Working Together to Improve Governance and Anticorruption

OPEN SOCIETY INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE

2020

Please note that this FAQ contains questions and answers specifically for this open call, and should not be used to interpret questions and answers to other funding opportunities at Open Society Foundations.

The country in which my organization would like to apply for funding and undertake work does not appear among the eligible countries in this open call. Can I still apply?

No. This call is open for civil society organizations operating in the eligible countries which are Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia.

Are regional applications (covering multiple countries) preferred or encouraged in this open call?

No. This open call primarily focuses on supporting civil society-led initiatives at a country level. These may include national or local level, but in all cases, the emphasis is on work within a single country.

How many proposals can one organization submit?

One organization may submit up to two proposals.

My organizational is an international non-profit organization. Can I apply?

These are not prioritized in the selection process, as focus of this call is to support local organizations. If you fall into these categories and still decide to apply, you should clearly demonstrate how your organization is locally rooted (e.g. in country presence, full independence from an international structure).

My organization has the legal status of a non-profit business association, but practically operates as a civil society organization, as an investigative journalist outlet. Can it apply?

Yes. Regardless of the legal form of the organization, if it fulfils non-profit purposes, makes no profit and operates as a local civil society-run initiative, it can apply.

My organization has the legal status of for profit (e.g. Limited Liability Company). Can it apply?

No. This call for proposals is open only to non-profit organizations.

Can a network of non-profit organizations apply?

Yes. For administrative reasons if the platform/network/consortia, etc. is not a legal entity, you can submit the application under the legal entity of one of the organizations of the network.

Can public institutions apply?

No. Public institutions (or associations of public institutions) are not eligible as applicants for this call for proposals. However, public institutions can collaborate within a project presented by a civil society organization (If this applies in your case, please check information on the budget).

What do you mean by public institutions?

By public institutions we refer to any institution controlled and/or operated by the government and which exists to provide services and/or ensure that citizens enjoy their rights (e.g. local/ regional or national government, ministry or department, regulatory authorities, judicial, health, and educational institutions).

Is the "statement of collaboration/support" for Track 1 required with applications?

No. The statement of collaboration/support from a public institution is not mandatory. However, it is desirable and encouraged. In the evaluation stage, the statement of collaboration/support is one of the criteria we will take into consideration.

In what form should the "statement of collaboration/support" for Track 1 be submitted ?

The statement of collaboration can take various forms, such as an email, a letter, a statement of support, memorandum of understanding, a project agreement, etc. It should show that the public institution(s) is/are aware of the project and willing and able to play the role indicated in the project proposal. It can be in English or in the language of the country.

Can I apply with a project that only contains research or mapping?

No. Solely mapping or research projects will not be considered for selection in this open call.

Can I get feedback on project ideas from the evaluators before submitting my application?

No. To keep the selection and evaluation process fair for the open call, we are not in a position to provide feedback on concept notes and project ideas.

Can I submit projects that only include monitoring and exposing anti-corruption activities?

No. Projects that only monitor and expose corruption are not the focus of this call.

For Track 2, projects that contain monitoring and exposing activities should clearly address a specific corruption risk emerging due to the Coronavirus crisis and public authorities' responses to the crisis. These types of projects need to include realistic and concrete actions to address the corruption risk and explain how the exposure and documentation would help to address the problem (solution-oriented).

Can I apply under more than one "track"?

Yes, organizations can submit up to two projects. Each project can be submitted under Track 1 (Supporting collaborative approaches to good governance and anti-corruption), Track 2 (Support civil society actors to address and mitigate the corruption risks related to Covid 19 global crisis), or under both tracks.

What is the budget allocation for each track?

The budget allocation for work under Track 1 and Track 2 will be made in the evaluation stage, taking into account the severity and urgency of corruption risks in relation to the Coronavirus crisis.

Is there a budget allocation per country?

No. Under this call, the Open Society Initiative for Europe (OSIFE) aims to support 8-12 projects in the target countries. Depending on the quality of applications and the evaluation process, OSIFE may support projects only in some of them.

What is the maximum amount that I can request per project?

Organizations can submit a budget proposal of up to a maximum of US$40,000 per project.

How long should the implementation period of the project be?

The duration of a grant can range between 8 and 15 months.

If I am selected, when should I start the project?

The project start date needs to be between 20 September 2020 and 1 February 2021

Can the project funds cover direct cost of public institutions?

No. The project funds cannot be used to fund direct cost of public institutions and it needs to be administered by the applicant civil society organization.

What does the "1/3 rule" refer to?

The "1/3 rule" refers to the maximum amount for which an organization can apply for Open Society Foundations (OSF) funding (from all OSF global and regional programs, but excluding support from OSF national foundations). Normally, your organization can apply for OSF funding for a maximum of 1/3 of the total expenditures (not income) of the previous year. The 1/3 rule is pro-rated per month if the project period does not cover full calendar years. The rule applies to all OSF funding from regional and global OSF programs.

How should I interpret the reference to the 1/3 rule noted in the "Budget" section of the evaluation criteria?

Under this open call, the "1/3 rule" of maximum OSF funding will be used flexibly and evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

What does the possibility of flexible overhead funding for up to 20% mean?

Organizations may request up to 20% of the total requested budget for flexible use tied to salaries, operational and administrative costs. This 20% must be included in the total maximum $40,000, not in addition to it and should be indicated in the budget and narrative proposals in the relevant sections.

On what basis will my proposal be evaluated?

Proposals will be evaluated against the selection criteria published in the open call's long description (Section 1.2.4).

How and when will I know if my project is selected?

Successful applicants will receive a written notification on their applications by end of August 2020. Unsuccessful applicants will also receive an automated message. Please note that unfortunately we do not have the capacity to provide feedback on unsuccessful proposals.