

Call for Proposals To Promote Participatory Civic Monitoring and Advocacy

April 2019

Europe Foundation (EPF) continues to provide grant support to Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to undertake civic monitoring and advocacy efforts and to contribute to more accountable and transparent public policy making in Georgia. To this effect, EPF is pleased to announce a call for proposals aimed at promoting participatory civic monitoring and advocacy in Georgia under the Foundation'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, social and economic decision-making in their regions by building capacity of civic groups, encouraging monitoring and evaluation of policy reforms, and facilitating public discussions and network building.

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.

Background

Participatory civic monitoring is a process through which stakeholders at various levels engage in monitoring public authorities and how they develop and implement public policies and programs or deliver services. With a clear 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 relevance and effectiveness of public services, but also builds community ownership, empowers beneficiaries and ensures accountability and transparency of public agencies.

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. As a result, citizens are apathetic and disenfranchised, which further exacerbates their exclusion from both national and local politics. To improve the situation and to contribute to Georgia's democratic development, EPF's *Engage and Monitor for Change* Program, through capacity building, has been supporting CSOs and community groups in mobilizing and empowering local communities to engage in civic monitoring and advocacy campaigns, so that citizens can take corrective actions to improve public policy development and service delivery. The program has also been instrumental in highlighting the importance of joint learning and capacity building

of stakeholders at various levels, encouraging communities to engage in constructive dialogue with public authorities to achieve greater accountability and transparency.

EPF's experience has demonstrated that in their quest to wage effective civic monitoring and advocacy campaigns, CSOs are best helped by partner media outlets. Although, lasting partnerships between CSOs and the media have also been difficult to cultivate and maintain, their strategic partnership can help in shaping the public discourse, widening access to information, catalyzing government commitment to taking corrective actions and increasing visibility of the vital work done by CSOs.

Goal and Objectives

The goal of the grant program is to support civic monitoring and advocacy efforts in various spheres of life, through fostering cooperation between CSOs and media outlets, so that together they contribute to inclusive decision making and responsive public policies.

The primary objectives of the call are as follows:

- Support initiatives that foster dialogue between civil society and public authorities to improve public transparency and accountability, quality of public policies and programs, or delivery of public services;
- Promote lasting partnerships among CSOs, community groups, and the media in the process of monitoring and advocacy;
- Build capacity of local communities to take action to effect specific positive change.

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 the proposed civic monitoring and advocacy effort(s);
2. Results-oriented, feasible, and needs-based action plan ensuring wide participation of citizens in monitoring and advocacy processes, including a clear description of the methods to be applied in monitoring, advocacy, and citizen mobilization;
3. Efficient and well-thought-out strategy of interaction between CSOs, media outlets, and public authorities in the process of civic monitoring and advocacy, directed toward achieving positive outcomes for the communities;
4. Sound action plan for equipping CSOs and grassroots community groups with knowledge and skills needed to implement professional civic monitoring and advocacy campaigns, which in turn will contribute to developing local civic resource;
5. Partnership with at least one media outlet or a clearly articulated media component to be implemented by the potential grantee;
6. 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. Scope and relevance of the project's impact;
8. Sustainability of a project (please note that sustainability can refer to activities, structures, knowledge, and outcomes that result from project implementation);
9. 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) past 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 to influence decision-making processes;
7. Analysis of minority considerations that relate to direct or indirect effect of the project activities and expected results on different minority groups;
8. 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 Europe 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

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 **GEL 50,000**. The minimum duration of the project is 12 months.

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.

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) and reasonable honoraria for the 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), and
- Other expenses directly related to project implementation.

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 political purposes (EPF may advocate only for issues which 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 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.

Interested applicant can submit one proposal within a call.

Application Submission Procedures

Interested applicants may submit full application by email to nnemsitsveridzze@epfound.ge no later than **May 24, 2019, 17:00** (please indicate *EMC Grant Competition* in the subject line of your e-mail). The following documents should be submitted to EPF (proposal writing guidelines, application forms and other relevant templates are available on 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
- Applicant organization's registration certificate and act of comparison from the Revenue Service.

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.

Contact Information

Europe Foundation is located at 3 Kavsadze str, 2nd Floor, 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia. Tel./Fax: (995 32) 225-39-42, 225-39-43. The contact person for this call is Saba Buadze (sbuadze@epfound.ge).

Timeline

Announcement: **April 24, 2019**

Open Door Session at EPF office: **May 14, 2019, 16:00**

Deadline for submission of applications: **May 24, 2019 by 17:00** (Tbilisi time)