

Call for Coalitions

‘Fostering Coalition-Building among Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to address the shrinking space for civil society in Europe’

Frequently asked questions

1. Is an EU candidate country eligible for this call?

No. This call focuses exclusively on EU member states and EFTA countries.

2. We are not-for-profit company (LTD) - are we eligible?

Yes. A not-for-profit company is eligible to apply for this call, including as a lead partner of a coalition.

3. Organisation X is registered as a non-profit in Belgium, but we do not cater to only one nation, but to all of Europe where we play a very important role in giving civil society an opportunity to voice opinions and get attention of the press. Are we eligible to apply for this call?

Regarding the eligibility of organisation X for the current call for coalitions there are a few points to be considered:

While we understand that organisation X works across Europe, this call for proposals is focussed on national coalitions. It flows from the rationale that ‘shrinking space issues’ varies from country to country.

If we take Hungary as an example, organisations who want to form a coalition to work on the shrinking space in the Hungarian context would be eligible for funding under this call. If organisation X is part of this coalition, as it is a CSO that operates in Hungary but registered in Brussels, there is no problem, provided the other eligibility criteria are fulfilled.

On the other hand, a coalition of which organisation X is a part and that wants to work transnationally on shrinking space issues is not eligible for this call.

This should be considered in conjunction with the other eligibility criteria for the coalition.

4. What is the geographic scope of the work that can be funded?

This call accepts proposals from organizations in all EU and EFTA countries. Eligible coalitions must operate in one of those countries and the lead partner must be registered in that one same country. The focus on the national level flows from the rationale that ‘shrinking space issues’ varies from country to country.

5. What do you mean by 'local partners' - partners within one country, or partners from the region?

By 'local partners' we mean partners from different regions of the same country. The reason behind this is that we would like to encourage coalitions to go beyond capital cities.

6. Can the (minimum of 3) initial partners be from the same sector as long as they are reaching out to new partners from a different sector?

Yes. In this case we advise that you make it abundantly clear in your proposal that you aim to have a cross-sectoral dimension.

7. Is there a min/max number of new partners?

There is no min/max number of new partners, but if you start with a small coalition, you should show that the coalition intends to grow to achieve the cross-sectoral and geographical diversity criteria.

8. The call states that Phase 1 Coalition building can include any of the activities listed under "Eligible activities" (e.g. workshops, trainings etc.). Is my understanding correct that these activities should purely focus on the development of the Coalition? Can we also work on proposal for phase 2?

The list of activities is indicative. They do not have to purely focus on the development of the coalition as such but can also involve shaping the proposal for phase two, which is also considered as a part of the coalition building.

9. While we are designing Phase 1, we will of course be thinking about Phase 2 (and looking at the project as a whole while building the coalition). Is there any guidance on the eligible activities for Phase 2?

Not yet, the detailed guidelines for phase 2 will be communicated by 1st September 2018. But remember that the list of activities is only indicative. The potential activities could revolve around organisational strengthening; advocacy; strategic litigation; capacity building; strategic communication; campaigning; constituency building...

10. We are an umbrella organization, but our recently formed coalition does not involve any of our 500 member associations, we are cooperating with other organizations and social partners. Can we be a lead partner?

Yes you can be the lead partner in this case. You should however make it abundantly clear in your proposal that you are cooperating with other organisations that are not your members and that you have the capacity to lead the coalition. You should show that you are reaching beyond your usual constituency.

11. Can we apply with a coalition that was formed recently (this year)?

Yes, a coalition that was recently formed (or even formed just for the call) can apply. Phase 1 is a coalition building phase which allows the coalition to grow and structure itself.

12. We found information that 16 projects will be selected in the 1 call. Is this number applicable to all countries that participate in the program? Or 16 projects will be selected in each country (e.g. 16 co-financed projects in Poland?)

There will be 16 projects selected in total. There is no quota per country.

13. We are an existing coalition of CSOs working on topic X (e.g. human trafficking, innovation, youth, etc.). Are we eligible under this call?

This call is for coalitions specifically addressing the shrinking space for civil society, so the main focus of the coalition should be on improving the operating environment for civil society and the capacity of CSOs to perform their watchdog role in the democratic system more effectively. Coalitions addressing issues that are not directly related to this topic will not be eligible for funding.