For the State Secretary of Foreign Affairs

¹ <https://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-programmes/ukraine-partnership-facility-upf>

² Government Gazette 2024, no. 27683.

ANNEXE

1. Background

Ukraine has faced severe hardship since the Russian invasion began and its needs continue to grow. According to the updated Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA4), published in early 2025 by the Ukrainian government, the World Bank and the European Commission, the total cost of reconstruction is estimated to now be USD 524 billion (compared to USD 486 billion in spring 2024). Since then, Russia's large-scale attacks have continued, causing ever more damage. Ukraine is desperately in need of support in many areas.

Given the enormous extent of Ukraine's needs, it is crucial to support the private sector in contributing to sustainable recovery, thus alleviating the pressure on the Ukrainian public sector. In 2023 the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation established the Ukraine Partnership Facility to enable businesses and civil society organisations to provide a demand-driven contribution to the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine. The first funding round in 2023-2024 was followed by a second funding round (Ukraine Partnership Facility 2024) in 2024-2025. Based on experiences with the two previous funding rounds and the subsequent desired modifications, and in view of the ongoing, unabated need for support, the State Secretary of Foreign Affairs ('the Minister') has decided to launch a new funding round entitled the Ukraine Partnership Facility 2025 ('grant programme').

Through the grant programme, the Minister is providing resources for projects by partnerships involving businesses and civil society organisations, that can contribute to reconstruction in Ukraine and the sustainable recovery of its economy and society. Emergency humanitarian aid falls outside the scope of this programme.³ Grants are intended for activities in at least one of the following sectors: healthcare, water, circular construction, sustainable energy and agriculture. These are sectors in which Ukraine's needs are urgent and where the Netherlands can offer added value. The projects in question would be impossible without financial support due to market failure.

The grant programme is intended for projects that pursue specific and measurable final outcomes. In other words, feasibility studies, pilot projects and projects with experimental technologies are not eligible for a grant. The projects must also lead to broader economic and social development locally. They must have a sustained positive effect on the local community or a chain of businesses and civil society organisations, rather than one business or group of businesses or one civil society organisation exclusively. The projects cannot be commercially financed and must aim to alleviate the pressure on the Ukrainian public sector with regard to reconstruction.

The Netherlands strives to align as closely as possible with the priorities of the Ukrainian government regarding reconstruction and structural recovery of the Ukrainian economy and society. The Ukrainian government prioritises reconstruction plans and makes the necessary funds available on the basis of a database entitled DREAM. All layers of government – local, regional and national – enter their key reconstruction programmes and projects into this database. A national government committee assigns priorities to the different projects. Projects with the highest priority are grouped together in a subsection of the DREAM database, entitled the Single Project Pipeline (SPP)⁴ The DREAM database is currently still under development. Applicants should ideally be able to demonstrate that they are in contact with the local authorities of the place where the project will be carried out, to best align with local priorities. Regional and local governments are currently working to include their priority projects in the DREAM database.

Dutch businesses have a lot of experience in the sectors targeted by the grant programme. Facilitating these businesses so that they can make a long-term contribution is considered an important means of achieving the programme's objectives. For illustrative purposes descriptions are given per sector, below, of the types of projects that would be eligible for a grant under this programme in the context of addressing urgent needs:

Healthcare

³ An explanation of what humanitarian aid is can be found here: <https://www.government.nl/topics/development/humanitarian-aid>.

⁴ Companies are encouraged to take note of the DREAM database and the registered projects and programs. The DREAM database can be found at <https://bi.dream.gov.ua/> and the Single Project Pipeline at <https://bi.dream.gov.ua/spi/#/spp>. The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) will publish any new information or updates about accessing the databases on www.rvo.nl/upf (English website: <https://english.rvo.nl/subsidies-financing/upf>).

Projects aimed at expanding or restoring the sector's capacity, possibly supplemented with – but not exclusively focused on – modernisation.

Projects in the area of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) should align with broader programmes being carried out by the Ukrainian authorities and should use methods recognised by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Water

Projects aimed at restoring the drinking water supply (*vodokanals*) and rebuilding water treatment plants.

Circular construction

Projects aimed at the development, use or reuse of buildings, areas or infrastructure, achieving this without unnecessarily depleting natural resources, polluting the environment or damaging ecosystems. The construction methods used must be economically sound and contribute to the current and future wellbeing of people and animals. The programme has a particular focus on projects aimed at housing and civic infrastructure.

Sustainable energy

Projects for the sustainable energy sector aimed at enhancing decentralised energy generation capacity, energy efficiency and/or energy storage, and focused on renewable energy technologies (including green gas for local use in Ukraine). The projects deliver solutions that cannot immediately replace Ukraine's centralised energy system, but they can have positive effects in the short term and thus be a valuable addition to the country's existing energy system. The programme is not intended for projects aimed primarily at securing energy supply for a single business, as a form of alleviating demand for electricity from the grid. The minister welcomes projects aimed at establishing an autonomous energy supply for civic infrastructure, such as hospitals and schools.

Agriculture

For example, irrigation projects and agrilogistics projects, notably in the areas of storage, refrigeration and distribution of food, that are public in nature and serve a broader public interest by contributing to global and local food security and supplies.

General project characteristics

Generally, projects should contribute to the reconstruction of facilities damaged or destroyed by the war. Projects can also, for instance, aim to create jobs locally or enhance the employability of Ukrainian citizens (by strengthening their knowledge, skills and mental and/or physical health). Where possible, projects should also help improve the position of vulnerable groups such as women, young people and war veterans.

2. Implementing organisation

The Minister has mandated the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO), an agency of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, to implement this grant programme.

3. Definitions

The following definitions are used in this grant programme:

- *Economic activity*: any activity in which goods or services are offered on a market;
- *Group*: an economic unit in which the following entities form a single organisation:
 - a. an entity with legal personality governed by private law that directly or indirectly
 - 1° has issued more than half of the capital to,
 - 2° is a fully liable partner of, or
 - 3° has a controlling interest in
 one or more legal persons, and
 - b. the latter legal person/persons;
- *Tax group*: a group of businesses seen as one business for tax purposes;
- *Civil society organisation*: a non-profit organisation that is not connected to a government organisation either de facto or under its constitution, which serves a public interest and possesses legal personality under civil law in the country of its registration, and is registered as such. It must not have been established by a government organisation or it must have become fully autonomous from the government organisation that established it;
- *Minister*: the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development;
- *Business*: a legal person that engages in economic activity and is not a civil society organisation;
- *Partnership*: a contractual collaboration without legal personality whose partners each have legal personality under civil law, that is aimed at achieving common objectives by carrying out activities, such that each partner delivers part of the necessary input and bears part of the accompanying risks;
- *Lead party*: member of the partnership that applies for the grant on its behalf. If the application is approved, the lead party is the grant recipient and, as such, bears full responsibility towards the Minister for implementation of the proposed activities and compliance with the obligations in respect of the grant.

4. Ukraine Partnership Facility 2025

4.1 Objective

The objective of the grant programme is to support businesses, specifically with a view to alleviating the pressure on the Ukrainian public sector, in contributing to reconstruction efforts in Ukraine and to the sustainable recovery of its economy and society, with a focus on the following sectors, as described in section 1: healthcare, water, circular construction, sustainable energy and agriculture.

4.2 Parties that may be eligible for a grant

Grants in this programme are intended for partnerships, represented by a lead party that submits the application for a project.

The partners and partnership must meet the following requirements:

- Each partner is either a business or a civil society organisation.
- The partnership consists of no fewer than two and no more than six partners, at least one of which is an organisation registered in Ukraine that has knowledge of the local context, and at least one which is a business that has its registered office in the Netherlands.
- Each partner has demonstrable expertise relating to the type of activities it intends to carry out under the partnership. This means each partner must have at least two years' experience, gained within the last 10 years, with the implementation of activities in the sector on which the project for which grant funding is sought focuses.
- Each partner can demonstrate that it has sufficient capacity to carry out its activities under the partnership and can guarantee that this capacity is structural.
- It should be evident from the project plan that each partner fulfils a clear and significant role within the partnership, and is necessary to attain the objective of the activities for which grant funding is sought.
- Each partner must have been established before 15 August 2023.
- The partnership must have been established prior to submission of the application.
- Each partner must be financially stable and be able to demonstrate its capacity to finance the own contribution (see section 4.6).

Partnerships that can demonstrate that they have collaborated successfully in the past will be awarded a higher score than newly established partnerships (see section 7).

The lead party is a business or civil society organisation with its registered office in the Netherlands. The lead party must also:

- have a total staff establishment of at least 3 FTEs,⁵ who have the employment status of an employee.⁶ In the case of a group or tax group, this threshold applies to the whole group or tax group;
- have at least two years' experience, gained within the last 10 years, with activities in Ukraine;
- be capable of adequate financial management in order to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the activities.

If the lead party does not have at least two years' experience in Ukraine then, in demonstrating and assessing this experience, it may also refer to experience gained by members of its staff in a previous role with another organisation.

The lead party must demonstrate that each of the partners have adopted an integrity policy⁷ and introduced procedures to apply that policy within their organisation. This integrity policy and these procedures should serve to prevent as far as possible any serious forms of inappropriate behaviour, including sexual misconduct, towards employees or other individuals during the implementation of the proposed activities by the partners and other parties they involve in the activities, and in the event of such incidents ensure that they are investigated and appropriate measures are taken to put an end as promptly as possible to the misconduct or inappropriate behaviour and mitigate the consequences. These procedures must be structured in a way that guarantees prompt reporting of any such incidents to RVO.

Ukrainian public or semi-public institutions are not eligible for a grant under this programme, neither directly as lead party nor indirectly as a co-applicant. However, they may be involved in a project as a beneficiary or be consulted by one or more of the project partners with a view to achieving the programme's objectives. The applicant (lead party) can claim any expenses incurred by these institutions as 'third party costs' within the meaning of section 5.2 (costs payable to third parties, supported by an invoice).

4.3 Recommendation

If a lead party is considering submitting a grant application on behalf of a partnership, it is required to first request a recommendation from RVO based on a quick scan submitted for that purpose.⁸ The recommendation is issued by an RVO adviser to the lead party. The recommendation is non-binding, and it is up to the lead party to decide whether or not to submit an application. If the lead party decides to submit an application, it is responsible for demonstrating that the partnership satisfies the criteria to be eligible for a grant.

Quick scans can be submitted until 17.00 CET on 21 November 2025.

4.4 Eligible activities

To be eligible for a grant, the application must concern a systematic, comprehensive approach made up of activities aimed at a common objective ('project').

The project:

- pursues the objective set out in section 4.1, namely to contribute, specifically with a view to alleviating the pressure on the Ukrainian public sector, to reconstruction efforts in Ukraine and to the sustainable recovery of its economy and society, with a focus on the healthcare, water, circular construction, sustainable energy and/or agriculture sectors (e.g. providing access to drinking water or sustainable energy, or expanding or restoring essential health services);
- must address needs at local level in Ukraine; and
- must be aimed at improving living conditions for local communities.

Activities are not eligible for a grant if:

- they already receive grant funding or a contribution directly from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs budget;
- they could be commercially funded;
- they are based on experimental technologies; or

⁵ FTE: full-time equivalent. Businesses and civil society organisations all have their own method of calculating FTEs, but the general formula is an employee's weekly working hours, divided by the number of hours in a full working week.

⁶ <https://www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/nl/arbeidsrelaties/content/wanneer-is-sprake-van-loondienst>

⁷ <https://english.rvo.nl/topics/rbc/seah>

⁸ This form can be found on the RVO website: www.rvo.nl/upf.

- they entail the provision of emergency humanitarian aid.⁹

4.5 Duration of activities

Activities for which a grant is requested must have a minimum duration of six months and a maximum duration of four years. Activities must start within two months of the grant award.

4.6 Size of the grant

Grants will be awarded for no more than 90% of the eligible costs. The minimum grant amount per application is €500,000 and the maximum is €4,000,000.

Each partner or, if applicable, the group or tax group of which it is a part can be awarded a Ukraine Partnership Facility (UPF) grant for no more than two projects, irrespective of whether it or the group/tax group is lead party or co-applicant in these applications. This includes grants awarded in previous UPF funding rounds.¹⁰ If a partner, either independently or as a legal person in a group/tax group, is a lead party/co-applicant in two applications that have already been awarded grants, all subsequent applications from partnerships involving that partner or legal person in the group/tax group will be rejected.

At least 10% of the total eligible costs must be covered by the partnership and be funded either from the partners' own resources or from resources obtained from third parties (not the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The partners contributing financially to the project must demonstrate their financial capacity by providing two annual accounts and the most recent half-yearly figures.

5. Eligible costs

5.1 Principles

In calculating the eligible costs for a grant, the following principles apply:

- costs must be reasonable, logical and necessary;¹¹
- the activities must, by their nature, be suitable for the partner incurring the costs;
- costs must be directly related to carrying out the activities. Contingency costs are not eligible for grant funding;
- only costs incurred after the application is submitted are eligible for a grant;
- internal costs are eligible without mark-up;
- costs will be compared with local standards and assessed for reasonableness;
- costs relating to project management and coordination may not exceed 10% of the total eligible costs;
- costs incurred after the project has been concluded are not eligible for grant funding, with the exception of costs relating to the mandatory audit carried out by an independent external auditor in order to determine the definitive grant amount.

5.2 Eligible costs

The following costs to be incurred by the partners are eligible for a grant:

- Staff costs: the number of hours worked by people directly involved with the eligible activities, multiplied by €87.50, which should include both direct wage costs and associated indirect costs up to a maximum of €700 a day. Notwithstanding this fixed hourly rate, the hourly rate for staff of partners working abroad will be established in line with local standards, to a maximum of the aforementioned fixed hourly rate.
- Depreciation of assets within the duration of activities, with the exception of land and existing buildings. The basis for determining depreciation is the purchase price – taking any residual value into account – plus any adjustment costs. If assets (with the exception of land and existing buildings) will be transferred after the project ends to an organisation in Ukraine that is not part of the transferring partner's group/tax group, the cost price of these assets can be included under eligible costs.
- Third party costs: costs payable to third parties, supported by an invoice.
- Travel costs: international travel costs and regional travel costs outside the Netherlands based on economy class fares.

⁹ <https://www.government.nl/topics/development/humanitarian-aid>

¹⁰ The Ukraine Partnership Facility (Government Gazette 2023, no. 22147) or the Ukraine Partnership Facility 2024 (Government Gazette 2024, no. 27683).

¹¹ See also article 14 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree.

- e. Subsistence costs: the maximum reimbursement is the number of nights multiplied by the UN Daily Subsistence Allowance rates in effect on the date the application is submitted.¹² Additional travel and subsistence costs may also be eligible on account of risks, insurance requirements and travel warnings, provided that these additional costs are properly substantiated in the application.

5.3 Costs not eligible for a grant

The following costs are in any event not eligible:

- costs associated with developing, preparing or submitting the application;
- value-added tax (VAT), in so far as this is not a cost item;
- financing costs and interest payments;
- costs resulting from inflation and exchange rate fluctuations;
- costs of product development;
- costs associated with purchasing licences;
- costs of purchasing land and existing buildings;
- costs of registering and maintaining intellectual property rights;
- contingency costs.

6. Application

6.1 Requirements

Before submitting a grant application, the lead party must have obtained a recommendation from RVO on the basis of a quick scan as described in section 4.3. Quick scans can be submitted until 17:00 CET on 21 November 2025.

Applications must be submitted using the form supplied by RVO for this purpose. The form must be accompanied by the documents specified in it, in the format prescribed by RVO. The documents must be supplied in Dutch or English.

The application must in any event include:

- the reference number of the recommendation issued by RVO;
- signed partner forms for each partner;
- evidence (such as a collective wage sheet) that the lead party has a total staff establishment of at least 3 FTEs, whose employment status is that of an employee. In the case of a group or tax group, this applies to the whole group or tax group;
- a project plan that includes and explains at least the following:
 - o a comprehensive description of the activities;
 - o a description of the baseline situation before the commencement of activities;
 - o the project's intended results in relation to the grant programme's objective: to contribute, specifically with a view to alleviating the pressure on the Ukrainian public sector, to reconstruction efforts in Ukraine and to the sustainable recovery of its economy and society, with a focus on the healthcare, water, circular construction, sustainable energy and agriculture sectors, and not including emergency humanitarian aid;
 - o the project's scope;
 - o how the activities correspond to needs at local level in Ukraine and contribute to the Ukrainian government's policy/priorities and/or the intervention strategy of international organisations with regard to reconstruction;
 - o how the activities will contribute to the sustainable recovery of Ukraine's economy and society, in terms of improving living conditions for local communities – with special attention for vulnerable groups, in particular women, young people and war veterans;
 - o the broader economic and social effects in the longer term;
 - o how the partners will work together in the partnership, and why each partner is necessary for the implementation of the project for which grant funding is requested. In other words, each partner must be shown to have a clear, active and significant role in the partnership;
 - o the cooperation with and among the main stakeholders;

¹² <https://icsc.un.org/Home/DailySubsistence>

- which local parties (beneficiaries) will receive knowledge and/or goods, and what their role in and contribution to the project consists of;
- if applicable, how goods will be transferred to local parties and follow-up assistance organised, and how the project's impact will be sustained over the longer term;
- how partners will be able to carry out the project in Ukraine in a situation complicated by war;
- a risk analysis comprising a summary of the main risks and mitigating measures. Such risks may include:
 - risks of implementing the project in the context of war;
 - financial risks associated with implementation;
 - safety and security risks;
 - risk of corruption;
 - other risks;
- a budget showing the total project costs, and each partner's share towards the minimum 10% own contribution;
- a liquidity forecast for each partner and time period (preferably quarterly);
- the lead party's annual accounts for the last two years (t-1 and t-2) audited by an external, independent auditor or, if no audited annual accounts are available for one or both of these years, non-audited annual accounts for these years. If the partners are financing the own contribution from their own resources and one or more partners individually contributes at least €25,000, the aforementioned financial documents must also be provided for this partner or these partners (in Dutch or English);
- a statement affirming and giving reasons why the project could not be commercially funded;
- a statement that the partners' hourly rates or other budget items do not include a mark-up;
- a signed agreement guaranteeing the participation of the partners in carrying out the activities, the distribution of roles and their compliance with the agreements reached, as well as their agreement to fulfil the obligations towards the Minister in respect of the grant.

The lead party will ensure that every business participating in the application will declare that they are aware of and will comply with the OECD Guidelines.¹³ This means that they will exercise due diligence in accordance with the Guidelines so as to identify and where necessary mitigate actual or potential negative effects of their actions and value chain on people and the environment, and communicate transparently about this. The partners must also declare that they are aware of the FMO exclusion list and will not engage in any activities on that list.¹⁴

After the application has been submitted, businesses whose registered office is in the Netherlands will be asked to truthfully complete an RBC self-assessment.¹⁵ This is a short questionnaire that provides insight into the different steps of the due diligence process, and how the business in question could apply them. RVO may contact a business in response to information provided in the RBC self-assessment.

The partners must immediately notify RVO of any facts or circumstances that indicate breaches of the OECD Guidelines, such as human rights violations or significant environmental damage. If the National Contact Point (NCP) for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises receives a notification about a business,¹⁶ the business is required to inform RVO accordingly and to cooperate with the NCP.

6.2 Opportunity for supplementation

With regard to the application procedure, particular attention is drawn to article 7, paragraph 3 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree. If an incomplete application is submitted, the Minister may request a supplement in accordance with section 4:5 of the General Administrative Law Act. In this case, the date and time of receipt of the application will be the date and time on which the supplement was received. This will increase the likelihood of rejection due to exhaustion of available resources.

Additionally, the shorter the time remaining between submission of the application and the deadline, the greater the risk that, if the application is incomplete, the Minister will not use their discretionary powers to request a supplement; this in connection with the time required to check all applications are complete. In this

¹³ <https://www.oecdguidelines.nl/>

¹⁴ <https://www.fmo.nl/policies-and-position-statements>

¹⁵ If RVO is already in possession of a valid self-assessment of responsible business conduct (RBC self-assessment) or if the application is likely to be rejected, it will not ask the business or businesses in question to provide another self-assessment.

¹⁶ <https://www.oecdguidelines.nl/notifications>

case, no supplement will be requested and the application will be assessed as it stands. This may result in rejection of the application.

Moreover, incomplete or insufficiently substantiated applications (in whole or in part) may be rejected on the grounds of failure to adequately satisfy the requirements and criteria.

When filling in the form, it is not sufficient to refer for the sake of brevity to other parts of the application, websites or annexes, unless the application form states that this is wholly or partly acceptable. Incomplete applications may be rejected.

7. Assessment of applications and allocation of resources

The provisions of the General Administrative Law Act, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 are fully applicable to the assessment of applications and the award of grants under this grant programme. Applications will be assessed in accordance with the above legislation and pursuant to the requirements set out in this grant programme.

Applications will be assessed in the order in which they are received, based on the date and time on which the application is considered complete or the last possible supplement is received (see section 6.2). When it becomes likely that funds will be exhausted based on the assessment of previously received applications, the processing of applications received from that point on will be suspended. If any applications submitted earlier are rejected, the processing of applications will be resumed in the order in which they were received. If the total amount requested by applications received at the same time exceeds the funds available for the funding round in question, the order in which the applications are processed will be determined by drawing lots.

To be eligible for a grant, applications must satisfy the requirements above, especially those set out in sections 4 to 6. Only applications that meet those requirements will proceed to a substantive assessment based on the criteria set out below.

Applications are awarded points for each criterion and sub-criterion. Applications must be of sufficient quality to be eligible for a grant. This means they must score a minimum of **65 points in total**. A minimum number of points also applies to each of the criteria 1 to 3 and their sub-criteria. Bonus points can be attained through criterion 4. Note: an application that receives only the minimum number of points on each of the criteria 1 to 3 will attain a total score of 60 points. The threshold to be eligible for a grant award is 65 points. This means the application is not eligible for a grant award, unless it makes up for the shortfall by attaining bonus points through criterion 4. Otherwise, applications must attain more than the minimum points on each of the criteria 1 to 3.

The criteria used to assess the extent to which projects contribute to the programme objective as referred to in section 4.1 are as follows:

Criteria	Maximum points
1. Alignment with local needs and priorities (minimum of 20 points)	
1.1. The project (a) addresses needs in Ukraine, and (b) is aligned with the policy and priorities of the Ukrainian government with regard to reconstruction and the sustainable recovery of Ukraine's economy and society, as described in the Ukraine Plan and/or the 4th Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA4) and/or other strategic plans published after 2022 that set out national and/or local priorities.	15
1.2. The project aligns with the intervention strategy of international financial institutions, including the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the United Nations.	4
1.3. The project will transfer substantial knowledge, capacity and/or goods to local parties.	10
2. Results and impact (minimum of 20 points)	

2.1. The project will contribute to creating long-term economic development/growth in Ukraine in the form of, for instance, new jobs, enhanced productivity or a value chain.	10
2.2. The project will help improve the living conditions of the target group in Ukraine, particularly vulnerable groups such as women, young people and war veterans.	8
2.3. The project's impact will be sustained after its completion. This concerns the extent to which results are guaranteed to be lasting, even after the project's conclusion.	8
2.4. The project will have positive effects on sustainability, environmental improvement and/or mitigation of carbon emissions.	5
3 Action plan and efficiency (minimum of 20 points)	
3.1. The project is cost-efficient in terms of the balance between the eligible costs and the envisaged development objectives and risks.	10
3.2. (a) The project plan is SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-related); (b) objectives are realistic and concrete; (c) the partnership has demonstrable experience with similar projects; and (d) the partners can demonstrate that they have collaborated successfully in the past.	13
3.3. An analysis has been carried out that (a) identifies risks to achieving the envisaged project results; and (b) specifies how these risks will be mitigated.	5
4. Bonus points (no minimum score)	
4.1. The project will be carried out in or demonstrably benefit one or more of the following regions in Ukraine: Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Dnipro, Kharkiv, Poltava, Sumy, Chernihiv, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk.	6
4.2 Besides the mandatory own contribution of 10%, the partners are contributing an additional 10% to the eligible project costs from their own resources or resources obtained from third parties (not being the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). This additional 10% is not a contribution in kind. The number of bonus points awarded depends on the amount of the additional contribution to the eligible costs.	6
Total points (minimum of 65, maximum of 100)	100

In aid of its assessment, RVO may undertake action to verify any assumptions or statements made in the application. To this end, it may obtain the information needed to properly assess the quality of the application.

RVO will also consult external experts during the substantive assessment procedure. The embassy in Kyiv will always be asked to take part in the assessment of applications.

8. Grounds for rejection

In addition to the grounds for rejection set out in section 4:35 of the General Administrative Law Act, a grant application will be rejected if it does not satisfy the provisions of this grant programme or if the resources available are insufficient.

9. Impact of war

If an ongoing project is hindered by the Russian invasion, so that it suffers damage or cannot be fully completed, the grant recipient will report this in accordance with the terms of the grant award. The grant recipient will then consult RVO to jointly seek out a reasonable solution. This could entail suspending the project temporarily until the situation improves, definitively ending the project or taking another course of action. If the decision is taken to definitively suspend the project, any unused portion of prepayments received must be repaid. If the grant recipient wishes to continue the project but will incur higher costs due to the effects of war, it can submit an application for a top-up to the previously awarded grant if the grant ceiling has not yet been reached. This supplementary application will be assessed in accordance with this grant programme. Please note that the supplementary application will only be assessed after the initial application has been assessed, and

that the amount that may be awarded to the supplementary application will depend on the amount of funding still available under the grant ceiling. The grant recipient bears responsibility for security risks in Ukraine.¹⁷

¹⁷ <https://www.nederlandwereldwijd.nl/reisadvies/oukraine>

10. Monitoring

RVO will carry out random checks to assess the proper use of grant funds, verifying regularity and efficiency under the terms of the grant decision. In addition, an audit will have to be carried out by an independent external auditor to establish the definitive grant amount.

11. Obligations

The grant decision will set out the obligations tied to the grant, including an obligation to notify the Minister of facts and circumstances that may have a significant impact on the grant, such as the applicant's temporary or complete inability to implement the activities for which a grant is awarded (see also section 9) or to comply with the OECD Guidelines, and obligations to submit accountability reports, including interim and final narrative and financial reports (and an audit opinion drawn up by an independent external auditor, for determining the definitive grant amount) as set out in the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).¹⁸

It will also prohibit the grant recipient and the primary supplier from using child and/or forced labour.¹⁹ The grant recipient must also immediately notify RVO of any facts or circumstances that would suggest these organisations are using child and/or forced labour.

12. Administrative burden

A test based on a standard cost model has been carried out in the interests of accountability for the administrative burden that the applicant will face, from drafting and submitting the application to the management phase, the determining of the definitive grant amount, and any objection and review procedures. The calculation shows that the administrative burden expressed as a percentage of the total available grant budget is 5%.

¹⁸ <https://projects.rvo.nl/iati-portals/>

¹⁹ Any form of labour that the International Labour Organization seeks to prevent with the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (no. 29), the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (no. 105) or the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (no. 138).