



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### Grant for Activities Advancing Minority Language Education and Social Cohesion Grant award-competitive procedure

|                                  |                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project</b>                   | “Supporting the reform of the national minority legal framework and the resilience of national minorities and Roma in Ukraine - phase II” |
| <b>Awarding entity</b>           | <b>COUNCIL OF EUROPE</b><br>DGII: Anti-Discrimination Department                                                                          |
| <b>Funding</b>                   | Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine “Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction” 2023-2026                                             |
| <b>Duration</b>                  | Projects shall be implemented by 13 September 2026.<br>Reporting requirements shall be completed by 01 October 2026.                      |
| <b>Estimated starting date</b>   | 29 June 2026                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Issuance date</b>             | 01 June 2026                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Deadline for applications</b> | 15 June 2026                                                                                                                              |

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

## APPENDICES:

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

## 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:
  - Statute of the organisation;
  - Income and expenditure statement for the year of 2025;
  - Certificate(s) of registration as a non-profit organisation;
  - Plan of work for the proposed project (list of activities);
  - CV(s) of the project manager(s);
  - Letter of support on cooperation with the school

Send these documents in electronic form (Word and/or PDF) to the following e-mail address: [tenders.antidiscrimination@coe.int](mailto:tenders.antidiscrimination@coe.int). Emails should contain the following reference in subject:

**GRANTS-MINORITIES AND ROMA-UKRAINE.**

- Applications must be received at the latest at 23:59 Kyiv local time (GMT+2) on **15 June 2026**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

This call for proposals is launched in the framework of the Council of Europe Project “Supporting the reform of the national minority legal framework and the resilience of national minorities and Roma in Ukraine” (hereinafter: the Project) implemented till 31 December 2026, funded through the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine “Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction” 2023-2026. It aims to co-fund local projects to support schools and local authorities in promoting bilingual education and minority languages, through pilot activities in schools and communities; activities addressing discrimination and fostering inclusive, high-quality education, equal access for children from national minorities, linguistic diversity, intercultural dialogue, and social cohesion will be also considered for funding.

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

Project proposals shall aim to produce an added value to the Council of Europe efforts in inclusive education domain and during current circumstances.

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

Main purpose of the Project is to enhance the legal and policy frameworks to protect minority rights, help to strengthen capacities of relevant institutions at the central level, to replicate good practices at local level and disseminate them to the rest of the country through training multipliers, changing relevant policies and enhancing networking among the different stakeholders

In particular, it aims to:

- support Ukrainian beneficiaries at the national level in analysing and implementing the current legislation and policy in combating discrimination and hate crimes and identifying gaps to align them with European standards, including EU acquis. It fosters inter-service coordination on discrimination issues and the involvement of CSOs in the reform work.
- support Ukrainian beneficiaries at central and local level to strengthen the capacity of central and local institutions in the field of Roma inclusion policies and Roma participation in local political and public life.
- Work with non-state actors, notably CSOs and minority communities through the Local Initiative Groups of national minorities, to enhance their dialogue with authorities, including through pilot projects with selected schools and municipalities.
- support Ukrainian authorities and relevant stakeholders to advance in implementing legal and non-legal measures in combating hate speech and facilitate access to redress mechanisms for groups targeted by hate speech.

Project partners include the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Parliament Committee on Human Rights, Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Service of Ukraine on Ethnic Affairs and Freedom of Conscience, Regional State Administrations and district administrations of Ukraine dealing with protection of national minorities, civil society organisations, including national minority organisations.

The project is implemented by the Anti-discrimination Co-operation Unit under the Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity (DGII).

## **III. BUDGET AVAILABLE**

The indicative available budget under this call for proposals is **45 000 EUR** (forty-five thousand Euros). The Council of Europe intends to award 5 grant(s) of a maximum amount of **9 000 EUR** (nine thousand Euros) each.

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.

#### **IV. REQUIREMENTS**

##### **1. General objective**

The grants will fund projects designed to support schools and local authorities in promoting bilingual education and minority languages, through pilot activities in schools and communities. Activities addressing discrimination and fostering inclusive, high-quality education, equal access for children from national minorities, linguistic diversity, intercultural dialogue, and social cohesion will be also considered for funding.

##### **2. Means of action**

Proposed projects may include activities specifically tailored to the local context, that can encompass the following sample activities<sup>1</sup>:

##### **Bilingual and Minority Language Education:**

- Development of teaching materials and curricula in minority languages.
- Teacher training and capacity-building in bilingual education methods.
- Pilot classes or school programs integrating minority languages into the curriculum.

##### **Pilot Activities in Schools and Communities**

- After-school activities supporting minority language use.
- Cultural events or language workshops involving students, families, and local communities.
- Collaborative initiatives between schools and local authorities to test new approaches to minority language education.

##### **Actions Against Discrimination and Promoting Inclusion**

- Awareness-raising campaigns on diversity, minority rights, and anti-discrimination.
- Activities fostering inclusive classroom practices and safe learning environments.
- Peer mentoring programs or student-led initiatives promoting intercultural dialogue.

##### **Social Cohesion and Intercultural Dialogue**

- Community events bringing together children and families from different backgrounds.
- Projects linking schools with cultural organizations to celebrate linguistic and cultural diversity.
- Initiatives promoting cooperation and understanding between minority and majority communities.

This list is not exhaustive, and different activities can be proposed if relevant to General Objective of the present call for proposal.

##### **3. Implementation period**

The implementation period of the projects should **start on 29 June 2026** (see indicative timetable under VIII. below) and shall not extend beyond **13 September 2026**.

Reporting requirements shall be completed on **01 October 2026** 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**

Projects should target in particular the following key stakeholders:

- schools and educational staff, local authorities, representatives of self-governance bodies in the territorial communities, national minority organisations, families and local communities, as well as children and students belonging to national minorities, including Roma.

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

#### **5. Budgetary requirements**

Project proposals shall be accompanied by an estimated budget (See **Template Budget, in Appendix II**) amounting to a maximum of **9 000 EUR (nine thousand Euros)**. The 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, with an amount equal to at least **20% of the amount of the grant**. Co-financing may take the form of financial or human resources, in-kind contributions for an amount equal to the percentage indicated above or income generated by the action or project.

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

- Projects proposed by NGOs in partnership with schools and local authorities, promoting bilingual education and the use of minority languages;
- Projects targeting the following regions of Ukraine: **Odesa, Volyn, Transcarpathia, Zaporizhzhia, Chernihiv, and Vinnytsia<sup>2</sup>**.
- Projects involving schools and local communities, including pilot activities, to promote bilingual education and minority languages, combat discrimination, enhance the participation of national minority representatives in school, and foster social cohesion, including for internally displaced children from national minority communities, including Roma.

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

- Projects providing financial support to third parties (re-granting schemes);
- Projects concerning only or mainly individual scholarships for studies or training courses;
- Projects supporting political parties.

#### **8. Funding conditions:**

---

<sup>2</sup> For Zaporizhzhia, Chernihiv and Odesa activities to be organised online or in hybrid format for security reasons.

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

- 80 % will be paid to the Grantee or the Lead Grantee in case of a consortium when the Grant Agreement between the Parties is signed;
- the balance 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:**

- **narrative reporting:** requires a full final 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 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.
- In order to ensure a form of supervision halfway through the implementation period, the grantee will be requested to report by email on the list of activities implemented against those listed in the initial plan, and on the overall rate of financial expenditure against the total amount of the grant.

“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, for legal persons only;
- the other supporting documents:
  - Statute of the organisation, or the equivalent;
  - Income and expenditure statement for the year of 2025;
  - Certificate(s) of registration as a non-profit organisation;
  - Plan of work for the proposed project (list of activities);
  - CV(s) of the project manager(s);
  - Letter of support on cooperation with school or local authorities.

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

**All documents shall be submitted in Ukrainian or English, failure to do so will result in the exclusion of the Grantee.**

## **2. Questions**

General information can be found on the project's webpages of the Council of Europe: [Supporting the reform of the national minority legal framework and the resilience of national minorities and Roma in Ukraine - Council of Europe Office in Ukraine \(coe.int\)](#).

Other questions regarding this specific call for proposals must be sent at the latest 5 working days before the deadline for the submission of proposals, in English, and shall be exclusively sent to the following address: [anti-discrimination@coe.int](mailto:anti-discrimination@coe.int), with the following reference in subject: QUESTIONS-GRANTS-MINORITIES AND ROMA-UKRAINE.

## **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: [tenders.antidiscrimination@coe.int](mailto:tenders.antidiscrimination@coe.int). Emails should contain the following reference in subject: GRANTS-MINORITIES AND ROMA-UKRAINE.

Applications must be received **at the latest at 23:59 Kyiv local time (GMT+2) on 15 June 2026**. 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 three staff members of the Council of Europe.

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 as a non-governmental organisation in Ukraine;

- be entitled to carry out in Ukraine activities described in its project proposal;
- have been active for at least 3 (three) years in the field of protection of national minorities, or human rights/anti-discrimination, with experience in education field.
- 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);
- have sufficient operational and professional capacity, including staff, to carry out activities described in its project proposal;
- have a bank account.

**Multiple applications are not allowed and shall lead to the exclusion of all applications concerned.**

### **3. Award criteria**

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- the relevance and added value of the proposed project with regard to the objectives of the Project “Supporting the reform of the national minority legal framework and the resilience of national minorities and Roma in Ukraine” (30%);
- the extent to which the proposed project meets the requirements of the call (30 %);
- the quality, accuracy, clarity, completeness and cost-effectiveness of the application and the estimated budget (20%);
- 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**

| <b>Phases</b>                                                          | <b>Indicative timing</b>    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Publication of the call</b>                                         | 01 June 2026                |
| <b>Deadline for submitting applications</b>                            | 15 June 2026                |
| <b>Information to applicants on the results of the award procedure</b> | 22 June 2026                |
| <b>Signature of the grant agreements</b>                               | 22 June 2026                |
| <b>Implementation period</b>                                           | 29 June – 13 September 2026 |

\* \* \*