



# JUREMONIA JUSTICE REFORM MONITORING IN ARMENIA

## OPEN CALL

### FOR SMALL GRANTS SCHEME JOURNALISTS & MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS

Tentative timeline:

Date of the announcement	25.07.2023
Deadline for providing the full proposals	15.09.2023
Announcement of the results	29.09.2023
Proposed starting date	06.10.2023



This project is funded by the European Union. This project is envisioned to become the primary means through which civil society will help to restore integrity and efficiency in the justice system in Armenia. The effective engagement of civil society is a must for carrying out systemic reforms as well as including a connection to citizens and victim groups.

## BACKGROUND

The consortium of Netherlands Helsinki Committee (NHC), Penal Reform International (PRI), Social Justice (SJ) NGO and Civil Society Institute (CSI) NGO has launched a “Justice Reforms Monitoring in Armenia” (JUREMONIA) project<sup>1</sup> with the financial support of the European Union. This programme aims to strengthen the role of civil society in Armenia in promoting human rights and judicial reform and become an effective force.

The overall aim of this call for proposals is to achieve media enablement and stimulate their meaningful engagement in justice sector reforms (incl. police and criminal justice system) in Armenia. By doing so, they may become effective, trusted and sustainable independent actors, in order to create a more accountable, transparent and international human rights-compliant justice system in Armenia.

Within the framework of the programme, four main domains of justice reforms are considered, which are:

- Legal and Judicial Reforms.
- Police Reforms.
- Penitentiary and Probation Reforms, and;
- Anti-Corruption reforms.

In addition, the National Strategy for Human Rights Protection applies to the implementation of all abovementioned domains.

In order to stimulate and support journalists and media organizations in their monitoring of, reporting on and advocacy for reform, the project launches a small grant scheme. The media organizations (or journalists or groups of journalists) will be stimulated to submit plans for integrated monitoring, reporting and advocacy projects in which the situation in Yerevan and in the Marzes will be addressed. In addition, the whole of the awarded entries should cover the Strategy of the Penitentiary and Probation, the Strategy for Legal and Judicial Reforms, the Police Reform Strategy, and the Anti-Corruption Strategy, in which the monitoring, reporting and advocacy takes into account the overarching National Strategy for Human Rights Protection in the background.

The small grant scheme will be facilitated by Civil Society Institute. A selection committee for the small grant scheme will consist of independent assessors appointed by the consortium.

This call for proposals is soliciting proposals for grants in the 2023-2024 period.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL

The Consortium (NHC, PRI, SJ NGO, CSI NGO) seeks to provide grants within the “JUREMONIA” project for media organizations or journalists active in criminal justice and human rights to conduct monitoring, reporting and advocacy activities. These may be organizations or individuals producing traditional (written) media content but also other types of (investigative) journalistic content. Media organizations or journalists should undertake reporting activities of the reform processes by the relevant government institutions and/or civil society engagement in the reforms.

For this call, up to four grants will be awarded to media organizations and/or journalists and up to three will be placed on a reserve list, to be awarded in 2024. In total, a maximum of seven grants will be awarded during the project to media organizations and/or journalists. The selection committee will strive to ensure that all four areas of reforms are covered by the grants, which are: Judicial Reforms, Police Reforms, Penitentiary and Probation Reforms, as well as Anti-Corruption reforms. However, applications may cover multiple areas of reform and applicants are allowed to hand in multiple applications covering different domains. If the allocation per each area of reforms cannot be complied with due to insufficient quality or number of proposals received, the contracting authority reserves the right to reallocate the funds to the other areas. In addition, the contracting authority reserves the right not to award all available funds.

The aim of small grants is to engage the media more actively with the justice reform processes, to create public awareness on the reforms and to stimulate cooperation between civil society and media in advocacy initiatives.

Publications should be recorded through a media outlet framework. An example of a media outlet framework can be found in Annex 3. Grantees are required to follow the visibility guidelines of the EU and the JUREMONIA project, which entails including the JUREMONIA logo and EU disclaimer and emblem on all publications.

In addition to providing media outlet reports to the JUREMONIA platform and cooperating the with platform on advocacy activities, grantees are expected to provide financial, and narrative reports every six months to the

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<sup>1</sup> Additional information about the programme can be found by visiting the <https://juremonia.am/> website.

contracting party. Templates and more details regarding the reporting requirements will be provided before the signing of the contract.

## ELIGIBILITY

This call for proposals is open to media organizations, journalists, or groups of journalists with the status of a legal person, established in Armenia.

In case of consortia of organizations or groups of journalists, the main applicant will be responsible for the overall implementation of the action and reporting.

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

### Ineligible costs

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 and reporting activities including the reporting process to the contracting party, such as: staff salary costs or fees, travel costs, daily allowances, printing costs, publication costs and telephone, internet costs.

### Grant amount and duration

Media organizations, journalists will be supported up to the 9000 EUR maximum per grant. In total, up to four grants will be awarded during this call (preferably covering all areas of reform, see objectives of the call).

Proposed project duration is for 12 to 18 months.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Only eligible and complete applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

	<b>Proposal selection criteria</b>	<b>Maximum score</b>
1	Compliance of the proposal with the overall goals of the call	25
2	Proven experience and expertise in reporting on the relevant fields	20
3	The (expected) scope of media outlets and persuasive amount	10
4	Continuity strategy for (advocacy) cooperation with the JUREMONIA platform.	15
5	Budget feasibility and efficiency	10
6	Expected results and outcomes	20
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Applicants must submit the following documents as annex to the full proposal:

- Annex 1: Application Form.
- Annex 2: Publications plan.
- Annex 3: Budget.
- Evidence of previous publications on field of Anticorruption, Police, Judicial reforms, Prisons, Probation, Human Rights (please provide max. five publications from the last five years);
- Registration certificate of the organization or proof of registration for self-employed

journalists (original with at least an informal English translation). In case of consortia certificates of all the members is required.

➤ CVs of involved staff.

➤ If the proposal is submitted by a consortium: an outline of the cooperation process and the division of tasks between individual members should be included in the application form.

Applications should be submitted **in English**. All submitted applications must be sent electronically to **ONLY** this email address: [juremonia.grants@gmail.com](mailto:juremonia.grants@gmail.com)

Deadline for submission of the full proposals is 15 September, **2023**. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

You may also submit your proposal related questions **until 8 September, 2023** via the email address mentioned above. Questions will be answered within 5 working days.