**DIRECTION FOR ACCESSING EXTERNAL FUNDS**

**Bucharest, 04.01.2021**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**The Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, Programme Operator for the RO-Environment Programme financed under the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, launches the call for the small grant scheme (SGS-1) "*Development of climate change mitigation and adaptation plans in municipalities"***

On Wednesday, 30.12.2020, the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, as Programme Operator for the EEA grants 2014-2021, the RO-Environment Programme, launched the first call for applications ’’Development of climate change mitigation and adaptation plans in municipalities’’ financed under the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism 2014-2021.

The total amount allocated from the budget of the RO-Environment Programme for the small grants scheme "Development of climate change mitigation and adaptation plans in municipalities" is EUR 1.000.000, representing: EUR 850.000 (85%) - the contribution of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, i.e. grant; EUR 150.000 (15%) – national contribution.

Through the small grants scheme for "Development of climate change mitigation and adaptation plans in municipalities", the RO-Environment Programme aims to increase the capacity of local authorities to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The RO-Environment Programme will also strengthen the capacity of public entities responsible for the implementation and enforcement of European legislation and environmental strategies, i.e. in the areas of: ecosystems and biodiversity, by supporting the restoration of peatlands/wetlands, chemical pollution and hazardous waste, by increasing the capacity to address waste pollution risks, adaptation to climate change, encouraging the implementation of adaptation and mitigation plans, and integrated geographic information for the environment and the EU (improved information tools for responsible decision-makers).

Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organizations established as legal persons in the donor States (Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein) or in the Beneficiary State (Romania), may **be eligible beneficiaries** of this call provided that they fulfill the following conditions:

* they are registered as legal persons in Romania or in one of the Donor States;
* they may carry out activities in the areas of interest of the RO-Environment Programme;
* they fall into one of the aforementioned categories.

**Deadline for submitting applications: 29 March 2021 at 17:00,** effective registration deadline at the headquarters of the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, Liberty Blvd. No. 12, Bucharest, Sector 5, Romania. Applicants are advised not to wait until this moment to submit their applications for funding.

The date of submission of the application will be considered as the date of acknowledgment of receipt with registration number from the Programme Operator. If the applicant does not receive the registration number, it is required to contact the Programme Operator.

The applications for funding will be submitted to the Programme Operator in 1 copy in paper format, in English and Romanian, and 1 electronic copy (pdf format on CD/DVD, etc.), accompanied by a cover letter, dated and registered with the applicant's institution/entity.

If there are differences between the copy in paper format and the electronic version, the paper version shall prevail. Also, if differences in content between the copy in paper format and the electronic version are noted (missing information, additional information, different values, etc.), the Programme Operator may decide to reject the project!

More information on the application call, contact details and supporting documents can be found/accessed on the dedicated website at:

<http://www.mmediu.ro/articol/lansarea-schemei-de-granturi-mici-sgs-1-elaborarea-planurilor-de-atenuare-si-adaptare-la-schimbarile-climatice-in-municipalitati-launch-of-the-small-grants-scheme-sgs-1-development-of-adaptation-and-mitigation-plans-in-municipalities/3925>