

## **Request for Proposals Environmental Protection, Air Pollution**

**January 2019**

EPF is pleased to announce a call for proposals for Georgian-registered and active CSOs under the Foundation's *European Integration* program. The call is designed to foster active and informed participation of Georgian community groups, CSOs, and media outlets in environmental protection and air quality by building capacity of civic groups, encouraging monitoring and evaluation of policy reforms, and facilitating public discussions and network building around the issue of air pollution.

### **About EPF**

Europe Foundation's 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. To achieve its mission, EPF strives (1) to strengthen the capacity of individuals and institutions, empowering them to address pressing issues and (2) to mobilize relevant stakeholders in issue-based dialogue, through raising public awareness and creating various coalitions, platforms, or working groups, so as to effect positive change.

EPF's work is guided by the following approaches: (1) creating opportunities for civic participation in public policymaking, (2) engaging youth, (3) fostering a culture of corporate and community philanthropy, including through the formation of public-private-NGO partnerships, (4) promoting evidence-based advocacy and decision making, and (5) building confidence across religious, ethnic, and community divides. Some of EPF's flagship programs include Engage and Monitor for Change, European Integration, Youth Integration, Social Enterprise, and Open Door Grantmaking. Together, they feed into achieving the Foundation's mission and provide opportunities for Georgians to engage in social, economic, and political developments that can effect substantive and sustainable, positive change at local and national levels.

### **Background**

Environmental protection and, specifically, air pollution as an issue requires full information dissemination to society on those factors affecting the environment and air pollutants and that decrease the quality of life and threaten the health of each individual.

This issue requires raising civic awareness to ensure that the responsibility for maintaining a clean and healthy environment is shared among all. The damage that is, knowingly or unknowingly, inflicted on the environment puts everyone's health in danger. Due to its global nature, the government and society at large must be engaged in its resolution. It is worth noting that local and central governments are involved in environmental legislation. The elaboration-implementation process of air pollution regulation is part of the obligations taken under the Georgia-EU Association Agreement. In the implementation of any action plans and obligations, civic engagement and advocacy must be established.

For this reason, EPF's European Integration program announces a grants competition to raise public awareness on environmental issues and effectively engage experts and society at large in this process. The elaboration and implementation of clean air policy should result in real changes: legislative reforms, improved implementation of existing legislature, and/or changes in public behavior. Proposals will support democratic and participatory reforms taken by Georgia under the Association Agreement in the following areas: environmental protection and air pollution and activities aimed at reducing it; raising public awareness of air pollution, as evidenced by public behavioral changes; or advocating the implementation of planned governmental and legislative actions, as well as developing social responsibility for reducing air pollution.

The Foundation would like to see broad advocacy efforts that engage relevant interest groups. The Foundation expects that some deliverables from successful project proposals will be well-structured and articulated policy briefs, effective advocacy campaigns, and solid media coverage.

## **Goals and Objectives**

The goals of the grants program is to raise public awareness on environmental issues and to inspire effective advocacy in planning and implementing air quality issue reforms.

The primary objectives of the call are:

- Advocate planned and implemented activities aimed at fighting air pollution through public engagement in the process;
- Effectively disseminate information to society on environmental protection and air pollution issues;
- Support initiatives that increase the participation of CSOs, the business community, and the media in AA-related reforms that focus on air pollution;
- Promote lasting partnerships among CSOs, community groups, and the media in the process of monitoring and advocating for the implementation of AA obligations on environmental protection issues;
- Build the capacity of CSOs and/or local communities in demanding improved adherence to European standards and practices as prescribed by AA and relevant action plans on environmental protection and air pollution reduction issues.

## **Types of Activities**

- Civic monitoring and advocacy campaigns;
- Public awareness-raising activities;
- Public presentations, discussion platforms, and policy dialogues;
- Expert analyses and dissemination of relevant reports to state agencies and the public;
- Targeted PR campaign;
- Or other relevant activities that fulfill this proposals' goals and objectives,

## **Selection Criteria**

Grants will be awarded to projects demonstrating the following:

1. An effective campaign that raises public awareness for environmental protection, or advocates environmental protection and air pollution-reduction legislation, or advocates implementation of environmental protection and air quality-related obligations under AA;
2. Results-oriented, feasible, and needs-based action plan that ensures a wide participation of experts or local communities in the monitoring and advocacy processes, including a clear description of the methods to be applied in monitoring, advocacy, and citizen mobilization (as needed) in advocating air quality issues;
3. Efficient and well-thought-out strategies for interactions among CSOs, media outlets, and public authorities in the process of planning or monitoring the implementation of Georgia's AA obligations;
4. Activities directed to changing public behavior toward environmental protection and air pollution reduction;
5. Partnership with a media outlet or a clearly-articulated media component to be implemented by the potential grantee;
6. A well-thought-out project monitoring and evaluation plan with reliable, quantitative and/or qualitative baseline data and indicators for measuring and evaluating the project's impact;

7. Sustainability of the project (Please note that sustainability can refer to activities, structures, knowledge, or outcomes that result from the project's implementation.);
8. Cost-effectiveness of the project.

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. Demonstrated commitment from major stakeholders, including concrete information about formal or informal partners;
5. Organization's capacity to implement a project as demonstrated by: (a) relevant qualifications of the involved personnel and/or experts, (b) experience in civic monitoring and advocacy, and (c) capacity to manage a grant;
6. Gender-based analysis to ensure equal access of men and women to project activities and products that influence decision-making processes;
7. Analysis of minority considerations that relate to direct or indirect effect of project activities and expected results on different minority groups;
8. Opportunities for 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 Europe Foundation. EPF reserves the right not to support any project proposal if it deems the quality of a submitted proposal unsatisfactory. During the review process, additional information may be requested. The applicant must present requested information within three calendar days of the request.

### **Evaluation of Project Results**

During the selection process, special attention will be paid to the proposed criteria and mechanisms for evaluation of project results. The projects shall list project evaluation criteria, outcome and impact indicators, and baseline data for the proposed indicators. 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 from **GEL 20,000 to 60,000**.

Grant funds may be used only for the activities directly related to implementation of a grant project. Grant funds cannot be used for covering an organization's on-going expenses, construction expenses, purchase of real estate, or covering the applicant organization's debt.

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, email);
- Pro-rated portion of salaries for key participants (e.g. director, accountant) and reasonable honoraria for invited experts (if any). A clear justification must be provided for project staff salary levels and percentage of hours dedicated to project activities;
- Transportation of project participants;

- Purchase of stationery and a limited amount of equipment (e.g. computer, software);
- Other expenses directly related to project implementation.

The following program activities **cannot be supported by EPF**:

- Humanitarian activities,
- Support for a 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 political purposes (EPF may advocate only for issues that bring about public and social good.),
- Court cases and disputes of a grantee,
- Religious activities,
- Capital construction projects for commercial purposes,
- Military projects of any kind,
- Small credits and loans for start-up businesses,
- Theoretical and market research,
- Study and/or travel grants,
- Purchase of medical equipment.

### **Eligibility**

Non-profit civil society organizations that are 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 a public broadcaster, and/or leaders and members of political parties cannot participate in a grant project as a grant-remunerated participant.

An interested applicant may submit one proposal within a call.

### **Application Submission Procedures**

Interested applicants may submit a full application by email to [iberdzuli@epfound.ge](mailto:iberdzuli@epfound.ge) no later than **February 25, 2019, by 15:00**. Please indicate *European Integration Grant Competition* in the subject line of your email. The following documents should be submitted to EPF (Proposal-writing guidelines, application forms, and other relevant templates are available at the Foundation's website at <http://www.epfound.ge/grants-informations/application-forms-2/>):

- Full proposal in Georgian, English, or Russian (stamped and signed by the applicant organization's director),
- Logic model,
- A detailed, itemized budget (in Excel), as instructed in the proposal form,
- EPF's Grant Management Questionnaire.

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 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 person or institution, except where required by Georgian law or requested by EPF funders.

## **Contact Information**

Europe Foundation is located at 3 Kavsadze Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia. Tel./Fax: (995 32) 225-3942, 225-3943.

The contact person for this call is Nino Metreveli, Program Manager ([nmetreveli@epfound.ge](mailto:nmetreveli@epfound.ge)).

## **Timeline**

Announcement: **January 23, 2019, 12:00**

Q&A session at the Foundation: **January 29, 2019, 15:00**

Deadline for submission of applications: **February 25, 2019, by 15:00** (Tbilisi time, GMT+4).