

CALL FOR PROPOSALS  
NGO GRANT TO PROMOTE THE FIGHT AGAINST SEXISM  
GED/Grant/2020/1

**Questions and answers**

**Q: Can our organisation apply to this call although it was established in March 2019 and it has no provisional budget?**

A: Article VI list a series of eligibility criteria which may be difficult to meet under the above circumstances, for instance:

**“2. Eligibility criteria:**

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

- *be legally constituted as an umbrella non-governmental organisation in a member state of the Council of Europe;*
  - *be able to carry out the activities described in its project proposal in at least 10 member states of the Council of Europe together with national branches / member organisations;*
  - *have been active for at least 5 years in the field of gender equality and women’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.*
- (...)”

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**Q: Does the application need to include a provisional budget?**

A: As stated in Article IV.5 *“Project proposals shall be accompanied by a draft budget (See **Template Budget, in Appendix II**) amounting to a maximum of 40,000 Euros (...)*”. Moreover, Article V.1 requires that this document is included in the application file; it is explicitly stated that applications which are incomplete will not be considered.

**Q: What does the term "umbrella NGO" mean ?**

A: International NGOs are organised in different manners, for instance as a federation of existing national NGOs, or as an International organisation with national chapters or member organisations in various countries. The term “umbrella NGO” does not imply a specific internal structure but it presupposes the existence of sufficient ties or links with the national organisations which give it the capacity to lead/conduct concerted actions in line with the terms of the call for proposals (including compliance with the deadlines).

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**Q: Where it says, "carrying out the activities described in the project proposal in at least 10 member states", does it mean that the activities have to actually take place in those countries? Or is it acceptable that the umbrella organisation only shares its project results with partner organisations in those countries?**

A: As indicated under Section VI paragraph 2 of the call:

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

- be able to carry out the activities described in its project proposal in at least 10 member states of the Council of Europe together with national branches / member organisations;
- (...)
- 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 (...)"

The intended activities must indeed take place / be implemented **IN** those countries.

Moreover, the fact that the selected umbrella organisation will be committed to conducting specific activities in various countries implies that it has sufficient links with the local organisations, i.e. a capacity of leverage as well as the institutional, financial and other capabilities, ultimately to ensure that the expected activities are actually implemented in the countries concerned.

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**Q : I am a researcher and a member of a research group on sexual and reproductive health and rights. I have been approached by a number of NGOs from nine countries who wish to submit an application for the Call. I have been asked by these NGOs if I could lead and coordinate this project through my research institution, here in my country. The subject we would wish to address is female genital mutilation (FGM) in Europe. FGM has its roots in the sexism and gender inequality of strict patriarchal societies. Activities will include training events targeting key stakeholders from communities that traditionally practice FGM; training and awareness raising events targeting education, health, and justice authorities; the provision of toolkits to prevent FGM and support girls and women living with FGM; the production of practical materials to equip these key stakeholders to identify girls at risk of FGM and how to protect them. My questions are the following: 1) Whether I, as a member of a research institution would qualify as the legal applicant for this application; 2) whether FGM is a valid subject for this Call.**

A: Despite all the merits of such a project, it would be quite remote from the objectives and requirements of the call. Please, read these again.

On the first question regarding admissible applicants: as indicated in section VI.2 of the Call, the applicant shall be an entity legally constituted as an umbrella non-governmental organisation and which has been active for at least 5 years in the field of gender equality and women's rights.

As to the second question related to the subject of the call, please refer to Section IV.1: "The grants will fund a project designed to promote the implementation of Council of Europe Recommendation

CM/Rec(2019)1 on preventing and Combating Sexism and in particular to: 1. Raise awareness about, and help to identify, the phenomena of sexism and sexist behaviour in different areas. 2. Identify possible ways forward and create tools as relevant to overcome sexism in different countries/sectors. 3. Raise awareness about the Council of Europe Recommendation on Preventing and Combating Sexism.

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**Q : Do the project activities need to be organised in at least 10 different member states of the Council of Europe ?**

**A:** This is indeed clearly stated in the Call, both in the general requirements and under the eligibility criteria.

See Section IV para. 1 and para. 2; see Section VI para. 2. These provisions refer to activities to be undertaken in (at least) **10 member states of the Council of Europe**.

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**Q : 1. As a non-profit organization (...), we are not a classic umbrella organization, but we have wide horizontal connections with colleagues in other countries - and they are ready to support us in this project. How exactly should we, within the framework of the application form, demonstrate the readiness of our partners in other countries to support us in this project?**

**A: 1.** As indicated in response to earlier questions and under section VI.2 of the call (eligibility criteria), “In order to be eligible for a grant, an applicant must be legally constituted as an umbrella non-governmental organisation”. Section V.1 also provides that the application shall contain the “List of member organisations / national branches”. This implies that the umbrella NGO has adopted a founding agreement / statute / charter, which will normally reflect its transnational nature, and that it is registered. It is unlikely that “Wide horizontal connections with colleagues in other countries” can be regarded as an alternative to these requirements.

**Q: 2. Do you consider mental and professional burnout of anti-sexism activists a relevant and actual problem?**

**A:2.** As indicated under Section IV.1 (requirements and general objective), the purpose of the grant is to support a project to promote a European legal instrument, namely the Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)1 on preventing and combating sexism, as regards different areas. These areas are mentioned in the Recommendation, e.g. prohibiting/condemning sexism in legislation and policies, awareness-raising, action in specific fields (language and communications, media / advertising / other communication tools, workplace, public sector, justice sector, education institutions, culture and sport, private sphere). Therefore, it is unlikely that a project focused on the mental and professional burnout of anti-sexism activists would be relevant.

