

COVID-19 Solidarity Programme 2020-2022

Call for Proposals on Covid-19 in Prisons
and Mental Health Institutions

10/16/2020



This project is funded by the European Union. As part of its global response to the coronavirus outbreak, the European Commission mobilised a support package for civil society in Eastern Partnership countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine. One of the branches of the package is implemented by the Netherlands Helsinki Committee & Human Rights in Mental Health – FGIP

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Background

The Netherlands Helsinki Committee (NHC) has launched a regional “COVID-19 Solidarity Programme 2020-2022” with the financial support of the European Union and in partnership with People in Need and AFEW International. NHC cooperates with Human Rights in Mental Health (Federation Global Initiative in Psychiatry, FGIP) to deliver activities of the Programme. This programme will support civil society organisations (CSOs) to respond to the immediate and longer-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in Eastern Partnership countries. The programme is part of a bigger set of activities carried out by a consortium led by People in Need. The overall aim is to enhance the capacities of CSOs to effectively respond to short- and medium-term challenges arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, and to influence longer-term policy reforms that support vulnerable groups and those disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

Persons living in closed institutions (both prisons and other facilities in the criminal justice chain, and places of confinement of persons with a mental health problem) are included in the vulnerable groups covered in this programme. Specific international guidance has been issued on Covid-19 prevention and treatment for these groups. CSO activity is important to monitor and report on whether and how this guidance is transmitted into national regulations and how these are implemented. Also, there is likely to be a need for the provision of advice to stakeholders and authorities on problems they encounter in Covid-19 prevention and treatment.

This call for proposals is soliciting proposals for grants to address these issues in the 2020-2021 period.

Objectives of the Call

NHC and FGIP seek to provide grants to CSOs to monitor the effect of COVID-19 prevention and treatment measures on the conditions of people confined to closed institutions (both penitentiary and mental health). This includes the full range of relevant issues including (discontinuation of) health care and (lack of) contact with lawyers, relatives or loved ones etc. In addition to monitoring and reporting, the objective would also be to provide advice and assistance to stakeholders, including confined persons, personnel, relatives, lawyers, on problems they encounter in COVID-19 prevention and treatment.

Organisations (or consortia) that already have access to closed institutions under a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) or that through another agreement with authorities have access to these institutions, are invited to submit a proposal. Applicants that do not have a formalized relationship with governmental bodies that provides access to closed institutions need to prove they have a track record of obtaining reliable information based on monitoring and explain in detail how such information will be gathered.

Proposals can be country-wide or limited to certain regions; they can be focused on one category of closed institutions (i.e. only penitentiary or only mental health) or on all of them. The aim of the proposal is to facilitate specific attention for COVID-19 related issues in closed institutions in addition to ongoing work relating to conditions in closed institutions.

Selected organizations will be provided with documentation about international standards relevant to COVID-19 in closed institutions, and will have access for questions of methodology to advice from the pool of experts of NHC and FGIP on monitoring of and health care in closed institutions.

Apart from this call for proposals a separate call focussing on immediate material needs in closed institutions arising from COVID-19 related measures, such as PPE and IT/communication equipment will be published.

Target countries

Proposed projects should target closed institutions in the following countries:

- Armenia
- Georgia
- Moldova
- Ukraine

Eligibility

This call for proposals is open to non-profit-making civil society organisations or consortia of non-profit-making civil society organizations with the status of a legal person, established in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova or Ukraine. In case of consortia, the main applicant will be responsible for the overall implementation of the action. All organisations should have access to closed institutions under a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) as prescribed by the UNs Convention against Torture’s Optional Protocol (OPCAT), or have a different agreement that allows them to access these institutions. In case the applicant does not have a formalized relationship with governmental bodies that provides access to closed institutions, the applicant needs to prove it has a track record of obtaining reliable information based on monitoring and explain in detail how such information will be gathered.

Applications should provide evidence of the following:

- Registration status as a non-profit organisation registered under national legislation
- At least four years’ experience delivering activities in line with the proposed project
- Experience with managing budgets of similar size

Public administration institutions, state agencies, local or regional authorities, political parties or organisations affiliated with political parties are not eligible for this call.

Grant amount and duration

NHC and GIP will support CSO’s up to the following maximum per grant:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Armenia | 6.000,- EUR |
| Georgia | 6.000,- EUR |
| Republic of Moldova | 6.000,- EUR |
| Ukraine | 12.000,- EUR |

Proposed project duration should lie between 9 and 12 months.

An average number of two applications per country can be granted depending on the quality of the applications and respective situation in the country.

NHC and FGIP reserve the right to suggest applicants to adapt or merge proposals.

Ineligible costs

The budget must be in line with the activities described in the application form. The following activities and expenditures are not eligible under this call:

- Infrastructure projects (constructing roads, bridges, buildings, etc)
- Purchase of land or property
- Political or religious activities

- Environmentally harmful projects
- Retrospective activities (costs related to activities implemented prior to signing the grant agreement)

Eligible costs include all costs necessary to perform monitoring work including the reporting process: such as staff salary costs or fees, travel costs, daily allowances, printing costs, publication costs and telephone costs.

Application Process

Applicants must submit the following:

- Annex 1 – Application Form
- Annex 2 – Budget
- Registration certificate of the organization (original with an English translation)
- Statute of the organisation (if possible in English)
- Evidence of track record in similar projects
- CVs of the project team
- If the proposal is submitted by a consortium: an outline of the cooperation process and the division of tasks between individual members in the application form (annex 1).

Applications can be submitted in English. All submitted applications must be signed by the head of the applicant organisation, scanned and sent electronically.

The application package should be submitted to Ms. Lianne Veldt at LVeldt@nhc.nl

Deadline for submission of full applications is **October 31, 2020**. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

Additional information

You may also submit your proposal related questions until October 25, 2020 via email: LVeldt@nhc.nl

Questions will be responded to within 5 working days.

Proposal selection process

Submitted proposals that score 70 points or above according to the selection criteria below, will be evaluate using following criteria:

| | Proposal Selection Criteria | Maximum score |
|---------------|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Cost-effective and realistic budget | 15 |
| 2 | Network and proven experience and expertise in monitoring and reporting | 30 |
| 3 | Analysis of risks and mitigation measures | 10 |
| 4 | Capability in providing follow-up in individual cases | 20 |
| 5 | Availability of local/ regional monitors | 25 |
| Total: | | 100 |

You will receive feedback to your proposals no later than **November 23, 2020** via email.

Any concerns or feedback related to the proposal selection process can be submitted to the NHC office at Riviervismarkt 5, 2513 AM, The Hague, the Netherlands or via e-mail: LVeldt@nhc.nl



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