

EEBI APEEE Financial procedure to award funding on school-related projects

1. Introduction

1.1. The funding of school-related projects aims to promote the objectives of APEEE on a flexible basis, including through *ad-hoc* projects proposed by members of the school community.

1.1.1. The school community includes, acting individually or through their associations and bodies, the school, the school staff, students and their parents and legal representatives and service providers with a direct link to the school.

1.2. This document is intended to lay out clear and transparent procedures for the request and award of funding from the APEEE's Budget for school-related projects.

1.3. As a general rule, requests should be submitted within the deadlines approved by the APEEE Administrative Board ("Board") further to point 2. below.

1.4. The urgent procedure set out in point 3. can be applied to projects submitted out of the ordinary submission of projects. For small projects or projects of a recurrent nature, the simplified procedure set out in point 4. may apply.

2. Ordinary submission of projects

2.1. Launching a call for interest:

2.1.1. Every year, in the light of the Budget approved by the APEEE General Assembly, the Board will launch a call for interest for submission of projects defining the maximum amount to be allocated.

2.1.2. The Board may decide to allocate a maximum amount to different categories of projects, to ensure a fair balance between the priorities of the Association.

2.1.3. The Board may decide to appoint an awarding panel in accordance with points 2.5.1. and 2.5.2.

2.1.4. The deadline for the submission of projects will be defined every year by the Board around the end of February.

2.1.5. The Board may decide, in the light of the budgetary situation at the end of the school year, to launch a second call for the interest by mid-October.

2.2. Defining award criteria:

2.2.1. The Board will define the criteria of attribution of the financial contributions to the project, taking into account to what extent it has the following characteristics:

- a) Have an innovative pedagogical nature
- b) Promote high-quality education
- c) Contribute to the well-being of students
- d) Contribute to the development of a school and community ethos
- e) Promote equality, tolerance and/or diversity
- f) Promote sustainability and healthy habits
- g) Prevent disciplinary problems and risky behaviours
- h) Promote a wide participation by parents in school life
- i) Help in finding solutions to problems which parents face regarding their children's education
- j) Improve communication between parents and the school.

2.2.2. The award criteria will also take into account:

- a) quality of the design and implementation methodology
- b) expected impact of the proposal, including
 - i) total number of children or parents affected or potentially affected by the project
 - ii) coverage of different sections and levels
 - iii) perceived seriousness of the issue
 - iv) potential efficacy of the project
- c) contribution required from the APEEE
- d) experience from previous funding awards, including their impact.

2.3. Submitting a project proposal:

2.3.1. Projects may be submitted by any member of the school community, including the APEEE and its Committees and Working Groups.

2.3.2. Projects must be submitted to the APEEE using the template included as Annex 1 to the present Financial Procedure. When applicable, the applicant may attach other annexes to the submission.

2.3.3. Projects will be submitted by e-mail to the following address: info@uccleparents.org or through a dedicated online submission channel hosted on the APEEE website as determined by the APEEE Secretariat ("Secretariat").

2.3.4. In the case of a request submitted within the deadlines without using the template, the APEEE will send an e-mail to the applicant requesting the use of the template to be submitted in the following 5 working days.

2.4. Consultation:

2.4.1. Working Groups and Committees will be informed by the Secretariat or the APEEE Bureau (“Bureau”) of projects having an impact on their work. The Financial Advisor and the Working Groups and Committees may be requested by the Bureau to give a non-binding opinion within the next 10 working days.

2.4.2. The reports produced by the Working Groups and Committees and the Financial Advisor will be submitted to the body responsible, as determined in point 2.5.1. below.

2.5. Taking a decision:

2.5.1. The Board may either decide by itself or appoint an award panel in accordance with point 2.1.3. with a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 7 members to make a proposal.

2.5.2. The award panel may be composed of members of the Board, other parents with a sound knowledge of financial procedures and/or the subject matter, directors, deputy directors, school staff and students over 18 years of age.

2.5.3. The Board will decide by majority whether they endorse or not the proposal of the panel.

2.5.4. The decisions will be communicated by the APEEE to the applicants by e-mail.

2.5.5. The funding decision will be valid for a maximum of 12 months.

3. Urgent procedure

3.1. By reasons of urgency, requests of funding may be submitted to the APEEE by e-mail explaining the reasons of urgency and following the procedure laid out in points 2.3.1., 2.3.2. and 2.3.3.

3.2. If the template is not used, the Bureau will request the use of the template before submitting the request to the Board.

3.3. The Bureau can consider that the reasons of urgency are not fulfilled and include the request in the next ordinary procedure.

3.4. In case the project is not proposed by a Working Group, the Bureau will inform the relevant Working Group (if any) and may decide to consult it for a non-binding opinion.

3.5. The Bureau will also consult the Financial Advisor (see Point 5.4).

3.6. The Financial Advisor has 5 working days to formulate a non-binding opinion. Working Groups have at least 10 working days to consult and formulate a non-binding opinion. Non-binding opinions should be submitted at the latest 3 working days before a scheduled meeting of the Board.

3.7. Project proposals shall be presented in the next meeting of the Board after their reception by the Bureau, unless submitted less than 13 working days before a scheduled CA meeting. In case of extreme urgency, a written procedure may be requested.

3.8. The decision taken by the Board shall be based on budget availability and on the criteria defined under point 2.2.

3.9. The decision will be communicated by the APEEE to the applicants by e-mail.

3.10. The funding decision will be valid for a maximum of 12 months.

4. Simplified procedure

4.1. The simplified procedure will apply for urgent requests of equal to or less than 300 € and to projects with a recurrent nature under 6.4.

4.2. Requests for funding using the simplified procedure may be submitted to the APEEE by any member of the school community, including the APEEE and its Committees and Working Groups.

4.3. Requests should be submitted by e-mail to the following address:
info@uccleparents.org

4.4. The decision is taken by the Bureau. Votes can be cast by e-mail.

4.5. The Bureau can gather further information or consult any of the Working Groups or Committees.

4.6. The Bureau has 10 working days to take a decision.

4.7. The Bureau shall only grant funding for a maximum of 12 months. The Bureau can:

- a) refuse the funding
- b) request the use of the template
- c) refer the decision to the Board, that will decide by urgent procedure
- d) include the request in the next ordinary procedure.

4.8. The decision shall be based on budget availability and on the criteria defined under point 2.2.

4.9. The decision will be communicated by the APEEE to the applicants by e-mail and presented for information in the following meeting of the Board.

4.10. The funding decision will be valid for a maximum of 12 months.

5. General provision

5.1. Participation in the procedures implies the acceptance of the conditions of funding, including the current rules on financial procedures and eventually the specific provisions of the call for interest.

5.2. Deliberation on projects is confidential. Persons involved in the discussion may be required to sign a document of confidentiality. Official minutes made public will only reflect the decisions taken agreeing on the award of funding from the APEEE.

5.3. Any person involved in the discussion will declare any possible conflict of interest and will abstain unless the other members of the relevant body decide by unanimity that the declared conflict of interest is irrelevant.

5.4. The Board will appoint in January of every year a Financial Advisor to support their deliberations. The Treasurer will replace the Financial Advisor when the post is vacant.

5.5. All money transfers will be entered into the accounting system by the Secretariat staff and approved and recorded by the APEEE Treasurer.

5.6. The APEEE reserves the right to stop funding and/or request the refund of the amounts already transferred in case of unjustified delays or other irregularities, gross variations from the agreed project description, or lack of respect of the conditions of funding.

6. Follow-up of the projects

6.1. A report on the activities and impact of the project must be submitted by e-mail to the Secretariat at the following address: info@uccleparents.org 25 working days after delivery.¹

6.2. The result of each project will be presented in the Board in accordance with the delivery deadline determined during the award of funding.

6.3. If the project is not completed by the deadline, the applicant shall explain the reasons and request an extension.

6.4. The Board may decide in the light of the experience with the project, including its impact and the feed-back provided by the applicant that subsequent funding of a project of a recurrent nature may be approved by the simplified procedure described in Section 4.

¹ Note weekends and school holidays are not counted as working days for this purpose.