



European Center for  
Not-for-Profit Law

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### MONITORING, ADVOCACY AND COALITION BUILDING FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & ANTICORRUPTION GRASS ROOTS CSOS

## Background

Against the background of concerning shrinking civic space trends in the European Union (EU), this project aims to contribute to creating an enabling environment for civil society in five EU Member States that are in acute need of civil society strengthening: Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia, and Portugal. The project will allow Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working on women's rights, environmental justice, and anti-corruption to be more effective in the promotion of EU values, be more resilient to threats, and be able to quickly respond to concerning trends affecting space for civil society in their respective countries. This will ultimately lead to better protection, promotion, and acknowledgment of the EU fundamental rights and values in the target countries and, consequently, will contribute to strengthening respect for the EU values at the EU level too. To address these concerning developments, the project will contribute to:

- Enhancing civil society's response to new trends affecting democratic and civic space and civil society;
- Strengthening effectiveness, accountability and sustainability of grassroots CSOs;
- Enhancing visibility and understanding of the work of grassroots CSOs supported by the project.



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## Objective of the call

The objective of the Third Call for Proposals is to strengthen the communication capacity of grassroots civil society organisations (CSOs) working in the fields of women's rights, environmental justice, and anti-corruption across five EU Member States: Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia, and Portugal. This call aims to empower CSOs to effectively raise awareness, engage citizens, and promote EU fundamental values through targeted communication strategies and campaigns.

By supporting initiatives such as awareness-raising campaigns, enhanced social media presence, media outreach, and the development of communication materials, the call seeks to increase public understanding and support for democratic principles, human rights, and the rule of law.

The expected results include:

- Improved visibility and outreach of grassroots CSOs.
- Increased public awareness on key issues related to women's rights, environmental justice, and anti-corruption.
- Strengthened capacity of CSOs to engage with media and citizens.
- Enhanced collaboration among CSOs through joint communication efforts.
- Greater resilience of civil society in addressing shrinking civic space.

Ultimately, the call contributes to fostering a more informed and engaged public, reinforcing EU values at both national and EU levels.

## Grant amount and duration

The NHC aims to provide approximately **10 grants** per country, each grant between €7,500 - €10,000. The project will have a **maximum duration of 12 months**.

The anticipated starting date for the selected projects is **1<sup>st</sup> October 2025**.

## Eligibility criteria

The grant can be received by:

- **Registered civil society organisations**<sup>1</sup> working on the protection and promotion of EU values including on enhancing women's rights, and/or environmental justice and/ or anti-corruption.
- **CSO's** commitment to and ensure the **respect of basic EU values** in its work (such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities).

### Exclusion criteria:

- CSO's breaching EU values or with a political/religious affiliation.
- Organizations that have already received funding in the first and second rounds of this project are **not eligible to receive additional funding if the total amount awarded throughout all calls will exceed 60,000 EUR.**

## Eligible types of activities

- Awareness-raising campaigns.
- Publication of online articles and boosting social media presence.
- Development of communication strategies.
- Creation of information materials (videos, infographics, etc.).
- Media outreach and coordination meetings with journalists.
- All activities must be conducted within the target EU Member States.

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<sup>1</sup> Registered CSO "refers to an organization that is a legal entity, operates on a non-profit basis, and has been established in one of the project's target countries.

## Eligible costs

The development of a realistic budget is crucial for a successful implementation of the project's activities. The costs **may include (but are not limited to):**

- Awareness-raising campaigns.
- Publication of online articles and boosting social media presence.
- Development of communication strategies.
- Creation of information materials (videos, infographics, etc.).
- Media outreach and coordination meetings with journalists.

All activities must be conducted within the target EU Member States.

## 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:**

- Personal expenses (any expenses of a personal nature, such as personal phone bills, personal shopping, or personal travel not directly related to the project);
- Retrospective activities (costs related to activities implemented prior to signing the grant agreement);
- Humanitarian support to third parties;
- Medical or any other unexpected (emergency) expenses;
- Commercial activities;
- Infrastructure projects (constructing roads, bridges, buildings, etc.);
- Capital Expenditures (expenses for purchasing fixed assets, such as buildings or land);
- Political or religious activities;
- Purchase of Non-Essential Items (costs or items not directly essential for project implementation);
- Environmentally harmful projects;

## Application process

Interested organisations are encouraged to [APPLY ONLINE](#) in English or in their respective language no later than **15 September 2025**.

The following documents need to be attached:

- **Complete application form;**
- **Filled out budget form;**
- **Registration certificate** of the organisation or a proof of registration;
- **Statute of the organisation.**

For questions regarding the call for proposals or the application procedure, please send us an email to [hrd@nhc.nl](mailto:hrd@nhc.nl) or [nheidema@nhc.nl](mailto:nheidema@nhc.nl).

**Only full applications** consisting of a completed online application form and all requested additional documents **will be assessed**.

## Selection process

An independent evaluation committee will evaluate submitted proposals consisting of three experts with voting power, a chairperson and a secretary. The group of experts will be composed of experts affiliated to the NHC and/or the NHC partners in the countries.

**The evaluation will be based on the following criteria:**

	Criteria	Maximum score
1	How relevant is the proposal to the objectives and priorities of the call for proposals?	20
2	How relevant is the proposal to the particular needs and constraints of the target groups?	20
3	How coherent is the design of the action? Does the proposal indicate the expected results to be achieved by the action?	15



	Does the intervention logic explain the rationale to achieve the expected results? Are the activities proposed appropriate, practical, and consistent with the envisaged outcome(s)?	
<b>4</b>	Is the action plan for implementing the action clear and feasible? Is the timeline realistic?	10
<b>5</b>	Does the proposal include an effective and efficient monitoring system?	10
<b>6</b>	Realistic and feasible budget (Are the activities appropriately reflected in the budget?)	10
<b>7</b>	Analysis of risks and mitigation measures	5
<b>8</b>	Sustainability of activities after the end of the proposed project	10
<b>Total:</b>		<b>100</b>

The threshold score for receiving sub-grants is 70 points.

The applicants will receive feedback on their proposals via email within 4 weeks after the submission deadline.

The outcomes of the call will be published on the [project's website](#) and will include a description of the selected projects, award dates, project durations as well as the names and countries of the grantees.

Any concerns or feedback related to the proposal selection process can be submitted to the NHC via e-mail to [nheidema@nhc.nl](mailto:nheidema@nhc.nl) or [hrd@nhc.nl](mailto:hrd@nhc.nl)



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