

GRANTS TO SUPPORT AND DEVELOP MULTIDISCIPLINARY CENTERS ON GBV AND DV

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION



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Introduction and background

The European Family Justice Center Alliance (EFJCA) works towards an effective and sustainable multidisciplinary collaboration to tackle gender-based violence and domestic violence by providing Family Justice Centers (FJCs) and related multidisciplinary models with the knowledge and tools to maintain high quality standards in line with the EU values as laid down in Art. 2 of the Treaty on European Union and the EU Charter of fundamental rights.

To improve and strengthen the multidisciplinary approach of gender-based violence (GBV) and domestic violence (DV), the EFJCA invites in 2023 within the EU program Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) their European member organisations to submit proposals within the call 'Grants to support and develop multidisciplinary centers on GBV and DV'. The grants will support the (further) development of new and existing FJCs and related multidisciplinary models and improve their work towards a victim/survivor-centered and trauma-informed approach and create pathways of hope and empowerment.

This call for proposals describes the objectives, expected results, maximum amount of regranting to eligible organisations and proposed activities. It further describes the selection procedure and reporting mechanism for the management of the regranting by the EFJCA.

Objectives

The main objective of the re-granting is developing, implementing, improving and strengthening safe places in European countries for victims/survivors of gender-based violence and domestic violence, places where all the needs of the victims/survivors are met; their safety is assured; children are protected and perpetrators are held accountable, in accordance with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention. This will be done through the funding of projects which aim to:

- Stimulating the development and establishment of new FJCs and related multidisciplinary centers (start-up/how to start)
- Embedding good and evidence-based practices within existing FJCs and related multidisciplinary models with the aim on further professional development and capacity building

The re-granting will increase knowledge on and implementation of EU law and policy and the Istanbul Convention at national and local level. It will provide members with the means to improve their work in line with EU values.

All proposals are expected to contribute to achieving at least one of the following objectives:

- Strengthened capacity to protect and promote EU rights and values
- A more supportive environment for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and rights defenders such as national human rights institutions
- Better-developed advocacy and watchdog role of CSOs
- Increased involvement of CSOs in policy- and decision-making processes with local, regional, and national governments
- Increased citizen awareness of EU rights and values
- Strengthened regional cooperation within civil society

In the application the applicant have to clearly state which objective or objectives their project aims to address.

Activities that can be funded

Activities that are eligible to receive funding are:

- Development and establishment of new FJCs and related multidisciplinary centers.
- Embedding good and evidence-based practices within existing FJCs and related multidisciplinary models
- On-the-floor training in specialized multidisciplinary services for starting FJCs and related multidisciplinary centers
- Capacity building
- Programs on sexual violence and collaboration with services specific for sexual violence.
- Programs for involving and empowering victims/survivors and organizing peer-group-support
- Working on sustainability: design of a process by which long term strategy both policy-wise, organizationally, financially as well as the development of the services, are to be worked through, with a professional policy making specialist to guide this process
- Organizing stakeholder-meetings, conducting a local survey and setting up the process towards multidisciplinary approach for starting centers
- Improving specialized interventions for specific groups
- Awareness raising and training on Non-Fatal Strangulation and 'Intimate Terror and Coercive Control'

Available budget

The available budget is EUR 90.000

Minimum and maximum cost of projects

The proposed projects must have an overall budget between 15 000 EUR and 30 000, EUR, of which the grant will finance 80%. Applicants must be prepared to cover the remaining 20% as co-financing.

Timetable and deadlines

Timetable and deadlines		
Call opening	31 March 2023	
Online meeting for applicants – general information	12 April 2023, 15:00 – 16:30 CET	
Deadline for submissions	31 May 2023	
Evaluation	June 2023	
Information on evaluation results	June 2023	
Signing of Grant Agreements	June 2023	
Maximum project duration	1 July – 30 April 2024 (10 months)	

Admissibility and documents

Proposals must be submitted before the call deadline (see timetable above).

Proposals must be submitted electronically via the Online Grant Management System. Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided in the Online Grant Management System.

Proposals must be complete and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents. Mandatory annexes include:

- Detailed budget table (template available for download at the top of theapplication form)
- CVs (standard) of core project team
- List of notable projects from the last ten years
- For applicants with activities involving children: the organisations child protection policy in either English or the country language of the applicant, covering the four areas described in the Keeping Children Safe Child Safeguarding Standards

Note: if the applicant and/or any of the partners work directly with/have contact with children, they mist provide their child protection policy. Activities to develop a child protection policy will be eligible and are encouraged. If the applicant is already working with children and doesn't have a child protection policy, there will be no funding of any child-related activities, but those applicants will not be excluded from the application process or other activities.

Eligibility

Applicants must fulfil at the criteria listed below:

- Be a privileged member of the EFJCA
- Be a legal entity, non-profit organisation
- Be established in a Member State of the European Union, including overseas countries and territories (OCTs)
- Respect EU values as laid down in Art. 2 of the Treaty on European Union and the EU Charter of fundamental rights.

Financial and operational capacity

Before submission the application, applicants will need to fill in a survey regarding operational and financial capacity. The survey will be subject to validation of the EFJCA. In addition, the applicant will be asked to check a self-assessment questionnaire before it can upload an application. The questionnaire can include questions such as:

- You understand that in case of fraud of corruption, that the project will be closed and amounts already reimbursed needs to be paid back? 0 Yes 0 No
- Do you understand that any attempt to falsification of information in a project including non-existing partnership, data, results, bank account etc. can be considered as fraud? 0 Yes 0 No

Financial capacity

Applicants must have stable and sufficient resources to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects.

Operational capacity

Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications** and **resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature).

This capacity will be assessed as part of the evaluation process based on the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain it by the time task implementation starts.

Applicants will have to show their capacity via the following information:

- General profiles (qualifications and experiences) of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project
- Description of the organization's experience
- Activity report of last year of the main applicant (and the partners, if applicable)
- List of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years of the main applicant)

Additional supporting documents may be requested, if needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an EU exclusion decision or in one of the following exclusion situations that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate:

- Bankruptcy, winding up¹, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts),
- In breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with
- unlimited liability for the applicant's debts),
- Guilty of grave professional misconduct² (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant),
- Committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision- making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant),
- Shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant),
- Guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95 (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant),

- Created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, socialor other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision- making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).
- Applicants will also be refused if it turns out that:
- During the award procedure, they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information,
- They were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict ofinterest).
- making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).

Applicants will also be refused if it turns out that:

- During the award procedure, they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
- There were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

Evaluation procedure and award criteria

Evaluation procedure

The proposals will have to follow the standard submission and evaluation procedure (one-stage submission + one-step evaluation).

An evaluation committee (assisted by independent outside experts) will assess all applications. Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements (admissibility, and eligibility. Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated against the operational capacity and award criteria and then ranked according to their scores.

The project will be evaluated in three steps. First, objective information will be summarized regarding all aspects of the application form and submitted documents

Step 1: Summary of the project

- Financing of projects that have already started
- Project description/summary
- Project name
- Goal project
- Target group / topic of the project
- Means/activities to achieve goal
- Intended results
- Applicant evaluation criteria
- What is the contribution for?
- Number of participants/clients
- Number of volunteers
- Project duration
- Total project costs

Step 2 Review of the project

The review will consist of a short narrative per topic and a proposed score by the EFJCA re-granting project team.

Step 3 The review ends with a recommendation of the EFJCA re-granting project team:

- Approve/Disapprove
- · Grant amount
- Specific conditions
- Restrictions

Award criteria

The award criteria for this call are as follows:

Relevance (maximum score: 25 / minimum score: 17)

- Match between regular activities of the applicant and the goals of the call for proposals
- Clearly defined target groups with appropriate gender perspective
- Capacity of the applicant to reach the most vulnerable target group
- Relevance of the project in light of the Union Values and the call for proposals
- Added value compared to existing activities/projects in the country/region of applicant

Quality: (maximum score: 20/ minimum score: 14)

- Quality and feasibility of the complete project
- Methodology of the interventions/activities
- Financial feasibility of the detailed budget compared to the results
- Governance and sustainability of the organization

Impact (maximum score: 15 / minimum score: 10)

- Ambition and expected long-term impact of results on the target groups
- Sustainable effect/embedding project
- Collaboration with other European FJCs and/or relevant multidisciplinary models

Formal requirements (checklist yes/no)

- Collaboration with other European FJCs and/or relevant multidisciplinary models
- The articles of incorporation (bylaws)
- A recent extract of your organization from the Chamber of Commerce
- The latest substantive annual report or an overview of the activities of your organization
- The latest financial statements or profit and loss/ balance sheet
- This year's current operating budget.
- If available: A project plan / work plan / schedule with all activities within the project
- A specified project budget and coverage plan.
- Child Safeguarding Policy
- Other documents that you find relevant to your application.

The EFJCA re-granting project team will calculate the average score per project

Maximum points: 60 points.

Individual threshold for the criterion 'Relevance': 25/18 points, 'Quality': 20/14, 'Impact': 15/10.

Overall threshold: 42 points (70% of maximum points)

Proposals that pass overall threshold will be considered for funding - within the limits of the available call budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

Award criteria	Maximum score
Relevance	25
Quality	20
Impact	15
Total	60

Due diligence

Additionally, as part of the selection process, a due diligence process, including adherence to EU values, could be carried out. The eventual signature of a grant agreement may be subject to this due diligence process, including requests for additional information to facilitate transparency.

The due diligence process can include a review of the applicant organization's online presence, including its social media channels and the social media channels of its key personnel and trustees/board members, and verification of other sources available in their Member State, including annual reports, state registers, etc., as well as engaging on a dialogue with the concerned organisation.

Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements

If you pass evaluation, your project will be invited for grant preparation, where you will be asked to prepare the Grant Agreement together with the EU Project Officer.

This Grant Agreement will set the framework for your grant and its terms and conditions, in particular concerning deliverables, reporting and payments.

All grantees will be required to sign a Declaration of Honour, a draft which is available here to ensure respect and adherence to EU principles and values.

Starting date and project duration

The project starting date and duration will be set in the Grant Agreement. The maximum duration of projects is six months, from 1 June 2023 to 30 November 2023.

Milestones and deliverables

Applicants will need to set indicators and deliverables in their application. The indicators and deliverables for each project will be managed through the Online Grant Management System and will be reflected in the Grant Agreement.

Grantees will have to ask attendees in events to participate in the EU Survey on Justice, Rights and Values. This survey allows the granting authority to monitor training, mutual learning and awareness-raising events closely. The beneficiaries will receive a weblink to the survey, to be forwarded to the attendees. They will have access to the survey results for their project and can use them for their project evaluation.

Form of the grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount

The grant parameters (grant amount, total eligible costs, payment intervals) will be fixed in the Grant Agreement. The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

The grant will be budget-based, based on unit-cost calculations, and paid out in lump-sum instalments. It will reimburse only certain types of costs (eligible costs).

The costs will be reimbursed at the funding rate fixed in the Grant Agreement (80%).

Moreover, please be aware that the final grant amount may be reduced in case of non-compliance with the Grant Agreement (e.g. improper implementation, breach of obligations, etc).

Maximum total cost of grants is EUR 30.000. The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

Budget categories and cost eligibility rules

The budget categories and cost eligibility rules are fixed in the Grant Agreement.

Budget categories for this call:

- Personnel costs
 - A.1 Employees or equivalent
 - A.2 Natural persons under direct contact and seconded persons
- Travel costs
- B.1 Direct travel costs
- B.2 Direct subsistence costs
- Purchase costs
 - C.1 Equipment
 - C.2 Other goods and services
- Indirect costs

Specific cost eligibility conditions for this call:

- Travel and subsistence unit cost: yes
- Car travel costs: yes
- VAT: non-deductible VAT is eligible (but please note that since 2013 VAT paid by beneficiaries that are public bodies acting as public authorities is NOT eligible)
- Other:
 - In-kind contributions for free are allowed, but cost-neutral, i.e. they cannot be declared as cost,
 - Project websites: communication costs for presenting the project on the participants' websites or social media accounts are eligible; costs for separate project websites are not eligible.

Reporting and payment

The deadlines for reporting and payment will be discussed individually and set in the Grant Agreement. However, as a general rule, the payments will be split into three lump sums:

- 1. Pre-payment of 30% of the total sum awarded after signing the Grant Agreement,
- 2. Mid-project payment of a further 40% of the total sum awarded when the beneficiary is close to spending the initial payment and presents a spending summary and progress report,
- 3. Final payment of the remaining 30% upon project completion

Non-compliance and breach of contract

The Grant Agreement provides for the measures the EFJCA may take in case of breach of contract (and other non-compliance issues).

How to apply

All proposals must be submitted directly online via the Online Grant Management System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

Submission is a 2-step process:

- 1. Create a user account in Online Grant Management System, register your organisation and follow the instructions provided in the system
- Sumbit the application through the Online Grant Management System after logging in, fill
 out the application and click 'Submit'. The applicant will receive a copy of its application via
 e-mail.

Help

All applicants can download a document containing Guidelines for Applicants, which contains detailed instructions on how to fill out an application (available for download at the top of the application form).

If the answer to your question is not in the Guidelines or you have a technical issue, please do not hesitate to contact us directly:

Pascale F<mark>ranck & Bert Groen board@efjca.eu</mark>