



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGN ON TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN IN REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
BH4680/GA/2021/3

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| Project | EU/CoE Horizontal Facility II Action on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in Serbia (HF26) |
| Awarding entity | COUNCIL OF EUROPE Directorate of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance Directorate General of Democracy |
| Funding | 15 000 euros |
| Duration | Projects shall be implemented by 18 April 2022. Reporting requirements shall be completed by 02 May 2022. |
| Estimated starting date | 18 October 2021 |
| Issuance date | 07 September 2021 |
| Deadline for applications | 27 September 2021 |

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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:
 - Registration certificate as a non-governmental organisation or a similar proof of registration;
 - Statute of the organisation(s), or equivalent;
 - Authorisation of the legal representative to act on behalf of the applicant;
 - Bank statement confirming the existence of the bank account in the name of the applicant;
 - Any additional information regarding implemented projects relevant to the call.
- Send these documents in electronic form (Word .and/or PDF) to the following e-mail address: HF.TH.Belgrade@coe.int . Emails should contain the following reference in subject: Grant award procedure BH 4680/GA/2021/3 – Awareness raising.

I. INTRODUCTION

This call for proposals is launched within the programmatic framework “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey II”. The HF26 Action “Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking in Serbia” will co-fund 1 (one) project aimed at raising awareness among general public and children, parents and caretakers, child protection, health and education professionals on trafficking in children. This project is to be implemented by non-governmental organisation/s and other non-profit legal entities registered in Republic of Serbia.

The Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), in its second evaluation report (GRETA 2017/37), considered that despite progress made with anti-trafficking measures, national institutions should step up efforts to reduce children’s vulnerability to trafficking and to improve the identification and assistance of child victims, by raising awareness on child trafficking and its different manifestations (including forced begging, forced marriage and forced criminality) and by strengthening the capacity and resources of child protection professionals. Furthermore, GRETA considered that the national authorities should continue to carry out information and awareness-raising campaigns about the risks of child trafficking.

In view of the above, the HF26 II Action is launching call for grant, which is to be opened to non-governmental organisations and other non-profit legal entities. The purpose of the grant is to contribute to a heightened awareness about the risks of trafficking in children, including in the digital environment, the forms of exploitation and the most common methods used by traffickers to trap children into trafficking. The grant should target primary and high school children, children from disadvantaged communities (for example, Roma) or in vulnerable situations. Each proposed awareness-raising project should target at least 1000 persons and should carry out an impact assessment following the project implementation.

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

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROJECT

The programmatic framework “Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey II”, co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe, and implemented by the Council of Europe, aims at assisting beneficiaries in South-East Europe to comply with Council of Europe standards and European Union acquis in the framework of the enlargement process. In particular, the Action HF26 “Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking in Serbia” seeks to assist the beneficiary institutions to follow up on the recommendations of GRETA provided in its second evaluation report (GRETA 2017/37).

In particular, HF26 action focuses on the following areas of intervention: (i) improved anti-trafficking responses and victim protection measures through capacity-building of key stakeholders, including legal professionals, media representatives/journalists and health care professionals; (ii) improved detection and identification of, and assistance to victims of human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation; (iii) improved detection and identification of, and assistance to, child victims of human trafficking and improved anti-trafficking responses through capacity-building of education professionals;

The project partners include the Ministry of Interior - National Anti-trafficking coordination office, the Ministry of Employment, Labour, Veteran and Social Affairs - Labour Inspectorate and Centre for Human Trafficking Victims’ Protection, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, the Ministry of Health, the Ombudsperson’s Office as well as civil society organisations.

The project proposal on awareness raising on child trafficking will be selected from among the project proposals submitted by non-governmental organisations and other non-profit legal entities to the public call. Successful project proposal will receive a grant not exceeding 15,000 euros for the implementation of the project – the awareness raising campaign.

III. BUDGET AVAILABLE

The indicative available budget under this call for proposals is 15,000 Euros (fifteen-thousand Euros). The Council of Europe will award 1 (one) grant of a maximum amount of 15,000 Euros. The grantee will need to ascertain that the expenditure in the local currency corresponds to the above-mentioned amount (in line with the Euro foreign exchange reference rates).

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 among general public and children, parents and caretakers, child protection, health and education professionals about the risks of trafficking in children, including in the digital environment, the forms of exploitation and the most common methods used by traffickers to trap child victims into trafficking. The campaigns should target primary and high school children, children from disadvantaged communities (for example, Roma) or in vulnerable situations. The above-mentioned lists are not exhaustive.

Each proposed awareness-raising project should target at least 1000 persons and should carry out an impact assessment following the project implementation.

2. Means of action

Projects may include:

- media campaign, advertising.
- Social media and web interactive pages accessible to all, YouTube videos.
- Brochures, billboards, posters, leaflets.
- Artistic outputs (e.g., a theatre play, a video campaign, cartoons, exhibitions, a music concert and other artistic expression).
- A public outreach to individuals at risk (organisation of public meetings, distribution of informative materials).
- Any other means of action compatible with the aims and values of the Council of Europe.

Please note that the project should provide a brief overview of ex-ante baseline assessment and should carry out an assessment of the awareness-raising activity. To this end, the project should explain the foreseen methodology for such an assessment in respect of the proposed means of action.

3. Implementation period

The implementation period of the projects should start on 18 October 2021 (see indicative timetable under VIII. below) and shall not extend beyond 18 April 2022.

Reporting requirements shall be completed on **02 May 2022 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:

- General public.
- Primary and high school children.
- Children from disadvantaged communities or children in vulnerable situations.
- Parents and caretakers.
- Education professionals, pedagogues, psychologists.
- Health professionals, in particular paediatricians, gynaecologists, first responders and nurses.

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.

5. Budgetary requirements

Project proposals shall be accompanied by a draft budget (See Template Budget, in Appendix II) amounting to a maximum of 15,000 Euro (fifteen-thousand Euro). 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.

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

- Projects/actions proposed by non-governmental organisations or other non-profit entities already involved in preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and in particular, trafficking in children and preferably who are participating in formal or informal alliances, networks or platforms with anti-trafficking objectives and initiatives.
- Projects/actions proposed by non-governmental organisations or other non-profit entities with aim to protect children, as well as children from disadvantaged communities or in vulnerable situations, from abuse, exploitation and violence.
- Projects/actions that address the gender equality dimension of trafficking in children.
- Projects/actions submitted by NGOs that were not supported by grant within Horizontal Facility II and

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 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:

- 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 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.

“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**);
- the other supporting documents:
 - Registration certificate as a non-governmental organisation or a similar proof of registration.
 - Statute of the organisation(s), or equivalent.
 - Authorisation of the legal representative to act on behalf of the applicant.
 - Bank statement confirming the existence of the bank account in the name of the applicant.
 - Any additional information regarding implemented projects relevant to the call.

Applications that are incomplete will not be considered.

2. Questions

General information can be found on the website of the Council of Europe: <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/horizontal-facility/news> and <https://www.coe.int/en/web/belgrade>

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 and shall be exclusively sent to the following address: HF.THB.belgrade@coe.int , with the following reference in subject: Question about grant award procedure BH 4680/GA/2021/3 – Awareness raising.

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: HF.THB.belgrade@coe.int . Emails should contain the following reference in subject: **Grant award procedure BH 4680/GA/2020/3 – Awareness raising.**

Applications must be received not later than **27 September 2022** CET (at 12.00). 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 at least three members, including staff members of the Council of Europe and the action's beneficiary institution.

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;
- 1. are included in the lists of persons or entities subject to restrictive measures applied by the European Union (available at www.sanctionsmap.eu).

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 <X>**).

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 or non-profit legal person registered under relevant laws in the Republic of Serbia;
- be entitled to carry out in the Republic of Serbia activities described in its project proposal;
- have been active for at least 5 years in the field of preventing and combating human trafficking, protection of the child from violence and human rights protection;
- 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 (30%)
- the extent to which the action 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

| Phases | Indicative timing |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Publication of the call | 7 September 2021 |
| Deadline for submitting applications | 27 September 2021 |
| Information to applicants on the results of the award procedure | 12 October 2021 |
| Signature of the grant agreements | 15 October 2021 |
| Implementation period | 18 October 2021-18 April 2022 |

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