DICE Digital R&D Fund - Clarification Questions:

**Application**

1) Is the application due midnight or noon on the 15th?
   *Answer:* The Application is due at midnight i.e. **23.59 GMT** on the **15th of December 2020**

2) Could you guys confirm where the video is to be submitted?
   *Answer:* The video has to be submitted in the **Vision and Rationale** section of the application. A text box is provided to enter a URL that must not have limited access (so our assessors can view)

3) I am having difficulty logging into the portal. Can you help?
   *Answer:* The correct link for the application is [https://apply.gmt.britishcouncil.org/outreach/workbench.ofml](https://apply.gmt.britishcouncil.org/outreach/workbench.ofml). Please also refer to the step-by-step application guidance on the portal.

4) Does the video in the application need to be made by both partners, or one of the two?
   *Answer:* The video must be made by both partners

5) We have an amazing project and we would love to apply. Are we able to send you a draft for your feedback?
   *Answer:* Unfortunately, we are not offering bespoke feedback on applications due to both demand and transparency. If you have more general questions for which you have questions, please of course ask and/or attend our final drop-in clinic on Monday.

6) Can we use any of the two mediums for video?
   a. Animated Video
   b. Video Presentation (Slideshow) with Voiceover
   *Answer:* We would like to see the ‘stage presence’ of the Collaborators - how you communicate your work in your own voice directly so both collaborators must feature in the video. That said, we would welcome an animation as part of that visual presentation

**Eligibility**

7) I have applied to deliver services to the British Council through a supplier contract. Am I able to apply to this Fund?
   *Answer:* Yes

8) I have applied to another grant opportunity from the British Council. Am I able to apply to this Fund?
**Answer:** Yes, you can apply for more than one Fund. In the application process we will ask you to share the other funds to which you have applied.

9) Can an organisation pitch for multiple projects? Can it partner with different organisations for each of the proposal?
**Answer:** Yes

10) I am helping a program for an organisation that is not an NGO, but it is a private company. Is it OK to apply as a private company?
**Answer:** Yes

11) We currently have a grant from DICE Egypt on a different type of project, that will end on March 2021. Can we still apply for this grant?
**Answer:** Yes, you may apply for this grant even if you are working with DICE in any country in another capacity. We assume that you have capacity to deliver both.

12) We applied to the Digital Collaboration Fund, but the results will be announced at the end of the month. Can we still apply to this fund? and if yes can we apply with the same partner?
**Answer:** Yes

13) I am part of larger public sector organisation (University), but only I would be working in this project. Will you offer this grant to me or directly to the organisation?
**Answer:** The grant will only be awarded to organisations, not individuals

14) If I work in an organisation that is not legally registered. Is it possible for me to apply for the grant and simultaneously register my organisation so that till the time of contracting, I have a legal registration status?
**Answer:** Yes. However, the formal registration should be in place by the application submission deadline.

15) Can I apply under one organisation that is already registered and then if successful, receive the grant through another company (which I'm currently registering) to receive the grant?
**Answer:** Unfortunately, not. If your application is successful, we can only award grants to the organisations that completed the application process

**Finance and Budgets**

16) Can money from this grant be used to contribute to staff time as well? Are there limits to what the funding can be used for / things that we can't use the funding for?
**Answer:** Yes. There is no stipulated limit to how much of the cost must go towards staff expenses vs other project expenses, however, your methodology and approach must support and justify the cost breakup you propose.
17) Do private companies in Egypt while receiving a grant from British Council Egypt have to pay tax. If yes, will they need to add this as part of their costing?
   **Answer:** Yes, tax is applicable when receiving grant from British Council Egypt. Taxes are 14% on given services and shall be included in the budget.

18) Is matched funding optional?
   **Answer:** Yes, and as mentioned in the guidance documents, matched funding will not be prioritised during selection of projects.

19) In the uploaded budget template, I cannot locate the British Council bookkeeping rates for Pakistan and South Africa. What are these?
   **Answer:** The bookkeeping rates are; PKR 214, and ZAR 20.3. These have now also been added to the uploaded excel workbook.

**Project Delivery**

20) Do you consider Zoom, Slack and Mural.co secure platforms?
   **Answer:** Yes, premium accounts for these digital platforms are considered secure.

21) Due to language constraints, can we choose one Partner’s location to deliver the digital experience and only in that partner’s language?
   **Answer:** Yes, the partners may choose to only deliver the projecting one location if the content/material is suited to that location/country. However, to mitigate the issue of language as a barrier, you may hire interpretation and translation services for your experience which should be costed in your budget.

22) Do you have a minimum or suggested total workload and frequency (e.g. weekly sessions)?
   **Answer:** No, we allow all applicants the flexibility to decide workload and frequency of online engagement among themselves and with their target audience as required for their particular digital experience.

23) Will the delivery of the experience be considered among the 6 days (Feb-May) for the partnership as practice?
   **Answer:** No, the six days to participate in the community of practice and research are in addition to the delivery of the project and must be accounted for in the budget as such.

24) Are the six community of practice days within the £7k to £15k budget?
   **Answer:** Yes, these 6 days’ worth of staff cost must be included in the £7k to £15k budget.

25) Can you share details of R&D Fund projects (2018-2020), like workload, number of sessions, etc, for benchmarking?
   **Answer:** The DICE Fund in 2018 was different in scale and nature so we will not provide a benchmark as such, but please do visit our website to acquaint yourselves with the kind of work that has been happening under DICE over the past 3 years.
26) In the activity timeline, you have mentioned open space workshops. What are these workshops? Will these be hosted by the selected partners for their beneficiaries or by the British Council for selected grant partners?
   Answer: The open space workshops mentioned in the activity timeline are workshops which will be hosted by the convener of the community of practice for all 40 selected partners. These will serve as an opportunity for partners to learn about each other’s creativity, digital ambitions and challenges.

27) What are individual community of practice sessions?
   Answer: These will be one on one sessions for each organisation with the convener of the community of practice to learn more about organisations and their work individually, as well as about the group of organisations that will be part of the fund.

28) Will the inception week be a week of training for selected organisations?
   Answer: The inception week will consist of many different activities for selected partners. This will be a week of getting to know each other, learning, and will also include bitesize learning sessions around British Council operating procedures etc.

29) Does the DICE programme have any criterion/preference regarding how many participants the project must reach?
   Answer: No.

30) A lot of the communities we work with are digitally excluded. In this case can we work with communities digitally, that then trickle own the benefits of our work to more excluded groups.
   Answer: We allow programmes the flexibility to design methodologies and approaches that best seek to reach and enable socially and economically excluded groups. The fund also provides access costs in addition to the 15k project budget ceiling to directly reach digitally excluded people/communities.

31) Operations

32) What is the due diligence requirement mentioned in the guidance notes?
   Answer: The due diligence list is provided to give applicants a sense of what documentation the British Council may require if your proposal is successful. These will ONLY be required from successful applicants at the contracting stage.

33) Is due diligence applicable for organisations that have worked with the British Council in the past?
   Answer: As a rule, recent previous partners are not required to undergo due diligence. However, even if you are a prior partner, the British Council may need access to updated organisation information if required.

34) For Brazil applicants, will the Due Diligence documentation also be asked?
   Answer: Yes, due diligence requirements will be applicable for subcontracted Brazilian partners as well.
35) Is it necessary for all organisations to produce each due diligence document listed in the guidance section?
   Answer: The British Council is flexible about this - if you do not have a certain due diligence document listed in the guidance notes, we will at the time of contracting individually contact you to seek another alternate piece of evidence as required.

36) If an organisation does not have the following for due diligence, what do they do?
   last two years audited financial statements, including income statement, a balance sheet, cashflow statement and an audit opinion. If the most recently available audited financial statements are dated more than six months ago it may be useful to obtain draft annual financial statements or management accounts
   Answer: If your organisation does not have audited financial reports, you may share with us whatever financial statements you have available for your organisation

Partnership and Matchmaking

37) Can the British Council put my organisation in touch with an organisation from another DICE who are interested in pairing up?
   Answer: Given the high interest in the DICE Digital R&D Fund, we are unable to provide individual matchmaking, but we are keen to help interested organisations find a Digital Partner and are providing three ways to do so:
   I. You can visit the DICE Developing Inclusive and Creative Economies LinkedIn group and look for a partner there or create a post to share your interest in finding a partner
   II. You can join one or all of our forthcoming matchmaking sessions, which are designed to help interested organisations to find a partner, visit the DICE Digital R&D page
   III. Explore and add your details to this Google Doc, where organisations are registering their interest in finding a partner organisation

38) Is it possible to apply for a partnership across three countries (for example Brazil, Indonesia and the UK)?
   Answer: Only two organisations may apply for this grant, however we welcome you to work with colleagues/consultants/subcontracted organisations from other DICE countries.

39) We'd like to work with our previous DICE partner, in order to deepen/ expand our collective ability and expertise (for example, to explore new ways in which to work with each other, and to bring in a couple of other organisations). Is this something that would be welcomed? Or do you have a specific preference for new relationships?
   Answer: We welcome existing partnerships and new, and do not have a preference for either.
40) Due to the Brazil restriction, should Brazil Applicants fill in the Grant Application Jointly form along with Partner?

   **Answer:** Yes, Brazil applicants and partners will also apply on the same GMT portal and have to collectively fill out the grant application.

41) Am I allowed to attend more than one matchmaking session?

   **Answer:** Yes.

42) I have a colleague who is based in South Africa and he is the founder of a social enterprise (NGO). But he is not joining the DICE Match-making group. Is it OK if I develop the proposal with my colleague as the partner?

   **Answer:** Yes you can develop the proposal with your colleague – there is no requirement for the other partner to have attended the matchmaking session.

43) If the answer to the above question is NO then should my partner for developing the DICE proposal be UK based only? or it can be any country as long as they are in the DICE countries list?

   **Answer:** It can be any country from the 6 DICE countries except for your own country.

44) I have only just discovered the Fund and would still like to apply. I don't have a partner. Can you help?

   **Answer:** May we recommend you visit our LinkedIn Group and our database? We expect some final partnerships will be forged at this time, and the assessment panel understands this. We encourage you to reach out to others in those groups. If they are not the right partner for you, they may know someone in their network that is.