

Funded  
by the European Union  
and the Council of Europe



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Implemented  
by the Council of Europe

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Grant to reinforce support and protection mechanisms for victims/survivors of gender-based violence  
in Southern Mediterranean region  
ENI/2020/415-790/SPIV/EU-JP/2594

<b>Project</b>	Joint Programme between the European Union and the Council of Europe <b>“Regional Support to Reinforce Human Rights, Rule of Law and Democracy in the Southern Mediterranean”</b> (South Programme IV) <b>COUNCIL OF EUROPE</b> Project SPIV-2594: <b>“Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation for the Protection of Women and Girls against Violence”</b>
<b>Awarding entity</b>	North-South Centre
<b>Funding</b>	EUR 48,000
<b>Duration</b>	Projects shall be implemented by 01 September 2021. Reporting requirements shall be completed by 31 December 2021.
<b>Estimated starting date</b>	01 February 2021
<b>Issuance date</b>	16 September 2020
<b>Deadline for applications</b>	18 November 2020

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION.....	3
II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROJECT .....	4
III. BUDGET AVAILABLE .....	5
IV. REQUIREMENTS .....	5
1. General objective .....	5
2. Means of action.....	6
3. Implementation period .....	6
4. Target stakeholders .....	6
5. Budgetary requirements .....	6
6. Further to the general objective, preference will be given to: .....	7
7. The following types of action will not be considered:.....	7
8. Funding conditions:.....	7
9. Reporting requirements:.....	7
V. HOW TO APPLY?.....	8
1. Documents to be submitted:.....	8
2. Questions.....	8
3. Deadline for submission.....	8
4. Change, alteration and modification of the application file.....	8
VI. EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE .....	8
1. Exclusion criteria: .....	9
2. Eligibility criteria:.....	10
3. Award criteria .....	10
VII. NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISION AND SIGNATURE OF GRANT AGREEMENTS.....	10
VIII.INDICATIVE TIMETABLE .....	11

## APPENDICES:

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

### WHO CAN APPLY?

### HOW TO APPLY?

- Complete and sign the **Application Form** (See **Appendix I**)
- Attach a provisional budget (using the template reproduced in **Appendix II**)
- Attach the other supporting documents:
  - Scanned copy of organisational statute
  - Latest narrative and financial report
  - Curriculum vitae of the members involved in the project
- Send these documents in electronic form (Word and/or PDF – **All pages should be signed with a short signature and page 7 of Appendix I should be signed in full**) to the following e-mail address: [nscinfo@coe.int](mailto:nscinfo@coe.int). Emails should contain the following reference in subject: **Call for proposals: WE Grants.**
- Applications must be received **before 18 November (11.59pm CET)**.

## I. INTRODUCTION

In the framework of the European Union/Council of Europe joint programme [“Regional initiative to reinforce human rights, rule of law and democracy in the Southern Mediterranean”](#) (referred to as South Programme IV), the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe is coordinating a regional grant scheme aiming at strengthening capacities of civil society organisations (CSOs) in the Southern Mediterranean region to ensure a greater access to protection structures and services for victims/survivors of gender-based violence. The regional grant scheme will consist in the provision of a grant which will be coupled with a preliminary capacity-building activity, to one CSO (or consortium of CSOs) per target beneficiary country of the project, namely Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine\* and Tunisia. The grant should support the implementation of national or local activities aiming at promoting the multi-sectorial protection of victims/survivors of gender-based-violence in compliance with the human rights-based and victim-centred approaches.

Combating Violence Against Women (VAW) requires a multi-sectorial approach and coordinated action among all actors of society towards the same goal. The international normative framework has given rise to multiple forms of comprehensive and coordinated actions at the national level. Many different models and approaches exist for implementing such interventions. In this regard, the [Council of Europe Convention on Combating and Preventing Violence against women and domestic violence \(Istanbul Convention\)](#) is internationally recognised as a key standard for the adoption and implementation of a comprehensive and coordinated approach. This approach looks at and addresses the causes, manifestations and consequences of VAW and requires effective multi-sectorial and multi-agency interventions in which all policy sectors and actors are engaged and accountable. The adoption of a victim-centred approach<sup>2</sup> when implementing comprehensive and coordinated policies and measures ensures effectiveness of such policies and measures. In this regard, CSOs are playing a crucial role in promoting women’s rights having a first-hand experience in understanding realities, perspectives and concerns of victims/survivors while supporting them according to their needs.

The North-South Centre (European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity) has over 30 years of experience in working at regional and interregional level being an instrument of the Council of Europe that contributes to share its standards, know-how and expertise beyond Europe. The Centre has a long-standing experience in promoting dialogue between Europe and other regions worldwide, fostering solidarity, raising awareness about interdependence and developing regional activities geared at promoting the values that are central to the Council of Europe’s mission towards its neighbouring regions. The North-South Centre benefits from consolidated partnerships with relevant stakeholders allowing thus to reach broader sectors for a multi-sectorial cooperation on combating VAW.

The regional grant scheme will be divided in three phases:

<b>1/ Preparation and coordination</b>	From November 2020 to January 2021	<b>Compulsory training</b> on Council of Europe standards and methodologies on the protection of women victims/survivors of gender-based violence and participation in working groups to incorporate the learning outcomes into beneficiaries’ project proposal
--	------------------------------------	---

\* This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of Council of Europe and European Union member States on this issue.

<sup>2</sup> This approach is defined as the systematic focus on the needs and concerns of a victim to ensure the compassionate and sensitive delivery of services in a non-judgmental manner. A victim-centred approach seeks to minimize re-traumatization associated with the criminal justice process by providing the support of victim advocates and service providers, empowering survivors as engaged participants in the process, and providing survivors an opportunity to play a role in seeing their perpetrators brought to justice.

<b>2/ Implementation</b>	From 01 February 2021 to 01 September 2021	Operation of grants at national/local level
<b>3/ Reporting and Evaluation</b>	From September 2021 to 31 December 2021	Preparation and finalisation of narrative and financial reports by grantees
	January 2022 ( <i>date to be confirmed</i> )	<b>Regional closing seminar</b> to assess the results of the regional grant scheme with a presentation of national reports of activities (which will be presented as pilot activities) and definition of follow-up project at national and regional levels.

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

The South Programme IV (March 2020-February 2022), co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe, and implemented by the latter, builds on the achievements and lessons learnt from its three past phases.

Specifically, the South Programme IV aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Strengthening and pursuing efforts towards the creation of a common legal space between Europe and the Southern Mediterranean region;
- Supporting the effective implementation of human rights standards, the respect of rule of law and improving democratic governance, through institutional capacity building;
- Combating violence against women in the region;
- Strengthening and expanding regional co-operation to address common challenges such as fighting economic crime and trafficking in human beings.

Based on the results of the previous phase of the programme, combating violence against women continues to be a priority area under the South Programme IV, by:

- Increasing awareness of public authorities and other relevant stakeholders on the need to adopt or revise legal frameworks in accordance with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention);
- Improving knowledge of Council of Europe standards and European best practices in the field of violence against women by civil society organisations and media professionals;
- Increasing efficiency of national institutions and the judiciary to combat violence against women in line with the Istanbul Convention and based on European best practices.
- Strengthening regional co-operation in this field to support and facilitate sharing experience, good practices, lessons learned, and challenges in the region.

In the framework of the South Programme IV, the North-South Centre will carry out targeted actions to strengthen the participation of CSOs in the multi-stakeholder cooperation within their role of "connecting stakeholder" between duty bearers and rights holders. In this respect, the following activities will be developed:

- Support to civil society organisations (CSOs) to conduct activities on the protection of women and girls victims/survivors of gender-based violence at the national or local level, through a regional grant scheme;

- Training activities for beneficiaries of the grant scheme on Council of Europe tools and methodologies;
- Coordination and preparatory meetings between beneficiaries of the grant scheme and relevant national and/or local authorities;
- Regional Women Empowerment Conference targeted at raising awareness among relevant stakeholders from the Southern Mediterranean region on the protection of girls against violence (tackling regional issues such as minimum age of marriage, trafficking of girls, harmful practices, migrant and refugee girls, etc.).
- Regional closing seminar to assess the results of the regional grant scheme together with governmental authorities, South Programme IV steering committee members and other relevant stakeholders and experts from the Euro-Mediterranean region to paving the way for the appropriate follow-up action.

Overall, full complementarity will be ensured between other South Programme IV related actions and any action of the Council of Europe in the region backed by other funds. Likewise, complementarity will be ensured with European Union backed projects in the region with the South Programme to avoid duplications.

### III. BUDGET AVAILABLE

The indicative available budget under this call for proposals is EUR 48,000 (forty-eight thousand Euros). The Council of Europe intends to award eight grants of a maximum amount of EUR 6,000 each.

The Council of Europe reserves the right not to award all available funds, and/or to redistribute the available funds in a different manner.

### IV. REQUIREMENTS

#### 1. General objective

The regional grant scheme is intended for CSOs to conduct activities on the protection of victims/survivors of gender-based violence at the national or local level.

This grant scheme aims to **promote multi-sectorial action through awareness on VAW definitions and forms and trainings on victim-centred approach, in accordance with the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). Activities to be carried within the granting scheme should seek to improve the mechanisms of support and protection for victims/survivors of gender-based violence in the Southern Mediterranean region, while strengthening the participation CSOs within their role of "connecting stakeholders", between duty bearers and rights holders, in the frame of multi-stakeholder cooperation.**

It also aims to **ensure the involvement of relevant national agencies and sectors and following a human rights-based approach.**

The activities supported by Regional Grant Scheme should meet the overall objectives to:

- **Reinforce the cooperation between relevant public authorities/services and CSOs to ensure greater cooperation and/or coordination in the field of protection of victims/survivors;**
- **Mainstream and promote a victim-centred and a human-rights based approaches among all phases of the activity, adapting them also to the context in which they will be implemented.**

- **Develop new tools or strengthening already existing ones for the protection and support of victims/survivors of VAW, in accordance with the Istanbul Convention and other related Council of Europe standards.**
- **Promote commitment on the fight against all forms of VAW among the public and private sector, media, public opinion and/or authorities, at national, regional and/or local levels.**

## **2. Means of action**

Eight **national awareness or training actions for reinforcing or improving the protection of victims/survivors of gender-based violence** in the Southern Mediterranean region are organised.

Proposals must have clear follow-up measures which should take place after implementation.

## **3. Implementation period**

The projects should start from **01 February 2021** (see indicative timetable under VIII. below) and shall not extend beyond **01 September 2021**.

Reporting requirements shall be completed **on 31 December 2021 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**

Eight CSOs or consortium of CSOs, specialised in the protection of victims/survivors of gender-based violence (one grantee for each target beneficiary country : Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine\*and Tunisia) must conduct activities on the protection of women victims/survivors at the national or local level.

These activities should target professionals or representatives of at least one of the following services below and involve as much as possible other CSOs providing support services or shelters and representatives of the local and/or national governance:

- shelters
- law enforcement
- health
- justice
- social services
- military
- education
- media.

The above list is non exhaustive.

## **5. Budgetary requirements**

Project proposals shall be accompanied by a draft budget (See **Template Budget, in Appendix II**) amounting to a maximum of EUR 6,000 (six thousand Euros). The estimated budget must be consistent, accurate, clear, complete

and cost-effective, in the light of the activities proposed. All invoices need to be dated as from the starting date of implementation and not go beyond the end date.

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:**

- Most coherent action related to current context and urgent needs;
- Actions addressing the needs of vulnerable groups.

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

- Projects/actions providing financial support to third parties (re-granting schemes);
- Projects/actions already financed by the Council of Europe or by the European Union;
- Projects/actions supporting political parties.

**8. Funding conditions:**

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

- 70 % will be paid when the Grant Agreement between the two parties is signed;
- the balance (30 %) will be paid based after the presentation and acceptance by the Council of Europe of the final narrative and financial reports for the Grant implementation and on actual expenditures incurred.

**9. Reporting requirements<sup>3</sup>:**

- **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 Grantee, accompanied by “appropriate original supporting documents”<sup>4</sup>. 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 Grantee, certified copies must be submitted with the financial statement.

---

<sup>3</sup> Templates provided as Appendix.

<sup>4</sup>“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 Grantee uses 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 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;
  - Short biography of the key resource persons involved in the project.

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

### 2. Questions

General information can be found on the website of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/north-south-centre/home> and on the South programme IV dedicated website: <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/south-programme/home>

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: [nscinfo@coe.int](mailto:nscinfo@coe.int), with the following reference in subject: Call for proposals: WE Grants.

### 3. Deadline for submission

All pages of the application form must be **completed and signed**, and with the supporting documents, submitted in electronic form (Word and/or PDF) to the following e-mail address: [nscinfo@coe.int](mailto:nscinfo@coe.int). Emails should contain the following reference in subject: Call for proposals: WE Grants.

Applications must be received **before 18 November (11.59pm CET)**. 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 selection criteria will be set in line with the South Programme IV objectives to strengthen the multi-sectorial cooperation in combating VAW while promoting the provisions of the Istanbul Convention.

The projects presented will be assessed by an Evaluation Committee composed of three members of the North-South Centre and a member of the South Programme IV.

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 the following criteria:

**1. Exclusion criteria:**

Applicants shall be excluded from the grant award procedure where they:

- a. have been sentenced by final judgment on one or more of the following charges: participation in a criminal organisation, corruption, fraud, money laundering;
- 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 or if their owner(s) or executive officer(s), in the case of legal persons, are included in the lists of persons or entities subject to restrictive measures applied by the European Union (available at [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu)).

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 <11>**).<sup>5</sup>

**Applications submitting a budget proposal beyond 6,000 Euros will be excluded**

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) and c), 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.

---

<sup>5</sup> 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) and c), 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);

1.1 for natural persons, a scanned copy of a valid photographic proof of identity (e.g. passport)

1.2 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 legally constituted as a non-governmental organisation, association or network, umbrella of organisations with proven experience in delivering services for women victims/survivors (such as legal aid, shelters, counselling, helplines; etc.) and/or advocating for women's rights;
- be entitled to carry out in one of the following beneficiary countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine\* and Tunisia, activities described in its project proposal;
- have experience working with public authorities or sectors (local or national level);
- assure that the project/action is implemented in one of the beneficiary countries of the South Programme IV (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine\* and Tunisia);
- target stakeholders from the above-mentioned beneficiaries;
- have sufficient capacities (funding, operational and professional) to carry out the project proposal throughout the stipulated period;
- have a bank account in the name of the organisation or its representative;

**If multiple applications are received only ONE will be awarded per organisation.**

## 3. Award criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Relevance and added value of their project proposal with regard to the objective of the call and depending on the actual needs of the society (40%);
- the project has a clear follow-up after its implementation or is part of a long-term sustainable plan (30%);
- the relevance of the experience of the applying organisation(s) and staff (20%);
- the quality, accuracy, clarity, completeness and cost-effectiveness of the application and the estimated budget (10%).

Additional criteria/extra-score:

- Initiatives promoting inclusive and empowerment approach (20%);
- complementarity and/or cooperation with other initiatives and/or CSOs at local, national or international level (20%).

## 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

<b>Phases</b>	<b>Indicative timing</b>
<b>Publication of the call</b>	16 September 2020
<b>Deadline for submitting applications</b>	18 November 2020
<b>Information to applicants on the results of the award procedure</b>	From 18 – 23 November 2020
<b>Signature of the grant agreements</b>	End of November
<b>Regional training</b>	From November 2020 to January 2021
<b>Working groups</b>	From December 2020 to January 2021
<b>Implementation period</b>	01 February 2021 – 01 September 2021
<b>Final narrative and financial report</b>	31 December 2021
<b>Presentation of the results</b>	January 2022

\* \* \*