European Union – Council of Europe Joint Project on Fostering Civil Society Participation in Access to Justice in Türkiye: Enhancing Human Rights in the Context of Migration and Environmental Justice

Questions Received and Responses
Grants to Enhance Access to Environmental Justice in Türkiye

Question 1

Is it possible for the same civil society organisation to submit one project proposal under the 'Strengthening Women's Access to Justice' grant scheme and a separate project proposal under the Environmental Justice grant scheme?

If separate applications to both calls are permitted, does the restriction that the same organisation cannot receive more than one grant for the same province(s) also apply across different thematic grant calls?

Response 1

Yes. The same civil society organisation may submit a project proposal under the "Strengthening Women's Access to Justice" grant scheme and a separate project proposal under the Environmental Justice grant scheme, provided that it meets the eligibility requirements of each respective call, and the application concerns different provinces.

Yes, separate applications to all three components – migration, environment, women's access to justice – are permitted. However, the same organisation cannot receive more than one grant for the same province(s) across the three components.

Question 2

Would a non-profit cooperative registered and operating in Türkiye be eligible to apply under this call as an applicant?

Response 2

Under the framework of Council of Europe standards (including Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)14 on the legal status of non-governmental organisations in Europe), non-profit cooperatives can be considered Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) eligible to apply, provided they operate purely on a non-profit and public-benefit basis.

In this context, non-profit cooperatives may be deemed eligible as applicants under this Call, provided that your organisation strictly fulfils the following criteria:

Non-Profit / Non-Distribution Constraint: Your statute or articles of association explicitly mandate that generated income, profits, or surpluses are not distributed to members, partners, or shareholders, but are entirely reinvested into the non-profit, public-benefit objectives of the organisation. Alternatively, where such a clause is not explicitly stated in the governing statute, this non-distribution status may be established through official tax authority documentation confirming Corporate Income Tax exemption,

specifically demonstrated by the absence of a standard tax plate (Vergi Levhası) due to non-taxable status (mükellefiyet bulunmama durumu), or through other legally binding declarations and official regulatory attestations verifying the non-profit regime. Such documents obtained from the relevant authorities of the Republic of Türkiye can be in Turkish in terms of language.

Independence: Your organisation operates independently of government, public authorities, and political entities.

Public Benefit Focus: Your mandate and primary activities align directly with public-benefit objectives, such as social justice, human rights, and environmental protection.

Legal Status: Your organisation is legally registered in Türkiye under the relevant national legislation (e.g., Cooperatives Law No. 1163) and fulfils all general legal and administrative eligibility criteria set out in the Call for Proposals.

Please ensure that your application includes all official legal documentation (such as your certificate of registration and Statute/Articles of Association) clearly proving that your cooperative meets the non-distribution and non-profit requirements stated above.

Question 3

How does the requirement of having been active for at least four years in the field of environment and/or access to justice apply to individual applicants and consortiums?

Response 3

Where a CSO applies individually, the applicant organisation must have been active for at least four years in the field of environment and/or access to justice.

Accordingly, a CSO with less than four years of relevant experience may participate as part of a consortium, provided that the consortium members together have at least four years of relevant experience and all other applicable requirements of the Call for Proposals are met.

Question 4

Would an organisation established less than four years ago be eligible to apply if it submits all available operating account records covering the entire period since its establishment?

Response 4

No, if the organisation applies individually. An individual applicant must have been active for at least four years in the field of environment and/or access to justice. Therefore, submitting the operating account

records available since its establishment would not make an organisation that has been active for less than four years eligible to apply individually.

Question 5

Can a CSO that has been active for less than four years participate in a consortium, and if so, what operating account records should it submit?

Response 5

Yes. The relevant experience of consortium members may be considered cumulatively. Accordingly, a CSO with less than four years of relevant experience may participate as part of a consortium, provided that the consortium members together have at least four years of relevant experience and all other applicable requirements of the Call for Proposals are met.

Where a consortium member has been legally established for less than four years, it should submit the available operating account records covering the period since its legal establishment.

Question 6

Can the experience of an organisation's founders, management or project staff acquired before the organisation was established be counted towards the four-year experience requirement?

Response 6

No. The requirement to have been active for at least four years in the field of migration applies to the applicant organisation itself. Experience acquired by founders, managers or staff prior to the establishment of the applicant organisation cannot be counted towards the applicant organisation's four-year activity requirement.

Such experience may, where relevant, be reflected in the CVs of staff involved in the implementation and reporting of the proposed project, as required under the Call, but it does not replace the eligibility requirement applicable to the applicant organisation.

Question 7

Can academics and researchers participate in a project independently of their universities, and can their staff or expert/consultancy costs be included in the project budget?

This page will be updated periodically as additional questions are received. Applicants are encouraged to consult this page regularly

Response 7

Individuals, including academics and researchers, are not eligible to apply directly under the Call for Proposals. Applications must be submitted by a Civil Society Organisation (CSO) meeting the eligibility requirements set out in the Call.

However, academics and researchers may be involved in the implementation of a project proposed by an eligible CSO, including as project staff or experts/consultants, where their involvement is relevant to the proposed activities.

As indicated in Appendix II (Estimated Budget), the project budget includes expenditure categories for staff and experts/consultants under Human Resources. Accordingly, costs associated with such roles may be included in the proposed budget, provided that they are relevant to the project activities and are appropriately justified.

The specific roles, responsibilities and corresponding budget allocations should be determined by the applicant CSO in line with the proposed project activities and the requirements of the Call for Proposals. As stated in Section 5 (Budgetary requirements), the proposed budget must be consistent, accurate, clear, complete and cost-effective.

Question 8

Can a CSO registered in one province implement a project in another province without having a registered branch there? Can projects also be implemented outside the provinces identified in the Call for Proposals?

Response 8

including provinces where they do not have a registered branch, provided that they meet all eligibility requirements set out in the Call for Proposals and are legally entitled to carry out the proposed activities.

The six pilot provinces identified in the Call for Proposals are not exclusive implementation locations. As indicated in the Call, working in these provinces and targeting the relevant groups will be considered an asset, rather than a mandatory eligibility requirement.

Question 9

How can a CSO that does not have a registered branch in the province where it intends to implement a project establish co-operation with the relevant Local Bar Association, municipalities and other CSOs, and ensure compliance with the eligibility requirements of the Call for Proposals?

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Would a formal co-operation agreement with the relevant Local Bar Association be sufficient to enable project implementation in a province where the applicant CSO does not have a registered branch?

Response 9

The absence of a registered branch in the province where the project will be implemented does not, in itself, prevent a CSO from applying under the Call for Proposals, provided that it meets all applicable eligibility requirements.

The Call requires the involvement of the relevant Local Bar Association, namely the Bar Association of the province where the project will be implemented. A letter of intention/co-operation with that Bar Association must be submitted as part of the application.

Co-operation with municipalities and other relevant stakeholders is also encouraged and will be considered an asset where it contributes to the effective implementation and sustainability of the proposed project.

Applicants must ensure that they are legally entitled and have sufficient operational and professional capacity to carry out the proposed activities in the relevant province.

Question 10

Can the same civil society organisation submit applications simultaneously under all three grant schemes (migration, environmental justice and women's access to justice), provided that each application includes a separate project proposal and budget?

Are there any restrictions on the same organisation receiving funding under more than one of these grant schemes?

If separate applications to both calls are permitted, does the restriction that the same organisation cannot receive more than one grant for the same province(s) also apply across different thematic grant calls?

Response 10

Yes. The same civil society organisation may submit separate project proposals under all three grant schemes – migration, environmental justice and women's access to justice – provided that it meets the eligibility requirements of each respective Call for Proposals and the applications concern different provinces.

Yes, separate applications to all three components – migration, environment, women's access to justice – are permitted. However, the same organisation cannot receive more than one grant for the same province(s) across the three components.

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Question 11

Can previous activities in humanitarian assistance, social support, education and support for vulnerable groups be considered relevant institutional experience for the eligibility requirements of the grant calls?

Response 11

Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria set out in each respective Call for Proposals, including any requirements concerning the duration and field of their previous activities.

Previous activities may be taken into account to the extent that they demonstrate the applicant organisation's relevant experience in that field.

The relevance of activities undertaken in other fields should be assessed in relation to the specific eligibility requirements and objectives of each Call for Proposals. Applicants should provide supporting information and documentation demonstrating the nature, duration and relevance of their previous activities.

Question 12

Can Bar Associations and municipalities participate in projects as co-applicants or project stakeholders under the Call for Proposals? Are there any specific requirements concerning their involvement?

Response 12

Bar Associations and municipalities are not eligible to apply as co-applicants under the Call for Proposals. However, they may be involved as project stakeholders.

Co-operation with the relevant Local Bar Association is mandatory, and a letter of intention/co-operation with the relevant Local Bar Association must be submitted as part of the application.

Co-operation with municipalities is encouraged and will be considered an asset in the assessment of project proposals.

Question 13

The Turkish announcement of the Environmental Justice Call for Proposals includes Hatay among the pilot provinces, whereas the English Call for Proposals lists only Amasya, Manisa, Çanakkale, Şırnak, Sinop and Konya.

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Is Hatay a pilot province under the Environmental Justice Call? If not, can projects still be implemented in Hatay, and would they benefit from the same advantage as projects implemented in the designated pilot provinces?

Response 13

Hatay is not among the pilot provinces of the Environmental Justice Call for Proposals. The six pilot provinces are **Amasya, Manisa, Çanakkale, Şırnak, Sinop and Konya**, as specified in the Call for Proposals. Hatay is a pilot province under the Migration component.

The inclusion of Hatay in the Turkish announcement of the Environmental Justice Call was an inadvertent error, which has now been corrected. Applicants are kindly requested to refer to the provinces specified in the Call for Proposals.

Projects may be implemented in any province of Türkiye, including Hatay. As indicated in the Call for Proposals, projects should target individuals and/or communities affected by environmental challenges, particularly those in vulnerable situations. Implementing projects in the six designated pilot provinces will be considered an asset but is not a mandatory requirement.

Question 14

If the required letter of intention/co-operation from the relevant Local Bar Association cannot be obtained before the application deadline, may the application be submitted without the letter and the document provided at a later stage?

Response 14

No. The letter of intention/co-operation with the relevant Local Bar Association is among the supporting documents required to be submitted as part of the application under the Call for Proposals.

Applicants must therefore submit the required letter by the application deadline. Submission of this document after the deadline is not permitted.

Applicants are also reminded that, under the award criteria set out in the Call for Proposals, the quality, accuracy, clarity and completeness of the application and the estimated budget are taken into account in the assessment of proposals.

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Question 15

Would a general letter from the relevant Local Bar Association expressing support for the proposed project and willingness to co-operate, without specifying detailed tasks or responsibilities, be considered sufficient?

Response 15

Yes. A letter from the relevant Local Bar Association expressing support for the proposed project and willingness to co-operate is accepted as a letter of intention/co-operation under the Call for Proposals.

Question 16

For a project implemented in a particular province, may a letter of intention/co-operation from the Bar Association of a neighbouring province be submitted instead of, or in addition to, the letter from the Bar Association of the province where the project will be implemented? Does this requirement apply only to projects implemented in the designated pilot provinces?

Response 16

The Call for Proposals requires co-operation with the relevant Local Bar Association, namely the Bar Association of the province where the project will be implemented, and the submission of the corresponding letter of intention/co-operation as part of the application.

A letter from a Bar Association in a neighbouring or another province cannot replace the required letter from the relevant Local Bar Association. However, additional letters of intention/co-operation from other Bar Associations may be submitted where their involvement is relevant to the proposed project.

This requirement applies irrespective of whether the project is implemented in one of the designated pilot provinces or elsewhere in Türkiye.

Question 17

If the relevant Local Bar Association declines to co-operate in a proposed project, can the application still be submitted, or would it be considered ineligible?

Response 17

An application submitted without the required letter of intention/co-operation from the relevant Local Bar Association may be considered ineligible. The Call for Proposals requires the involvement of the relevant Local Bar Association and the submission of the corresponding letter as part of the application.

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Question 18

If the relevant Local Bar Association declines to co-operate, is there an alternative way to fulfil the mandatory co-operation requirement?

Response 18

No. Co-operation with the relevant Local Bar Association, namely the Bar Association of the province where the project will be implemented, is mandatory under the Call for Proposals. Co-operation with a Bar Association from another province cannot replace this requirement.

Question 19

Can the Council of Europe or the Union of Turkish Bar Associations facilitate co-operation with the relevant Local Bar Association by providing information about the programme and the expected co-operation?

Response 19

Applicants are responsible for establishing co-operation with the relevant Local Bar Association and obtaining the required letter of intention/co-operation. The Call for Proposals does not provide for an alternative procedure through the Council of Europe or the Union of Turkish Bar Associations to fulfil this requirement.