

May 18, 2018

Via email

Global Partnership for Education

1850 K Street NW, Suite 625

Washington D.C., USA

20006

Notice of Expression of Interest for prospective Grant Agent for the Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) mechanism

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) is pleased to announce a new call for expressions of interest, as part of its new Financing and Funding Framework, to select a grant agent for its KIX mechanism. The KIX mechanism will support developing country partners to create, access and use knowledge and innovation to strengthen national education systems.

Background

GPE provides financial and technical support to developing country partners to facilitate the development, implementation, and monitoring of Education Sector Plans (ESPs) and Transitional Education Plans (TEPs). We aim to strengthen national education systems to deliver stronger outcomes in the areas of learning and early childhood development, equity, gender equality, and inclusion.

In December 2017, the GPE Board of Directors approved the establishment of the KIX mechanism, to amplify the impact of GPE support for education systems through improving sector plans and their implementation. KIX has the mandate not only to accelerate progress towards GPE2020, but towards longer term goals, notably the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda. This longer-term view will require ongoing iteration, continuous learning, and the emergence of six new thematic areas. The

design, implementation and management of KIX will ensure strong linkages to core country-level processes and disseminate, amplify and fund the development and uptake of knowledge tools and resources that are designed to be applied within the context of Education Sector Planning process. KIX will link closely to the work of GPE's new support mechanism for civil society advocacy and social responsibility work (ASA).

KIX will have two components:

1. A **Learning Exchange** platform which will curate and share knowledge and innovation across the partnership, and
2. **Knowledge and Innovation Funding** windows for investing in the development of global public goods, such as new tools, approaches, research and innovation pilots, knowledge sharing and capacity building activities, that will lead to improved national policies and practices in six areas around knowledge and innovation:
 - a. Early Childhood Care and Education,
 - b. Gender Equality,
 - c. Strengthening Learning Assessments,
 - d. Strengthening Data Systems,
 - e. Teaching and Learning, and
 - f. Equity and Inclusion

GPE will work with partners at global and country level to support the development of new methods, benchmarks, tools, sharing of best practice, and innovation pilots to reinforce national planning cycles. For further information, please refer to the attached Terms of Reference.

Expected role of the Grant Agent

Through this selection process, GPE intends to select a single grant agent for KIX to support grant portfolio design, manage a portfolio of grants, provide fiduciary oversight, monitoring, quality assurance and reporting on grants, and technical support, as appropriate, to the contextual needs and purpose of the specific grant or portfolio of grants. In addition, the grant agent will be expected to work with the Secretariat to ensure integration of all KIX activities into a holistic design, ensuring strong linkages to the Learning Exchange.

The enclosed terms of reference set out the objectives and responsibilities of the grant agent with the purpose of developing a common understanding of their expected role in relation to the grant recipients, the GPE Fund and the Secretariat. The document also summarizes the selection process (Annex 1), criteria and minimum standards for all grant agents (Annex 2) and specific selection criteria for the KIX grant agent, summarizing additional capabilities that would be beneficial for the successful implementation of KIX funding (Annex 3).

Grant Agent selection process

We are employing a new approach for the selection of the KIX grant agent that aims to streamline the application and evaluation processes. We expect all organizations interested in applying to submit an email confirmation as soon as possible, but no later than **Wednesday, May 30, 2018 at 17h00**

Eastern Time to KIXinquiries@globalpartnership.org with the following information:

- Organization Name (and any parent organizations if a subsidiary)
- Main point of contact full name
- Main point of contact title
- Main point of contact email address
- Main point of contact location / time zone

We will promptly reply with a confirmation and send a packet detailing the application process and requirements by **Friday, June 1, 2018 at 17h00 Eastern Time**.

Each applicant will be assigned a point of contact from the Grant Agent Recruitment Team who will offer an initial call with the applicant to walk through the requirements and documentation needed to complete the application and assist in answering applicant questions.

In order to improve the quality and timeliness of the applications, we will review application materials as they are submitted and may request additional information as needed. Applications are due on **Wednesday June 13, 2018 at 17h00 Eastern Time**. All application materials must be received by this time.

For new GPE Grant Agents

GPE has Minimum Grant Agent Criteria that need to be met in order to complete the application process. We will work with new grant agents to verify the minimum criteria.

For existing GPE Grant Agents

Grant agents who already have operations with GPE and have been cleared through the Minimum Grant Agent Criteria will proceed through a streamlined application process.

For all Grant Agents

New and existing grant agents will receive an evaluation checklist, which helps GPE evaluate their qualifications, fit, and abilities to act as grant agent for the KIX mechanism. Our Grant Agent Recruitment Team will help each applicant provide supporting information and documentation to assist with the selection process. Our goal is to ensure that applicants provide the best quality application through open communication and subsequently proceed through evaluations.

The evaluation of grant agent candidates' applications will be reviewed by the GPE Strategy and Impact Committee on **July 18–19, 2018**, which will nominate one grant agent for KIX. For new grant agents, this nomination is subject to the accreditation of the Finance and Risk Committee, in consultation with the Trustee, which will ensure that all minimum criteria have been met. **The GPE Secretariat will then notify all candidates of the final selection decision by July 31.** Note that the selected grant agent(s) will then need to develop a full proposal for the KIX portfolio, which will be reviewed by the Board of Directors for final approval at its meeting on December 10-12.

We thank you in advance for your consideration, and we look forward to working with you through the application process.