

EU for Green Agenda in Serbia



PUBLIC CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Local Self-Governments and Protected Area Managers for the Preparation of Green Investment Projects

1. Background

This Public Call is issued under the project “**EU for the Green Agenda in Serbia**” (hereinafter: the EUGA Project), financed and technically supported by the European Union, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia, and in cooperation with the Embassy of Sweden and the European Investment Bank, with additional funding provided by the governments of Sweden, Switzerland, and the Republic of Serbia.

The objective of the EUGA Project is to contribute to the effective, inclusive and sustainable implementation of the Green Agenda in Serbia. Under this Call, local self-governments and protected area managers are invited to submit **expressions of interest for green investment projects** that may be further developed through the Project Accelerator.

Selected applicants will receive technical and expert support to further develop their project concepts, improve their maturity and feasibility and strengthen their readiness of potential financing. The best evaluated projects may be considered for financing within the EUGA Project, and/or may be supported in applying to relevant calls and support mechanisms of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, financial institutions or other available financing sources.

2. Purpose of the Call

The purpose of this Call is to identify green investment project ideas proposed by local self-governments and protected area managers that contribute to one or more of the following Green Agenda pillars:

Pillar I – Decarbonization and Reduction of Industrial Emissions

Pillar II – Circular Economy

Pillar III – Reduction of Environmental Pollution, with an Emphasis on Air Quality

Pillar IV – Protection and Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity

Projects may be at different levels of maturity. Applicants may submit project ideas that are still at concept stage, as well as projects for which technical documentation, permits, budget estimates or implementation arrangements have already been partly or fully developed.

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The acceleration process will support selected applicants in further developing their project ideas into more complete and financeable project proposals.

3. Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants are:

Local self-government units in the Republic of Serbia, applying under Pillars I, II and/or III, and where relevant under cross-pillar project concepts.

Protected area managers in the Republic of Serbia, applying primarily under Pillar IV.

Applicants may apply independently or in partnership with public utility companies, public enterprises, institutions, civil society organizations, academic institutions, private companies or other relevant actors, where such partnerships add value to project preparation or implementation.

The applicant must have the mandate, ownership, management rights or institutional role necessary to develop and implement the proposed project, or must clearly explain how such conditions will be secured during project development.

4. Eligible project ideas by pillar

Pillar I – Decarbonization and Reduction of Industrial Emissions

Under Pillar I, local self-governments may propose projects that contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving energy efficiency, increasing the use of renewable energy, or reducing emissions from public infrastructure and services.

Eligible project ideas may include, for example: energy renovation of public buildings and facilities; replacement of fossil-fuel heating systems; integration of renewable energy sources in public facilities; heat pumps, solar thermal systems or geothermal solutions; modernization and decarbonization of district heating systems; improvement of energy efficiency and digital energy management systems; energy-efficient public lighting; low-carbon municipal services; electrification of municipal fleets or equipment; development of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles; and other investments that contribute to reducing energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and dependence on fossil fuels.

Projects should be linked to relevant strategic or planning documents, such as local development plans, energy efficiency plans or programmes, climate or low-carbon development documents, Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs), public building renovation plans, Air Quality Plans, or other relevant national or local documents.

Pillar II – Circular Economy



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Under Pillar II, local self-governments may propose projects that contribute to the transition from a linear to a circular economy by improving waste prevention, reuse, recycling, resource efficiency, sustainable management of materials and natural resources,.

Eligible project ideas may include, for example: separate waste collection systems; recycling yards and transfer stations; reuse, repair and preparation-for-reuse centers; prevention and reduction of municipal waste generation; composting and bio-waste treatment; production and use of secondary raw materials; systems for reducing landfill disposal; management of construction and demolition waste; circular use of materials in local public services; sewage sludge management where relevant; and other projects promoting industrial symbiosis and cooperation between local economic actors for more efficient use of resources. Projects should be linked to relevant strategic or planning documents, such as local or regional waste management plans, local development plans, circular economy documents, sewage sludge management documents, or relevant national waste and circular economy policy documents.

Pillar III – Reduction of Environmental Pollution, with an Emphasis on Air Quality

Under Pillar III, local self-governments may propose projects that directly contribute to the prevention, reduction and control of environmental pollution, with a particular focus on improving air quality and reducing emissions from public infrastructure, municipal services and other local sources of pollution.

Eligible project ideas may include, for example: replacement or modernization of polluting heating facilities, including boiler rooms and individual heating systems; reduction of emissions from public buildings or public utility services; measures targeting PM10, PM2.5, SO₂, NO_x or other pollutants; reduction of dust or fugitive emissions; improvement and modernization of district heating systems; low-emission public transport or municipal vehicles; improved district heating infrastructure; and other measures that directly prevent or reduce pollution. Projects may also address other environmental pressures, including pollution of water and soil, where a clear link to pollution reduction and measurable environmental benefits can be demonstrated.

For air quality projects, proposals should be linked to Air Quality Plans, Short-Term Action Plans, or other local planning documents containing air protection measures. General monitoring, studies or awareness activities without a direct pollution-reduction measure should not be proposed as stand-alone projects, but may be included as supporting activities within a broader investment project.

Pillar IV – Protection and Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity

Under Pillar IV, protected area managers may propose projects that contribute to the protection, restoration and sustainable management of biodiversity, habitats, ecosystems and ecosystem services in protected areas.

Eligible project ideas may include, for example: restoration of wetlands, grasslands, forests, rivers or other habitats; afforestation or reforestation using appropriate native species; restoration of degraded



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ecosystems; ecosystem restoration after fires; improvement of ecological connectivity and establishment of ecological corridors; control and management of invasive species; protection and recovery of priority species or habitats; fire prevention, climate adaptation and ecosystem resilience measures; nature-based solutions that enhance ecosystem functions and services; sustainable visitor management measures that reduce pressure on biodiversity; and other investments that improve the conservation status, resilience and effective management of protected areas.

Projects should be linked to protected area management plans, annual management programmes, habitat or species conservation plans, forest management documents, restoration plans, or other relevant nature protection documents.

5. Project maturity

Project ideas may be submitted at different levels of maturity. Applicants should clearly indicate the current status of the proposed project.

The following maturity levels may be used:

Maturity level	Description
Concept stage	The problem and project idea are identified, but technical options, budget and documentation still need to be developed.
Pre-feasibility stage	The applicant has a clearer project concept, preliminary data, possible technical options and an indicative budget.
Technical preparation stage	Some technical documentation, cost estimates, permits or institutional arrangements have already been prepared.
Investment-ready or near investment-ready stage	The project has advanced technical documentation, clearer budget, implementation arrangements and required permits or approvals partly or largely resolved.

Projects do not need to be fully ready for implementation at the expression-of-interest stage. However, applicants must provide a realistic overview of what exists, what is missing, and what type of support is needed during acceleration.

6. Evaluation and selection of expressions-of-interest

Expressions of interest will be reviewed based on relevance to Green Agenda pillars and strategic/planning documents. Selected expressions of interest will receive technical and expert

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assistance through the Acceleration process, aimed at improving the technical quality, feasibility, maturity and financing readiness of the proposed project ideas.

Priority will be given to project ideas that are clearly linked to relevant strategic documents, respond to a concrete environmental problem, have realistic potential for implementation, and can be further developed into financeable green investment projects.

7. Acceleration process and possible support

Applicants selected based on their expressions of interest will be invited to participate in the Project Accelerator. The acceleration process will provide tailored technical, financial, environmental, administrative or mentoring support, depending on project needs and available resources, to further develop project ideas into more mature, feasible and potentially financeable green investment proposals.

Accelerator support may include, but is not limited to, the following activities:

- refinement of the project concept, objectives and scope;
- assessment of technical options and identification of the most suitable options;
- support in defining expected environmental impact and measurable results;
- support in identifying required documentation, permits, approvals and regulatory requirements;
- preparation or improvement of implementation plans, timelines and budgets;
- development of indicators and verification methods;
- support in structuring the project for financing;
- support in structuring the project for potential financing, including identification of possible co-financing and blended finance opportunities;
- support in preparing applications for EUGA Project financing opportunities, relevant calls and support mechanisms of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, financial institutions, donors or other available financing sources.

Participation in the Accelerator does not automatically guarantee financing by the EUGA Project.

The best projects of the Acceleration phase will be selected based on a competitive process involving expert evaluation, including the degree of adherence to the following criteria:

Criterion	Maximum points
Relevance to Green Agenda pillar and strategic/planning documents	25
Expected environmental impact	30

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Criterion	Maximum points
Project maturity and feasibility	20
Applicant capacity and ownership/mandate	15
Potential for financing, replication and wider public benefit	10
Total	100

Final financing decisions will depend on project quality, maturity, expected impact, feasibility, availability of funds and approval by the relevant EUGA Project decision-making structures.

8. Project financing

Local government units and protected area managers who have defined the proposed measures for one of the four pillars (decarbonization, circular economy, air quality and biodiversity) in a planning document. co-financing up to a maximum of 70% of its total value. Applicants are required to provide a minimum of 30% of the project investment.

9. Submission of expression-of-interest applications

1. **Please submit by 30.09.2026.** the completed Application Form [Application form](#) and available supporting documentation by email to: zelena.agenda.rs@undp.org , Email subject line:

Expression of Interest – LOT 2 – [Applicant name]

Questions may be submitted to the same email address with the subject line:

Question regarding LOT 2 Expression of Interest

10. Supporting documentation

Applicants should submit available supporting documentation relevant to the proposed project idea. At expression-of-interest stage, applicants are not expected to submit complete technical documentation unless it already exists.

Supporting documentation may include:



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- relevant strategic or planning document, or the specific excerpt where the project or measure is identified;
- available technical documentation, feasibility studies, designs, cost estimates or bills of quantities;
- available permits, approvals, opinions, conditions or decisions;
- evidence of ownership, management rights or institutional mandate;
- letters of support or partnership statements, where applicable;
- any other document relevant to assessing the project's maturity, feasibility or expected impact.
- Referisati se na anđinu check-list staviti link

Where documentation is not yet available, the applicant should explain what still needs to be prepared and what support is needed during acceleration.

11. Indicative timeline

Date / period	Step
2 September 2026	Publication of the Public Call for Expressions of Interest
14 September 2026	Info Day in Kruševac
16 September 2026	Info Day in Belgrade
17 September 2026	Info Day in Novi Sad
30 September 2026	Deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest
1 November 2026	Completion of administrative screening and evaluation; selection of applicants proposed for the acceleration process
15 November 2026 – 31 January 2027	Project acceleration: technical support for further development of selected project ideas, including refinement of project scope, documentation needs, budget, implementation plan, indicators and financing options



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Date / period	Step
1 February – 31 March 2027	Finalization of project documentation and financing route: preparation of project documents, applications for relevant financing sources, and, where applicable, preparation of contractual documentation for projects selected for EUGA financing
April 2027 – December 2028	Implementation of projects selected for EUGA financing and/or further development/submission of projects to other relevant financing mechanisms, including calls of the Ministry of Environmental Protection

11. Application form

Applicant information

1. Full name of applicant.
2. Type of applicant:
 - Local self-government
 - Protected area manager
3. Address.
4. Name, position, phone number and email of the legal representative.
5. Name, position, phone number and email of the contact person for this application.
6. If applicable, list partner institutions or organizations involved in the project idea.

Partner Type of organization Proposed role

Project summary



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8. Project title.

9. Green Agenda pillar addressed by the project:

- Pillar I – Decarbonization and Reduction of Industrial Emissions
- Pillar II – Circular Economy
- Pillar III – Reduction of Environmental Pollution, with an Emphasis on Air Quality
- Pillar IV – Protection and Conservation of Nature and Biodiversity

10. Project location.

11. Short project summary (project description and activities, environmental problem addressed, target group and direct project beneficiaries, link(s) to strategic document(s)) (Maximum 200 words).

12. Current maturity level of the project:

- Concept stage
- Pre-feasibility stage
- Technical preparation stage
- Investment-ready or near investment-ready stage

13. Estimated total project value

14. Expected implementation period

15. What are the expected outputs?

16. What measurable environmental impact is expected?

Support needed through acceleration

17. What type of support is needed to further develop the project (optional)?

Tick all that apply:

- Technical assessment
- Feasibility analysis



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- Development of technical documentation
- Definition of environmental indicators
- Emissions or impact calculation
- Budget development
- Permitting roadmap
- Procurement planning
- Financing structure
- Preparation for EUGA Project financing
- Preparation for Ministry of Environmental Protection calls
- Other: _____

Financing and implementation

18. Is any financing already secured or planned (drop menu)?

Source	Amount What is the status of co-financing
Applicant's own budget	Secured / Planned / Not yet planned
Ministry or other public source	Secured / Planned / Not yet planned
Donor or IFI source	Secured / Planned / Not yet planned
Other	Secured / Planned / Not yet planned

19. Would the applicant be able to provide co-financing if the project is selected for financial support?

- Yes
 - No
 - To be determined
-



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Declaration

By submitting this form the applicant confirms that:

- the information provided in this application is accurate to the best of its knowledge;
- the proposed project is aligned with the applicant's mandate and relevant strategic/planning documents;
- the applicant is willing to participate in the Project Accelerator if selected;
- the applicant understands that participation in the Accelerator does not guarantee financing by the EUGA Project;
- the applicant is willing to provide additional information or documentation if requested.



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