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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN TÜRKİYE
GA004/2026

Project	European Union and Council of Europe joint programme “Fostering Civil Society Participation and Capacity Building in Access to Justice in Türkiye” . This joint programme is co-funded by the European Union and Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe. The Union of Turkish Bar Associations is the main partner of the joint programme.
Awarding entity	COUNCIL OF EUROPE Council of Europe Programme Office in Ankara
Funding	Co-financing between the European Union and the Council of Europe
Duration	Grant projects shall be implemented between 01 January 2027 and 31 December 2027
Estimated starting date	01 January 2027
Issuance date	23 July 2026
Deadline for applications	01 October 2026



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HOW TO APPLY?

- Complete and sign the **Application Form** (See **Appendix I**)
- Attach a provisional budget (using the template reproduced in **Appendix II**)
- Attach a list of all executive officers
- Attach the other supporting documents (in English):
 - Description of the main activities of the civil society organisation(s) related to facilitating access to information, legal assistance and effective remedies for individuals and communities affected by environmental harm including environmental degradation, pollution and climate-related challenges, while also increasing awareness of environmental rights and available protection mechanisms particularly a list of previous projects/actions implemented in Türkiye with information on the budget, period, purpose and content of the project/action – up to 3 (three) pages, A4;
 - Registration certificate as a civil society organisation or similar proof of registration;
 - Copy of the statute of the organisation(s), or equivalent;
 - CVs of the permanent and temporary staff members who will be involved in the implementation and reporting of the proposed grant project;
 - Authorisation of the legal representative to act on behalf of the applicant;
 - Bank statement confirming the existence of the bank account in the name of the applicant;
 - Letter of intention/co-operation with the relevant Local Bar;
 - Letter of intention/co-operation with the relevant municipality (it is not mandatory, but it would be considered as an asset);
 - Operating account record for the past 4 (four) years, including financial information on income and expenditure.
- Grant applications should be submitted in **English, with the exception of** “registration certificate as a civil society organisation or a similar proof of registration, document demonstrating that the applicant has a bank account, and operating account record for the past 4 years” **which may be submitted in Turkish.**
- The Council of Europe reserves the right to reject applications submitted only in Turkish.
- If any of the documents listed above are missing, the Council of Europe reserves the right to reject such applications.
- Send these documents in electronic form (Word and/or PDF) to the following e-mail address: ankara.office@coe.int. Emails should contain the following reference in subject: **CSF/GRANTS/CSO/Environment.**
- Applications must be received **before 1 October 2026 (at 23:59 Türkiye Time, GMT+03).**

I. INTRODUCTION

This grant call for proposals is launched in the framework of the European Union and Council of Europe joint programme “[Fostering civil society participation and capacity building in access to justice in Türkiye](#)” (joint programme), namely under its project on “[Fostering Civil Society Participation in Access to Justice in Türkiye: Enhancing Human Rights in the Context of Migration and Environmental Justice](#)”. The joint programme is funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and is implemented by the Council of Europe between 22 December 2025 and 21 December 2028.

The call aims to support up to **10 (ten) grant projects aimed at enhancing access to environmental justice** – including information, legal assistance and remedies – for individuals and communities affected by environmental harm, including environmental degradation, pollution and climate-related challenges, while increasing awareness of environmental rights and available protection mechanisms. The duration of the proposed projects should be from **six months to one year**.

These grant projects are to be implemented by national and local civil society organisations (CSOs) registered and operating in Türkiye. Organisations working in regions and targeting individuals and/or communities affected by environmental challenges, particularly those in vulnerable situations, and in the pilot provinces of the project will be considered an asset: **Amasya, Manisa, Çanakkale, Şırnak, Sinop and Konya**.

The Grantees will remain responsible for administration of the funds which have been granted.

Grant projects shall aim to produce an added value to the outcomes of the joint programme and the Council of Europe and European Union efforts in these fields.

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROJECT

The project of this joint programme aims to enhance the resilience of CSOs in Türkiye, empower them to promote human rights, and facilitate access to justice and remedies in the areas of migration and the environment.

In particular, the specific objectives of the project are to:

- Strengthen the capacities of CSOs, bar associations, lawyers, municipalities and other professionals on human rights and access to justice in the fields of migration and the environment.
- Improve local mechanisms and co-operation among CSOs, bar associations, lawyers, municipalities and other professionals working on migration and environmental matters.
- Raise awareness among migrants, refugees, persons under temporary protection, and individuals affected by environmental challenges regarding human rights and avenues for accessing justice and remedies.
- Provide legal aid services to migrants, refugees, persons under temporary protection, and individuals affected by environmental challenges, ensuring their access justice and effective remedies.

The **main partner** of the joint programme is the Union of Turkish Bar Associations. In this capacity, the Union of Turkish Bar Associations shall provide institutional coordination with the relevant local bar associations and may issue implementation guidance concerning legal assistance, referral and co-operation mechanisms. This institutional co-ordination role shall not entail any financial liability for grants awarded to CSOs or any responsibility for the acts, omissions or contractual obligations of individual Grantees. The **target groups** are bar associations, CSOs active in the field of human rights and the environment, lawyers, and municipalities.

The **end beneficiaries** are persons affected by environmental issues.

Detailed information about the joint programmes activities in the field of environmental justice are available at: “[Fostering Civil Society Participation in Access to Justice in Türkiye: Enhancing Human Rights in the Context of Migration and Environmental Justice](#)”.

Up to 10 (ten) grant project proposals focusing on enhancing access to environmental justice – including information, legal assistance and effective remedies – for individuals and communities affected by environmental harm, including environmental degradation, pollution and climate-related challenges, while increasing awareness of environmental rights and available protection mechanisms, will be selected from among the proposals submitted by CSOs registered and operating in Türkiye.

This grant call for proposals concerns only the area of environmental justice.

III. BUDGET AVAILABLE

The indicative available budget under this call for proposals is 240 000 (two hundred forty thousand) Euros. The Council of Europe intends to award maximum up to 10 (ten) grants in the range of 20.000 to 45.000 Euros (twenty thousand to forty-five thousand Euros) each. The grantee will need to ascertain that the expenditure in the local currency corresponds to the above-mentioned amount (in line with the Euro foreign exchange reference rates).

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.

A grantee cannot be entitled to receive more than one grant for the same province within the scope of the joint programme.

IV. REQUIREMENTS

1. General objective

The grants will fund projects designed to raise awareness of rights and available protection services and facilitate access to information, legal assistance and remedies for individuals and communities affected by environmental harm including environmental degradation, pollution and climate-related challenges, while also increasing awareness of environmental rights and available protection mechanisms in the following 6 (six) provinces in Türkiye. Proposals targeting the following 6 (six) provinces in Türkiye: Amasya, Manisa, Çanakkale, Şırnak, Sinop and Konya will be considered an asset.

Activities aim to strengthen alignment with European and international standards, ultimately enhancing the protection of human rights, access to justice, legal assistance and effective remedies for individuals and communities affected by environmental harm including environmental degradation, pollution and climate-related challenges in Türkiye by:

- Improving access to information, legal assistance, justice and effective remedies for individuals and communities affected by environmental harm, including environmental degradation, pollution and climate-related challenges.
- Providing legal and other relevant support services to persons and communities seeking remedies for environmental harm.
- Increasing awareness of environmental rights and available protection mechanisms.
- Supporting the development of tailored awareness-raising tools and outreach activities on environmental rights and access to justice.
- Strengthening the capacity of CSOs working on environmental rights and environmental justice.
- Contributing to the improvement of local co-operation mechanisms and collaboration between CSOs, bar associations, municipalities lawyers and other relevant stakeholders working on environmental protection and environmental justice.
- Promoting the participation and empowerment of persons and communities, particularly those in vulnerable situations, in seeking remedies and access to justice for environmental harm.

2. Means of action

Projects may include activities such as the following examples (the list is illustrative and non-exhaustive):

- Any activity involving legal counselling, legal representation, preparation of legal submissions or conduct of judicial or administrative proceedings shall be carried out exclusively by lawyers authorised under Turkish law and, where applicable, through the competent Bar Association's legal aid mechanisms.
- Provide legal aid, information, counselling and representation to individuals and communities affected by environmental harm, including support in administrative and judicial proceedings.
- Support for environmental complaints, grievance and dispute resolution mechanisms, including mediation and access to administrative review procedures.
- Strategic litigation, evidence gathering and monitoring of the implementation and enforcement of environmental decisions, remedies and court rulings.
- Support for community participation in environmental decision-making processes, including consultations, permitting procedures, environmental assessments and climate planning.
- Conduct awareness raising campaigns and outreach activities, including producing multilingual materials (brochures, leaflets, posters), digital content (videos, podcasts, social media), and informative resources on environmental rights, complaint mechanisms and access to justice.
- Provide direct assistance in preparing legal documents, representation, and correspondence with authorities.
- Assist in filing complaints or appeals with government agencies, regulatory bodies, or ombudsperson institutions.
- Deploy mobile units to remote or marginalised communities, offering legal advice, information, and support on the ground.
- Help individuals and/or groups record, document, and present evidence effectively for legal or administrative action.
- Organise co-ordination meetings with municipalities, bar associations, and stakeholders working on environmental justice to establish co-ordination mechanisms and strengthen collaboration among CSOs, legal professionals, and other relevant actors.
- Promote institutional learning, exchange of experience, and good practices among CSOs and relevant actors working in the field of environmental rights and environmental justice.
- Facilitate coalitions between CSOs, grassroots organisations, legal professionals, and scientific experts.
- Develop innovative approaches and outreach strategies to improve access to environmental information, legal assistance, and justice.
- Carry out community-led environmental restoration activities, including clean-up campaigns, tree planting, urban greening and nature-based solutions to improve environmental quality in affected communities.
- Organise educational and participatory activities that empower children and young people to understand and exercise their environmental rights, engage in environmental decision-making, and advocate for environmental protection and justice.

The grant requires applicants to co-operate with municipalities and/or local bar associations for specific activities. Moreover, applicants are required to submit a brief outline of the proposed project activities within the available budget of the call (see Section III of the Call for Proposals) and in line with the guidelines below.

3. Implementation period

The implementation period of the projects should start on 01 January 2027 (see indicative timetable under VIII. below) and shall not extend beyond 31 December 2027.

Reporting requirements shall be completed on 29 February 2028 **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

The project partners are the stakeholders who participate in or organise some part of the activities. CSOs shall ensure the involvement of the relevant local Bar Association and partnerships with municipalities and other relevant stakeholders are encouraged where they contribute to the effective implementation and sustainability of the proposed project.

Projects should target in particular communities and individuals in seeking remedies for environmental harm and who face challenges in accessing justice, legal aid/counselling, information and other services.

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

5. Budgetary requirements

Project proposals shall be accompanied by a draft budget (See **Template Budget, in Appendix II**) amounting in the range of 20.000 to 45.000 Euros (twenty thousand to forty-five thousand Euros). 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.

Applicants should ensure that the proposed activities are realistic and proportionate to the budget requested.

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

- Grant projects/actions proposed by national and local CSO working in the field of environmental justice in Türkiye and already involved in providing information, legal assistance and effective remedies for individuals and communities affected by environmental harm including environmental degradation, pollution and climate-related challenges, while also increasing awareness of environmental rights and available protection mechanisms.
- Grant projects/actions proposed by national and local CSO acting in close co-operation with the Bar Association and/or municipalities in the 6 (six) provinces where the CSO will implement the project (Amasya, Manisa, Çanakkale, Şırnak, Sinop and Konya), indicating that the Bar is willing to support the CSO in its activities under the grant project/action;
- Grant projects/actions involving different vulnerable individuals and groups in the context of environmental justice;
- Grant projects/actions involving activities directly engaging individuals and communities affected by environmental harm in Türkiye;
- Grant projects/actions integrating and promoting the Council of Europe and European Union standards;

- Grant projects/actions should comply with the objective/goal defined above under Section II. *“BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROJECT”*.

Projects are encouraged to have a gender mainstreaming and an intersectional dimension.

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:

- 50% will be paid to the Grantee or the Lead Grantee in case of a consortium when the Grant Agreement between the Parties is signed;
- 40% will be paid to the Grantee or the Lead Grantee in case of a consortium, following the presentation and acceptance by the Council of Europe of the mid-term narrative and financial report;
- The balance (10%) 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:

- **Interim narrative and financial reporting** (in English) are required to be submitted within 30 (thirty) days following the end of the first half of the implementation period on the use made of the grant, including details of the activities carried out, target groups reached, along with a copy of supporting documents such as the register of the persons present during each of the activities, including names and signatures of participants, photos of the events, copy of the awareness raising materials and other outputs. The interim financial report has to cover both expenditures and the remaining balance in each budgetary line.
- The payment of the second instalment is linked to the presentation by the Grantee and acceptance by the Council of Europe of the interim narrative and financial report, which will be done as soon as the Council of Europe validates the reports and assesses that the conditions for the second instalment are fulfilled;
- **Final narrative reporting** (in English) requires a full narrative report, to be submitted within two months following the end of the implementation period, on the use made of the grant, including details of the activities carried out, target groups reached along with a copy of supporting documents such as the register of the persons present during each of the activities, including names and signatures of participants, photos of the events, copy of the awareness raising materials and other outputs;
- **Final financial reporting (in Euro)** requires in particular a statement in the currency in which the Grant Agreement will be concluded, 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**);
- a list of all owners and executive officers;
- the other supporting documents (in English):
 - Description of the main activities of the civil society organisation(s) related to facilitating access to information, legal assistance and effective remedies for individuals and communities affected by environmental harm including environmental degradation, pollution and climate-related challenges, while also increasing awareness of environmental rights and available protection mechanisms, particularly a list of previous projects/actions implemented in Türkiye with information on the budget, period, purpose and content of the project/action – up to 3 (three) pages, A4;
 - Registration certificate as a civil society organisation or similar proof of registration;
 - Copy of the statute of the organisation(s), or equivalent;
 - CVs of the permanent and temporary staff members who will be involved in the implementation and reporting of the proposed grant project;
 - Authorisation of the legal representative to act on behalf of the applicant;
 - Bank statement confirming the existence of the bank account in the name of the applicant;
 - Letter of intention/co-operation with the relevant Local Bar,
 - Letter of intention/co-operation with the relevant municipality (it is not mandatory, but it would be considered as an asset);
 - Operating account record for the past 4 (four) years, including financial information on income and expenditure.

Grant applications should be submitted in **English, with the exception of the “registration certificate as civil society organisations or a similar proof of registration, document demonstrating that the applicant has a bank account, and operating account record for the past 4 years” which may be submitted in Turkish.**

2. Questions

General information can be found on the website of the Council of Europe Programme Office in Ankara: European Union Council of Europe joint programme “[Fostering Civil Society Participation in Access to Justice in Türkiye: Enhancing Human Rights in the Context of Migration and Environmental Justice](#)”.

Other questions regarding this specific call for proposals must be sent at the latest before **17 September 2026 (at 23:59 Türkiye Time, GMT+03)**, in English or Turkish, and shall be exclusively sent to the following address: ankara.office@coe.int, with the following reference in subject: **CSF/GRANTS/CSO/Environment**.

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/or PDF) to the following e-mail address: ankara.office@coe.int. Emails should contain the following reference in subject: **CSF/GRANTS/CSO/Environment**.

Applications must be received **before 01 October 2026 (at 23:59 Türkiye Time, GMT+03)**. 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 4 (four) members, including 3 (three) staff members of the Council of Europe Secretariat, and 1 (one) representative from the Union of Turkish Bar Associations.

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, their owner(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 or 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 legally constituted and functioning as a Civil Society Organisation (CSO) under the relevant laws in the Republic of Türkiye. Branches of CSOs established abroad are excluded;
- be entitled to carry out in the Republic of Türkiye activities described in its grant project proposal;
- have been active for at least 4 (four) years in the field of environment and/or access to justice;
- 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)¹;
- have sufficient operational and professional capacity, including staff, to carry out activities described in its project proposal²;
- have a bank account.

¹ 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 proposed.

² 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 proposed.

3. Award criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- the relevance and added value of the grant project with regard to the objective of the call (50%)
- the quality, accuracy, clarity, completeness and cost-effectiveness of the application and the estimated budget (30%).
- the relevance of the experience of the applying organisation(s) and staff (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

Phases	Indicative timing
Publication of the call	23 July 2026
Deadline for submitting applications	01 October 2026
Information to applicants on the results of the award procedure	23 November 2026
Signature of the grant agreements	15 December 2026
Implementation period	01 January 2027 – 31 December 2027

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