ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The criteria presented below are applied to each application BTD receives under this Call for Project Proposals as a part of the larger Norwegian efforts in supporting Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. To be considered for review, applicants must apply to the Balkan Trust via the official SEUI\_MMS application form and budget form. Grants will be awarded on an individual basis in accordance with the nature and relevance of the project, as well as the specific selection criteria identified below.

BTD prioritizes its selection criteria in accordance with the order in which they appear below.

1. Project Assessment:

* All applications must clearly demonstrate relevance to areas described in the Purpose of the Call.
* Project is designed on the basis of a realistic assessment of the problem, needs, opportunities, and risks associated with the targeted areas.
* All applications must include some element of linking citizens with government.
* The goals, objectives, and timeframe are realistic. Project activities are clear and effective and likely to lead to the accomplishment of the proposed objective(s).
* Project takes into account other activities in the sector and seeks to avoid duplication.
* Where applicable, project incorporates efforts to build sustainability and clearly demonstrates the nature of the project’s legacy after the grant has drawn to a close.
* Innovative approaches and lessons learned are identified and effectively included within the proposed approach.
* Project has an effective outreach/communication/advocacy strategy to inform the project stakeholders and the wider community on stages of project implementation and dissemination of results.
* Project application is well coordinated with other initiatives supported by BTD and other donors.

1. Results and Monitoring:

* Project includes a clear and effective monitoring and evaluation plan, including a plan for data collection.

1. Organizational Capacity and Past Performance:

* Applicant has the capability, organizational knowledge, and technical expertise needed to implement the proposed project.
* Applicant organization boasts sound organizational structure and composition.
* Applicant is positively regarded within the local and donor community.
* Applicant (and, if applicable, partner organizations) demonstrates successful past performance in managing projects of a related nature.

Note: Cost has not been ranked. However, project budget must be realistic, reasonable, and cost-effective. A cost-benefit analysis will be made in all cases to ensure that project cost does not outweigh project value (i.e. output and/or outcome). Cost sharing is evaluated in accordance with the level of financial participation proposed and its corresponding added value. All necessary resources for effective implementation of the project must be included within the application.