

Building Social Base

OPEN SOCIETY INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE

2019

Goal of the Call for Proposals

Open Society Initiative for Europe (OSIFE) announces a call for proposals that is open to nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) registered in Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. OSIFE aims to support key actors of civil society active in the field of human rights, rule of law, anti-corruption and investigative journalism to strengthen the organizational and social base of organizations that have proven their effectiveness at the local, regional, and national levels. OSIFE strengthens NGOs by assisting them with their efforts to enhance their social support and embeddedness, with special focus on improving fundraising, communication, and base building.

1. Technical Support

In addition to funding, OSIFE provides a complex technical support program developed and organized by its professional partner, NIOK Foundation and its regional partner organizations. NIOK Foundation and its partners provide professional assistance to the implementation of the supported projects and work together with the grantees, follow and monitor the implementation. NIOK Foundation and its partners provide consultancy and mentoring services throughout the implementation and organizes meetings with the participation of the representatives of all grantee organizations to exchange and discuss experiences. NIOK Foundation and its partners provide mentoring for each organization throughout the project period as well as counseling services primarily on the following subjects: fundraising, online communication, social media, and volunteer management. NIOK Foundation also works together with the grantees to follow-up on indicators and goals set in the project proposals and supports them to work toward realizing these goals. **The participation in the technical support program is mandatory for all grantees selected for support within the framework of the current call.**

2. Guidelines

OSIFE aims to support up to 8 projects in each eligible country under this call. We reserve a right to provide in-kind support in form of training or similar, rather than direct financial support to organizations should we see merit for such. Applicants should submit applications in English. Applicants should introduce their ideas and plans that aim to strengthen their connection to their organic constituencies and widen their social base and number of supporters. They should present the expected concrete results and impact of their projects. OSIFE seeks projects that can develop concrete, well-designed, and detailed plans and ideas how the applicants reach, interact and involve those people who approve and support their values and goals, who actively receive and deliver their messages. The projects should introduce how the planned activities strengthen public and professional visibility of the applicants, how to increase the number of their supporters, volunteers, Facebook followers, etc. Those projects are preferred which fit into the organizational strategy of the applicants. In

addition, the projects should contain measurable indicators and the clear expected results and impact.

Specific content of the projects is not set: an applicant can design and develop any kind of idea and approach that serves the achievement of the above-listed goals. However, OSIFE prefers those projects that connect social base and support building to concrete, measurable indicators. These activities may include but are not limited to increasing and widening the number of members, individual supporters, online followers, and activists as well as volunteers of the organization; increasing the scale and scope of local support and sources from local fundraising; and engaging with new constituencies, including through communication campaigns.

OSIFE is primarily interested in projects that provide a clear analysis of the target audience and account for the differences among social groups — such as gender, age, socio-economic status, geographic location, and ethnicity — that make up the circle of constituencies of the organization. OSIFE expects projects that reflect on how different social groups of women (characterized by social factors such as race, ethnicity, social class, age etc.) and other social identities might be engaged with as a fundamental base of the organization. Specific attention to different social groups of women and other social minorities and projects that target these audiences with customized messaging are particularly welcome.

Applicants also may request core funding by presenting why core funding is necessary for the organization and how this part of the funding will be used to further objectives of this call. Applicants should reflect on the overall medium-term sustainability of the organization. A core-funding request cannot exceed 30 percent of the total request.

2.1 Eligibility criteria

OSIFE looks for key civil actors in Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia that have a proven track record of work for open society values and are active in the following professional areas:

- Human rights, including but not restricted to women, LGBTQ and minority, and disadvantaged groups' rights
- Rule of law
- Anti-corruption
- Investigative journalism

OSIFE regards an organization as a “key actor” of its professional field if the organization:

- works at the regional or national level in its country
- has a proven track record of work for open society values
- has achieved significant results in its professional field
- has a central position in its professional domain with demonstrable impact
- conducts activities that have significant domestic and international visibility and recognition

Non-eligible costs and exclusion criteria

Any political activities, cooperation with, or support for political parties or elected officials are not eligible for our support, and we will not consider supporting them in any form. Political party-affiliated associations are not eligible to apply for our support.

2.2 Requirements during the grant period

Grantees will submit financial and narrative progress reports as well as related documents after six months and a final report within 30 days after expiration of funding.

Grantees will submit separate, detailed documentation of the project

Grantees participate in a mandatory program developed and organized by OSIFE's professional partner organization, NIOK Foundation, including trainings, workshops and network events.

2.3 Grant process

2.3.1 Deadline

The deadline for submitting applications is **23 June, 2019**.

Applications should be submitted through the [Open Society Foundations grantee portal](#).

Questions regarding the application process can be directed to the following e-mail address: supportbase2019@opensocietyfoundations.org.

2.3.2 Selection of grantees

Applications that are submitted by the deadline and meet the eligibility and administrative criteria (see 2.1.) will be reviewed.

2.3.3 Evaluation criteria

Administrative criteria

- Eligibility (see 3.1.)
- Completed proposal and budget template
- CVs of relevant staff members working on the project
- Last official annual report of the applicant
- Financial report for 2018 (incomes and expenses)

Evaluation criteria

- The main results of the applicant in the past five years in its professional area. If the applicant received support from OSIFE earlier for similar purposes, we expect a very clear report on outcomes of the previous support.

- Organizational commitment: the organization including its leadership is committed to building a social base around the organization as a long-term, strategic goal, beyond the timeline of the proposal.
- Project relevance: how the planned project fits into the applicant's professional field and complements its organizational strategy.
- Social base: the organization understands and the project clearly interprets the concept of social base and constituency building.
- Capacity: the capacity of the applicant allows the organization to properly implement the planned project.
- Target groups: the project identifies a concrete constituency/ies, base, and target groups that are relevant for its mission and activity. The projects reflects on the differences among social groups characterized by gender, race, ethnicity, age, socio-economic status and social class. Projects targeting different social groups of women receive priority.
- Tools and methods: the planned methods and activities are relevant and consider the specialty of the target groups. The project targets different social groups with customized messages.
- Indicators, results, and impact: indicators are clear, measurable, and relevant. The expected results and impacts are clear and measurable.
- Budget: the planned budget and its items are relevant and reflect the planned professional activities.

Applicants receive written notification of its decision. Please note that OSIFE is not obliged to provide detailed explanations of its decisions.

2.4 Duration and amount of grants

Applicants may submit one proposal per organization for a one-time non-renewable grant up to maximum of \$70,000 using the attached proposal and budget templates. The duration of a grant is 2 years. Applicants can apply for grants up to the one-third of their last year of total spending. There is no eligibility limitation on the budget items as far as they are relevant for the implementation of the project, and comply with point 2.1. Items should be reasonable and relevant to the applied project.

Expected starting date of the supported projects: 1 October, 2019

Application aid

All interested organizations are cordially invited to participate in a webinar on OSIFE's social support base and constituency building program on **20 May, 2019 between 14pm and 16 pm**. The webinar combines conceptual and practical sessions and features a Q&A with OSIFE and NIOK Foundation staff. For detailed agenda, registration and other inquiries please contact: supportbase2019@opensocietyfoundations.org.

Please note that the registration period starts on 6 May, 2019 and ends on 19 May, 2019. Limited places are available, please register in time to secure your place.

Annexes

Proposal template

Budget template