

CO-FINANCING INITIATIVE CALL FOR PROPOSAL

1. Introduction

The Strategic Steering Committee of *Fondo per il contrasto della Povertà Educativa Minorile (The Fund Against Educational Poverty in Children and Youth)*, as part of its 2017 budgeting program has included a pilot initiative in co-financing.

The Co-financing Initiative aims to achieve two important goals: the first is pooling together additional resources to reinforce the Fund's objectives; and the second is fostering a positive dialogue with other parties, thus sharing knowledge, practices, and actions related to fighting educational poverty in children. This would allow to maximize the impact of initiatives supported in our country and raise awareness of the far-reaching importance of investing in educational opportunities in Italy.

2. Implementation Process

The call contains two well-defined implementation phases:

During phase I, all private grant-making organizations (hereafter, the "co-financing parties"), wishing to initiate a collaboration with the social enterprise CON I BAMBINI are invited to submit project ideas consistent with the objectives of the *Fondo per il contrasto della Povertà Educativa Minorile*¹.

During phase II, based on the co-financing parties and on the selected project idea, the implementing organisations will be identified, either through ways of participatory project design (particularly ideas referring to specific territories), or through dedicated public calls for proposals, jointly promoted by both the co-financing parties and the social enterprise CON I BAMBINI.

The Fund provides up to **EUR 10 million** in grants for all eligible projects under the co-financing initiative.

2.1 PHASE I: Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

The co-financing party shall submit to CON I BAMBINI, by no later than **1:00 PM on 28 June 2018**, a project idea referring to a specific subject and/or territory, by completing an application form provided by the social enterprise.

The project ideas must refer to pilot initiatives aiming to fight educational poverty, which thereupon support children and youth in one or more age groups between 0 and 17 years of age. Only ideas which are to be discussed, verified, and then implemented may be submitted. However, please note that projects in advanced stages of completion or already finalized programmes will not be accepted.

CON I BAMBINI will provide up to a maximum of 50% of the total project budget, with a minimum contribution of **€ 250,000** and up to a maximum of **€ 1,500,000**. The co-financing parties (a maximum of two) shall then support the proposed project with a monetary contribution corresponding to the remaining share, equal to at least 50% of the project's value.

When assessing and evaluating the submitted ideas, and when assigning the grants (where applicable), CON I BAMBINI shall refer and base its unquestionable decision on the criteria listed below.

¹ To support pilot projects aimed at eliminate the economic, social, and cultural obstacles hindering the full enjoyment of educational processes by minors (art.1 of the Memorandum of Understanding of 29 April 2016).

Ideas that:

- demonstrate consistency with the Fund's objectives in fighting educational poverty in children; in-depth knowledge of the problem; and overall consistency among objectives, intervention strategy, required resources, and timelines²;
- are designed based on identified contexts and needs;
- encourage social cohesion, the development of networks and the involvement of locally rooted organisations --the Third Sector organisations in particular--which in turn, take responsibility for promoting educational opportunities for children and young people;
- propose effective and innovative strategies able to make a significant impact in the fight against children's educational poverty by fostering social inclusion of those minors that are most at risk to social vulnerability, and by guaranteeing equal opportunity to access services, to acquire learning skills all with the intent to improve their well-being and educational achievement;
- clearly identify the expected results, the adequate monitoring tools and the impact evaluation strategies.

will be selected.

However, ideas that:

- are mainly aimed at research, training, and scholarships, or at creating events;
- will use the grant to procure and/or build infrastructures (excluding restoration, renovation and repurposing works instrumental to the project, up to a maximum of 30% of the total budget cost), and/or use the grant for the management of core activities.

will not be selected.

CON I BAMBINI shall evaluate the project ideas in order of their application, and then submit them to the Strategic Steering Committee for selection, until the available resources run out.

Once a project idea is selected, CON I BAMBINI and the co-financing party will jointly develop and further elaborate the selected idea.

The collaboration procedures will be defined in an agreement which, in turn, will identify the competences and responsibilities of both the co-financing parties and of CON I BAMBINI, in regard to more specifically the stages of preparation, evaluation, assessment, implementation and monitoring of the initiative)

2.2 PHASE II: Selection of the Implementing Organisation

Based on the characteristics of the selected idea³, one or more implementing Third Sector organisations⁴ will then be chosen to lead a broader partnership, either through public calls for proposals, or through a participatory approach (particularly ideas referring to specific geographical areas).

The partnership, set up following the model established by CON I BAMBINI in previous calls for proposals, will elaborate an executive project proposal, starting from the selected idea, which had been further defined by the social enterprise and by the co-financing party⁵.

² The proposed projects will have a total duration ranging from 24 to 48 months.

³ Should the social enterprise receive and select a co-financing idea deemed valid and in line with the spirit of the initiative, it may proceed to Phase II, thus initiate the search for the implementing organisation before the deadline of Phase I (28 June 2018).

⁴ CON I BAMBINI shall not support the following as implementing organisations: physical persons, public authorities, bodies and organisations that are not formally established, political parties, trade unions, trade associations, parties that on various grounds carry out political propaganda, or to which the provisions of the Third Sector Code (Legislative Decree no. 117/2017) do not apply.

⁵ The co-financing party shall not join the partnership or receive/manage grants or have economic relations with the implementing

The project proposals received and considered eligible and conforming to the spirit of the initiative will be then evaluated. As a general rule⁶, the selected proposals which, more than the other projects, show:

- a clear and organic idea strategy;
- actions consistent with the Fund's general objectives and in line with the local context;
- a partnership which deploys competences and experiences well-suited to the project implementation;
- adequate indications as to the sustainability and continuity of the planned activities;
- effective tools and procedures for monitoring and assessing the expected results.

The grant-making procedures related to the implementation of the co-financing initiatives shall be governed by a Grant Agreement signed with the implementing organisations.

3. General rules and contacts

CON I BAMBINI offices will provide all interested co-financing parties with an application form, together with the Privacy Disclosure (art. 13 of Legislative Decree no. 196/2003 and additional amendments) that shall be duly completed and signed.

For further information, please email the Institutional Activities Office at iniziativa@conibambini.org or call: 06/40410100 (ext. 1).

parties.

⁶ In the case of specific calls for proposals published by CON I BAMBINI in order to select the implementing organisations and their project proposals, specific eligibility and selection criteria, may be established, beyond those herein listed.