

3. BECOMING AN ECHO PARTNER

Any non-governmental organisation which considers that it meets the criteria to become an ECHO partner can apply.

Applications for the signature of the FPA must be made online through the electronic exchange system APPEL (see section 4.3.4 below).

The applicant will have to answer first a set of pre-selection questions. The answers to these questions allow ECHO to check if the applicant complies with the minimum mandatory eligibility criteria. If the applicant answers to any of these questions negatively, it will be automatically rejected.

If the answers are positive to all the pre-selection questions, the organisation will have to complete a more detailed questionnaire which will enable ECHO to further assess the capacities of the applicant organisation.

The criteria to become a partner focus on the eligibility and suitability of the applicant. They are defined in Article 7 of the Humanitarian Aid Regulation, in the Financial Regulation and its Rules of Application.

Amongst the **eligibility and suitability criteria**, the following ones are of particular importance:

- the NGO must be non-profit making autonomous organisation;
- it must be set up in a Member State of the European Union (EU), in a country of the European Economic Area⁵, or must have been recognised in an EU Member State through the Council of Europe Convention No. 124 of 24 April 1986⁶ ;
- it must have its main headquarters in a Member State of the EU or in a third country in receipt of EU aid;
- it must have 3 years of experience in the humanitarian field;
- it must have a financial situation meeting the standard set by the Commission.



- General questions: <http://dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/contact/start>
- Specific question about an application: ECHO-APPEL@ec.europa.eu



- http://dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/become_a_partner/start

⁵ Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway

⁶ Currently, outside EU MS, only Switzerland and FYROM are parties to Convention