



CATALYST OF
CHANGE

SUPPORTING A VIBRANT CIVIL SOCIETY IN EUROPE

Call for Country Experts

Project background

More and more people within the European Union (EU) are confronted with backsliding of the rule of law and violations of human rights. Pressure on those who speak out in protection of human rights is increasing. With this programme we aim to fight the further closing of civic space and roll back of rule of law.

Shrinking civic space has many meanings for people. It encompasses harassment through propaganda, inciting statements by politicians, investigations or even legislation targeting non-governmental organisations. It affects in particular historically underrepresented people, as well as groups that raise their voice in defence of fundamental values. We need to turn the tide and make civil society stronger.

That is why with this project **we support grass roots organisations and movements to amplify their voice and become more effective catalysts of change.**

Target groups

We focus on supporting catalysts of change that are most under pressure, and that have an important role to play in facing the challenges of this time: grass roots organisations and movements that protect women's rights and/or the environment.

We will support these target groups through capacity strengthening, networking and awareness raising.

Target countries

Bulgaria, Croatia, Portugal, Romania and Slovenia.

Activities

- *Support in mapping and outreach towards target groups:* the expert will help NHC to identify and reach out to grass roots CSOs and movements, with a specific focus on organisations situated outside of the capital to inform them about granting and capacity strengthening opportunities.



- *Advice on capacity strengthening and training development:* the expert will help NHC to shape the capacity strengthening activities by providing information on specific needs and local context. Where necessary, the expert can also act as trainers themselves.
- *Supporting the distribution, evaluation and monitoring of the grants:* the expert will help NHC to disseminate the call for proposals amongst the target groups, take part in the evaluation committee for three call for proposals and serve as a focal point for the grass roots CSOs in the country.

Requirements

The recruitment of the country experts will adhere to the NHC's procurement policy and to the donor's requirements and regulations. Furthermore, it will comply with the NHC's code of conduct, whistle-blower policy as well as its integrity system.

We will select one expert per country in line with the requirements below:

- The expert is based in the target country (Bulgaria, Croatia, Portugal, Romania and Slovenia) and speaks the language of the country in question.
- Extensive experience in and expertise on the civil society field within the target country.
- A broad network amongst civil society organisations on the grass roots level, in particular those working on women's rights, protection of the environment and anti-corruption, also outside the bigger cities.
- Good understanding of the needs of grassroots CSOs.
- Good knowledge of the emerging trends affecting civic space and civil society.
- Experience with civil society networks and network strengthening projects.
- Experience in setting up capacity strengthening/ training courses.
- Awareness of the principles of gender mainstreaming and non-discrimination.
- A good working knowledge of English.

Tentative timeframe

Selected experts are expected to be available approx. 3-3, 5 working days (24-28 hours) per month within a 14-month period (tentatively between June 2023 and July 2024).

Budget

We are able to offer a daily fee of 350 EUR (on average; all taxes included).

Travel-related expenses (if any) are to be reimbursed separately.



Application and Selection Process

The NHC will recruit 5 qualified local experts in the project target countries based on the submitted applications. Selected experts will be contracted for a period of one year, with the possibility of extension if deemed appropriate.

Interested candidates are requested to submit the following:

- Applicant's Declaration Form
- CV

The application package should be submitted in English via the following [link](#) no later than 15 June 2023, 23:59 CET.

If you have any questions regarding the project or the application procedure, please email the NHC Human Rights Defence Programme team at hrd@nhc.nl by no later than 14 June 2023.

Only full applications (consisting of a completed application form and CV) will be assessed. Only applications receiving a minimum score of 70 points based on the below criteria will be shortlisted.

Selection Criteria

	Criteria	Maximum score
1	Experience in and expertise on the civil society field within the target country. Knowledge of the emerging trends affecting civic space and civil society, including knowledge of CSO environment and the situation of women's rights, environmental protection, and/or anti-corruption CSOs; good understanding of the needs of grassroots CSOs in one of the target countries.	35
2	Experience with civil society networks and network strengthening projects. Strong networking capacity within the civil society organisations on the grass roots level in one of the target countries, in particular those working on women's rights, protection of the environment and anti-corruption, also outside the bigger cities	30
3	Experience in developing and implementing capacity strengthening/training courses for grassroots CSOs in one of the target countries	25
4	Knowledge of local language and English	10
Total:		100

