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Community
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Платформа за
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Platforma për
investime në komunitet



**CALL FOR THE AWARDING OF GRANTS TO CIVIL SOCIETY
ORGANISATIONS – FIRST PHASE 2022
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PLATFORM**

Deadline for submission of the applications: 22.04.2022 by 16:00 hrs.

Date of announcement of the call: 22.03.2022

Project reference number: IPA/2020/421-147

Period of project implementation: 01.01.2021 – 30.04.2024



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1. ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Community Investment Platform (CIP) project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Albiz Foundation from Skopje, in partnership with the Multikultura Association from Tetovo, the Center for Sustainable Community Development from Debar and the Center for Research and Analysis NOVUS from Strumica.

The main goal of the project is to enhance the capacity of local civil society organizations for building cross-sectoral initiatives aimed at socio-economic development of the communities. The project also aims to strengthen the local communities' fund-raising capacity through initiatives led by civil society organizations and public-private initiatives.

The project is implemented in Skopje, Tetovo, Debar and Strumica. The project is funded by the European Union. The duration of the project is from January 2021 to April 2024.

CSOs Platform, led by Albiz Foundation and the three partners, have inferred that the main challenge relates to the absence of cross-sectoral cooperation, followed by the insufficient management of the intentions of the private sector to assist the government in undertaking community related solutions. This has been preceded by the still relatively weak CSOs or grass-roots, although lately the civic initiatives (often informal) have shown that by using "think global, act local" approach, compounded with the digital media, have garnered support from the local businesses and appreciation from the municipalities. Still, the capacity for project management, accountability and promotion of cross-sectoral approach (including the skills for their management) of the CSOs is at a low level.

On the other hand, as showcased by our associating members in the CSO platform, the businesses are mostly focused on short-term donations and marketing, instead of corporate social responsibility. They mostly refused to be involved in longer-term, strategic funding of community interventions, placing the responsibility solely on the public sector (whereas their trust in the civic sector is similarly low). As evidence shows, local governments are often cash-strapped when it comes to investing in local challenges, as central government still has the legal and financial power to decide which communities will be funded. The absence of cooperation with the other sector is also high.

As a result of all of these circumstances, the most vulnerable groups such as youth and women are at the brunt of the predicament, often resulting in their unemployment or misuse. Youth are actually the highest group that are unemployed, whereas women register highest economic inactivity. If means can be found to change such dynamics, N. Macedonia's communities can benefit from the boosting of the local economy. That is why local CSOs are important, as they often support the vulnerable groups, but they themselves have a low level of expertise in working with the businesses and the public sector which prevents them from achieving this goal.

2. ABOUT THE CALL

The goal of the call for regranting is to provide motivation and support to local civil society/grassroot organizations to implement community projects that will show the way to improved well-being of the population, with a focus on youth and women.

The specific goal of the call for financial support will be to support cross-sectoral projects led by CSO at community level that identify and assist in addressing local challenges.

Priority will be given to CSOs that involve youth and women in decision-making, or whose activities affect the improvement of their socio-economic status in the communities.

A total of 14 civil society organizations will receive grants, in two phases: the first phase will be implemented in 2022 and will support 7 initiatives, and the second phase will be implemented in 2023 and will also support 7 initiatives.

Through the financing of civil society organizations, the goal of the Project is to achieve the following results:

1. Projects that will leave a mark in addressing community challenges, especially projects involving vulnerable groups;
2. Documented and applied cross-sectoral efforts to address community challenges;
3. Developed or implemented examples of community investments, through the inclusion of corporate/individual philanthropy;
4. Raising awareness and social responsibility for community investment among all actors at the local level;
5. Active and direct involvement of the citizens in the creation and implementation of development projects in the community, especially women and youth;
6. Strengthening the cross-sectoral cooperation by implementing 10% co-financing by a business, public sector or other donors.

3. ELIGIBILITY FOR APPLICATION

Organizations that are registered in accordance with the Law on Associations and Foundations and meet the following criteria are eligible to submit their applications for this call for re-granting:

1. They should be established in the Republic of North Macedonia and registered as a citizens association at least 1 year before the announcement of this call in the following cities: Skopje, Tetovo, Debar and Strumica;
2. They should have a published financial and narrative report for 2021 (optional);
3. They should be members of the Community Investment Platform, www.cip.mk, i.e., they should have a Membership Application Form/Membership Fee submitted with a signature and a stamp. Organizations that are already members of the platform do not need to submit a Membership Application Form;
4. They should be active and directly responsible for the preparation and management of the project;
5. Priority is given to organizations working on projects addressing youth and women issues.
6. Organizations that are leading applicants or co-applicants of the IPA Program for support of networks and platforms of civil society organizations in the Republic of Northern Macedonia with reference number: EuropeAid / 167061 / DD / ACT / MK are not eligible as applicants for this Call.

3.1 ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The call for re-granting will support the initiatives of civil society organizations that will show the way to improved well-being of the population, with a focus on youth and women (the list is not limited, support for other activities is possible if it is determined that they are in line with the objectives of the project):

1. Effective networking between different sectors based on a solution to (long-term) community challenges;
2. Research/analysis that shows or maps the solution of community challenges;
3. Effective advocacy and lobbying in the public and private sector for prepared or realized investments in the community;
4. Trainings, workshops and campaigns to promote, raise awareness, build capacity and improve conditions for various social groups of citizens, especially youth and women;
5. Projects that contain specific interventions or field actions with a social impact and involvement in the field of ecology, social protection, education, environment, sports and culture are highly recommended and preferred.

4. AVAILABLE FUNDS AND COSTS

4.1 AVAILABLE FUNDS

The total amount of funds for financing civil society organizations provided for this call is EUR 45,500. Budget details:

1. The budgets of the project proposals submitted to this call should be no less than EUR 5,000 and no more than EUR 6,500;
2. Each organization should provide co-financing of a minimum of 10% (of the total project budget with which it applies) by a business, public sector or other donors (citizens, diaspora);
3. The time of the project proposal implementation should be no less than 9 months and no more than 12 months;
4. Activities can start on the date specified in the grant agreement and should be completed by May 15, 2023 at the latest.

4.2 COSTS COVERED BY THE PROJECT

The costs are broken down into percentages as follows:

1. Human resources - a maximum of 30% of the total eligible costs;
2. Programme activities - direct costs related to the implementation of the project - a maximum of 60% of the total eligible costs;
3. Visibility activities - a maximum of 3% of the total eligible costs;
4. Indirect costs - a maximum of 7% of the total eligible costs.

4.3 COSTS NOT COVERED BY THE PROJECT

1. Costs financed by another project or donor or financing of projects whose implementation is either ongoing or completed;
2. Costs for individual purposes such as sponsorships, tuition fees, trainings, conferences, etc.;
3. Activities developed for the applicant's profit;

4. Currency exchange losses; losses or contingencies of the applicant, i.e., commissions for losses or fees;
5. Third party financing;
6. Providing loans to third parties;
7. Purchase of real estate, furniture, vehicles, equipment, construction works, reconstruction of buildings;
8. Financing the activities of political parties;
9. Payment of past debts;
10. Humanitarian activities;
11. Salaries/fees to public administration employees.

5. METHOD OF APPLICATION

5.1 LIST OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR FULL APPLICATION:

CSOs should submit their applications using the application form which includes the following components:

1. Annex 1: Application Form;
2. Annex 2: Budget Form
3. Scanned copy of the last page of the application form (with a signature and stamp);
4. Copy of the current status, not older than 6 months before the date of announcement of the call;
5. Narrative and financial report on the operation of the organization for 2021 or links to them (optional)
6. CVs of the project team
7. Copy of the audit report for 2020 (optional)
8. Annex 3: List of references for projects implemented in the last 3 years (for organizations established less than 3 years ago - list of projects implemented since their establishment)
9. Annex 4: Statement on double funding
10. Annex 5: Checklist
11. Annex 6: Membership Application Form/Membership Form (if needed)

5.2 PROCEDURE AND DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION

The deadline for submitting applications is 22 April, 2022 by 16:00 o'clock.

The applications submitted to this Call should contain the documents given in the list and they should be properly filled in on a computer.

The applications should be written in Macedonian and Albanian or English.

*The applicants are encouraged to submit the proposed projects in English, taking into account that the project implementation/communication and reporting should be done in English.

The applications should be submitted in electronic form to the address info@cip.mk.

The subject of the message with which the application is submitted (subject) should be: *Application for a Grant - Community Investment Platform – First Phase 2022.*

The documents should be submitted exclusively in formats supported by Microsoft Office Word and Excel and .PDF or .JPG in case of scanned documents. Documents should not exceed 15MB.

For additional information regarding the submission of the applications, the interested applicants can ask questions at info@cip.mk with the subject *[Info] Call for re-granting*, no later than 11 April, 2022 in order to receive their answers on time, before the expiration of the deadline.

The Project will also organize an information session for the interested applicants in Skopje, Tetovo, Debar and Strumica.

In the table below you can find more details about the deadlines for the application process:

Activity	Date (planned)	Time (planned)
Announcement of the call	22.03.2022	12:00
Info session in Skopje	24.03.2022	15:00
Info session in Tetovo	30.03.2022	15:00
Info session in Debar	31.03.2022	14:00
Info session in Strumica	01.04.2022	15:00
Online info session	04.04.2022	13:00
Sending questions to the Albiz Foundation	11.04.2022	16:00
Answers by the Albiz Foundation	15.04.2022	16:00
Publishing the results	10.05.2022	12:00
Signing contracts	17.05.2022	13:00
Initial date of the projects	17.05.2022	-

6. ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECTS

6.1 CHECK OF THE APPLICATIONS

Only complete applications submitted in a timely manner will be taken into account.

Note: Each organization can submit only one application, which remains as a record for the Project and is not available to third parties.

The submitted applications will be subject to administrative check and check of the quality of the proposed activities and the eligibility of the applicants.

Criteria for selecting these entities and providing financial support:

1. Organizational capacities for implementation of the proposed project;
2. Relevance of the proposed project for the defined goals and outcomes of the Call;
3. Description of the proposed project (quality of the proposals);
4. Previously taken actions for community investments;
5. Budget and cost efficiency

The application that includes all fully filled in forms and additional documents will be considered a fully submitted application.

6.2 ASSESSMENT OF THE QUALITY AND ELIGIBILITY OF THE APPLICATION

Assessment of the quality and eligibility of the application	
Criteria	Points
1.Organizational capacities for implementation of the proposed project	10
1.1. Capacities of the organization for management, administration and project management	5
1.2. Previous experience of the organization in the area of the indicated topics	5
2. Relevance of the proposed project for the defined goals and results of the Call	20
2.1. Relevance of the proposed project in accordance with the set goals and expectations stated in the Call	10
2.2. Established management system of the organization	10
3. Description of the proposed project	40
3.1. Compatibility of the proposed activities in the proposed project with the defined goals of the Call	20
3.2. Conciseness of the action plan of the proposed project	10
3.3. Defined indicators for achievement of the proposed project	10
4. Previously taken actions for community investments	10
4.1. Previous actions in the area of social responsibility	10
5. Budget and cost efficiency	20
5.1. To which extent are the activities adequate to the budget, what is the ratio between the costs and the outputs of the proposed project	20
Total points:	100

7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mandatory coordination training will be organized for all organizations that will be selected within the Call, where the project team will explain the project rules and procedures.

Each organization will have a mentor who will provide guidance, advice and will be involved in the process of fulfilment of the activities. In accordance with the needs of each organization, adequate trainings will be organized, in order for the organizations to increase their capacities for organizational and program development in accordance with the goals of the project.