

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

GRANT AWARD PROCEDURE

EXPLANATORY TEXT

(APPENDIX III)

Call for proposals for “Schools of Political Studies” Project

<Call for projects 2023-25>

Project proposal supporting competences for democratic culture

The funding that applicant organisations receive from the Council of Europe should contribute to developing the Competences for Democratic Culture (CDC) in the sense of the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture¹ within their organisational context and among their learners (more information available in the call for proposals).

Your project proposal should be structured around three parts: objectives, activities and resources.

The sections 6. Project objectives and 7. Activities, allow the full description of your project proposal. They constitute a Competences for Democratic Culture Plan (CDC Plan).

Your CDC Plan should answer one key question: “How are we going to use to the full Council of Europe support to promote CDC competences while training democratic leaders?” Explain the expected benefits for your learners and society at large.

A good CDC Plan must be coherent with and appropriate for your organisation, its experience and its ambition. The application should be an original proposal. When answering questions and defining objectives, you should be as concrete as possible and refer to your other answers. You should also refer to any strategic documents you may have submitted with your application. Do not hesitate to repeat an important piece of information if you think it will help the assessors understand your plans and objectives.

This application should be the result of joint work in your organisation. You are free to decide on the number of objectives, giving priority to the most necessary developments, and explain the reasons behind your choices. Taking a gradual approach in your CDC Plan will not reduce your chances of being successful.

In the section 6. Project objectives, you are asked to define the objectives your organisation wants to achieve by promoting the CDC in the areas of:

- Overall rationale: benefits for learners and society at large
- Democratic organisational culture, governance, and partnerships
- Curriculum and planning of educational offers
- Methodology of educational offers
- Assessment

The following possible guiding questions for each of those areas may inspire you:

- Overall rationale: benefits for learners and society at large
 - o How will the learners' experience and competences acquired by participating in your programme(s) contribute to their development?
 - o How will you support the learners and alumni in acting as democratic leaders?
 - o What change do you expect your programmes to bring to the society in which you operate as an agent for democratic culture? How do you make a difference?
- Democratic organisational culture, governance, and partnerships
 - o How do you ensure that the staff of your SPS collaborates in the spirit of the RFCDC?
 - o How do you demonstrate that your SPS is committed to fostering a democratic culture, both internally and in society as a whole?
 - o How will you further develop your organisational culture with a view to CDC?
 - o Do you cooperate or envisage cooperating with any other partners in your efforts to build democratic competences in your sphere of activity and, in the affirmative, how?
- Curriculum and planning of educational offers
 - o Please indicate any implicit or explicit references to democratic and intercultural competences in your present framework.
 - o How will the RFCDC be integrated in the planning of educational activities, including public events and discursive formats, both in a short- and a long-term perspective?
- Methodology of educational offers
 - o How will the methods that you choose foster a culture of democracy?
 - o How do you apply a participatory and inclusive approach that enables participants to develop democratic competences?
 - o What methodological approaches do you envisage to be effective with regard to CDC?

¹ Detailed information on RFCDC is accessible on the following webpage: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/reference-framework-of-competences-for-democratic-culture/guidance-for-implementation>

- Assessment
 - How do you measure the impact of your educational offer with regard to CDC?
 - How do the assessment methods you have chosen show the gain in CDC of participants?
 - Which steps, if any, do you intend to take in order to align your methods for assessment with those suggested in the RFCDC?

Your objectives should be concrete, realistic, and represent a real benefit for your learners, community and society. Make sure to link them to the needs of your learners. If you have attached any strategic documents as explained in the 'Background' section, you should make sure that relevant objectives from those documents are translated to your CDC Plan in this section. If needed, you can repeat information from your earlier answers, or simply refer to them as part of your explanations for defined objectives.

In the section 7. Activities you are asked to propose a broad plan for activities, initiatives, changes and developments you want to promote. Make sure that you clearly link those with the objectives and explain how that is done.