

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

# Countering State Capture in Central and Eastern Europe

## Open Society Initiative for Europe

**Eligible countries:** Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovak Republic

**In order to further enhance public sector integrity and counter the extent of policy capture and grand corruption in target countries, the Open Society Initiative for Europe (OSIFE) invites proposals from civil society organizations, or their consortia, that aim to expose, disrupt, and effectively challenge instances of corruption and/or particularism.**

**We are particularly interested to support work that looks at the socio-economic impact of corruption, including gender dimensions, and which challenges the limitations to equal access of public healthcare, education, and equitable social policies dealing with poverty.**

**Submission Deadline: Monday, 9 April 2018**

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A UN commissioned study back in 2010 mentions that:

*“...poor woman, dependent on goods and services, disproportionately feel the impacts of high-level or ‘grand’ corruption. Grand corruption often occurs in the form of illicit commissions at the point of procurement, which reduce the overall amount of public resources available for distribution and affects the equitable distribution among different population segments. Evidence and analytical work suggest that ‘leakages’ of this kind are more common with resources earmarked for marginalized groups, as these groups often lack the political power to protest corruption...”<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Corruption, Accountability and Gender: Understanding the Connections. 2010.  
<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/aplaws/publication/en/publications/womens-empowerment/corruption-accountability-and-gender-understanding-the-connection/Corruption-accountability-and-gender.pdf>

OSIFE supports projects that enhance public sector integrity and promote equal and non-discriminatory access to public goods and services. As such, we welcome project proposals that address the following specific priorities:

### Specific Funding Priorities

- Projects that will engage citizens -primarily women and other previously disengaged groups- in promoting public sector transparency and accountability.
- Projects with strong activist elements that involve collaborations with activists from different fields; grass-roots activism, local public-private collaboration, municipal authorities, local communities of women and/or other target groups.
- Projects from consortia of women's rights organizations, human rights groups and anti-corruption groups taking collective action;
- Projects with an elaborate communication strategy, preferably including explicit cooperation with for instance women's media outlets (blogs, magazines) or investigative journalism platforms.

### Thematic Focus

We explicitly invite proposals that:

- Expose how corrupt deals are made, who is involved and what is known about their dealings or financial assets. How is impunity provided for? And where is this supply vulnerable or could it be undermined?
- Pay distinguished attention to the gendered implications of grand corruption by investigating the ways in which corruption limits women's and/or other marginalized groups access to power, goods, opportunities and resources;
- Build on an analysis of how corruption, gender and other social dimensions (e.g. age, class, economic status, ethnicity, race etc.) intersect and create greater economic, social, and political vulnerability;
- Specifically aim to engage marginalized social groups and/or women with a view to involve them in anti-corruption activism;
- Pay special attention to communication and advocacy design towards target audiences, including customized messages resonating with identified target groups.

### Eligible Applicants

We explicitly invite organizations with specialized experience of the mentioned geographies and/or with expert knowhow of governance accountability, anti-corruption, and gender

sensitive programming, to submit their proposals. Consortia of anti-corruption watchdogs, women's right and human rights organizations are particularly encouraged to apply.

## Ineligible Applicants

- Partisan organizations; political rallies, campaigns to influence elections, or other partisan activities;
- General civic activism (without a specific link to gender and other socio-economic aspects of corruption);
- Academic research on corruption, or mapping studies without clearly demonstrated relevance in a given context for instilling improvement or change;
- General/flexible organizational requests to provide financial sustainability to current work.

## Guidelines and Application Process

Applicants should [submit a concept paper](#) of no more than two pages to the Open Society Initiative for Europe. We will use this concept paper to determine whether the project meets the priorities of our funding portfolio and provide you with initial comments, if any. If the proposed project fits the funding priorities, applicants may be invited to submit a full proposal. Those invited to submit a full proposal will also receive a budget template.

Full proposals will need to respond to the following questions, as well as specific feedback provided to the concept paper (if any).

**1. Which priority/ies does the project target and contributes to?**

What socio-economic implications does the project address? Describe the specific aspects the project aims to address in relation to gender and/or other intersecting social positions (e.g. age, class, economic status, ethnicity, race etc), as well as the opportunities and risks associated with your approach.

**2. Context and prior work**

Outline what has been done already. Previous efforts (including research, advocacy or activism) by you or others to tackle the issue(s) at hand, including specific successes or failures, and how your project builds on past lessons learned.

**3. What will you do about the issue(s) and how do you intend to go about it?**

Provide an overview of activities and outputs within the project, including a timeline, methodology and work-plan that maps your suggested pathway to change, based on your theory of change. Describe explicitly the link between your activities and the issue at hand.

**4. Risk management**

Elaborate on the potential risks for your project, and your plans to mitigate them.

**5. Composition of partnership and organizational introduction**

Explain why your organization and your partners are best positioned to carry out the proposed project. Explain how your efforts will be used to contribute to the strategic efforts that not only expose the gendered implication of (grand) corruption, but also

disrupt, and effectively combat it by empowering women and engaging communities of other intersecting social groups.

**6. Proposed budget and timeframe**

Include an estimated overall project budget and timeframe. If you have already secured (or are negotiating) co-funding, please indicate an amount and source(s). As a general principle, we will not fund projects that would contribute to increase OSF's share on an organization's budget beyond 30%. We also aim not to provide support of more than \$5,000 per project month. The duration of projects of this nature that we have considered in the past has been between 12 and 24 months. Projects are expected to start in the second half of 2018.

For further information, please contact Bart Scheffers or Alla Volkova at [bart.scheffers@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:bart.scheffers@opensocietyfoundations.org) or [alla.volkova@opensocietyfoundations.org](mailto:alla.volkova@opensocietyfoundations.org)