



## **Engage and Monitor for Change**

### **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF) continues to provide grant support to CSOs to undertake civic monitoring and advocacy efforts, to enhance civic participation and to contribute to more accountable and transparent public policy making. To this effect, EPF is pleased to announce a call for proposals aimed at supporting participatory civic monitoring initiatives in Georgia under EPF's *Engage and Monitor for Change* program. The call is designed to foster active and informed participation of Georgian community groups, CSOs, and media outlets in the political and economic decision-making in their regions by building capacity among civic groups, encouraging monitoring and evaluation of policy reforms, and facilitating public discussions, debates, and network building.

### **ABOUT EPF**

Eurasia Partnership Foundation's (EPF) mission is to empower people to effect change for social justice and economic prosperity through hands-on programs, helping them to improve their communities and their own lives. EPF engages citizens in social, economic, and political developments, in order to effect substantive and sustainable positive socio-economic change at the local, regional, and national level through both operational programs and grant-making.

Since its establishment as a local organization in 2008, EPF has invested more than \$16 million to contribute to its program mandates and approaches:

- **Creating opportunities for civic and economic participation**
- **Promoting evidence-based advocacy and decision making**
- **Fostering a culture of corporate and community philanthropy**
- **Supporting cross border/community cooperation, and**
- **Open Door Grantmaking.**

To contribute to the achievement of its mission, EPF is implementing the following six programs: Engage and Monitor for Change, European Integration, Youth Integration, Social Enterprise Development, Partnership for Budget Transparency, and Open Door Grantmaking. In these efforts, EPF is supported by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and the European Union (EU), and other public and private donors.

### **BACKGROUND**

One of the major issues facing civil society in Georgia is the limited capacity of citizens to engage in and influence the process of developing and implementing public policies. Participatory civic monitoring is a process through which stakeholders at various levels engage in monitoring the adoption of public policies as well as the delivery of public services and/or programs. With focus on the needs and aspirations of those most directly affected, participatory civic monitoring enables communities to share control over the content, the process, and the results of the monitoring, and

engages them in identifying and taking corrective actions. Participatory civic monitoring not only measures the effectiveness of public services, but also builds community ownership, empowers beneficiaries, and ensures accountability and transparency of public agencies.

Eurasia Partnership Foundation strives to increase the number of CSOs and community groups that are able to engage in conducting high-profile civic monitoring and advocacy campaigns and take corrective actions to improve public policy development and service delivery. These activities should be done while mobilizing and empowering local communities to foster ownership over the process and the outcomes.

Engaging and building lasting partnerships between CSOs and the media also remains an important issue, since civic activists generally limit collaboration with the media to mere publication of the results of an isolated monitoring action. Rather, EPF encourages CSOs to view the media as their long-term ally, which can help broaden public discussions, increase access to public information, catalyze government commitment to taking corrective actions, and increase the visibility of the vital work done by CSOs.

EPF also seeks to reinforce the importance of joint learning and capacity building of stakeholders at various levels, including local and central public agencies. EPF encourages communities to engage in constructive dialogue with public authorities to achieve greater accountability and transparency, as well as to ensure implementation of corrective actions toward improved performance and outcomes.

## **GOAL AND OBJECTIVES**

The goal of the call is to support civic sector through fostering cooperation between CSOs and media outlets in civic monitoring and advocacy efforts on the problems facing Georgian society.

The primary objectives of the call are:

- Support innovative and feasible proposals with demonstrated capacity to identify problems and take corrective actions to improve public services, programs, and policies at central or local levels through high-profile participatory civic monitoring and proactive advocacy of citizens' interests, especially minorities and vulnerable groups
- Build the capacity of grassroots CSOs, community groups, and local media outlets to analyze, and take action to effect positive change
- Foster a constructive, results-oriented dialogue between CSOs, the media, and the public authorities to improve the latter's transparency and accountability.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Grants will be awarded to projects demonstrating the following:

1. Persuasive, evidence-based justification (such as available research and/or surveys) of the importance and saliency of an issue selected for civic monitoring and advocacy
2. Innovative, results-oriented, and feasible action plan ensuring wide participation of citizens in monitoring and advocacy efforts

3. Efficient and well-thought-out strategy of interaction between CSOs and media outlet/s throughout the process of civic monitoring and advocacy
4. Well-thought-out strategy of interaction with public authorities in the process of monitoring and advocacy
5. Sound action plan for building capacity of grassroots community groups with knowledge and skills-needed to implement civic monitoring and advocacy campaigns
6. Well-thought-out project monitoring and evaluation plan with reliable baseline data and indicators for measuring project's outcomes
7. Gender based analysis to ensure equal access of men and women to project activities and products to influence decision-making processes.

The following general criteria will also be used to assess the projects:

1. Degree of compliance with the objectives and conditions of the call
2. Effectiveness of project methodology
3. Sound analysis of internal and external risks and efficient methods of risks mitigation
4. Scope and relevance of the project's impact
5. Demonstrated commitment from major stakeholders/local community, including concrete information about formal or informal partners
6. Cost-effectiveness of the project
7. Sustainability of a project (please note that sustainability can refer to activities, structures, knowledge, and outcomes that result from project implementation)
8. Organization's capacity to implement a project as demonstrated by: (a) relevant qualifications of the involved personnel and/or experts, (b) past experience in civic monitoring and advocacy, and (c) capacity to manage a grant
9. Opportunities of co-funding from other sources.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

To ensure an objective and non-discriminatory selection process, proposals will be reviewed by a board of independent experts. The final decision on grant awards will be made by Eurasia Partnership Foundation. EPF reserves the right not to support any project proposal, if it deems the quality of submitted proposals unsatisfactory. During the review process, additional information may be requested. The applicant will be asked to present requested information within three calendar days of the request.

## **EVALUATION OF PROJECT RESULTS**

To determine the degree to which a grant project accomplished its goals and objectives, EPF may carry out an independent evaluation of grant projects.

## **GRANT FUNDS**

The maximum grant award for each proposal is **GEL 20,000** with project activities lasting at least 10 (ten) **months**

Grant funds may be used for the following:

- Expenses related to collection of data and evidence
- Direct costs for project-related events (e.g. rental of facilities, translation, equipment, etc.)
- Communication (phone, fax, e-mail)
- Pro-rated portion of salaries for key participants (e.g. director, accountant)
- Transportation of project participants
- Purchase of stationery and a limited amount of equipment (e.g. computer, software), and
- Other expenses directly related to project implementation.

Grant funds may be used only for activities directly related to implementation of a grant project. Grant funds cannot be used for covering organization's on-going expenses, construction expenses, purchase of real estate, or covering the applicant organization's debt. A clear justification must be provided for project staff salary levels and percentage of hours dedicated to project activities.

**THE FOLLOWING PROGRAM ACTIVITIES CANNOT BE SUPPORTED BY EPF:**

- Humanitarian activities
- Support for a particular political party (however work that includes all parties on issues like electoral processes may be possible if it is inclusive, unbiased, and objective)
- Lobbying for partisan purposes (EPF may advocate for issues, which bring about public and social good – like better endowment laws)
- Religious activities (EPF may support a religious organization for non-religious aims if they correspond to our mission)
- Capital construction projects for commercial purposes
- Military projects of any kind
- Small credits and loans for start-up businesses
- Theoretical research
- Individual and/or travel grants
- Purchase of medical equipment

**ELIGIBILITY**

Non-profit civil society organizations legally registered as well as networks and coalitions of CSOs, community groups, and local media in Georgia are eligible to submit proposals for the call. Media outlets can take part in the call only in partnership with qualified CSOs.

Civil servants, members of the current parliament, staff of the public broadcaster, and/or leaders and members of political parties cannot participate in a grant project as a grant remunerated participant.

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCEDURES**

Applicants must present the following documents to EPF:

- Six copies of the proposal in Georgian, Russian, or English

- A detailed itemized budget, as instructed in the proposal form.

Proposals submitted to the call must be the original and sole work of the applicant organization. Any plagiarism of any portion of the documents will result in the immediate disqualification from the call.

EPF will retain all materials and documents submitted through the call. The Foundation does not use information presented by the applicants for purposes other than review and does not provide this information to any outside persons or institutions, except when required by Georgian law or requested by EPF funders.

Application forms, proposal writing guidelines, and other relevant instructions can be obtained at the EPF office from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM or downloaded from [www.epfound.ge](http://www.epfound.ge).

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Eurasia Partnership Foundation Georgia Office is located at 3, Kavsadze str, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia. Tel./Fax: (995 32) 225-39-42, 225-39-43

The contact person for this call is Rusudan Jandieri, Program Assistant [rjandieri@epfound.ge](mailto:rjandieri@epfound.ge)

### **TIMELINE**

Announcement: **November 10, 2014**

Open Door Session at EPF office: **15:00 – 17:00 (Tbilisi time), November 20, 2014**

Deadline for submission of applications: **December 10, 2014 by 17:00 (Tbilisi time)**

Award announcement: **December 26, 2014**