

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Objective

We aim to select, provide financial support, and build the capacity of grass-root CSOs representing vulnerable groups, with annual grants.

We do it to increase the resilience of grassroots CSOs. We do it to advance the protection, promotion minority rights and awareness of EU fundamental rights. We are seeking to support smaller, rural organizations with grants to build a supportive environment for small CSOs engaged in the promotion of democratic values, minority inclusion and rights across **Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Romania and Slovenia.**

Results of sub-grants:

Through the sub-grants we will be funding projects which aim to achieve the following objectives and results:

- CSOs representing minority groups are equipped with the tools to meaningfully engage in awareness raising on EU Fundamental Rights and values
- Minority CSOs are stronger and more sustainable through financial support of the grants
- Increased knowledge and understanding of EU fundamental values among minority communities
- Strengthen community capacities to hold local and national authorities (and other duty-bearers) to account through application of national and European human rights mechanisms
- Minority communities are more aware of EU fundamental rights and its effect on their life

- Decision makers better understand minority concerns and make some moves towards improving policy.
- Media coverage, campaigns and research as grant activities raises minority concerns in general public

Successful applicants will be provided an additional grant opportunity called “Peer Review Grant” as explained below.

We expect budget based applications for projects of 15.000 EUR. We expect the organisations to apply approximately for the entire amount of 15.000 EUR or little less. Applicants has to fill out an application form and budget. We also provide application guidelines.

If the application is selected, we grant the total requested amount (appr 15.000 EUR), not including the Peer Review Grant (up to an additional 5.000 EUR).

Eligibility

In ordered to be considered eligible, organizations interested in applying must:

- (1)** be registered legal entities, to be non-profit making organisation and civil society organisation, have a bank account, be established and active in the target countries;
- (2)** prove having no public debt, comply with GDPR, anti-corruption measures and prove absence of conflict of interest;
- (3)** demonstrate their commitment and compliance to EU fundamental rights and values;
- (4)** have a balanced gender composition or community members represented within their internal leadership and team structure (desirable, not mandatory);
- (5)** be a small, local, rural, grass-root CSO representing the rights of minority and vulnerable groups, including minority/community led organisations, and have a close working relationship with and the trust of one or more disadvantaged ethnic, religious or linguistic community (including migrants and refugees);

(6) be able to demonstrate basic project management skills;

(7) have strong links with relevant minority communities and have the means in place to remain in contact with and effectively consult and involve the community/ies they are working with.

Eligible types of activities (activities must take place in EU Member States):

- Local **accountability** projects i.e., community-local authority problem solving workshops and dialogues
- Activities that investigate, address, or publicise gaps or failures in the **rule of law**
- Projects that contribute to **democratic participation**, including civic responsibility education projects, and advocacy with local authorities or relevant political parties for inclusion of minorities
- **Legal capacity projects** and campaigns that build communities' legal capacity to access justice mechanisms to achieve their rights i.e., direct legal advice, mediator training, legal support involving violation of the rights of minorities.
- Local advocacy projects and **campaigns** that give voice to local minority (and majority) concerns and support policy changes to address challenges and failings.
- Watchdog and **monitoring activities**
- Organisation of civic platforms and **civic dialogues** linked to rights, coalitions and partnerships among CSOs and minority CSOs
- Research, data collection, producing evidence/reports for **advocacy**, strategy and planning meetings, monitoring and publications to influence local policy and decision-making
- **Trainings** of community members on their rights and/or anti-discrimination measures
- **Creative communications** campaigns, and awareness raising initiatives.
- School activities and **awareness raising** to minority youth on their rights

CSOs awarded the MARIO grant can apply for an additional 5.000 EUR: **the Peer Review Grant** aims to support peer exchange and learning among project participants. The Peer Learning Grant will enable grantees to visit other grantees' projects and organisations to gain insights, learn from innovative practices, and reflect on their own project's progress. These visits will involve 1-2 project staff members traveling.

Evaluation procedure & selection and award criteria:

The proposals will be assessed according to the following priorities and indicators:

- (1) Relevance of the proposed project with the objectives of the program;
- (2) Effectiveness of the project explained through stated objectives, output, outcome, and implementation strategy;
- (3) Realistic target(s) and capacity to deliver planned activities which should be in line with the resources, capacities, and previous experiences of the applicant;
- (4) Clearly justified budget that represents value for money and efficiency;
- (5) Whether the proposed project includes sustainability aspects as well.
- (6) Whether the proposed project pays particular attention to minority women and gender issues.
- (7) Whether the organization applying is a smaller civil society initiative working at the grassroots level 5
- (8) Whether the initiative is minority-led.

Weighting will be applied when an application provide clear evidence of close links to minority communities or being minority led organisation.

Additional Information

1. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate that they truly represent, have a close working relationship with and the trust of one or more disadvantaged ethnic, religious or

linguistic community (including migrants and refugees). The degree of disadvantage of the community in question will be a factor considered as will remote and rural beneficiary communities. Applicants will need to show that they will mainstream gender and other multiple discrimination factors in the implementation, performances, and monitoring.

2. Applicants must demonstrate their commitment and compliance to EU fundamental rights and values, must be non-profit making organisation or civil society organisation, be established in the target countries, prove having no public debt, comply with GDPR, anti-corruption measures and prove absence of conflict of interest. The application form will raise and clarify all those questions.

Terms of Reference

Project budgets must be EUR 15,000 – **not more and not less**.

Projects must be implemented anytime between 1st of January 2025 and 30th November 2025.

The maximum project duration is 11 months.

Note on the budget:

- Generally, staff costs must not exceed 30% of the overall budget, unless under well-justified exceptional cases.
- Operational costs, listed under “Other”, must not exceed 7% of the overall budget.

The cost of purchase of equipment (projectors, laptops, etc.) must not exceed 10% of the overall budget, unless under well-justified exceptional cases.

Submission process

More information and application form and budget available at:

<https://minorityrights.org/marioproject/>

Applications can be submitted through the website or by sending the application form and budget to marioproject@minorityrights.org. For any additional queries, please contact us at the same email address.

MRG will be hosting an info session, including a Q&A for all interested applicants.

The session will be held 2nd of September, at 5:00 p.m C.E.T (6:00 pm E.E.T) , via Microsoft Teams. The language of instruction will be in English. It will last approximately one hour.

Please join us at this link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OGIxYmI5M2UtZWE0OC00YmJILWEzNGQtZjU4MTMwOTVmNGVm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%22aef0c123-d273-431c-9c30-e7b13cf06206%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%222d393a31-1260-46f3-a1f5-ef568c14e910%22%7d

Organizations may apply in national and minority languages.

Applicants from minority backgrounds are particularly encouraged to apply.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: 20TH OF SEPTEMBER

Background



Minority
Rights
Group

Minority Rights Group (MRG) campaigns worldwide with around 150 partners in over 50 countries to ensure that disadvantaged minorities and indigenous peoples, often the poorest of the poor, can make their voices heard.



PILnet

PILnet is a global non-governmental organization that creates opportunities for social change by unlocking law's full potential. With programs in Europe & Eurasia, Asia, and at the global level, PILnet aims to reclaim and reimagine the role of law so that it works for the benefit of all.



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