

Information Session on FSTP Call for Proposals: Responses to Questions

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Eligibility

Q: Which countries can submit project proposals?

A: All countries are eligible to send project proposals. However, applicants must be registered or non-registered local civil society organisations or informal groups of local human rights defenders. Applications from international NGOs are not accepted.

Q: What are the priority countries?

A: There are no priority countries for FSTP support.

Q: Who can apply for the call?

To be eligible to apply, applicants must be:

- Registered and non-registered local civil society organizations (CSOs), including those operating in exile, with a mandate or a strategic priority in the fight against impunity.
- Local CSOs actively participating in shaping judicial processes, and/or working on holistic justice and accountability processes.
- Capable of managing the financial support requested.

Q: Is it possible to apply for the grant without having audit clearance, being a new local civil society organisation?

A: Yes.

Q: Can newer organisations with innovative approaches apply for the call, or is it only intended for organisations with a proven track record?

A: Yes.

Q: Are exiled organisations eligible for the call?

A: Organisations/human rights defenders working in exile can apply.

Q: Can university free legal aid centers participate in the call?

A: Yes, if they fulfil the eligibility criteria.

Q: Can consortiums of organisations apply for the call for proposals? If so, what are the criteria?

A: Joint applications by several organisations are welcome. Partnership is a good practice, but only with local organisations/civil society organisations/community-based organisations. All entities applying in partnership must fulfil eligibility criteria. The project proposal should specify the name of the lead organisation in the consortium and the contact details of the focal point of this organisation on behalf of the consortium.

Q: Can foundations apply for the call?

A: Yes, foundations can apply, in accordance with the eligibility criteria.

Q: Is it possible to apply for the call from northern Syria?

A: Yes.

Q: Can we apply through a fiscal sponsor?

A: Yes, please include information about the nature of the fiscal sponsorship and organisational information about both you and the sponsor.

Q: Does the applicant need to have a formal bank account, or less established financial institutions for transferring money suffice?

A: No, the applicant does not need to have a formal bank account. The applicant needs to have the appropriate capacity to manage the requested funding.

Q: Is cooperation with state sectors required to be eligible to apply?

A: No, it is not required.

Q: Can international civil society organisations apply for the call? Can international civil society organisations registered locally apply for the call?

A: No, the focus of the FSTP scheme is to help local CSOs and grassroots organisations to address impunity in different areas of the world.

Q: I'm from an investigative media outlet (also an NGO) in Nigeria combating social injustice, impunity, gender-based violence, etc., and we also collaborate with a legal firm for pro bono legal support.

A: You are eligible to apply.

Q: Can individuals apply for the programme?

A: No, an individual cannot apply for this Call. But informal groups of human rights defenders/activists, social movements, can apply.

Q: Are NGOs based outside the Global South eligible to apply, and if yes, does the programme allow re-granting to actors based in the Global South? Secondly, is it possible to submit a joint application consisting of two actors?

A: This call for proposals focuses on registered and non-registered local civil society organisations and informal groups of human rights defenders and activists in country or in exile. It does not support international organisations. Re-granting is not possible within this Call for

Proposals. It is possible to submit joint applications of local organisations, with one lead organisation.

Q: Is it possible for an association that was started voluntarily by some people in refugees' camps and was doing several activities for the society such as giving courses to children, raising awareness in the society, and trying to help disabled people with their basic needs, but by the time their budget has decreased, and they are about to stop activities. It's not an organization but a small association, such as this association, is it eligible for the application?

A: The association as described can apply, regardless of whether it is registered or not. The project proposal should reflect activities that are in line with the objectives of the Call.

Q: What does it mean to be a registered organisation?

A: To be a registered organisation means being legally registered in your respective countries. We would like to emphasise that this is not required to be registered to be eligible to apply for funding.

Q: We are aiming to send a proposal for our project in Ukraine. My organization is headquartered in the US and is officially registered as a non-profit in the US. While we do not have offices in Ukraine, we do have a fully-fledged and dedicated Ukraine-based team of staff who would be designing and executing the project locally. Could you kindly let us know if my organization would be eligible to apply for this grant on behalf of our project in Ukraine?

A: International organisations are not considered eligible for this Call.

Q: Are NGOs based outside the Global South eligible to apply, and if yes, does the programme allow re-granting to actors based in the Global South? Secondly, is it possible to submit a joint application consisting of two actors?

A: This call for proposals focuses on registered and non-registered local civil society organisations and informal groups of human rights defenders and activists in country or in exile. It does not support international organisations. Re-granting is not possible within this Call for Proposals. It is possible to submit joint applications of local organisations, with one lead organisation.

Q: Is it possible to apply to this call in case our organisation has already applied to other EU Commission funding sources?

A: Yes, it is possible to apply to this call if you already applied to other EU sources of funding.

Q: In the selection criteria, do you consider small organisations that have not yet managed huge amounts?

A: Yes, but those organisations should have the capacity to manage the grant received and clearly specify how they will plan the implementation and the reporting of the project.

Application Process

Q: How many applications can be sent per applicant?

A: One organisation/consortium can send one application only for this Call. One organisation can be part of one consortium only.

Q: Where can we access the application?

A: Guidelines and application documents can be found at this link:

<https://crd.org/2024/07/17/call-for-proposals-global-initiative-against-impunity-for-international-crimes-and-serious-human-rights-violations-making-justice-work/>

Q: Is EU PADOR registration required for applying?

A: No, EU PADOR registration is not required to apply for funding.

Q: What is the maximum length of project proposals? Can I exceed 10 pages?

A: **No, 10 pages is the maximum length. Please note that only the first 10 pages of each project proposal will be read and considered.**

Q: Will cooperating with an international CSO present an added value element?

A: Funding is available only to local CSOs, informal groups, and grassroots organisations. Cooperation and partnerships with national and international organisations are encouraged, to create synergies towards the expected results.

Q: In the guidelines it says that one can apply several times, but it also says that the duration of the projects should be between six and 18 months?

A: The overall programme of the Global Initiative Against Impunity lasts for four years. During these four years, one organisation can apply for up to EUR 60,000 (exceptionally up to EUR 80,000). Therefore, if you applied for e.g. the minimum amount within the first round, you can apply for EUR 30,000 more in one of the next rounds.

Q: In which languages can I send my application?

A: We accept applications written in the English language only. However, do not worry if your English proficiency is not at a high level. We encourage you to still apply, as we will be assessing the quality of the proposal, and not the quality of the language. You can use online translating engines to translate your application to English for you.

Q: What are the administrative documents that will accompany the proposal?

A: Supporting documents:

- Proof of registration (for registered organisations).
- The organisation's most recent yearly report and/or financial statements (if available).
- Supporting document for payment details (bank document or screenshot from online banking).

Q: Do we have to use specific application formats or can we use our own format specifically for the budget part?

A: Guidelines and specific application formats that should be used can be found at this link:

<https://crd.org/2024/07/17/call-for-proposals-global-initiative-against-impunity-for-international-crimes-and-serious-human-rights-violations-making-justice-work/>

Project Scope and Implementation

Q: Are there any priority topics?

A: The proposals should reflect integrated and inclusive action that contributes to comprehensive justice and accountability for serious human rights violations.

Q: Can the call for proposals be used to scale up an already implemented project?

A: Yes, it can be used for existing projects, if those align with the objectives of the call.

Q: What can be the project implementation area? Does it have to include a whole country, or can it be implemented only on one-state level?

A: Projects can be implemented in one or several countries. It doesn't have to include a whole country.

Q: Does the grant allow for multiple projects to be considered for a particular country, i.e., can we apply in two target areas?

A: There are no target areas; it is possible to award several grants in one region or country, and grants will be selected based on quality and relevance. One organisation can apply with one application.

Q: Can the project be implemented in more than one country?

A: Yes.

Q: How long can the implementation period last?

A: From 6 to 18 months.

Q: Can I apply for funding for an existing project that will continue in the future as well?

A: Yes, you can.

Q: When are the projects expected to start?

A: Beginning of November 2024.

Q: How will multi-year projects be implemented within the call?

A: The maximum project duration is 18 months. However, it is possible to receive financial support more than once, as long as the total support stays within the limit of EUR 60,000 (exceptionally EUR 80,000) including all calls for proposals during the period of four years.

Q: Does the scope of the call cover violations of collective rights of indigenous people, e.g., peoples who are displaced from their lands and their cultural survival is threatened?

A: Yes, the scope covers such rights violations.

Q: Are public interest litigations included in the call for proposals?

A: Yes, they are included in the call. Eligibility criteria must be fulfilled.

Q: Can a conference be one of the activities to inform and engage international actors of the project proposal outcomes?

A: A conference can be one of the activities of the project proposal.

Q: Can I apply for funding for a project to gather information and evidence of human rights violations in the context of demonstrations by subjects requiring special protection?

A: Yes, you can apply.

Q: Are the activities listed fixed, or can we apply for activities not listed in the call?

A: The list of activities is fixed.

Q: Do the objectives include international advocacy/use of accountability mechanisms?

A: Yes.

Q: Can the initiative under the national or international dialogue be a political dialogue on collaboration, or should it be just a dialogue on justice?

A: Political dialogue should aim at addressing issues of justice and accountability related to international crimes and serious human rights violations. This includes both retributive and restorative justice, meaning criminal and non-criminal justice.

Q: Are architectural planning of Bedouin unrecognised communities' lands, as a supportive action to a legal process for land rights, a fit for the program?

A: Yes, such activities fit the program.

Q: Can cases be brought before treaty bodies of the universal human rights system, with testimonies from victims of serious human rights violations?

A: Yes, they can.

Q: Is advocacy on human rights violations eligible for the call?

A: Yes, advocacy on serious human rights violations is an eligible activity.

Q: Can the funds be used to support marginalised women and girls' access to justice in Nigeria?

A: Yes, if in line with the objectives and expected results of the Call.

Q: Could it be important to incorporate cross-cutting issues to be able to see that the project is effective and feasible on the ground?

A: Yes, it is important to include cross-cutting issues. We would like to highlight the importance that it is not just about criminal justice, but also about restorative justice, including the use of arts in restorative justice, healing, memorialization, promoting alternative narratives, the crime of ecocide, etc.

Q: How will we include environmental aspects and anti-discrimination?

A: These are some cross-cutting aspects that are relevant to consider, alongside with the Human Rights Based Approach. We will evaluate projects based on their environmental sustainability and anti-discrimination measures, prioritizing eco-friendly practices, inclusivity, and adherence to EU regulations and non-discriminatory policies.

Q: Should the project benefit a minimum number of victims or refer to repeated and systematic violations?

A: There is no minimum number; we are looking for projects adhering to objectives. When it comes to specific indicators, we will identify those collaboratively with applicants who are selected, but it is not a precondition to select a minimum or optimal number of victims.

Q: Is the project's focus on violent crimes?

A: The project's focus is on international crimes and serious human rights violations, which includes crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, the crime of aggression, as well as torture and enforced disappearances.

Q: Do this project address SGBV and CRSV?

A: Yes, the project addresses these issues.

Q: Can I apply for funding for a project to gather information and evidence of human rights violations in the context of demonstrations by subjects requiring special protection?

A: Yes, you can apply.

Q: Are initiatives to support Human Rights Defenders to participate and speak at international conferences or avenues allowed in the programme?

A: Yes, it is welcomed.

Q: Are architectural planning of Bedouin unrecognised communities' lands, as a supportive action to a legal process for land rights, a fit for the program?

A: Yes, such activities fit the program.

Q: Can cases be brought before treaty bodies of the universal human rights system, with testimonies from victims of serious human rights violations?

A: Yes, they can.

Q: Can we implement the project that addresses humanitarian needs of human rights defenders and survivors of crimes against humanity?

A: We welcome proposals that provide holistic support to human rights defenders, victims, and survivors of serious violations of human rights, including judicial, medical, psycho-social, and other types of assistance.

Q: Could I apply with a campaign dealing with missing persons, putting pressure on the state?

A: Yes.

Q: Are you able to take in projects dealing with victims of torture?

A: Yes.

Q: According to our situation in Myanmar, people have to flee from the country, and seek asylum or stay undocumented in neighboring countries such as Thailand. Can we implement some initiatives to support our people currently relocating in neighboring countries? Another question is that we have got many emerging local administration or governance actors. They are also very important stakeholders in ending impunity in Myanmar. Is it allowed to apply with a project working together with such emerging local governance actors?

A: You can implement initiatives which fit within the specific objectives of this programme and expected results as detailed in the guidelines. The proposals should not directly support government stakeholders but build partnerships with them. Please refer to the eligibility criteria and fixed list of activities for more specifics.

Funding and Financial Management

Q: Is there a maximum amount one can apply for?

A: Yes, the maximum amount one can apply for is EUR 60,000, or EUR 80,000 on an exceptional basis.

Q: What should these exceptions be so that the budget should be EUR 80,000?

A: Such exemptions could be when requiring the participation of regional or international organisations in strategic workshops or for organisational strengthening at the regional level. The amount of financial support will be assessed for each application.

Q: Is it possible to submit a proposal for €60,000 and €20,000 for a special activity?

A: No, it is not possible.

Q: If we join with a local organisation, is the total amount granted double?

A: The total amount per project is EUR 60,000, and on an exceptional basis, grants up to EUR 80,000 will be awarded. Joint applications by two or more organisations will not increase the maximum amount.

Q: Are there restrictions regarding core funding? Do the proposals have to be project-based only?

A: This is a project-based funding. It aims at funding activities which are part of the fixed list of activities. The budget may include any costs that are necessary for the implementation of those activities, including staff costs, travel costs, equipment and supplies, office costs, consumables, communication costs, etc.

Q: What is the total funding budget?

A: The total budget for this call for proposals is EUR 600,000. The number of grants will depend on the amounts requested by the selected grants.

Q: Is it possible to do sub-granting with this fund?

A: No, sub-granting is not possible through the call.

Q: Does the applicant need to have a formal bank account, or can less established financial institutions suffice for transferring money?

A: No, the applicant does not need to have a formal bank account. The applicant needs to have the appropriate capacity to manage the requested funding.

Q: How is the budget to be divided? What percentage of the budget can be dedicated to staff, overhead costs etc.? How should we calculate human resources?

A: The initiative aims at funding activities which are part of the fixed list of activities. The budget may include any costs that are necessary for the implementation of those activities, including staff costs, travel costs, equipment and supplies, office costs, consumables, communication costs, etc. We cannot provide a fixed percentage of the budget that is dedicated to staff or other administrative costs because that will depend on the nature of the activities. Please remember all costs allocated to the project must be reported together with supporting documents.

Q: Is basket funding permitted?

A: You can apply with a project co-funded by other donors, but you need to identify clearly which costs are covered by this initiative and which costs are covered by other donors.

Q: Are financial statements required, having in mind that small, new organisations might apply?

A: Financial statements are not required; however, please provide key financial figures such as total revenue and total costs for your organisation.

Support and Additional Resources

Q: How public will information about grantees be? Many of us work in a hostile environment and publicizing our participation in this large program could result in criminal liability.

A: Security of grantees is primary. We will adapt visibility to the confidentiality and security needs of grantees.

Q: Are the organisations responsible for this initiative considering promoting some kind of exchange between the grantees who are interested in it?

A: Yes, this is planned; we will share more details with the selected grantees.

Q: Can the grantee count on any other kind of support apart from financial? Do the initiative members have any other role in relationship with the grantees?

A: Yes, the objective of the FSTP scheme is not just to provide financial support to local actors engaged in the fight against impunity for international crimes. It is also about providing technical guidance and support to grantees and promoting peer-to-peer learning and exchange between grantees. The needs of grantees will be assessed to identify which additional support could be provided, within the limits of the programme's capacities.

Q: Do you provide any consultations on enhancing the inclusivity measures in the project?

A: No, we don't offer consultations within the application phase. We do not have specific activities to enhance inclusivity. After the selection of the successful grantees, we will provide technical support to them, especially having in mind the cross-cutting themes as they are not always easy to understand and operationalise.

Selection Process and Future Opportunities

Q: How many civil society organisations will be supported?

A: We are expecting to support up to 20 organisations under the first Call for Proposal.

Q: What is the key evaluation criteria used to assess submitted proposals?

A: The proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria: relevance to the target group, expected results, strengthening of partnerships, planned activities' contribution towards the objectives, particular added-value, impact on the local community, budget effectiveness and efficiency, integration of cross-cutting elements, and sustainability.

Q: How will the decisions be made concerning the applications? Will there be a sub-committee of the consortium, consisting of a representative from each member of the consortium, that will decide on each application? Will there be feedback if an organisation's application is rejected?

A: There is an Evaluation committee comprising a majority of representatives from the Consortium. The proposals will be evaluated based on criteria such as relevance to the target group, expected results, strengthening of partnerships, planned activities' contribution towards the objectives, particular added-value, impact on the local community, budget effectiveness and efficiency, integration of cross-cutting elements, and sustainability. Only successful applicants will be notified via email.

Q: When can we expect to hear back from you regarding the outcome of our applications?

A: By the end of September.

Q: When can I expect future calls?

A: In 2025.

Q: Who are the co-funders of the programme?

A: The EU is a co-funder of the programme.

Q: How many calls for proposals will there be over the 4 years, and when will each be?

A: There will be at least 3 calls for proposals. The next call for proposals will be in 2025.