



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Empowering Civil Society to raise awareness for preventing and combating Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

CRD/VC1840/EndOCSEA@Europe(2019)MG01

<b>Project</b>	VC1840 End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @ Europe
<b>Awarding entity</b>	<b>COUNCIL OF EUROPE</b> Children's Rights Division
<b>Funding</b>	EUR 60,000
<b>Duration</b>	Projects shall be implemented by 30 June 2020. Reporting requirements shall be completed by 31 July 2020.
<b>Estimated starting date</b>	01 June 2019
<b>Issuance date</b>	19 April 2019
<b>Deadline for applications</b>	22 May 2019

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## 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:
  - Scanned copy of organisational statute (in English or French, if available)
  - Latest Narrative and Financial Report (in English or French, if available)
  - CVs of personnel foreseen to be involved in the project in English/French
  - Bank statement with a valid bank account of the organisation
- Send these documents in electronic form (Word and/or PDF) to the following e-mail address: [children.endOCSEA@coe.int](mailto:children.endOCSEA@coe.int). Emails should contain the following reference in subject: [CRD/VC1840/EndOCSEA@Europe\(2019\)MG01](mailto:CRD/VC1840/EndOCSEA@Europe(2019)MG01) .
- Applications must be received **before 22 May 2019 (midnight CET+1)**.

## I. INTRODUCTION

This call for proposals is launched in the framework of Council of Europe Project to End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @ Europe (EndOCSEA@Europe Project) which supports all Council of Europe member States to prevent and combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA), with a focus on strengthening responses in: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine. It aims to co-fund national and local projects to raise awareness about OCSEA including on the following topics: the rights of victims and survivors, mechanisms available to protect victims, reporting hotlines and mechanisms to support effective investigations and prosecutions.

OCSEA is a challenge for all member States; the exact size of the problem is unknown due to limited data and limited reporting mechanisms. The available data shows that more than 79% of reported victims depicted in OCSEA are children aged between 4 and 13 years old.<sup>1</sup> Actions to prevent and combat OCSEA include screening, training and awareness-raising among professionals working in contact with children, education and awareness-raising for children, their parents and the general public, as well as reporting mechanisms and effective procedures to identify perpetrators and victims, and remove illegal content.

The [Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child \(2016-2021\)](#) identifies children's rights in the digital environment as a priority area for action including by empowering children to make use of the full potential of information and communication technologies in a safe way. Since 2015, the annual [European Day for the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse](#) (18 November) aims to:

- **raise public awareness** on sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, and the need to prevent such acts;
- **open discussion** on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and help prevent and eliminate the stigmatisation of victims;
- **promote the ratification and implementation** of the Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention).

The [2017 edition of the European Day](#) emphasized the issue of digital parenting, a series of tools and information materials were developed on the occasion.

The Committee of the Parties to the Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (the Lanzarote Committee) is currently examining the [protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse facilitated by information and communication technologies \(ICTs\)](#), with a specific emphasis on self-generated sexually explicit images and/or videos and sexual content.

Improved awareness of child sexual exploitation and abuse, including in the online environment, will empower children and stakeholders at every level to prevent this crime and help victims to access assistance including victim support and protection. A better understanding of OCSEA, victims' rights and mechanisms available to assist and protect victims will empower children and stakeholders to recognise the signs of OCSEA with a view to taking appropriate action to: access protection and assistance, stop contact with the abuser, co-operate with investigators, preserve evidence and promote efficient investigations and prosecutions of perpetrators of OCSEA whilst avoiding the criminalisation of children.

Information for children must be adapted to their age and maturity, taking into account their evolving capacities and should include information on measures to protect themselves or seek assistance should they be a victim or survivor of sexual exploitation and abuse. Teachers and child protection authorities are key partners to educate and sensitise children and their parents to the rights of the child and the protection mechanisms available in this context.

Project proposals shall aim to produce an added value to the Council of Europe efforts in this domain.

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<sup>1</sup> INHOPE Annual Report, 2017: <http://www.inhope.org/tns/resources/annual-reports.aspx>

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

The EndOCSEA@Europe Project addresses the contextual challenges identified at pan-European and country levels in beneficiary countries by promoting, facilitating and supporting national efforts and actions to prevent and combat child sexual exploitation and abuse facilitated by ICTs.

In particular, the EndOCSEA@Europe Project will support member States to:

- 1) set up enabling environments for cross-sector, multidisciplinary collaboration at national and regional levels, through strengthening national governance structures and conducting situation analysis of OCSEA risks and responses in national and pan-European contexts;
- 2) support legislative and procedural reforms, training and improved capacities of law enforcement officials, judiciary and prosecutors and promoting multi-disciplinary interagency cooperation for end-to-end victim support;
- 3) address societal capabilities with emphasis on awareness-raising, education of key target groups and empowerment of children.

As such the EndOCSEA@Europe Project supports the implementation of international conventions, in particular the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), and the [Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography](#), the [Lanzarote Convention](#) and the [Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime CETS 185](#) and its additional protocol concerning the criminalisation of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature, as well as the [Committee of Ministers CM/Rec \(2018\)7 on Guidelines to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of the child in the digital environment](#). These instruments provide a benchmark for member States to review domestic legislation, policies and practices, ensure a victim-focused approach and encourage transnational, multi-disciplinary and inter-agency co-operation to enhance effective investigations and prosecutions. The EndOCSEA@Europe project also supports member States to empower children to exercise their rights in the digital environment through awareness raising and prevention activities. Child participation and the involvement of civil society will be cross-cutting throughout the action.

The Council of Europe gratefully acknowledges the financial support provided for this programme by the Fund to End Violence Against Children.

## **III. BUDGET AVAILABLE**

The indicative available budget under this call for proposals is EUR 60.000 (Sixty Thousand Euros). The Council of Europe intends to award 4 to 8 grant(s) of a maximum amount of 15,000 EUR 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 raise awareness amongst target groups mentioned in point IV.4 of this present call, to prevent and combat online child sexual abuse and exploitation, in the framework of the project VC1840 End Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse @ Europe. The aim will be to develop materials, resources and activities to raise awareness about OCSEA at national level and to promote the ratification and implementation of the [Lanzarote Convention](#), including through child participation and activities or events to support the annual [European Day for the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse](#) (18 November).

## 2. Means of action

Projects should include multiple activities with a view to:

- empower children to recognise OCSEA and to understand the actions they can take to avoid becoming a victim or seek help if they are a victim of OCSEA;
- empower families, teachers and other caregivers to better identify and protect children from OCSEA and the actions available to provide assistance and protection to children at risk and child-victims;
- raise public awareness on sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, and the need to prevent such acts;
- open discussion on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and help prevent and eliminate the stigmatisation of victims;
- promote the ratification and implementation of the Lanzarote Convention.

In order to achieve these objectives, applicants may propose, but are not limited to, activities relating to: child participation, events and workshops to raise awareness about OCSEA, including to promote the European Day for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (18 November); child consultations to develop tools and materials, the development of awareness-raising tools and resources on the topic of OCSEA including on victim assistance and reporting mechanisms.

The awareness-raising materials for all stakeholders should include easy-to-read materials, on the process involved when a child is at risk of or a victim of OCSEA, including the authorities to notify and where to gain more help, as well as information on international legal standards with a view to strengthen legislation and policies in place to prevent and combat OCSEA.

## 3. Implementation period

The implementation period of the projects should start on 01 June 2019 (see indicative timetable under VIII. below) and shall not extend beyond 30 June 2020.

Reporting requirements shall be completed on **31 July 2020 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 at least one of the following:

- Children up to the age of 18;
- Frontline professionals, such as: educators, teachers, social service providers, child protection authorities, healthcare providers, youth workers or law enforcement officers;
- Families and caregivers (including parents, grandparents, guardians, parents' associations).

The above list is not exhaustive and projects may propose to target other relevant stakeholders, while keeping in mind the general objectives of the EndOCSEA@Europe project outlined above.

## 5. Budgetary requirements

Project proposals shall be accompanied by a draft budget (See **Template Budget, in Appendix II**) amounting to a maximum of EUR. 15.000 (Fifteen 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, that amount to, at a minimum, 10% of the proposed budget.

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

- Projects/actions proposed by non-governmental organisations or not-for-profit structures or a public entity active in the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.
- Projects/actions targeting one or more of the target groups mentioned in section IV.4.
- Projects/actions involving child participation to develop awareness-raising tools to support the European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (18<sup>th</sup> November).
- Projects/actions which propose activities or resources that generate sustainable results and impact, including with a view to possible replication in different geographical or cultural contexts
- Projects actions which generate cost-effective innovative online tools/resources aimed at the target groups identified in this call.

**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 academic research;
- 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:

- 60 % will be paid when the Grant Agreement between the two parties is signed;
- The balance will be paid based on actual expenditure 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 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 Grantee, 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 Grantee, 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 Grantee uses 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 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**);
- the other supporting documents:

*Scanned copy of organisational statute (in English or French, if available)*

*Latest Annual/Periodical Report (in English or French, if available)*

*Curriculum vitae of personnel foreseen to be involved in the project (in English or French)*

*Bank statement with a valid bank account details of the organisation*

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

### **2. Questions**

General information can be found on the website of the Council of Europe: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/children>

Other questions regarding this specific call for proposals must be sent at the latest one week before the deadline for the submission of proposals, in English or French, and shall be exclusively sent to the following address: [children.endOCSEA@coe.int](mailto:children.endOCSEA@coe.int) with the following reference in subject: Questions - EndOCSEA@Europe(2019)MG01. All questions and answers will be published on the website of the Council of Europe at <https://www.coe.int/en/web/children/>

### 3. Deadline for submission

The application form, **completed and signed**, together with the supporting documents, must be submitted in electronic form (Word and/or PDF) to the following e-mail address: [children.endOCSEA@coe.int](mailto:children.endOCSEA@coe.int). Emails should contain the following reference in subject: CRD/VC1840/EndOCSEA@Europe(2019)MG01.

Applications must be received **before 22 May 2019 (at 23.59, GMT+1)**. 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 members of the Secretariat of the Children's Rights Division 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:

- a. have been sentenced by final judgment on one or more of the following charges: participation in a criminal organisation, corruption, fraud, money laundering;
- 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.

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) and c), 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.

## **2. Eligibility criteria**

In order to be eligible for a grant, an applicant must:

- be legally constituted as a non-governmental organisation or not-for-profit structure or a public entity in a Council of Europe member State;
- be entitled to carry out the activities described in its project proposal;
- have been active for at least 5 years in the field of children's rights;
- 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 project with regard to the objective of the call and the principles and standards set out in the Lanzarote Convention (50%)
- the extent to which the action meets the requirements of the call (20%);
- 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 (10%).

## **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>	19 April 2019
<b>Deadline for submitting applications</b>	22 May 2019
<b>Information to applicants on the results of the award procedure</b>	June 2019
<b>Signature of the grant agreements</b>	June 2019
<b>Implementation period</b>	01 June 2019 – 30 June 2020

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