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# Call for Local Experts: Supporting the Needs of Ukrainian CSOs<sup>1</sup>

## Project Background

With the support of the European Union, the Netherlands Helsinki Committee (NHC) is implementing the project “Resilient Civil Society and Media Respond to the Ukraine War”, in consortium with People in Need (PIN) and the Prague Civil Society Centre (PCSC). The project aims to strengthen the resilience of civil society and independent media in the EaP+ region with the skills and financial resources to respond to the needs of the conflict-affected population effectively.

Within the framework of this project, the NHC organizes FSTP (financial support to third parties) schemes in order to enable civil society organisations (CSOs) working on the protection of human rights, whose existence further came under threat as a result of the war in Ukraine, to continue and adjust their work in the current circumstances.

The NHC aims to provide grants to civil society organisations and grassroots initiatives in Ukraine that are working on the promotion and protection of human rights. These grants respond to their direct emergency needs and can be used to cover organisational costs that contribute to the continuation of their work in the new reality affected by the ongoing war, as well as supporting strategy readjustment and development and current activities of partners such as the documentation of war crimes and support to individual Human Rights Defenders (HRDs).

## Objective of the Call

Within the scope of the project, the NHC is now looking for a team of two qualified local experts in Ukraine to work with the dedicated NHC staff on this project. Local knowledge and expertise are crucial for addressing the context-specific needs of the CSOs that are supported under this project, as well as for strategically adjusting activities where necessary in relation to developments on the ground. In this regard, the selected team of experts will serve a focal point for the NHC in Ukraine and will play a strong role in the effective implementation of project activities.

## Responsibilities and tasks

The team of experts will be responsible for the following tasks in the target country:

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- Providing support to the NHC throughout the sub-granting process, which includes reviewing reports from local partners, monitoring and evaluating awarded grants, participating in M&E visits; Supporting NHC project staff in drafting narrative reports for the donor.
- Playing a strong role in coaching of and communicating with the selected local partners. This includes providing advice on protecting their staff and adjusting their operations and strategy based on their needs in light of the crisis.
- Supporting the NHC in planning and executing advocacy-related activities aimed at amplifying the voices of Ukrainian human rights defenders on the international level and maintaining and strengthening inclusive and needs-based support from the EU for Ukrainian civil society, specifically human rights organisations working on national and local level.
- Providing advice to the NHC on visibility of the project and, where relevant, drafting communications initiatives about the project, such as social media outlets and posts, interviews, success stories, press releases, etc.

## Required qualifications and skills

Prospective applicants are required to have the following qualifications and skills:

- A minimum of five years' experience and expertise in developing and implementing activities in one or more of the following areas particularly in the field of protection and promotion of human rights:
  - Organisational support for CSOs, crisis management and strategy readjustment;
  - Advocacy campaigning for CSOs at regional/international arena;
  - Supporting good governance practices and prevention of burnout in CSOs.
- A comprehensive understanding and expertise on the CSO environment in Ukraine is required, with the added benefit of having a pre-existing network with local CSO community.
- Demonstrable experience in supporting sub-granting processes, from assessment and selection of local partners to supporting implementation of projects through the provision of coaching, administrative support, and/or monitoring and evaluation;
- Professional fluency in English and Ukrainian;
- A national of Ukraine based in Ukraine or able to travel to Ukraine when necessary.

## Confidentiality

Throughout the assignment and for five years after the date of final payment for service, the expert must agree to keep confidential all data, documents, or other materials in any format disclosed in writing or orally concerning the project.

## Application Process

The NHC will contract two selected experts for a period of one year, with the possibility of extension if deemed appropriate.

The total available budget for the team of two experts for 12 months is € 24,000.00.

Individual experts are eligible to apply, but we also welcome applications from teams/groups of experts. For applications submitted by a prospective team of experts, each team member must complete a separate individual online application form and indicate in its relevant fields the names of the other proposed team members.

We ask interested candidates to **APPLY ONLINE** no later than **May 24, 2023**.

For questions regarding the project or the application procedure, please contact us by email to [hrdprogramme.nhc@protonmail.com](mailto:hrdprogramme.nhc@protonmail.com) or [hrd@nhc.nl](mailto:hrd@nhc.nl) no later than May 16, 2023.

Only full applications consisting of a completed online application form and CV will be assessed.

## Selection Criteria

	<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Maximum score</b>
1	Knowledge of the CSO environment in Ukraine and understanding of current needs of those organizations that promote and protect human rights	<b>30</b>
2	Expertise in coaching local CSOs on organizational development in crisis conditions	<b>30</b>
3	Experience in supporting the sub-granting process and monitoring and evaluating awarded grants	<b>15</b>
4	Vision of planning and executing advocacy-related activities in Ukraine and/or at regional/international arena	<b>15</b>
5	Cost-effective and realistic daily rate	<b>10</b>
<b>Total:</b>		<b>100</b>