



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

RoLYN 2024 Grants  
NDICI-GEO-NEAR /2022/434-776

<b>Project</b>	Funded through the Joint Programme between the European Union and the Council of Europe through the project “South Programme V and from voluntary contributions of member states of the North-South Centre
<b>Awarding entity</b>	<b>COUNCIL OF EUROPE</b> North-South Centre
<b>Funding</b>	60.000
<b>Duration</b>	Projects shall be implemented by 30 May 2025. Reporting requirements shall be completed by 30 June 2025.
<b>Estimated starting date</b>	10 January 2025
<b>Issuance date</b>	04 December 2024
<b>Deadline for applications</b>	18 December 2024

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## APPENDICES:

- Appendix I - Application Form
- Appendix II - Provisional budget (Template)
- Appendix III - Template Grant Agreement (for information only)

## HOW TO APPLY?

- Complete and sign the **Application Form** (See **Appendix I**)
- Attach a provisional budget (using the template reproduced in **Appendix II**), please also provide a copy of the budget in Excel;
- Attach the other supporting documents:
  - Scanned copy of organisational statute for registered organisations
  - Latest narrative and financial report (if any)
  - List of team members involved in the activity with profile description
- Send these documents in **electronic** form (Word and PDF) to the following e-mail address: nsc.youthcooperation@coe.int. Emails should contain the following reference in subject: RoLYN 2024 Grants application.
- Applications must be received **before 18 December (at 18h GMT+1)**.

## I. INTRODUCTION

This call for proposals benefits from voluntary contributions of member states of the North-South Centre and financial support from the [“South Programme V - Protecting human rights, rule of law and democracy through shared standards in the Southern Mediterranean”](#), a joint initiative between the [European Union](#) and the [Council of Europe](#) over the period 2022 - 2025 with the objective to continue the support to democratic reforms in the Southern Mediterranean through the establishment of a common legal space between Europe and this region.

The call aims to co-fund international/national/local projects carried out by members of the Rule of Law Youth Network (RoLYN), giving them the opportunity to apply and disseminate the acquired knowledge and tools. This in turn will allow to further promote and raise awareness about interconnections between corruption and environmental degradation based on the international standards of the Council of Europe among young people within their constituencies.

Project proposals shall thus produce an added value to the Council of Europe efforts in this domain.

### **Rule of Law Youth Network**

The objective of RoLYN is to increase young people’s awareness of and ownership over universal human rights, rule of law and democratic standards, and the potential of youth organisations to act as multipliers of these principles and values through their actions, with a view to increasing their influence over on-going and future reforms and their sustainability. Launched as a follow-up to the 29th edition of the Lisbon Forum, the work of the RoLYN will focus on promoting and raising awareness on the linkages between corruption and environmental degradation and encourage youth action in this area.

According to data available, besides climate change, corruption is one of young people’s main concerns. Even though the climate crisis and environmental degradation are significantly impacting young people’s rights and future, surveys on perceptions on corruption by young people do not clearly show how much young people are aware about the impact of economic crime and corruption on the environment, or to what extent young people are fighting corruption and bribery as part of their efforts to combat climate change.

By raising their awareness, building their knowledge and their capacities on rule of law issues and standards, and providing them with innovative tools, the RoLYN will empower youth organisations to positively influence anti-corruption, and to be able to advocate for and engage in anti-corruption reforms as agents of change. To this end, the RoLYN will:

- Increase participants’ awareness and build their capacities to act as agent of changes, based on Council of Europe standards and tools.
- Support the development of initiatives of the network to act as multipliers in the dissemination of acquired capacities and skills in their communities.
- Provide a space for experience sharing and networking

## II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROJECT

The purpose of the Project is to co-fund Youth Initiatives by participants of the Rule of Law Youth Network. In particular, it aims to give to the aforementioned participants the opportunity to apply the acquired knowledge and tools, thus, to further promote and raise awareness about interconnections between corruption and environmental degradation among young people within their constituencies

### **III. BUDGET AVAILABLE**

The indicative available budget under this call for proposals is 60 000 EUR (sixty thousand Euros). The Council of Europe intends to award up to 18 grants.

Subject to availability of funds and extension of the Project initial duration, the Council of Europe reserves the right not to award all available funds, and/or to redistribute the available funds in a different manner depending on the project proposals received and on the outcome of the call for proposals.

### **IV. REQUIREMENTS**

#### **1. General objective**

The grants will fund projects designed to raise awareness about interconnections between corruption and environmental degradation among young people.

#### **2. Means of action**

Projects may include campaigns; conferences; roundtables; trainings (general, peer-to-peer, seminar, technical, trainers); workshops.

#### **3. Implementation period**

The implementation period of the projects should start on 10 January 2025 (see indicative timetable under VIII. below) and shall not extend beyond 31 May 2025.

Reporting requirements shall be completed on 30 June 2025 **at the latest**.

Projects completed prior to the date of submission of the applications will be automatically excluded. As regard projects started prior to the date of submission of the applications, or prior to the date of signature of the grant agreement, only those costs incurred after the date of submission of the grant application could be eligible (provided the agreement concerned so provides).

#### **4. Target stakeholders**

Projects should target in particular the following key stakeholders:

- Youth multipliers representatives of the Rule of Law Youth Network
- Public authorities and media, if possible

The above list is not exhaustive and projects may propose to target other relevant stakeholders, while keeping in mind the general objective of the Project.

#### **5. Budgetary requirements**

Project proposals shall be accompanied by a draft budget (See **Template Budget, in Appendix II**) with the following amounts:

- up to 4 000 EUR for applications submitted by one applicant;
- up to 10 000 EUR for applications submitted by consortium composed of three applicants;
- up to 16 000 EUR for applications submitted by consortium composed of five applicants.

The estimated budget must be consistent, accurate, clear, complete and cost-effective, in the light of the activities proposed.

Each Grantee shall also be required to contribute to the project either by way of its own resources or by contribution from third parties. Co-financing may take the form of financial or human resources, in-kind contributions or income generated by the action or project.

**6. Further to the general objective, preference will be given to:**

- Projects/actions promoting and supporting the work of youth multipliers and youth organisations
- Projects/actions raising public awareness among young people about anti-corruption, environment and human rights and interconnection between corruption and environmental degradation;
- Projects/actions integrating gender mainstreaming into their projects;
- Projects/actions reaching out to marginalised youth.

**7. The following types of action will not be considered:**

- Projects/actions providing financial support to third parties (re-granting schemes);
- Projects/actions concerning only or mainly individual scholarships for studies or training courses;
- Projects/actions supporting political parties.

**8. Funding conditions:**

The funds for each grant should in principle be distributed as follows:

- 70% will be paid to the Grantee or the Lead Grantee in case of a consortium when the Grant Agreement between the Parties is signed;
- the balance will be paid to the Grantee or the Lead Grantee in case of a consortium based on actual expenditures incurred, and after the presentation and acceptance by the Council of Europe of the final narrative and financial reports for the Grant implementation.

**9. Reporting requirements:**

- **narrative reporting** requires a full narrative report on the use made of the grant and a copy of the register of the persons present during each of the activities, including names and signatures of participants;
- **financial reporting** requires in particular a statement in the currency in which the Grant Agreement will be concluded (Euros or local currency), in English, stating the payments made for the implementation of the activities, certified by the responsible financial officer of the Grantees, accompanied by “appropriate original supporting documents” (see below). The Council of Europe reserves the right to ask for summary translations of invoices into English. If for legal reasons the original documents must be retained by the Grantees, certified copies must be submitted with the financial statement.

“Appropriate original supporting documents” refers to signed contracts, invoices and acceptances of work (for all transactions), payment authorisation for all transactions should also be provided in case the Grantees use such practice, and reliable evidence of payment (authorised payment order and bank statement).

As regards round tables / conferences, presenting “appropriate original supporting documents” requires presentation of a programme indicating the title, dates, venue, and agenda of the event; the names of persons facilitating the event, a signed list of participants, the contracts with the owner of venue of the event (e.g. hotel) for the rent of premises, food and beverages of participants, invoices from the owner of the venue of the event for the above services, and a report on the results of the event (see narrative reporting above).

As regards consultancy services, presenting “appropriate original supporting documents” requires presentation of evidence of the outputs produced, contracts with experts and consultants containing a specific description of

services to be carried out, invoices produced after the works have been performed and delivered (the specialities of the consultants shall correspond to the nature of activities for which they are contracted).

As regards travel fees / lodging of experts and participants, presenting “appropriate original supporting documents” requires presentation, where relevant, of contracts with a travel agency for travel fees and lodging, invoices of the travel agency indicating destinations, dates, ticket costs, and names of the travelling persons, a programme of the event indicating the names of the experts and signed lists of participants.

The above description is not comprehensive. Any doubt regarding the interpretation of the notion of “appropriate original supporting documents” should lead the Grantee or the Lead Grantee in case of a consortium to consult the Council of Europe.

## V. HOW TO APPLY?

### 1. Documents to be submitted:

Each application shall contain:

- the completed and signed **Application Form** (See **Appendix I**);
- a provisional budget (using the template reproduced in **Appendix II**);
- the other supporting documents:
  - Scanned copy of organisational statute
  - Latest narrative and financial report (if any)
  - List of team members involved in the action with profile description

**Applications that are incomplete will not be considered.**

### 2. Questions

General information can be found on the website of the North-South Centre of Council of Europe: [North-South Centre of the Council of Europe - North-South Centre \(coe.int\)](http://North-South Centre of the Council of Europe - North-South Centre (coe.int))

Other questions regarding this specific call for proposals must be sent at the latest one week before the deadline for the submission of proposals, in English or French, and shall be exclusively sent to the following address: [nsc.youthcooperation@coe.int](mailto:nsc.youthcooperation@coe.int) with the following reference in subject: QUESTIONS RoLYN 2024 Grants application

### 3. Deadline for submission

The application form, **completed and signed by all Grantees**, together with the supporting documents, must be submitted in electronic form (Word and PDF) to the following e-mail address: [nsc.youthcooperation@coe.int](mailto:nsc.youthcooperation@coe.int). Emails should contain the following reference in subject: RoLYN 2024 Grants application

Applications must be received **before 18 December (at 18h GMT+1)**. Applications received after the above-mentioned date will not be considered.

### 4. Change, alteration and modification of the application file

Any change in the format, or any alteration or modification of the original application file, will cause the immediate rejection of the application concerned.

## VI. EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

The projects presented will be assessed by an Evaluation Committee composed of three members of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe.

The procedure shall be based on the underlying principles of grant award procedures, which are transparency, non-retroactivity, non-cumulative awards, not-for-profit, co-financing and non-discrimination, in accordance with [Rule 1374 of 16 December 2015 on the grant award procedures of the Council of Europe](#).

The applicants, and their projects, shall fulfil all of the following criteria:

### 1. Exclusion criteria:

Applicants shall be excluded from the grant award procedure where they or, in the case of legal persons and informal networks, their owner(s), representative(s) or executive officer(s):

- a) have been sentenced by final judgment on one or more of the following charges: participation in a criminal organisation, corruption, fraud, money laundering, terrorist financing, terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities, child labour or trafficking in human beings;
- b) are in a situation of bankruptcy, liquidation, termination of activity, insolvency or arrangement with creditors or any like situation arising from a procedure of the same kind, or are subject to a procedure of the same kind;
- c) have received a judgement with res judicata force, finding an offence that affects their professional integrity or constitutes a serious professional misconduct;
- d) do not comply with their obligations as regards payment of social security contributions, taxes and dues, according to the statutory provisions of the country where they are established;
- e) are an entity created to circumvent tax, social or other legal obligations (empty shell company), have ever created or are in the process of creation of such an entity;
- f) have been involved in mismanagement of the Council of Europe funds or public funds;
- g) are included in the lists of persons or entities subject to restrictive measures applied by the [United Nations Security Council](#) and the [European Union](#).

By signing the Application Form, applicants shall declare on their honour that they are not in any of the above-mentioned situations (See **Appendix I, Item 12**).

The Council of Europe reserves the right to ask applicants at a later stage to supply the following supporting documents:

- for the items set out in paragraphs a), b), c) and f), an extract from the record of convictions or failing that an equivalent document issued by the competent judicial or administrative authority of the country where the applicant is established, indicating that these requirements are met;
  - for the items set out in paragraph d), a certificate issued by the competent authority of the country of establishment;
1. for the items set out in paragraph e);

1. for natural persons, a scanned copy of a valid photographic proof of identity (e.g. passport)
2. for legal persons, an extract from the companies register or other official document proving ownership and control of the applicant.

## 2. Eligibility criteria:

In order to be eligible for a grant, an applicant must:

- be a non-governmental organisation, youth organisation, public entity or network part of the RoLYN network;
- be entitled to carry out the activities described in the project proposal in the countries that are part of the RoLYN network;
- have been active for at least 2 years in one of the following fields: youth; human rights and rule of law; environment;
- have sufficient financial capacity (stable and sufficient sources of funding) to maintain its activity throughout the period for which the grant is awarded and to participate by way of its own resources (including human resources or in-kind contributions);<sup>1</sup>
- have sufficient operational and professional capacity, including staff, to carry out activities described in its project proposal,<sup>2</sup> with at least 1 project officer who possess a minimum of 2 years of experience in the following fields: youth; human rights and rule of law; environment.
- have a bank account.

**Multiple applications are not allowed and shall lead to the exclusion of all applications concerned.**

## 3. Award criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- the relevance and added value of the project with regard to the objective of the call (40%)
- the action has a clear follow-up after its implementation or is part of a long-term sustainable plan (30%)
- the quality, accuracy, clarity, completeness and cost-effectiveness of the application and the estimated budget (30%);

## VII. NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISION AND SIGNATURE OF GRANT AGREEMENTS

On completion of the selection process, all applicants will be notified in writing of the final decision concerning their respective applications as well as on the next steps to be undertaken.

The selected Grantees will be invited to sign a Grant Agreement (See Appendix III, for information only), formalising their legal commitments. **Potential applicants are strongly advised to read the draft contract, in particular its requirements in terms of payment and reporting.**

## VIII. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

Phases	Indicative timing
Publication of the call	4 December 2024

<sup>1</sup> The Council of Europe shall have full discretion in determining whether applicants are considered to have sufficient financial capacity in light of the complexity of the project/action proposed.

<sup>2</sup> The Council of Europe shall have full discretion in determining whether applicants are considered to have sufficient operational and professional capacity in light of the complexity of the project/action proposed.



<b>Deadline for submitting applications</b>	18 December 2024
<b>Information to applicants on the results of the award procedure</b>	23 December 2024
<b>Signature of the grant agreements</b>	Until 10 January 2025
<b>Implementation period</b>	10 January – 31 May 2025

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