

Request for Proposals for Civil Society Organizations February 2019

Europe Foundation (EPF) is pleased to invite Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), registered and operating in Georgia, to participate in its Open Door Grantmaking Program. EPF encourages interested CSOs to submit inquiries or full proposals **from February 5 to March 5, 2019**. CSOs will still be able to submit inquiries within Open Door Grantmaking Program after the abovementioned deadline.

About EPF

EPF'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. 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 grantmaking.

EPF's work is guided by the following mandates and approaches: citizen monitoring, corporate and community philanthropy, evidence-based advocacy and policy making, cross-border/cross-community cooperation, cross-cutting gender policy, youth integration, public-private partnerships, and open door grantmaking. Some of EPF's flagship programs include Engage and Monitor for Change, Youth Integration, European 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, in order to effect positive change at the local and national level.

Europe Foundation was established as a local organization in 2008. EPF is a member of the Eurasia Foundation (EF) Network: eleven local foundations supporting civil society that are based in Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus, Russia, Central Asia, and Washington, DC.

Open Door Grantmaking Program

The Foundation's flagship Open Door Grantmaking Program provides CSOs with one of the very few opportunities to be proactive in identifying and addressing local needs, developing fresh solutions and ideas to existing challenges.

Open Door Grantmaking Program is open for all types of CSOs and their projects that foster civic engagement and have the potential to be replicated either in geographic terms or across various issue areas. Project proposals submitted through the Open Door Grantmaking Program should fall under EPF's [mission and mandates](#). Submitted projects should provide realistic solutions to specific challenges and substantiate priority of these challenges by reliable data. Proposed methodology should clearly demonstrate broad civic engagement in identifying problems, finding solutions, and advocating for and implementing changes. Submitted proposals should lead to tangible and measurable social, political, economic, and/or behavioral changes at local, regional, or national levels.

The Foundation is committed to the principles of gender equality and encourages applicants to consider the different impact the project may have on male and female members of the society. For more information, please refer to [EPF's checklist for building gender equality into project planning, implementation and evaluation](#).

EPF also directs its efforts toward improving the inclusion of ethnic, religious, linguistic and/or sexual minorities in the country's socio-economic life. Respectively, the Foundation encourages applicant CSOs to mainstream minority considerations in their proposals and assess the potential impact the project may have on representatives of different minority groups. For more information, please refer to [EPF's checklist for mainstreaming minority considerations into project planning, implementation and evaluation](#).

[Click here for EPF's application submission instructions and materials.](#)

Funding

The analysis of projects funded by EPF in previous years showed that the majority of project budgets varied from GEL **40, 000 to GEL 45, 000**, a range that enabled grantees to successfully achieve project goals and objectives. Therefore, EPF recommends applicants to take into account this condition when preparing project proposals.

Grant funds may be used only for the 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.

EPF cannot support:

- A particular political party (however, it may fund the work that includes all parties on issues like electoral processes if activities are transparent and fair);
- Activities related to lobbying for partisan purposes (except of the advocate for issues that bring about public and social good);
- Religious activities;
- Capital construction projects for commercial purposes;
- Military projects of any kind;
- Funding for: micro-credit, small business loans, start-up capital for entrepreneurs;
- Non-applied academic research;
- Proprietary market research;
- Scholarships or travel grants for academic study.

Selection Process

In order to ensure fair and transparent selection process, submitted proposals are reviewed by EPF's Advisory Committee. EPF holds final decision making authority.

During the process of review, EPF may request the applicant to provide additional information within a month from submitting a proposal.

Selection Criteria

Grants will be awarded to projects demonstrating the following:

- Degree of compliance with the objectives and conditions of Open Door Grantmaking Program;

- Effectiveness of project methodology, including a results-oriented, feasible, and needs-based action plan ensuring wide participation of citizens in identification and addressing of salient local issues;
- Scope of project impact;
- Engagement of relevant stakeholders in achievement of project objectives;
- Sound analysis of internal and external risks and efficient methods of risks mitigation;
- Proper analysis of gender and minority considerations, to ensure equal participation and access of men and women, as well as representatives of different minority groups to project activities and products to influence decision-making processes;
- Organization's capacity to implement a project as demonstrated by: (a) relevant qualifications of the involved personnel and/or experts, (b) past experience of project implementation in relevant issue areas, and (c) capacity to manage a grant;
- Cost-effectiveness of the project;
- Sustainability of a project (please note that sustainability can refer to activities, structures, knowledge, and outcomes that result from project implementation).

Contact Information

Interested applicants may submit project inquiry or full application by email to info@epfound.ge (please indicate Open Door Grantmaking in the subject line of your email).

Europe Foundation is located at 3 Kavsadze Street, 2nd floor, 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia. Tel/Fax: (+995 32) 225 39 42/43. The contact person for Open Door Grantmaking Program is Lela Berdzuli, Program Associate, lberdzuli@epfound.ge