

4.2 MEMBER STATES SPECIALISED AGENCIES

ECHO may finance humanitarian actions implemented by Specialised Agencies of Member States (MSSA)²³, if these MSSAs are recognised by ECHO.

The MSSAs are **national public bodies** or **bodies governed by private law** with a **public-service mission** in the area of humanitarian aid, set up in a Member State of the European Union. In order to be recognised as an ECHO partner, the MSSA must:

A public service mission can be granted to a private law entity through a specific act/decision/agreement of the relevant authorities. Alternatively, the private law entity can pursue the public service mission under the effective control of the relevant authorities

- be registered in a Member States of the European Union;
- have proven 3 years of expertise in the field of humanitarian aid;
- commit to respect the fundamental humanitarian principles;
- enjoy legal personality in order to have the authority to undertake legal obligations and to sign contracts;
- have provided adequate financial guarantees (only for private law bodies);
- comply with the Annex III of the FPA (in particular private law bodies).

The **MSSAs do not sign an FPA with ECHO**. After having applied to ECHO, if the result of the assessment is successful, MSSAs are invited to sign a letter to acknowledge their acceptance of the applicable legal template.

The Commission will follow the evaluation procedure and evaluation criteria to assess action proposals as laid down in Article 3.3 and 4 of the FPA NGO, thus ensuring equal treatment between different partners.

Due to their distinct nature, MSSAs are not subject to the Periodic Assessment, nor to the risks controls applicable to actions.

The legal texts used for MSSAs are **almost** identical to the ones of the NGOs with **some differences** and are composed of:

- The Model of Specific Grant Agreement
- The General Conditions applicable to humanitarian aid actions financed by the European Union (Annex 1)

²³ See Annex 1: [Humanitarian Aid Regulation \(HAR\), Article 9](#).

- The Principles and procedures applicable to procurement contracts awarded within the framework of humanitarian aid actions financed by the European Union. (Annex 2)
- The Single Form (the same as for NGOs)

To a large extent, these **guidelines apply** also for actions implemented by MSSAs.



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



- <http://dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/partnership/mssa/start>