

Co-funded
by the European Union



Co-funded and implemented
by the Council of Europe

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Grants for Civil Society Organisations to Strengthen Women's Access to Justice
GA002/2026

Project	European Union and Council of Europe Joint Programme Fostering Civil Society Participation and Capacity Building in Access to Justice in Türkiye. <i>This project is co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe. The Union of Turkish Bar Associations is the main beneficiary of the project.</i>
Awarding entity	COUNCIL OF EUROPE DGII-HDE Department- Gender Equality Division- Capacity Building and Co-operation Projects Unit
Funding	European Union and Council of Europe co-financing
Duration	Projects shall be implemented between 1 January 2027- 31 December 2027. Reporting requirements shall be completed by 01 March 2028.
Estimated starting date	01 January 2027
Issuance date	22 July 2026
Deadline for applications	01 October 2026



TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION.....	4
II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROJECT	4
III. BUDGET AVAILABLE	5
IV. REQUIREMENTS	5
1. General objective	5
2. Means of action.....	5
3. Implementation period	6
4. Target stakeholders	6
5. Budgetary requirements	7
6. Further to the general objective, preference will be given to:	7
7. The following types of action will not be considered:.....	7
8. Funding conditions:.....	7
9. Reporting requirements:.....	8
V. HOW TO APPLY?.....	9
1. Documents to be submitted:.....	9
2. Questions.....	9
3. Deadline for submission.....	9
4. Change, alteration and modification of the application file.....	10
VI. EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE	10
1. Exclusion criteria:	10
2. Eligibility criteria:	11
3. Award criteria	11
VII. NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISION AND SIGNATURE OF GRANT AGREEMENTS.....	11
VIII.INDICATIVE TIMETABLE	12
APPENDICES:	
- Appendix I - Application Form	
- Appendix II - Provisional budget (Template)	
- Appendix III - Template Grant Agreement (for information only)	

HOW TO APPLY?

- Completed and signed the **Application Form** (See **Appendix I**)
- Attach a provisional budget (using the template reproduced in Appendix II)
- Attach a list of all owners and executive officers
- Attach the other supporting documents in English:
 - List of previous projects/actions implemented in Türkiye with information on the budget, period, purpose, content of the project/action, and number of personnel involved;
 - The official registration certificate as a civil society organisation or a similar proof of registration;
 - The copy of the 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;
 - CVs of the key staff involved in the implementation of a proposed grant project;
 - Operating account record for the past 4 years including financial information (incomes and expenditures);
 - Letter of co-operation with the relevant bar association(s).
 - Letter of co-operation with the relevant municipality(ies), where the proposed action envisages co-operation with municipality(ies) or includes activities to be implemented jointly with municipality(ies).

Grant applications should be submitted in English, with the exception of “official registration certificate as a civil society organisation or a similar proof of registration, document demonstrating that the applicant has a bank account, and operating account record for the past 4 years” which may be submitted in Turkish. Applications only in Turkish will be considered ineligible.

The Council of Europe reserves the right not to consider incomplete applications.

- Send these documents in electronic form (Word and/or PDF) to the following e-mail address: ankara.office@coe.int. Emails should contain the following reference in subject: CSF_WAJ_Grant for CSOs.
- Applications must be received **before 1 October 2026 (at 16:00 CET+3-Türkiye time)**.

I. INTRODUCTION

This call for proposals is launched in the framework of the “European Union and Council of Europe joint programme on [“Fostering civil society participation and capacity building in access to justice in Türkiye”](#) and under the project on [“Fostering civil society’s support for women’s access to justice in Türkiye”](#). It aims to co-fund national and local projects aimed at raising awareness and providing practical support for women in vulnerable situations seeking access to justice. These initiatives may include the development and dissemination of educational materials, local awareness raising initiatives, capacity-building activities, legal support, and collaborative actions with bar associations and municipalities.

The project plans to deliver maximum **ten (10) grants to national and local civil society organisations (CSOs)** for their projects/initiatives raising awareness and providing practical support for women in vulnerable situations and other vulnerable groups, seeking access to justice. The duration of the proposed projects should be from **six months to one year**.

The grantees will be selected from **civil society organisations** registered and operating in Türkiye. Organisations working in regions with groups of women in vulnerable situations, and in the pilot provinces of the project are particularly encouraged to apply: Afyon, Bilecik, Bitlis, Burdur, Tokat and Yalova.

As the supported projects will address women’s access to justice and are expected to involve the delivery of legal information and counselling services, applicants are required to establish co-operation with relevant bar association(s). Such partnerships are expected to strengthen the quality, accessibility and long-term impact of the grant provided. Collaboration with municipality(ies) is also encouraged in order to foster a more comprehensive and coordinated local response.

Project proposals shall aim to produce an added value to the outcomes of the programme on [Fostering civil society participation and capacity building in access to justice in Türkiye](#) and the European Union and Council of Europe efforts in this domain.

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROJECT

The project on [Fostering civil society’s support for women’s access to justice in Türkiye](#) under the European Union and Council of Europe joint programme [“Fostering civil society participation and capacity building in access to justice in Türkiye”](#) aims to strengthen participatory democracy in Türkiye by enhancing the resilience of CSOs and empowering them to promote human rights, support victims to access to justice and remedies. The focus is on access to justice for women and girls in vulnerable situations.

Women’s access to justice is essential not only for the protection of individual rights, but also for strengthening inclusive democracy and public trust in institutions. Women facing intersecting forms of discrimination often encounter structural, economic, linguistic, geographical and social barriers in accessing justice, remedies and support mechanisms.

The main objective of the project is to enhance the resilience of CSOs in Türkiye and empower them to more effectively promote human rights and support victims in accessing justice in the field of women’s rights. To achieve this overall objective, the programme focuses on the following four specific objectives:

- Strengthening the capacities of civil society organisations, authorities, lawyers and other professionals on human rights and access to justice for women, in line with international and European standards.
- Improving local mechanisms and co-operation between civil society organisations, authorities, lawyers, and other professionals working on women’s access to justice.
- Raising awareness among women in vulnerable situations about human rights and access to justice.
- Providing legal aid services to access justice and remedies to women in vulnerable situations.

The **main partner** of the joint programme is the Union of Turkish Bar Associations. In this capacity and in line with its mandate in Türkiye, the Union of Turkish Bar Associations shall provide institutional coordination with local bar associations and may issue implementation guidance concerning legal assistance, referral and co-operation mechanisms. This institutional co-ordination role shall not entail any financial liability for grants awarded to CSOs or any responsibility for the acts, omissions or contractual obligations of individual grantees.

The target groups include bar associations, civil society organisations active in promoting women's rights and gender equality, and municipalities.

The project started its implementation in Türkiye as of 22 December 2025 and will continue to carry out its activities until 21 December 2028.

III. BUDGET AVAILABLE

The indicative available budget under this call for proposals is 210 000 Euros (two hundred ten thousand Euros). The Council of Europe intends to award maximum up to 10 (ten) grant(s) in the range of 20.000 to 45.000 Euros (twenty thousand to forty-five 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 strengthen access to justice for women in vulnerable situations facing barriers in accessing rights and remedies, through awareness-raising, legal literacy, and practical support initiatives at the local level. Supported projects may include the development and dissemination of educational and awareness-raising materials; organisation of local outreach and community-based awareness activities; provision of legal information; and initiatives fostering local cooperation and coordination among civil society organisations, municipalities, bar associations, and other relevant stakeholders.

The proposed applications should focus **on empowering and supporting women** as right-holders, especially groups of women in vulnerable situations facing intersectional discrimination such as women victims of gender-based violence, refugees, migrants, Roma women and girls, women living in rural areas etc.

2. Means of action

Projects may include:

- Providing individual or group-based legal information, legal counselling, and guidance sessions for women and girls in vulnerable situations on topics such as violence against women and domestic violence, family law, protection mechanisms, legal aid, discrimination, and available remedies. Any activity involving legal counselling, legal representation, preparation of legal submissions or conduct of judicial or administrative proceedings shall be carried out exclusively by lawyers authorised under Turkish law and, where applicable, through the competent Bar Association's legal aid mechanisms.
- Organising public outreach activities, information sessions, community meetings, legal literacy workshops, and awareness-raising events with women and girls at the local level by adopting gender-sensitive, victim-centred and where relevant trauma-informed approaches.
- Projects fostering local dialogue between CSOs, bar associations and municipalities, and cooperation among public actors working in the field of women's access to justice.

- Developing accessible and user-friendly awareness-raising materials such as infographics, brochures, posters, leaflets, podcasts, short videos, and digital campaigns.
- Projects may further include innovative and community-based approaches tailored to local needs and realities, including activities targeting vulnerable women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and exclusion.
- Other means of action compatible with the objectives of the project on “Fostering civil society participation and capacity building in access to justice in Türkiye”.

The grant requires applicants to cooperate with bar association(s) for specific activities on providing legal information, legal counselling, legal literacy activities or any other activities requiring co-operation with bar association(s).

The project proposal must contain a justification and a brief needs assessment that clearly explains how the activities will lead to awareness raising towards the target group.

Moreover, applicants are required to submit a brief outline of the proposed project activities within the available budget of the call (see Section III of the Call for Proposals) and in line with the guidelines below.

CSOs should explain the main topics and issues they plan to focus on for awareness-raising activities considering the national and regional context. They should also describe the planned activities and events, timeline, communication channels, target groups, relevant stakeholders, and how they plan to reach both these groups and the wider public.

Projects are expected to contribute to:

- increased awareness of rights and remedies,
- strengthened legal literacy among women and girls,
- increased outreach to women in vulnerable situations,
- improved local co-operation and referral pathways,
- stronger engagement of local actors on women’s access to justice.

3. Implementation period

The implementation period of the projects should start on 1 January 2027 (see indicative timetable under VIII. below) and shall not extend beyond 31 December 2027.

Reporting requirements shall be completed on **within two months** after the completion of the project’s implementation.

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. Stakeholders: project partners and target groups

4A. Project partners

The project partners are the stakeholders who participate in or organise some part of the activities. The CSOs are expected to ensure the involvement of the relevant bar associations. In addition, partnerships with municipalities and other relevant stakeholders are encouraged where such co-operation would contribute to the effective implementation and sustainability of the proposed projects.

4B. Target groups

Projects should target in particular the following groups in Türkiye facing difficulties in accessing to justice, legal aid, legal assistance and information:

- Victims of violence against women and domestic violence, including technology-facilitated violence,
- Women and girls in vulnerable situations facing intersectional discrimination (such as women with disabilities, LGBTI+ women facing barriers in access to justice, internally displaced women and earthquake-affected women, refugees and migrants, Roma women, seasonal agricultural workers, women belonging to ethnic and/or linguistic minorities, women living in rural areas, etc.),
- Local communities and the general public for awareness-raising purposes.

The above list is not exhaustive, and projects may propose to target other relevant /target groups in the general public, while keeping in mind the general objective of the project on “Fostering civil society participation and capacity building in access to justice in Türkiye”.

5. Budgetary requirements

Project proposals shall be accompanied by a draft budget (See **Template Budget, in Appendix II**) amounting in the range of 20.000 to 45.000 Euros (twenty thousand to forty-five 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 project.

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

- Projects proposed by national and local CSOs working in the field of women’s access to justice, women’s human rights, preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, and promoting gender equality.
- Projects targeting women and girls in vulnerable situations facing intersectional discrimination (such as women with disabilities, LGBTI+ women facing barriers in access to justice, internally displaced women and earthquake-affected women, refugees and migrants, Roma women, seasonal agricultural workers, women belonging to ethnic and/or linguistic minorities, women living in rural areas, etc.).
- In cases where projects meet all eligibility and assessment requirements and receive equal scores, preference will be given to projects to be implemented in the six pilot provinces: Afyon, Bilecik, Bitlis, Burdur, Tokat, and Yalova.

7. The following types of action 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:

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

- 50 % will be paid to the Grantee or the Lead Grantee in case of a consortium when the Grant Agreement between the Parties is signed;
- 40 % will be paid to the Grantee following the presentation and acceptance by the Council of Europe of the mid-term narrative and financial reports;

- The balance (10%) will be paid to the Grantee 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:

Mid-term narrative and financial reporting (in English) requires submission within 30 days following the first half of the implementation period including details about activities carried out, target groups reached, financial report covering expenditures and remaining amount in each budgetary line along with a copy of supporting documents such as the register of the persons present during each of the activities, including names and signatures of participants, photos of events, copies of awareness raising materials and other outputs.

The payment of second instalment is linked to the presentation by the Grantee and acceptance by the Council of Europe of the mid-term report, which will be done as soon as the CoE validates the reports and assesses that the conditions for the second instalment are fulfilled.

Grant agreements will be subject to regular monitoring and evaluation throughout the implementation period as part of the Project's oversight and follow-up mechanisms.

Final narrative and financial reporting (in English) requires a full narrative report to be submitted within two months following the completion of the implementation period concerning the use made of the grant, including details about activities carried out, target groups reached, financial report including expenditures along with a copy of supporting documents such as the register of the persons present during each of the activities, including names and signatures of participants, photos of events, copies of awareness raising materials and other outputs.

The payment of the final instalment is linked to the presentation by the Grantee and acceptance by the Council of Europe of the final narrative and financial report, which will be done as soon as the CoE validates the reports and assesses that the conditions for the final instalment are fulfilled.

Financial reporting (in Euro) requires in particular a statement in the currency in which the Grant Agreement will be concluded according to the attached template, 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:

- Completed and signed **Application Form** (See **Appendix I**);
- Provisional budget (using the template reproduced in **Appendix II**);
- List of all owners and executive officers;
- The other supporting documents in English:
 - List of previous projects/actions implemented in Türkiye with information on the budget, period, purpose, content of the project/action, and number of personnel involved;
 - The official registration certificate as a civil society organisation or a similar proof of registration;
 - The copy of the 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;
 - CVs of the key staff involved in the implementation of a proposed grant project/action;
 - Operating account record for the past 4 years including financial information (incomes and expenditures);
 - Letter of co-operation with the relevant bar association(s).
 - Letter of co-operation with the relevant municipality(ies), where the proposed action envisages co-operation with municipality(ies) or includes activities to be implemented jointly with municipality(ies).

Grant applications should be submitted **in English, with the exception of “official registration certificate as a civil society organisation or a similar proof of registration, document demonstrating that the applicant has a bank account, and operating account record for the past 4 years”** which may be submitted in Turkish. **Applications only in Turkish will be considered ineligible.**

Applications that are incomplete will not be considered.

2. Questions

General information can be found on the website:

- CoE Programme Office in Ankara: <https://www.coe.int/web/ankara/home>

Other questions regarding this specific call for proposals must be sent at the latest on 17th September 2026 **(at 16:00- CET+3-Türkiye time)** in English or Turkish, and shall be exclusively sent to the following address: ankara.office@coe.int, with the following reference in subject: QUESTIONS_CSF_WAJ_Grant for CSOs.

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: ankara.office@coe.int. Emails should contain the following reference in subject: CSF_WAJ_Grant for CSOs.

Applications must be received **before 1 October 2026 (at 16:00- CET+3-Türkiye time)**. 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 and one representative from the Union of Turkish Bar Associations.

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 and functioning as a Civil Society Organisation (CSO) under the relevant laws in the Republic of Türkiye;
- be entitled to carry out in the Republic of Türkiye the activities described in its project proposal;
- have been active for at least 4 years in the field of promoting women's access to justice, women's human rights, gender equality or preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence;
- have a bank account.
- 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)¹;
- have sufficient operational and professional capacity, including staff, to carry out activities described in its project proposal²;

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 (40%)
- the quality, accuracy, clarity, appropriateness, completeness and cost-effectiveness of the application and the estimated budget (30%);
- the relevance of the experience of the applying organisation(s) and staff (30%).

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.

¹ The Council of Europe shall have full discretion in determining whether applicants are considered to have sufficient financial capacity in light of the complexity of the project proposed.

² The Council of Europe shall have full discretion in determining whether applicants are considered to have sufficient operational and professional capacity in light of the complexity of the project proposed.

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	22.07.2026
Deadline for submitting applications	01.10.2026
Information to applicants on the results of the award procedure	23.11.2026
Signature of the grant agreements	15.12.2026
Implementation period	01.01.2027 - 31.12.2027

* * *