

Constituency and Influence for Reform

Call for Applications

9/9/2022



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The Netherlands Helsinki Committee (NHC) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization located in The Hague. The NHC's mission is to build and secure justice and compliance with international human rights agreements within OSCE participating states. Established in 1987, the NHC represented Dutch civil society in the Helsinki Process, following the examples of sister Helsinki Committees from across the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) area. Through our work, we contribute to wider international agendas such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Today we are recognised as one of the key non-governmental organisations contributing to dialogue and cooperation amongst actors in the areas of rule of law and human rights.

Background

The objective of the *Constituency and Influence for Reform* project is to strengthen CSOs' communication, advocacy and crowdfunding capacity, good governance, and operational security in Belarus. The project directly targets benefits civil society organizations (CSOs) working on **women's rights**, **anti-corruption** or **environmental protection** in Belarus.

The role of civil society in all target countries has proven to be critical in defending democratic progress and mending governance deficiencies in the past. Furthermore, stimulating greater appreciation of human rights issues by domestic constituencies, including financial contribution in the form of crowdfunding, is a vital yet little-applied long-term strategy for CSOs promoting women's rights, fight against corruption, and environmental protection. Through this project, the growing influence and leverage of society as a whole will be further strengthened in all target countries and the project will seek possible windows of opportunities for CSOs to safely engage with the government, either at national or local level, principally on issues of women's rights, anti-corruption, and environmental protection. To this end, in each country, the NHC will organize trainings, provide small grants, and arrange coaching support to enable a select group of CSOs to conduct campaigns and effectively reach broader audiences and political actors in Belarus.

The overall objectives of the "Constituency and Influence for Reform" project are:

1. Strengthen the communication and advocacy capacity of civil society organizations, which work/ed in the three above mentioned areas, the base of supporters, financial sustainability and quality of governance that enable them to continue their activities.
2. Strengthen the use of strategies to influence the policies of local and national authorities, applying international and national standards, procedures and situational tactics of civil society.
3. Increase the operational security of civil society and its sustainability.

Objective of the Call

The objective of this Call is to invite Belarussian civil society organizations (CSOs) to participate in the "Constituency and Influence for Reform" project, which:

- Works/worked in the areas of women's right, anti-corruption and environmental protection;
- Have experience at least 2 years of experience

6 organisations will be selected to receive the following:

- training and mentoring in the area of advocacy, communication, and fundraising/crowd-funding;
- sub-granting for up-to 6000 EUR to implement their own projects lasting up to 6 months;
- Emergency fund to cover following necessary costs: legal assistance (lawyers' costs); trial observation (travel + accommodation); ultimate case possible medical and psychological assistance; necessary IT equipment and necessary safety/protection equipment.

How to Participate

To participate in the competitive selection it is necessary:

- download and fill in the application form;
- **send the application in electronic form by 23:59, 22 October 2022 to the address hrdprogramme.nhc@protonmail.com**

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

For questions regarding the project or the application procedure, please contact hrdprogramme.nhc@protonmail.com by September 16, 2022.

Eligibility Criteria

- work/ed in the areas of women's right, anti-corruption and environmental protection in Belarus
- Were legally registered before in Belarus; or are registered in the country they are residing; or have intention to get registered in the country they are located;
- Have/ had at least 2 years experiences in the areas of women's rights, anti-corruption and environmental protection

Application and Selection Process

Criteria by which applications will be evaluated:

- Previous experience and current activity plan- 20%

- relevance of training needs of CSO staff to the project objectives (communication, advocacy, and fundraising/crowdfunding) - 20% of the total assessment;
- motivation to participate in the project - 20% of the total score;
- ability/capacity to implement the project - 10% of the total assessment.
- realism, relevance, innovation of the project idea - 30% of the total score;

All CSOs that scored at least 60% form an overall rating. Each CSO in the overall ranking also has a mark on belonging to the thematic area (according to the application). The winners of the selection will be seven CSOs with the highest scores in each thematic area: women's right, anti-corruption and environmental protection.

The results of the competitive selection will be announced no later than November 10, 2022 by e-mail specified in the applications.