

*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.

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**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,

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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.

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### 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.

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### 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

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

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**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.

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**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.

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