



Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)

Call for proposals

Call for proposals to prevent and combat gender-based violence and
violence against children
CERV-2025-DAPHNE

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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0. Introduction

This is a call for proposals for EU action grants in the field of gender-based violence under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Value Programme (CERV). The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- Regulation 2024/2509 ([EU Financial Regulation](#))¹
- the basic act (CERV Regulation [2021/692](#))².

The call is launched in accordance with the 2023-2025 Work Programme³ and will be managed by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST).

This call is subject to a non-substantial modification of the CERV Work Programme for 2025.

The call covers the following topics:

CERV-2025-DAPHNE - Call for proposals to prevent and combat gender-based violence and violence against children

We invite you to read the call documentation carefully, and in particular this Call document, the [Model Grant Agreement](#), the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual](#) and the [EU Grants AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

- the [Call document](#) outlines the:
 - o background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results (sections 1 and 2)
 - o timetable and available budget (sections 3 and 4)
 - o admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents; sections 5 and 6)
 - o criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (section 7)
 - o evaluation and award procedure (section 8)
 - o award criteria (section 9)
 - o legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements (section 10)
 - o how to submit an application (section 11)
- the [Online Manual](#) outlines the:

¹ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 **on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) ('EU Financial Regulation')** (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024).

² Regulation (EU) 2021/692 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (OJ L 156, 5.5.2021, p. 1).

³ Commission Implementing Decision C(2024)4922 final of 18 July 2024 concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2023-2025, amending Commission Decision C(2022)8588 final and the financing decision for the implementation of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme.

- o procedures to register and submit proposals online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal')
- o recommendations for the preparation of the application
- the AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement contains:
 - o detailed annotations on all the provisions in the Grant Agreement you will have to sign in order to obtain the grant (*including cost eligibility, payment schedule, accessory obligations, etc*).

You are also encouraged to consult the list of previously funded projects: [CERV Programme Project Results webpage](#), [Europe for Citizens Programme Project Results website](#), [REC Programme results webpage](#) and the [Daphne Toolkit](#).

1. Background

Gender-based violence is violence directed against individuals because of their gender, with women and girls making up the vast majority of victims.⁴ Gender-based **violence remains one of our societies' biggest challenges and is deeply rooted in gender inequality**. It is both a cause and consequence of gender inequalities. It is a violation of human rights and the most brutal form of discrimination on the basis of sex, and results from unequal power relations between women and men.

Violence affects victims in a profound manner, having a direct impact on their ability to participate fully in all aspects of society. The human costs are of course tremendous, but the economic costs of gender-based violence are also alarmingly high. The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) has estimated that the cost of gender-based **violence across the EU is €366 billion a year. Violence against women makes up 79 % of this cost, amounting to €289 billion.**⁵

According to a recent survey carried out by Eurostat in cooperation with the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) which results were published on 25 November 2024, at the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women⁶, 1 in 3 (30,7% of) women experienced physical violence or threats and/or sexual violence over their lifetime (since the age of 15), 1 in 6 (17,2%) have experienced sexual violence (including rape and other unwanted sexual acts), 1 in 5 women have faced physical or sexual violence from their partner, a relative or another member of their household and 1 in 3 women have been sexually harassed at work (the ratio for younger women rises up to 2 out of 5).

Over 90% of rape victims and over 80% of sexual assault victims are girls and women, while nearly all those imprisoned for sexual crimes are male (99%) (Eurostat 2019).

The Covid-pandemic underlined and exacerbated violence against women and particularly domestic violence, when the victims were locked down together with perpetrators.

Women in public life, holding leadership positions, both in companies and politics, are particularly exposed to sexist attacks and harassment including online, which can in some cases trigger their decision to leave their public roles. This further contributes to

⁴ According a [survey carried out by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency in 2014](#), one in three women in the EU has been a victim of violence in her lifetime, and one in 20 women has been raped.

⁵ [Gender-based violence costs the EU €366 billion a year | European Institute for Gender Equality](#)

⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/w/ddn-20241125-3>

widening the gap between women and men in important senior leadership roles. According to data gathered by EIGE and FRA 75% of women in qualified/management positions were sexually harassed, 1 in 10 women was stalked/harassed through new technologies (and this proportion might increase with the rise of artificial intelligence technologies).

So far, the measures taken by Member States have not led to an observable decrease in any of the forms of gender-based violence.

What is more, under-reporting persists.

The first pillar of the 2020 – 2025 Gender Equality Strategy, entitled **“Being free from violence and stereotypes” sets ambitious policy objectives and actions to tackle gender-based violence**, including funding to support civil society and public services in preventing and combating gender-based violence.

For the 2025 call for proposals, following the **EU’s** accession to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (**hereinafter “Istanbul Convention”**)⁷, in October 2023, and the adoption of [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1385 on combating violence against women and domestic violence](#)⁸ (**hereinafter “VAW/DV Directive”**) in May 2024, the priority will be to support actions helping to transpose and implement the requirements of the VAW/DV Directive in the Member States. It is worth recalling that under Article 41 of the VAW/DV Directive, Member States are required to cooperate and hold regular consultations with civil society organisations, including non-governmental organisations, in particular concerning: i) the provision of adequate support to victims; ii) policymaking initiatives; iii) information and awareness-raising campaigns; iv) research and education programmes; v) training; and vi) the monitoring and evaluation of the impact of measures to support and protect victims.

The deadline to comply with the provisions of the VAW/DV Directive is 14 June 2027, therefore projects funded from the present call for proposals are well placed to support related efforts in Member States.

The VAW/DV Directive, which is based on the Istanbul Convention, contains targeted measures to ensure that victims of violence against women and domestic violence are granted access to justice, adequate protection and support, and that measures are taken to prevent this violence from happening in the first place.

The Directive criminalises female genital mutilation and forced marriage, as well as the most widespread forms of cyberviolence: the non-consensual sharing of intimate or (AI) manipulated material, cyber harassment, cyber stalking, and cyber incitement to hatred or violence based on gender.

To further counter cyber violence, and in particular, **to protect women’s safety online**, the Commission will facilitate the development of a framework for cooperation between internet platforms (code of conduct).

The Commission plans to adopt a Recommendation on preventing and combating harmful practices against women and girls. It will complement, to some extent, the VAW/DV Directive and will help Member States to prevent and tackle such practices – like female genital mutilation, forced marriage, forced sterilisation, and forced abortion – more effectively.

⁷ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/eu-accession-to-the-istanbul-convention.html>

⁸ Directive (EU) 2024/1385 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 on combating violence against women and domestic violence.

Violence against children is understood to mean "all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation including sexual abuse" as listed in Article 19(1) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child⁹ and in alignment with the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child's General comment No. 13 (2011) on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence.¹⁰

World vision estimates that more than one billion children around the world experience violence every year¹¹, in different forms and different settings. Children can be victims, witnesses, as well as perpetrators of violence – starting from their own homes, in school, in leisure and recreational activities, in the justice system, offline as well as online. **Experiencing violence can have long term and dramatic consequences on children's physical and mental health.** It may affect their ability to go to school, to interact socially and to thrive. It can lead to mental health issues, chronic diseases, self-harm tendencies, even suicide. Children in vulnerable situations can be particularly affected.

Combating violence against children is one of the main objectives of the Commission's work on the rights of the child and a third thematic area of the EU Strategy on the rights of the child¹² that was adopted on 24 March 2021. Under this Strategy, the Commission adopted in April 2024 a Recommendation on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interest of the child.¹³ **Focused on children's needs,** it encourages all relevant authorities and services to work together in a holistic way, from preventing abuse of and violence towards children, to protecting them, in a multidisciplinary, gender-sensitive and coordinated approach. It also presents how to better use existing EU tools (laws, policies, funding) to make child protection systems more integrated and robust, by avoiding silos.

Some of the EU *acquis* refers to violence against children: Child sexual Abuse Directive, **Trafficking in Human Beings Directive, Victims' Rights Directive, among others.**¹⁴

In order to provide an adequate and child rights-based response to violence against children, a full picture of the phenomenon is needed. That includes having access to data on violence against children, which should be comparable, age and sex disaggregated, **and monitoring the child protection system's performance.**

With this call, divided into 4 priorities, we aim at financing projects that will:

- focus on various forms of gender-based violence in different contexts, with large-scale and long-term actions on tackling gender-based violence featuring financial support to third parties (regranting to smaller Civil Society Organisations). The aim, in this Priority, is to select a limited number of national/transnational actors/intermediaries which will build the capacities of and regrant (i.e. further disburse the grant) to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) active at local, regional, national level (priority 1),
- protect and support victims and survivors of gender-based violence and domestic violence (priority 2),
- prevent gender-based violence including cyber violence, through targeted actions (priority 3),

⁹ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>

¹⁰ http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/CRC.C.GC.13_en.pdf

¹¹ <https://www.unicef.org/eu/reports/report-our-europe-our-rights-our-future>

¹² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021DC0142>

¹³ [Recommendation on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child | European Commission](#)

¹⁴ See Annex II EU Strategy on the rights of the child: [childrights_annex2_2021_4_digital_0.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#).

- make integrated child protection systems work in practice (priority 4).

The call underlines the need for proposals to address and consider the specificities of people of all gender and ages. All applicants preparing a proposal are encouraged to assess from an intersectional perspective how attributes such as for example gender, age, sex, disability status, religious belief, ethnic origin and sexual orientation affect the needs and situation of the people they seek to target via their project. To this end, applicants are advised to incorporate in their proposals a gender and/or children's rights perspective throughout the different sections of their proposal and explain how their project makes a difference for the people it seeks to reach (please see mainstreaming section below). For data collection, both qualitative and quantitative, gender and child-sensitive indicators that assess the project's impact are encouraged.

2. Objectives – Themes and priorities – Activities that can be funded - Expected impact

Objectives

To fight violence, including gender-based violence and violence against children by:

- Preventing and combating at all levels all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls in all their diversity and domestic violence, including by promoting the standards laid down in the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence;
- Preventing and combating all forms of violence against children, young people and other groups at risk, such as LGBTQI persons and persons with disabilities;
- Supporting and protecting all direct and indirect victims of the forms of violence referred to in points (1) and (2), such as the victims of domestic violence perpetrated within the family or within intimate relationships, including children orphaned as a result of domestic crimes, and supporting and ensuring the same level of protection throughout the Union for victims of gender-based violence.

Policy initiatives supported:

- [the Gender Equality Strategy \(2020-2025\)](#)
- [the EU strategy on the rights of the child](#)
- [the Commission Recommendation on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child](#)
- [the EU Strategy on victims' rights](#)
- [the Istanbul Convention, to which the EU acceded as of 1 October 2023](#)
- [the VAW/DV Directive](#)
- [the Victim's Rights Directive](#)
- [the Recommendation on harmful practices \(still planned for adoption\)](#)
- [the LGBTQI Equality Strategy \(2020-2025\)](#)
- [the EU Anti-racism Action Plan \(2020-2025\)](#)
- [the EU Roma Strategic Framework for Equality, Participation and Inclusion \(2020-2030\)](#)
- [the Digital Services Act](#)
- [the Artificial Intelligence Act](#)

Themes and priorities (scope)

| Eligibility criteria for DAPHNE 2025 | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Priority | Budget | Duration | Regranting | Scope | Involvement of public authority | Single applicant vs Consortium |
| P1 | 1M - 3M EUR | 24 - 36 months | Mandatory | National/transnational | Strongly recommended | Both single applicant and consortium can apply |
| P2 | min 100k EUR | 12 - 24 months | n/a | National/transnational | Strongly recommended | Only consortium |
| P3 | min 100k EUR | 12 - 24 months | n/a | National/transnational | Strongly recommended | Only consortium |
| P4 | 100k - 1M EUR | 12 - 24 months | n/a | National/transnational | Mandatory | Only consortium |

In view of the overall objectives stipulated above, the call will support the following priorities:

Priority 1 - Large-scale and long-term actions on tackling gender-based violence, with regranting (giving financial support to third party Civil Society Organisations)

In line with the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, this priority aims to support the development of large-scale, integrated actions to combat gender-based violence and achieve long-term and structural changes, especially at the grass-root level, through the regranting scheme. Therefore, the purpose of this priority is to select and support a limited number of actors/intermediaries which will build the capacities of and regrant (i.e., further disburse the grant) to a large number of civil society organisations (CSOs) active at local, regional, national level.

Via the re-granting scheme the intermediaries are expected to reach out to grassroots CSOs, including organisations based in remote and rural areas, active in the field of preventing and combating gender-based violence, with a priority to organisations that tend to have more limited capacity and/or access to funding sources.

Through this mechanism, EU funding should help to support, empower and build the capacity of independent civil society organisations active in preventing and combatting diverse forms of gender-based violence, in particular:

- Domestic violence and sexual violence: providing protection and support tailored to the specific needs of victims of these forms of violence, including specific medical and psychological support, victim-centered and trauma-informed services, access to justice, increased accessibility of shelters or other interim accommodations, also for those victims experiencing intersectional discrimination, in line with the requirements of Article 30 of the VAW/DV Directive, including in remote or rural areas.
- gender-based cyber violence: tackling cyber violence, such as cyber gender-based incitement to violence or hatred, cyber stalking, cyber

harassment and bullying, non-consensual sharing of intimate or manipulated material (exacerbated by the use of artificial intelligence), extortion with the use of sexual imagery ('sextortion'), grooming, etc.

- harmful practices: tackling female genital mutilation, intersex genital mutilation, forced abortion, forced sterilisation, child and forced marriage, honour-related violence, gynaecological and obstetric violence, and other harmful practices against women and girls, as well as forced medicalisation of trans people and conversion practices targeting intersex and LGBTIQ people.

Intermediaries must align themselves with the aims of this call as well as with the values and principles it promotes and to request such alignment from the final beneficiaries/third parties.

In order to guarantee on-the-ground interventions and wide coverage, the applicants are encouraged to set up partnerships that ensure collaboration with relevant actors in the chosen area. Applications should also strive to reach out to a large number of Civil Society Organisations and participants through the regranting scheme. Applications will need to incorporate long-term programmes of support and capacity building for grass root Civil Society Organisations in view to strengthen the capacity of CSOs. Such programmes should help to create a more supportive environment for **CSOs to increase effectiveness of CSOs' actions, develop their advocacy role and increase their involvement in policy and decision-making processes with local, regional, and national governments and other relevant actors.** The aim is that the grass root organisations and related target groups integrate the actions under the grant in their respective fields of activity. Applicants are recommended to engage a public authority in support of their project to help achieve strong long-term sustainability of project results and outcomes. Proposals must include an effective and detailed monitoring and evaluation system, which will enable partners to evaluate the impact of their intervention.

In line with the main objective of this Priority, applications must include the provision of financial support to third parties (see section *Activities that can be funded (scope) - point a)* below). Proposals should be based on and include a thorough assessment of the CSOs landscape (in the country(ies) covered), the challenges they face and their needs.

Applications for becoming an intermediary can be submitted by a single applicant or a consortium, which can be either national or transnational in scope (i.e., it is possible that an intermediary based in one Member State organises re-granting and capacity-building activities for CSOs in other Members States, if it has a relevant capacity and access to them). Intermediaries should devote most of their effort and funds to regranting, which would typically represent about 60-70% of the grant. The management costs of such a regranting scheme should be limited and reasonable.

Projects addressing this priority should pay attention to the specific needs and circumstances of women and men, girls and boys, in all their diversity. This also includes for intermediaries to ask their applicants in their own calls for proposals to pay attention to gender and age-related needs and risks. For more information, please **see the section "Mainstreaming" further down.**

Indicative funding available for this priority: EUR 10 000 000.

Projects can be either national or transnational. Transnational projects are particularly encouraged.

Priority 2 - Targeted actions for the protection of and support for victims and survivors of gender-based violence and domestic violence

This priority will focus on setting up instruments for the protection and support of victims of gender-based violence, in particular:

- Support the setting up/some activities of one-stop shop (in person and/or online) or coordinated specialist support centres¹⁵, so that the multiple support needs¹⁶ of victims of gender-based violence (including cyberviolence) are addressed at the same premises to the largest extent or provided in a coordinated manner. This includes **the model of Children's houses (Barnahus)**¹⁷ or the model of the Family Justice Centres. These centres should also have the capacity of providing targeted and gender-sensitive support for groups at a heightened risk of violence due to their experiencing intersectional discrimination or due to their being in a vulnerable situation (e.g. people with a migrant background, LGBTIQ persons, racial or ethnic minorities which include women at risk of harmful practices, Roma people, women or children with disabilities or facing mental health issues, pregnant women, women in detention, women living in rural areas, women living and/or working on the street, persons in prostitution, elderly women).
- Setting up easily accessible rape crisis or sexual violence referral centres in line with the requirements of Article 26 of the VAW/DV Directive.
- tackling the need for immediate protection and support faced by victims of sexual and domestic violence, to prevent femicides, and allow effective investigation and prosecution. This could be achieved, for example, by:
 - designing targeted training and innovative investigative tools to help relevant authorities increase their capability to *swiftly* identify and address (reported or suspected) instances of domestic violence (to support Member States comply with the requirements of Article 15 VAW/DV Directive);
 - developing tools to help relevant authorities increase their capability to initiate the individual assessment of the risk emanating from the offender at the earliest possible stage (at, or immediately after the **victim's first contact with competent authorities**), so that protection and support measures are immediately put in place, and further (domestic or sexual) violence is prevented (to support Member States comply with the requirements of Article 16 VAW/DV Directive);
 - developing guidelines to help relevant authorities identify the enhanced protection and support needs of victims experiencing intersectional discrimination (to support Member States comply with the requirements of Article 21(g) VAW/DV Directive);

Indicative funding available for this priority: EUR 4 000 000.

Projects can be either national or transnational. Transnational projects are particularly encouraged.

¹⁵ See Article 25(4) of the Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence.

¹⁶ Information and support on practical matters (housing, trainings, financial support), first-hand medical care, and referral to further specialised medical care, social services, psychological support, legal services and police services or information on and direction to such to services, as well as referral to services providing medical and forensic examinations, support to victims of cybercrimes referral to **women's support services**, rape crisis centres, sexual violence referral centres and shelters.

¹⁷ [Home - Barnahus](#)

Priority 3 - Targeted actions for the prevention of gender-based violence, including cyber violence

Under this priority, gender-based violence will be prevented through:

- The development of specific measures to prevent rape and to promote the central role of consent in sexual relationships in line with the requirements of Art 35 of the VAW/DV Directive. Actions actively engaging men and boys in awareness-raising campaigns and programmes are particularly encouraged.
- Measures for the prevention of cyber violence that strengthen the digital literacy skills of online users in line with the requirements of Article 34 (8) of the VAW/DV Directive and reinforce positive narratives on gender equality and the role of women in public decision-making roles such as in politics and journalism who are particularly at risk of such attacks, as well as measures for the prevention of cyber intimate partner violence, empowering non-governmental organisations and other relevant actors to prevent and address cyber violence, including as trusted flaggers on online platforms. Actions may focus on development of tools for reporting, flagging and/or removal of harmful online violent content with gender connotation. Co-operation with and among national audio-visual regulatory bodies, non-governmental organisations, IT platforms, national authorities, equality bodies, and criminal justice systems is encouraged.
- Perpetrator programmes to prevent (re)offending, with a victim-centred approach and a focus on harmful stereotypes, peaceful conflict resolution in relationships and toxic masculinities (see Article 37 VAW/DV Directive).
- Measures to combat stereotypical portrayals of women and men in the media in line with Article 36(8) VAW/DV Directive) and/or to prevent sexual harassment in the film and audiovisual industry.

Projects are encouraged, in their interventions, to envisage the use of new and innovative tools, methods and applications which can also contribute to achieving more targeted and sustainable effects. They can cover new inter-disciplinary ways of working, reaching out to target groups, establishing dialogue with professionals, etc.

Indicative funding available for this priority: EUR 4 000 000.

Projects can be either national or transnational. Transnational projects are particularly encouraged.

Priority 4 - Targeted actions making integrated child protection systems work in practice

Children may face different forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, physically, online, or in virtual worlds. Exposure to violence severely affects children's physical, psychological and emotional development. It may affect their ability to go to school, to interact socially and to thrive. It can lead to mental health issues, chronic diseases, self-harm tendencies, even suicide. Children in vulnerable situations can be particularly affected.

Integrated child protection systems are key to the prevention and protection from violence. An integrated approach means connecting prevention, early warning, reporting, cross-sectorial support, and monitoring, in a multidisciplinary approach. An integrated approach puts the child at the centre and ensures that all relevant

authorities and services work together to protect and support the child, in their best interests.

In April 2024, the EU adopted a Recommendation on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child as part of the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child. The Recommendation stresses the necessity for coordinated and effective child protection policies across Member States. It proposes a unified, child-centered framework to help Member States design national plans to safeguard children from all forms of violence, emphasising collaboration across sectors, authorities at different levels and different actors to prevent violence and support children timely and effectively.

In line with the Recommendation, the overall aim of this priority is to contribute to systemic changes to prevention, protection and support to children in cases of violence through integrated child protection systems, i.e. through multi-disciplinary cooperation between relevant cross-border/national/regional/local authorities and education, child protection, judicial authorities, psychosocial support and social services, health care professionals (including mental health), care professionals and educators, digital, sport, leisure, media or culture, among others, closely involving families and children themselves, **responding to children's needs**. The involvement of such actors and stakeholders – and notably public authorities notably at local level - in the project is therefore essential under this priority.

This can include, but will not be limited to, the development of combined tools and measures for:

- the prevention of violence against children, including but not limited to **awareness raising (including children's rights awareness and education)**, training, certification, standards and accreditation procedures for professionals and persons in contact with children, with a specific attention to children in vulnerable situations and at specific risk of violence;
- early identification (that helps recognise and address early signs of violence) and reporting of cases of abuses, strengthening child-friendly referrals between relevant national actors (e.g. law enforcement, the judiciary, support service providers, health and social service professionals), multidisciplinary assessment;
- multidisciplinary support, through integrated response activities, involving medical, psychosocial, legal, care support, education, and close coordination between authorities and actors at all levels;
- setting up accountability mechanisms on the basis of indicators, (self-) evaluation, data collection, including the development of self-monitoring and evaluation tools on the performance of child protection systems, and data on violence against children.

Taking into consideration the overall framework on integrated child protection systems, this priority will help to prevent and combat all forms of violence against children, and notably:

- (i) harassment and (sexual) violence, notably happening in the formal and informal educational context, in leisure, cultural, sportive, or any community or recreational activities, in the domestic context, where children might be in specific situations of vulnerability; and
- (ii) online and offline bullying, notably at school or in leisure activities, cyberbullying and affecting children with specific vulnerabilities (e.g. children in alternative or foster care, children with disabilities, including mental

disabilities, Roma children, children with a migrant background), or link to their religion, belief, gender or sexual orientation.

Children should be given the opportunity to participate in a safe, meaningful and inclusive way at the different stages of the implementation and monitoring of the projects. Strong attention should be paid to child protection safeguards given the sensitivity of the topic for any child, should it be in awareness-raising activities, or in any contact with child victims, witnesses or perpetrators.

Indicative funding available for this priority: EUR 5 000 000.

Projects can be either national or transnational. Transnational projects are particularly encouraged.

Activities that can be funded (scope)

Activities shall include:

- Awareness-raising, including social media or press campaigns, outreach and empowerment activities, including communication activities and dissemination of information;
- Capacity building and training for professionals and relevant stakeholders, in particular train-the-trainer programmes, training activities of national, regional and local authorities;
- Design and implementation of strategies, protocols, development of transferable working methods and tools, coordination of platforms and groups;
- Design of services and measures improving access to victim support services and development of guidelines and manuals for these support services
- Identification and exchange of good practices, cooperation, mutual learning, development of working and learning methods, including transferable mentoring programmes;
- Development of resources, toolkits and manuals to provide practical guidance for specialised support services;
- Analytical activities, such as research, and the creation and implementation of tools or data bases/data collection strategies and systems.

Applicants should explain in their proposal the potential different impact of the project and its activities on women and men as well as girls and boys in all their diversity. Thereby, unintended negative effects of the intervention on either gender should be forestalled (do no-harm approach).¹⁸

Applying organisations are encouraged to use, disseminate and build on already existing materials (e.g. tools, [projects' deliverables](#), handbooks, research, studies, mapping exercises, reports, etc).

Practical projects developing and implementing specific measures are preferred. Measures should be developed and implemented with a view to be sustainable in the long-term with lasting results and aiming at systemic changes. While research is not excluded, if research activities are to be part of the project, they must be strictly linked to the project as a whole and are to pay duly attention to gender and disaggregate data by sex.

¹⁸ For more information see section *Ethics and EU values*

Proposals in Priority 1 must include both categories of activities:

- a) Financial support to third parties (CSOs) by intermediaries
- b) Capacity building for CSOs by intermediaries

a) Financial support to third parties (CSOs) by intermediaries

Financial support to third parties is considered essential to achieve the objective of this Priority and must be reflected appropriately in the budget distribution.

Financial support to third parties includes the following: definition of selection and award criteria, publication of calls for proposals, evaluation of applications, contracting, monitoring of implementation, including risk management, final evaluation of projects and payment.

In compliance with the present call for proposals and notably any conditions or restrictions in this section, applicants to this priority must define and describe in their proposal all the points below under section 4.2 “Work packages, activities, resources and timing – WP 2: Support to third parties” in Part B of the application form:

- (i) the objectives and the results that the third parties should achieve with the financial support, which must be in line with the objectives and priorities of this call for proposals;
- (ii) the maximum amount which may be given and the criteria for determining the exact amount of financial support as well as the objective and expected amount to be dedicated to the relevant activities in the field of gender-based violence for each third party;
- (iii) the types of organisations which may receive financial support;
- (iv) the different types of activities eligible for financial support on the basis of a fixed list;
- (v) the procedure for evaluating these third parties and for giving the financial support, the selection and award criteria;
- (vi) the communication tools and channels through which they will ensure outreach to potential third parties.

The mandatory conditions for giving financial support (see above points (i) to (vi)) must ensure objective and transparent selection procedure and will be strictly defined in the grant agreement between the selected intermediary and the Commission.

Selection of third parties for financial support: Award criteria and evaluation procedure

The applicant is expected to describe in their grant application form the procedure and the criteria used to make sure they select the appropriate organisations in particular as regards gender expertise, child rights-based approach and expertise and the respect of EU values.

When launching calls for proposals for the award of financial support, intermediaries may use their own procedures provided these procedures comply with the principles of proportionality, sound financial management, equal treatment and non-discrimination. Attention must be paid to protection of rights and eventual risk of (re)victimisation of target groups, notably the most vulnerable groups.

Third parties that propose activities involving children¹⁹ must be requested to submit their child protection policy covering the four areas described in the [Keeping Children Safe Child Safeguarding Standards](#).

The intermediaries are responsible for ensuring that third parties that have direct contact with children comply with the above requirements.

The intermediaries should also aim at reducing administrative burden for third parties, while ensuring a sound financial management.

Intermediaries must ensure transparency with adequate publication of calls for proposals and prevent conflict of interests throughout the entire award procedure. They will have to clearly demonstrate this in their application and report on it throughout the project.

Calls for proposals should be published in EU languages relevant to the local context and must remain open for at least two months. Open-ended calls under which CSOs can apply at any time are also possible.

Upon the intermediary's request to the European Commission, it is also possible to publish such calls for proposals on the Funding and Tenders Portal: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/competitive-calls>

Applicants for financial support to third parties should be able to submit applications in the language of the call for proposals.

The application forms and procedures should be tailor-made to the technical and managerial capacities of local organisations of the respective countries.

Intermediaries could envision a two-stage selection process in order for CSOs with less capacity to receive assistance and better develop their ideas into fully-fledged projects.

Intermediaries should provide support to applicants in the process of preparing applications (pre-application information sessions, helpdesk etc.) respecting principles of equal treatment and absence of conflict of interest. They should use a uniform evaluation procedure and ensure that the proposals are evaluated in the same manner, independently from which partner in the intermediary consortium²⁰ is organising the Call for Proposals. Appeal mechanism for unsuccessful proposals should be foreseen.

Intermediaries must publish the outcome of the call(s) on their websites, including a description of the selected projects, award dates, allocated grant amounts, project **durations, final recipients' legal names and countries of establishment**. The indicative timeline for this publication is within two months after the submission deadline of the call the proposal or equivalent date for open-end calls.

Intermediaries must make sure during the evaluation of the proposals that there are no risks of double funding (i.e. check if proposals are already benefitting from other EU funding directly or through another intermediary) and that the final beneficiaries selected for funding do not promote, approve or support any type of physical, psychological violence against women, children and other groups at risk in their activities, communication strategies or public messages.

¹⁹ The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) defines a child as everyone under 18 unless, "under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier".

²⁰ The intermediary may be a consortium of several organisations, see section 6 Eligibility.

Only the most relevant applications of the highest quality and offering the best guarantees for success should be selected.

Financial support to third parties: Budget, duration and location

- The maximum amount of financial support per each third party is EUR 60 000.
- The maximum amount of financial support per individual regranted project is EUR 60 000.
- Applicants for financial support to third parties should not be required to provide any co-financing.
- Applicants for financial support to third parties should be able to use simplified cost options and in particular lump sums.
- Activities carried out by third parties must take place in EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs), in countries associated to the CERV Programme or in countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature ([list of participating countries](#)); the activities must take place during the project implementation period. Only cost incurred during that period can be considered eligible.²¹

Types of organisations/third parties that may receive financial support:

In order to be eligible for financial support, the third party must:

- be established in a Member State of the European Union (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs)); or countries associated to the CERV Programme or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature ([list of participating countries](#));
- be non-profit-making and be a civil society organisation;
- respect EU values as laid down in Art.2 of the Treaty on European Union and the EU Charter of fundamental rights.

Natural persons are NOT eligible (with the exception of self-employed persons, i.e., sole traders, where the company does not have legal personality separate from that of the natural person).

The third parties are neither affiliated entity(ies) (of the intermediary), nor associates, nor contractors.

Activities implemented by the third parties

The activities implemented by the third parties should reflect the overall activities of this priority.

b) Capacity building for CSOs (by intermediaries)

Capacity building for CSOs is considered essential to achieve the objective of this Call for proposals and must be reflected appropriately in the budget distribution.

In compliance with the present call for proposals, applicants must define and describe in their proposal their capacity building programme, which should be implemented through:

²¹ A typical duration of a third party project could be around six to twelve months, with the third party having one month after the end of the project to submit their report to the intermediary.

- technical and methodological support for the preparation and implementation of activities of CSOs (for instance helpdesk during their application phase, support on monitoring and reporting, etc.);
- training and building the capacity and sustainability of CSOs (for instance with coaching aimed at strengthening strategic thinking and managerial capacities of CSOs, fundraising training sessions, training on watchdog and advocacy methods, seminars on communication including through social media and video-making, or strengthening policy research and analysis);
- knowledge building and thematic training for CSOs on EU values, law and policies on preventing and combating gender-based violence;
- fostering and facilitating networking among CSOs and with relevant stakeholders with a view to promoting and protecting fundamental rights and values in the EU.

Capacity building should be adopted as a concept that goes beyond the conventional perception of training. Capacity building should be carried out as a continuous exercise and linked to the concept of learning organisations. The learning concept involves constant changes and experiments by using feedback of processes and results, transforming individual and organisational practices and values and adjustment of structures to cope with changes. Therefore, the capacity building actions to be proposed should show the added value or cumulative effect of the action to be undertaken. They should be based on knowledge sharing of partner organisations through mentoring, coaching and on-the-job training. The capacity building actions need to be results oriented and sustainable and aim at strengthening organisational ability to make more effective decisions, become more active players and to take full responsibility for the consequences of decisions.

Management and control system

The applicant should put in place and describe in their grant application form the capacity building and the regranting process. Notably, the regranting process carries a number of risks, such as those related to effective implementation of the project and achievement of its expected outcomes, and to the reputation of the European Commission, the intermediaries and the sub-projects. Therefore, the intermediaries are required to ensure the prevention, mitigation, detection and reporting on the risks²² applicable to the implementation of their project and their portfolio of sub-projects. To this end, the applicant should put in place and describe in their grant application form a solid management and control system, to ensure the respect of the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

The management and control system shall cover in particular:

- project management and control set-up;
- **the intermediary's procedures for the selection of third party CSOs and procedures for granting funds;**
- **the intermediary's procedures for effective cooperation with and support of the third party CSOs with the view of the successful implementation of sub-grants;**
- **the intermediary's system for preventing, detecting, mitigating, reporting on and remedying suspected or actual cases of conflict of interests in the selection procedures;**

²² The concept of risk reflects an event that has a potentially negative impact, and the possibility that such **an event will occur and adversely affects the organisation's assets**, activities and operations. Risk management focuses on anticipating what might not go to plan and putting in place actions to reduce uncertainty to a tolerable level. This should involve a continuous process of assessing risks, reducing the potential that an adverse event will occur, and putting steps in place to deal with any event that does occur.

- **the intermediary's system for preventing, mitigating, detecting²³, reporting on and remedying suspected or actual cases of irregularities and frauds, and other cases such as those described in art [138 of the EU Financial Regulation](#);**
- **the intermediary's system for preventing, mitigating, detecting, reporting on and remedying risks to the effective implementation of the project and the achievement of its expected outcomes;**
- **the intermediary's system for preventing, mitigating, detecting, reporting on, and remedying reputational risks.**

In the re-grant agreements, a clause must be added to ensure that the bodies mentioned in Article 25.4 of the [Model Grant Agreement](#) (e.g., granting authority, European Anti-Fraud Office OLAF, European Court of Auditors (ECA) Court of Auditors, European Public Prosecutor Office), **European Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and any persons mandated by them can also exercise their rights towards the recipients of regranting** (e.g., checks, reviews, on-the-spot visits, audits, investigations).

As regards reputational risks linked to the non-respect of EU values by the CSOs/third parties, the intermediary must demonstrate in the grant application form how they plan to ensure that their grantees have not:

- breached Union values
- promoted values contradictory to Union values
- engaged into activities contradictory to Union values.

In addition, the intermediary must include in their calls for proposals a requirement that the beneficiary signs a Declaration of Honour to this effect. The Declaration should state that breaches will make the (potential) beneficiary liable to exclusion, administrative sanctions or cancellation of funding.

Intermediaries must carry out a due diligence process whenever they have reason to doubt that an organisation does/will not comply with its stated objectives.²⁴ The intermediary should explain how their evaluation procedures will incorporate the expertise necessary to ensure that only organisations defending EU values will qualify for grants.

While the European Commission recognises that intermediaries apply their own re-granting procedures to their end-beneficiaries, including risk-management procedures, as appropriate to the specificity of their organisation and their calls, with the view of minimising risk, notably in the context of regranted projects, the selected intermediaries might receive further guidelines during the project implementation on risk management especially related to regranting from the European Commission.

Reporting

The applicant should put in place and describe in their grant application form a reporting mechanism in order to meet the following reporting requirements:

²³ The European Commission is strongly committed to fight against fraud or other serious irregularities with a potentially negative impact for EU public funds. In this respect, successful applicants will be required to introduce Fraud Notification System on **their project's website to allow for anonymous fraud reporting**.

²⁴ This could be carried before or after the selection process, but before signing the grant agreement. It needs to be made clear in the call for proposals at which point this may occur and that eventual signature of a grant agreement may be subject to this due diligence process, including requests for additional **information to facilitate transparency**. The process could include a **review of CSOs' online presence**, including its social media channels and 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.

- **report back to the European Commission on the achievement of outputs and outcomes** of the project and on irregularities or emerging risks²⁵ of the project and sub-projects by the third party CSOs, especially those which could lead to reputational damage;
- **submit standardised information related to each third party CSO project** (see section 10 Milestones & deliverables);
- **collect and review third party CSO project implementation and completion reports;**
- **respond to ad hoc requests for information from the European Commission;**
- **report back on the number of projects, country of implementation, as well as objective tackled** (fighting gender-based violence and/or violence against children), as well as the related amounts re-granted;
- identify and report back to the Commission about projects considered as promising/best practices;
- **establishing indicators, baselines and targets for measuring the impact of their project** (see next section).

The applicant should explain in the grant application form, in which way and how **frequently they propose to monitor third parties' projects, e.g., visit projects 'in the field' and offer advice and support, or phone or video calls, and whether they will use financial, risk or other criteria for intensity of monitoring, and what standard thresholds will be for more intensive monitoring.**

Expected impact

Priority 1. Large-scale and long-term actions on tackling gender-based violence, with re-granting (giving financial support to third party Civil Society Organisations)

- Strengthened capacity of CSOs to tackle to chosen forms of gender-based violence in their relevant local/national/transnational contexts including through multi-agency cooperation; more supportive environment for CSOs; more effective, accountable and sustainable CSOs; a better developed advocacy role for CSOs; increased involvement of CSOs in policy and decision-making processes with local, regional, and national governments and other relevant actors;
- As well as expected results mentioned for the other priorities below (corresponding to the form of gender-based violence addressed).

Priority 2. Targeted actions for the protection of and support for victims and survivors of gender-based violence and domestic violence

- Increased availability, accessibility and quality of victim support services, including those providing for targeted and integrated support for victims with specific needs, such as victims of sexual violence, victims of violence in close relationships, providing for trauma support and counselling
- Victims among persons in particularly vulnerable situations and groups at a heightened risk can better access protection and support services that address their specific needs;

²⁵ For example, set-backs in project implementation vis-a-vis agreed timeframe, serious mismanagement or fraud of the funds, conflict of interest in the selection process, failure of re-granting calls, negative media coverage related to projects or activities, etc.

- Increased capacity of stakeholders and frontline professionals;
- Increased reporting of violence to the police and other services, with appropriate mechanisms in place to facilitate this, ensuring that victims are treated in a gender-sensitive manner;
- Increased awareness of gender-based violence, including gender-based sexual violence, including in the context of migration and/or in the context of armed conflict;
- Structures for the prevention of and responses to violence against women, children and other groups particularly targeted are extended or adapted to also include refugees and other migrants; improved protection and support standards for victims of gender-based violence including people in migration;
- Strengthened multi-agency cooperation in relation to gender-based violence, including in cross-border situations;
- Strengthened victim protection including in cross-border cases of violence through the application of Directive 2011/99/EU on the European protection order.

Priority 3. Targeted actions for the prevention of gender-based violence, including cyber violence

- Increased promotion and support of prevention of gender-based violence through awareness raising, sharing of information and knowledge and the creation and dissemination of training opportunities;
- Increased awareness of prejudices, gender stereotypes and norms that contribute to the tolerance of gender-based violence;
- Increased awareness and engagement of men and boys in tackling gender-based violence against women;
- Increased capacity of stakeholders and relevant professionals to address issues related to gender-based violence including in relation to cyber violence and domestic violence;
- Increased empowerment of (potential) victims of violence to claim their rights and to stand up against violence;
- Changed attitude and behaviour as regards the issue of gender-based violence, including cyber violence (including lower tolerance and decreased victim-blaming):
 - among the general population and particular groups, e.g. relevant professionals, witnesses and bystanders, persons in vulnerable situations and groups at a heightened risk, etc.
 - among men and boys.
- Early signs of violence are detected and reported; increased reporting of violence to the police and other services, with appropriate mechanisms in place to facilitate this.
- Enhanced intervention on perpetrators of violence;
- Violence including online is prevented before it happens; reduced risk of violence escalating; increased safety of women and their children and others at risk from violence in close relationships and online violence.

Priority 4. Targeted actions making integrated child protection systems work in practice

- Strengthened integrated child protection systems **centered on children's needs**;
- Strengthened multisectoral prevention, protection and support to children suffering violence and in need of protection;
- Reinforced capacity of professionals to prevent, detect and respond to violence against children and child protection, including increased cooperation among relevant services;
- Reinforced monitoring of the effectiveness of child protection systems.

Support of public authority

For priority 4 **"Targeted actions making integrated child protection systems work in practice"**, the involvement of a public authority (at municipal/local, regional or national level) in the consortium is mandatory either as lead or co-applicant (**see section 6 "Eligibility"**).

For the other priorities it is encouraged to involve a public authority, including regional and local authorities, to actively participate in the projects. These public authorities can be national, regional or local Ministries/agencies/equality bodies responsible for gender equality and/or provision of services to victims of violence or perpetrators; police, judicial, health or education authorities etc., as relevant.

The rationale for the choice must be documented and explained in Part B Project description and implementation.

This support will be expressed through an Annex to the application (Letter from the public authority) and will be assessed under the award criterion 2 Quality.

Mainstreaming

Projects funded under this call shall seek to promote equality between genders and the rights of the child, as outlined in the EU Gender Equality Strategy and the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child. Gender and rights of the child mainstreaming means integrating a gender and rights of the child perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of a project, as appropriate. Consequently, when relevant, the applicant shall take the necessary steps to ensure that gender equality and child-related issues are taken into account by paying attention to the context and gender-specific needs, and of vulnerabilities of children. Applicants are advised to explain **explicitly in their proposals how gender and children's rights will be mainstreamed** and how relevant risks will be addressed. It is, for example, essential that projects do not silence, stereotype, stigmatise, lay the blame on or discriminate against any social group. Projects should contribute to empowering children and women in all their diversity and ensuring that they achieve their full potential and enjoy the same rights as men/any other child. For more information, please also refer to the section Ethics and EU values under point 6 (page 31).

For Priority 1, it is of the essence that intermediaries show in their capacity building activities a dedicated and strong support of adults or children, without any discrimination based on any gender, that are at risk to suffer from violence. This in particular includes the recognition of rights of people of any gender not to be discriminated or marginalised and to be free from any form of violence, including based on their gender. Applications that are not aligned with the aims of this call and with the values and principles it promotes will be considered as outside the scope of this call for proposals.

Child participation

For projects addressing children²⁶, activities should be designed and implemented in cooperation with children, **to make sure that the action is well tailored to children's needs**. All proposals are expected to respect the child's right to participate²⁷ and all project activities must clearly integrate and protect the child's right to be heard²⁸. Proposals must make children's involvement central and integral in every stage of the **project's design, implementation and evaluation**. As a good practice, organisations that already work with children could consult them on the project proposal and include reflections/references to this process in the applications. Voice of children can be also brought in based on available reports and documents **recording children's opinions and needs**. All actions and activities, both at design, consultation and implementation phase, shall ensure that actions are adequate to the age and gender specific needs of children. Thus, applicants should conduct and include in their proposal an analysis, which maps the potential different impact of the project and its activities on children, including from a gender perspective. Thereby, unintended negative effects of the intervention on children of all ages should be forestalled (do no-harm approach).

Child Protection Policies

Applications should clearly indicate which partner(s) will directly work with children (in person or online) and provide the necessary safeguards (see also section 5 "Admissibility and documents" and section 6 "Ethics and EU values):

- o Private entities directly involving children in the activities of the project must provide a Child Protection Policy (CPP) covering the four areas described in [Keeping Children Safe Child Safeguarding Standards](#). The CPP must be available online and transparent to everyone who comes in contact with the organisation. It must include clear information about the recruitment of staff (including trainees and volunteers) and include background checks (vetting). It must also include clear procedures and rules to staff, including reporting rules, and continuous training.
- o Public entities (e.g. local authorities, ministries, etc.) can satisfy this obligation by submitting a declaration on honour from their legal representatives stating that the child protection measures of the public entity are in line with the principles and standards described in the [Keeping Children Safe Child Safeguarding Standards](#).

The Child Protection Policy should be submitted as a supporting document to the application.

The CPP will be assessed under the award criterion 2 "quality" and in particular under ethics and EU values (i.e. failure to provide a diligent child protection policy will entail a lower score of the proposal under "quality" and could prevent the grant agreement signature).

Applying behavioural insights

Applicants are encouraged, whenever possible, to apply insights and practical tools from behavioural sciences in their projects in view of achieving changes in attitudes and behaviour. A step-by-step approach to guide applicants in the incorporation of behavioural insights in their projects is provided in the following [JRC publication](#): *Sara Rafael Almeida, Joana Sousa Lourenço, François J. Dessart and Emanuele Ciriolo, Insights from behavioural sciences to prevent and combat violence against women*.

²⁶ As per the UNCRC definition, a child is a human being below the age of eighteen years

²⁷ Aligned with Article 24 of the Charter, relevant EU law and the UN Convention on the rights of the child

²⁸ As set out in UNCRC Article 12 and General Comment No 12

Literature review (2016).

Bibliography

Policy documents/background information:

A – Gender-based violence:

- EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025: https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en
- Commission and EEAS Communication "Towards the elimination of female genital mutilation": <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52013DC0833>
- EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025: https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/lesbian-gay-bi-trans-and-intersex-equality/lgbtiq-equality-strategy-2020-2025_en
- Directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence: [Directive - EU - 2024/1385 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](Directive - EU - 2024/1385 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu))
- Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention): <https://www.coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/home>

Support for victims:

- Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32012L0029>
- EU campaign on victims' rights: <https://victims-rights.campaign.europa.eu/en/country/all/crimes>

Role of men/Masculinities:

- Study on the role of men in gender equality: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/f6f90d59-ac4f-442f-be9b-32c3bd36eaf1/language-en>
- #EndGenderStereotypes campaign: https://end-gender-stereotypes.campaign.europa.eu/index_en

Gender-based cyber-violence:

- Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Europe. Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE): <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2018-10/sexism-harassment-and-violence-against-women-in-parliaments-in-europe>
- **European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs**, Cyber violence and hate speech online against women: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/604979/IPOL_STU\(2018\)604979_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2018/604979/IPOL_STU(2018)604979_EN.pdf)
- Council of Europe resources on cyberviolence: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cyberviolence>
- European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)'s report on cyber violence against women and girls: <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence/cyber-violence-against-women>

- 2023 Communications campaign on gender stereotypes
#EndGenderStereotypes: https://end-gender-stereotypes.campaign.europa.eu/index_en

Gender mainstreaming

- <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming>
- [Gender analysis | EIGE \(europa.eu\)](#)

Behavioural insights and experimentation

- Sara Rafael Almeida, Joana Sousa Lourenço, Dessart François Jacques, and Emanuele Ciriolo. Insights from behavioural sciences to prevent and combat violence against women. Literature review (2016):
<https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC103975>

Data and reports:

- Results of the European Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) survey on women's experiences of violence: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2014/violence-against-women-eu-wide-survey-main-results-report>
- European Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) Crime, safety and victims' rights – Fundamental Rights Survey:
<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2021/fundamental-rights-survey-crime>
- Report on "Attitudes Towards Violence Against Women in the EU":
<https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/a8bad59d-933e-11e5-983e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>
- Report on "FGM in Europe – An analysis of court cases":
<https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/7fff7a7b-fc84-11e5-b713-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>
- European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)'s studies on gender-based violence: <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-based-violence/eige-studies>
- Eurobarometer on gender-based violence:
<https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/browse/all/series/20806>

B - Rights of the child:

- [EU strategy on the rights of the child](#)
- Report: [Our Europe, Our Rights, Our Future](#)
- [Database on projects funded under REC and CERV programmes](#)
- [United Nations Convention on the rights of the child](#)

Child safeguarding policies:

- [Keeping Children Safe Standards](#)
- [Comic Relief's safeguarding framework](#)

Violence against children:

- [Recommendation on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child | European Commission](#)
- [Recommendation on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child | European Commission](#)
- [Mapping Child Protection Systems in the EU – Update 2023 | European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights](#)

- [Child's General comment No. 13 \(2011\) on the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence](#)
- [UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children](#)

Child Participation:

- [EU Children's Participation Platform | European Union \(europa.eu\)](#)
- [General Comment no 12 \(2009\) on the right of the child to be heard](#)
- [Report from the study on child participation in EU political and democratic life and its accessible version.](#)
- [Council of Europe Recommendation on the participation of children and young people under the age of 18 \(2012\)](#)
- Council of Europe: [child participation assessment tool](#)
- [The Lundy model of child participation](#)
- [Inclusion Europe participation rights children with disabilities](#)

3. Available budget

The estimated available call budget is EUR 23 000 000.

We reserve the right not to award all available funds or to redistribute them between the call priorities, depending on the proposals received and the results of the evaluation.

4. Timetable and deadlines

| Timetable and deadlines (indicative) | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Call opening: | 18 February 2025 |
| <u>Deadline for submission:</u> | <u>7 May 2025 – 17:00:00 CET</u> <u>(Brussels)</u> |
| Evaluation: | May - October 2025 |
| Information on evaluation results: | November 2025 |
| GA signature: | January - February 2026 |

5. Admissibility and documents

Proposals must be submitted before the call deadline (*see timetable section 4*).


Proposals must be submitted electronically via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the Topic page in the [Calls for proposals](#) section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided *inside* the Submission System (⚠ NOT the documents available on the Topic page — they are only for information).

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

- Application Form Part A — contains administrative information about the participants (future coordinator, beneficiaries and affiliated entities) and the summarised budget for the project (*to be filled in directly online*)

- Application Form Part B — contains the technical description of the project (*template to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded*)
- KPI tool — contains additional project data regarding **the project's contribution** to EU programme key performance indicators (*to be filled in directly online, all sections to be completed*)
- mandatory annexes and supporting documents (*some templates are available to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded*):
 - detailed budget table (*template available in the Portal Submission System – to be re-uploaded filled out in the format xlsx*) (**mandatory**)
 - CVs (standard) of core project team (mandatory)
 - activity report of last year of the coordinator (mandatory - public bodies are exempted). For priority 1, activity report of last year of the coordinators and the partners, if applicable (for proposals submitted by a consortium)
 - list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years) (*mandatory - template available in Part B*). For priority 1, list of previous projects of the coordinator and the partners, if applicable (for proposals submitted by a consortium)
 - for participants with activities involving children (below the age of 18): child protection policy covering the four areas described in the Keeping Children Safe Child Safeguarding Standards (for private bodies: copy of their policy; for public bodies: child protection policy declaration).

 Please note that an annual activity report is NOT a financial audit report or balance sheet, but a report highlighting the activities and projects of your organisation.

Please be aware that since the detailed budget table serves as the basis for fixing the lump sums for the grants (and since lump sums must be reliable proxies for the actual costs of a project²⁹), the costs you include MUST comply with the basic eligibility conditions for EU actual cost grants (*see [AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement, art 6](#)*). This is particularly important for purchases and subcontracting, which must comply with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and be free of any conflict of interests. If the budget table contains ineligible costs, the grant may be reduced.

At proposal submission, you will have to confirm that you have the mandate to act for all applicants. Moreover, you will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that all participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (especially eligibility, financial and operational capacity, exclusion, etc). Before signing the grant, each beneficiary and affiliated entity will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour (DoH). Proposals without full support will be rejected.

Your application must be readable, accessible and printable (please check carefully the layout of the documents uploaded).

Proposals are limited to maximum 70 pages for Priority 1 and 45 pages for the other priorities (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

²⁹ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon/lump-sum/guidance>

You may be asked at a later stage for further documents (*for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc*).



For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the [Online Manual](#).

6. Eligibility

Eligible participants (eligible countries)

In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
 - non-EU countries:
 - countries associated to the CERV Programme or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature ([list of participating countries](#)).



Please check the list regularly, to get the latest status on countries in the process of association.

- other eligibility conditions:

To be eligible under Priority 1 on long-term and large-scale actions on gender-based violence with financial support to third parties (regranting to smaller grass root Civil Society Organisations), grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

- a. applications can be submitted by a single applicant or a consortium, (applicant and partner not being affiliated entity or associated partner);
- b. lead applicants must be non-profit making. Organisations which are profit-oriented cannot submit applications as lead applicants, but only in partnership with public entities, private non-profit organisations, or international organisations;
- c. the project can be either national or transnational;
- d. the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than EUR 1 000 000 and higher than EUR 3 000 000.

To be eligible under the second (victim support) and third (prevention of violence) priority, grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

- a. Lead applicants must be non-profit making. Organisations which are profit-oriented cannot submit applications as lead applicants, but only in partnership with public entities, private non-profit organisations, or international organisations;
- b. the project can be either national or transnational;
- c. the application must involve at least two organisations (applicant and partner not being affiliated entity or associated partner);
- d. the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than EUR 100 000.

To be eligible under the fourth priority (child protection systems), grant applications must comply with all of the following criteria:

- a. Lead applicants must be non-profit making. Organisations which are profit-oriented cannot submit applications as lead applicants, but only in partnership with public entities, private non-profit organisations, or international organisations;
- b. the project can be either national or transnational;
- c. the application must involve at least two organisations (applicant and partner not being affiliated entity or associated partner);
- d. the application must involve at least one public authority (at municipal/local, regional or national level) as lead applicant or co-applicant (partner);
- e. the EU grant applied for cannot be lower than EUR 100 000.

Beneficiaries and affiliated entities must register in the [Participant Register](#) — before submitting the proposal — and will have to be validated by the Central Validation Service (REA Validation). For the validation, they will be requested to upload documents showing legal status and origin.

Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc (*see section 13*).

Specific cases and definitions

Natural persons — Natural persons are NOT eligible (with the exception of self-employed persons, i.e., sole traders, where the company does not have legal personality separate from that of the natural person).

International organisations — International organisations are eligible. The rules on eligible countries do not apply to them.

Entities without legal personality — Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf, and offer guarantees for the protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons³⁰.


EU bodies — EU bodies (with the exception of the European Commission Joint Research Centre) can NOT be part of the consortium.

Programme Contact Points — Are eligible as coordinator or beneficiary in this call, if they have procedures to segregate the project management and the information provision functions and if they are able to demonstrate cost separation (i.e. that their project grants do not cover any costs which are covered by their other grant). This requires the following:

- use of analytical accounting which allows for a cost accounting management with cost allocation keys and cost accounting codes AND application of these keys and codes to identify and separate the costs (i.e. to allocate them to either one of the two grants)
- recording of all real costs incurred for the activities that are covered by the two grants (including the indirect costs)

³⁰ See Article 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

- allocation of the costs in a way that leads to a fair, objective and realistic result.

Associations and interest groupings — Entities composed of members may participate as **'sole beneficiaries'** or **'beneficiaries without legal personality'**³¹.  Please note that if the action will be implemented by the members, they should also participate (either as beneficiaries or as affiliated entities, otherwise their costs will NOT be eligible).

Countries currently negotiating association agreements — Beneficiaries from countries with ongoing negotiations (*see above*) may participate in the call and can sign grants if the negotiations are concluded before grant signature (with retroactive effect, if provided in the agreement).

EU restrictive measures — Special rules apply for entities subject to [EU restrictive measures](#) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)³². Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).



For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

Consortium composition

For priorities 2, 3 and 4, proposals must be submitted by a consortium of at least 2 applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities).

Eligible activities

Applications will only be considered eligible if their content corresponds wholly (or at least in part) to the topic description for which they are submitted.

Eligible activities are the ones set out in section 2 above.

Projects should take into account the results of projects supported by other EU funding programmes. The complementarities must be described in the project proposals (Part B of the Application Form).

Projects must comply with EU policy interests and priorities (*such as environment, social, security, industrial and trade policy, etc*). Projects must also respect EU values and European Commission policy regarding reputational matters (*e.g. activities involving capacity building, policy support, awareness raising, communication, dissemination, etc*)³³.

For Priority 1, financial support to third parties is essential and mandatory. The project application must clearly specify why financial support to third parties is needed, how it will be managed and provide a list of the different types of activities for which a third party may receive financial support. The proposal must also clearly describe the results to be obtained.

Geographic location (target countries)

Proposals must relate to activities taking place in the eligible countries (*see above*).

³¹ For the definitions, see Articles 190(2) and 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

³² Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#).

³³ See, for instance, [Guidance on funding for activities related to the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of Union legislation and policy](#).

Duration

- For Priority 1: Projects must range between 24 and 36 months.
- For Priorities 2 to 4: Projects must range between 12 and 24 months.

Extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment to the grant agreement.

Project budget

- For Priority 1: Project budgets (requested grant amount) are expected to be higher than EUR 1 000 000, and maximum EUR 3 000 000 per project.
- For Priorities 2, 3: Project budgets (requested grant amount) are expected to be higher than EUR 100 000 per project.
- For Priority 4: Project budgets (requested grant amount) are expected to be higher than EUR 100 000, and maximum EUR 1 000 000 per project.

The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

Ethics and EU values

Projects must comply with:

- highest ethical standards and
- EU values based on Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union and Article 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and
- other applicable EU, international and national law (including the General Data Protection Regulation [2016/679](#)).

Projects must seek to promote gender equality and non-discrimination mainstreaming in accordance with the [Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit](#). Project activities should contribute to the equal empowerment of women and men in all their diversity, ensuring that they achieve their full potential and enjoy the same rights. They should also seek to reduce levels of discrimination suffered by particular groups (as well as those at risk of multiple discrimination) and to improve equality outcomes for individuals³⁴. Proposals should integrate gender and non-discrimination considerations in proposals and target a gender-balanced representation in project teams and activities. It is also important that individual data collected by the beneficiaries are broken down by sex ([sex-disaggregated data](#)), disability or age whenever possible.

Applicants must show in their application that they respect ethical principles and EU values based on Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union and Article of the 21 EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Participants with activities involving children must moreover have a child protection policy covering the four areas described in the [Keeping Children Safe Child Safeguarding Standards](#) (see section **2 on "Child protection policies"** and 5 "Admissibility and documents").

³⁴

[Non-discrimination mainstreaming- instruments, case studies and way forwards](#)

7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

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 projects.

The financial capacity check will be carried out on the basis of the documents you will be requested to upload in the [Participant Register](#) during grant preparation (*e.g. profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc*). The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but will also take into account other aspects, such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years.

The check will normally be done for all coordinators, except:

- public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations
- if the individual requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000 (n/a).

If needed, it may also be done for affiliated entities.

If we consider that your financial capacity is not satisfactory, we may require:

- further information
- an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibilities for all beneficiaries or joint and several liability of affiliated entities (*see below, section 10*)
- prefinancing paid in instalments
- (one or more) prefinancing guarantees (*see below, section 10*)

or

- propose no prefinancing
- request that you are replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.



For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

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 together with the 'Quality' award criterion, on the basis of 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 the task implementation starts.

If the evaluation of the award criterion is positive, the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity.

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 consortium participants
- lead **applicants' activity report of last year**
- list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years) (template available in Part B).

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

For Priority 1, applicants must comply with the following criteria:

- a. have a recent proven experience of at least 3 years in implementing CSO capacity building activities;
- b. have a recent proven experience in awarding and managing grants.

If the proposal is submitted by a consortium, the consortium must fulfil both points a. and b. This means that they can be either both fulfilled by at least one member, or separately by different members of the consortium.

Public bodies, Member State organisations and international organisations are exempted from the operational capacity check.

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 participate³⁵:

- bankruptcy, winding up, 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 misconduct³⁶ (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)

³⁵ See articles 138 and 143 of EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

³⁶ 'Professional misconduct' includes, in particular, the following: violation of ethical standards of the profession; wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility; breach of generally accepted professional ethical standards; false declarations/misrepresentation of information; participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition; violation of IPR; attempting to influence decision-making processes by taking advantage, through misrepresentation, of a conflict of interests, or to obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain an advantage; incitement to discrimination, hatred or violence or similar activities contrary to the EU values where negatively affecting or risking to affect the performance of a legal commitment.

- 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, social or 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).
- intentionally and without proper justification resisted³⁷ an investigation, check or audit carried out by an EU authorising officer (or their representative or auditor), OLAF, the EPPO, or the European Court of Auditors.

Applicants will also be rejected if it turns out that³⁸:

- 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 of interest).

8. Evaluation and award 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, *see sections 5 and 6*). Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated against the operational capacity and award criteria (*see sections 7 and 9*) and then ranked according to their scores.

For proposals with the same score, a priority order will be determined according to the following approach:

Successively for every group of *ex aequo* proposals, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order:

- 1) The *ex aequo* proposals within the same topic will be prioritised according to the **scores they have been awarded for the award criterion 'Relevance'**. **When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Quality'**. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the **criterion 'Impact'**.

All proposals will be informed about the evaluation result (evaluation result letter). Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation; the other ones will be put on the reserve list or rejected.

 No commitment for funding — Invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding. We will still need to make various legal checks before grant award: *legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check, etc.*

³⁷ 'Resisting an investigation, check or audit' means carrying out actions with the goal or effect of preventing, hindering or delaying the conduct of any of the activities needed to perform the investigation, check or audit, such as refusing to grant the necessary access to its premises or any other areas used for business purposes, concealing or refusing to disclose information or providing false information.

³⁸ See Article 143 EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

Grant preparation will involve a dialogue in order to fine-tune technical or financial aspects of the project and may require extra information from your side. It may also include adjustments to the proposal to address recommendations of the evaluation committee or other concerns. Full compliance will be a pre-condition for signing the grant.

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a complaint (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter). Please note that notifications which have not been opened within 10 days after sending are considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from opening/access (see also [Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions](#)). Please also be aware that for complaints submitted electronically, there may be character limitations.

9. Award criteria

The award criteria for this call are as follows:

- **Relevance:** extent to which the proposal matches the priorities and objectives of the call including adherence to EU values; clearly defined needs and robust needs assessment (if relevant presents a high quality overview and analysis of the targeted CSOs sector in the target country(ies), region(s), including the identification of key challenges); clearly defined target group, with gender perspective being appropriately taken into account; contribution to the EU strategic and legislative context (if applicable, extent to which capacity building and financial support to third parties are balanced, well-proportioned, well-structured and relevant to address the identified needs; and contributing to the EU strategic and legislative context); European/trans-national dimension; impact/interest for a number of countries (EU or eligible non-EU countries); possibility to use the results in other countries (potential for transfer of good practices); potential to develop mutual trust/cross-border cooperation, building synergies and avoiding duplication with previous projects (40 points)
- **Quality:** clarity and consistency of project; logical links between the identified problems, needs and solutions proposed (logical frame concept); methodology for implementing the project with gender perspective being appropriately taken into account (organisation of work, timetable, allocation of resources and distribution of tasks between partners, risks & risk management, monitoring and evaluation); ethical issues, measures and policies to guarantee child safeguarding (for activities involving children) and compliance with EU values are addressed; feasibility of the project within the proposed time frame; financial feasibility (sufficient/appropriate budget for proper implementation) including financial support to third parties (if applicable); cost-effectiveness (best value for money) (40 points)
- **Impact:** ambition and expected long-term impact of results on target groups/general public; appropriate dissemination strategy for ensuring sustainability and long-term impact; potential for a positive multiplier effect; sustainability of results after EU funding ends (20 points)

| Award criteria | Minimum pass score | Maximum score |
|---|--------------------|---------------|
| Relevance | 25 | 40 |
| Quality — Project design and implementation | n/a | 40 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| Impact | n/a | 20 |
| Overall (pass) scores | 70 | 100 |

Maximum points: 100 points.

Individual threshold for the criterion 'Relevance': 25/40 points.

Overall threshold: 70 points.

Proposals that pass the individual threshold for the criterion 'Relevance' AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding — within the limits of the available call budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

10. 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.

The Model Grant Agreement that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents) can be found on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

Starting date and project duration

The project starting date and duration will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 1*). The starting date should be after grant signature (normally within 6 months). A retroactive starting date can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons but never earlier than the proposal submission date.

Project duration: *see section 6 above*

For Priority 1: between 24 and 36 months.

For Priorities 2 to 4: between 12 and 24 months.

Milestones and deliverables

- All priorities (1, 2, 3, 4):

Activities must be grouped into work packages which are major sub-divisions of the project (e.g.: Project Management and Coordination; Communication and Dissemination, etc.).

The coordination and management costs of WP1 should not be higher than 10% of the total cost of the proposal.

For each work package, an objective and lists of tasks/activities, milestones and deliverables must be defined. The deliverables and milestones must be quantifiable and measurable. Their structure should be logical and guided by identifiable outputs with clear indicators.

The milestones and deliverables for each project will be managed through the Portal Grant Management System and will be reflected in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement.

Additional work packages may be added according to the activities foreseen in the project.

Beneficiaries 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 closely monitor training, mutual learning and awareness-raising events. 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 it for their project evaluation. The granting authority will aggregate the results of all the projects financed under the CERV programme.

- In addition to the above, the following is also required for Priority 1:

The project activities must be organised in the following work packages:

WP 1 – Project management, including risk management and risk reporting as well as management of the re-granting (mandatory)

WP 2 – Support to third parties (mandatory). This Work Package should include only the estimated amount to regrant, limited to budget category D.1 Financial support to third party.

WP 3 – Capacity building (mandatory)

WP 4 – Project internal/external communication, including the project webpage (mandatory) to report back on the number of projects, country of implementation, objective tackled, etc. (please see next point on deliverables)

Additional work packages may be added.

The following deliverables will be mandatory:

➤ For WP 4:

- Regarding the project overall, provide, as a deliverable, an impact report at the end of the project implementation which would describe the actual impact the project has achieved in line with the requirements set out in this call for proposals at **section 2 'Expected impact'**.
- For Support to third parties, beneficiaries will have to provide as a deliverable a webpage compiling identity fiches of all third-party projects. Those fiches should include at least the name of the third party funded, the title of the project, the budget received, a short summary of the project funded and the target group reached, with qualitative results and quantitative results as appropriate, including as a minimum:
 - number of publications,
 - number of awareness raising actions /campaigns carried out,
 - number of people engaged in the CSO activities,
 - number of national policies or laws influenced,
 - number of beneficiaries of service provided (hotline, counselling services, **informal education...**).

➤ For WP 2:

- The information contained in the webpage should also be provided to the Commission in the form of an excel sheet per call, including, as a minimum, the following entries:

| | |
|--|--|
| Name of the third party | |
| Title of the project | |
| Budget received from the intermediary | |
| Target group reached | |
| Summary of the project | |
| Qualitative results | |
| number of Publications | |
| number of Awareness Raising actions / campaign carried out | |
| number of people engaged in the CSO activities | |
| number of national policies or laws influenced | |
| number of beneficiaries of service provided (hotline, legal advice, counselling services, informal education...) | |
| Amounts re-granted to the objectives of fighting gender-based violence and/or violence against children | |
| Countries where final CSO beneficiaries and activities are performed | |
| Other quantitative results | |
| Identification whether the project can be flagged as best practice | |

Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount

The grant parameters (*maximum grant amount, funding rate, total eligible costs, etc*) will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3 and art 5*).

Project budget (requested grant amount): [see section 6 above](#).

- The grant will be a lump sum grant. This means that it will reimburse a fixed amount, based on a lump sum or financing not linked to costs. The amount will be fixed by the granting authority on the basis of the estimated project budget and a funding rate of 90%.

Budget categories and cost eligibility rules

The budget categories and cost eligibility rules are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3, art 6 and Annex 2*).

Budget categories for this call:

- [Lump sum contributions](#)³⁹

Specific cost eligibility rules for this call:

³⁹ [Decision](#) of 30 September 2022 authorising the use of lump sums for actions under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (2021-2027).

- the lump sum amount must be calculated in accordance with the methodology set out in the lump sum decision and using the detailed budget table provided (if any)
- the lump sum calculation should respect the following conditions:
 - for lump sums based on estimated project budgets: the estimated budget must comply with the basic eligibility conditions for EU actual cost grants (see [AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement, art 6](#))
 - financial support to third parties is allowed under the conditions set under Section 2 and will be included in the detailed budget table
 - 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**
 - personnel costs:
 - o **volunteers’ unit costs**⁴⁰ are allowed (without indirect costs).

The details and the breakdown of the ‘Other’ cost items from headings A.1 and C.3 should **be provided in the ‘any comments’ sheet of the detailed budget table.**

Reporting and payment arrangements


The reporting and payment arrangements are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4 and art 21 and 22*).

After grant signature, you will normally receive a prefinancing to start working on the project (float of normally 80% of the maximum grant amount; exceptionally less or no prefinancing). The prefinancing will be paid 30 days from entry into force/financial guarantee (if required) — whichever is the latest.

In addition, you will be expected to submit one or more progress reports not linked to payments.

Payment of the balance: At the end of the project, we will calculate your final grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, we will ask you (your coordinator) to pay back the difference (recovery).

All payments will be made to the coordinator.

 Please be aware that payments will be automatically lowered if you or one of your consortium members has outstanding debts towards the EU (granting authority or other EU bodies). Such debts will be offset by us — in line with the conditions set out in the Grant Agreement (see *art 22*).

Please also note that you are responsible for keeping records on all the work done.

Prefinancing guarantees

If a prefinancing guarantee is required, it will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4*). The amount will be set during grant preparation and it will normally be equal or lower than the prefinancing for your grant.

⁴⁰ Commission Decision of 10 April 2019 authorising the use of unit costs for declaring personnel costs for the work carried out by volunteers under an action or a work programme (C(2019)2646)

The guarantee should be in euro and issued by an approved bank/financial institution established in an EU Member State. If you are established in a non-EU country and would like to provide a guarantee from a bank/financial institution in your country, please contact us (this may be exceptionally accepted, if it offers equivalent security).

Amounts blocked in bank accounts will NOT be accepted as financial guarantees.

Prefinancing guarantees are normally requested from the coordinator, for the consortium. They must be provided during grant preparation, in time to make the prefinancing (scanned copy via Portal AND original by post).

If agreed with us, the bank guarantee may be replaced by a guarantee from a third party.

The guarantee will be released at the end of the grant, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Grant Agreement.

Certificates

Depending on the type of action, size of grant amount and type of beneficiaries, you may be requested to submit different certificates. The types, schedules and thresholds for each certificate are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4 and art 24*).

Liability regime for recoveries

The liability regime for recoveries will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet point 4.4 and art 22*).

For beneficiaries, it is one of the following:

- limited joint and several liability with individual ceilings — *each beneficiary up to their maximum grant amount*
- unconditional joint and several liability — *each beneficiary up to the maximum grant amount for the action*

or

- individual financial responsibility — *each beneficiary only for their own debts.*

In addition, the granting authority may require joint and several liability of affiliated entities (with their beneficiary).

Provisions concerning the project implementation

IPR rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 16 and Annex 5)*:

- rights of use on results: Yes

Communication, dissemination and visibility of funding: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 17 and Annex 5)*:

- additional communication and dissemination activities: Yes

Other specificities

- Consortium agreement: Yes

Non-compliance and breach of contract

The Grant Agreement (chapter 5) provides for the measures we may take in case of breach of contract (and other non-compliance issues).



For more information, see [AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

11. How to submit an application

All proposals must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

Submission is a 2-step process:

a) create a user account and register your organisation

To use the Submission System (the only way to apply), all participants need to [create an EU Login user account](#).

Once you have an EU Login account, you can [register your organisation](#) in the Participant Register. When your registration is finalised, you will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

b) submit the proposal

Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the [Calls for proposals](#) section (or, for calls sent by invitation to submit link provided in the invitation letter), open your desired call and start submission.

Submit your proposal in 4 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator, beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners⁴¹) and the summarised budget for the proposal. Fill it in directly online
- Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the proposal. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file
- KPI tool containing additional project data. To be filled in directly online, all sections to be completed.
- Annexes (*see section 5*). Upload them as PDF file (single or multiple depending on the slots). Excel upload is sometimes possible, depending on the file type. Detailed budget table must be re-uploaded filled out in the format .xlsx.

The proposal must keep to the page limits (*see section 5*); excess pages will be disregarded.

Documents must be uploaded to the right category in the Submission System, otherwise the proposal may be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The proposal must be submitted before the call deadline (*see section 4*). After this deadline, the system is closed and proposals can no longer be submitted.

Once the proposal is submitted, you will receive a confirmation e-mail (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the [IT Helpdesk webform](#), explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

⁴¹ [See](#) section 13 for more information on consortium roles and the roles of coordinator, affiliated entities and associated partners.

Details on processes and procedures are described in the [Online Manual](#). The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

12. Help

As far as possible, *please try to find the answers you need yourself*, in this and the other documentation (we have limited resources for handling direct enquiries):

- [Online Manual](#)
- Topic Q&A on the Topic page (for call-specific questions in open calls; not applicable for actions by invitation)
- [Portal FAQ](#) (for general questions).

Please also consult the Call and Topic pages regularly, since we will use them to publish call updates, including an invitation to the info session for applicants (if any) after the opening of the call. (For invitations, we will contact you directly in case of a call update).

Contact

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the [IT Helpdesk](#).

Non-IT related questions should be sent to the following email address: the [CERV Contact Point](#) of your country (if established) or otherwise EC-CERV-CALLS@ec.europa.eu

Please indicate clearly the reference of the call and topic to which your question relates (*see cover page*).

13. Important



IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait** until the end — Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute technical problems. Problems due to last minute submissions (*e.g., congestion, etc*) will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.
- Consult the Portal Call and Topic pages regularly. We will use them to publish updates and additional information on the call (call and topic updates).
- Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System — By submitting the application, all participants accept to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the [Portal Terms & Conditions](#).
- Registration — Before submitting the application, all beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners must be registered in the [Participant Register](#). The participant identification code (PIC) (one per participant) is mandatory for the Application Form.
- Consortium roles — When setting up your consortium, you should think of organisations that help you reach objectives and solve problems.

The roles should be attributed according to the level of participation in the project. Main participants should participate as beneficiaries or affiliated entities; other entities can participate as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions. Associated partners and third parties giving in-kind contributions should bear their own costs (they will not become formal recipients of EU funding). Subcontracting should normally constitute a limited part and must be performed by third parties (not by one of the beneficiaries/affiliated entities). Subcontracting going beyond 30% of the total eligible costs must be justified in the application.

- Coordinator — In multi-beneficiary grants, the beneficiaries participate as consortium (group of beneficiaries). They will have to choose a coordinator, who will take care of the project management and coordination and will represent the consortium towards the granting authority. In mono-beneficiary grants, the single beneficiary will automatically be coordinator.
- Affiliated entities — Applicants may participate with affiliated entities (i.e. entities linked to a beneficiary which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries, but do not sign the grant and therefore do not become beneficiaries themselves). They will get a part of the grant money and must therefore comply with all the call conditions and be validated (just like beneficiaries); but they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition (if any). If affiliated entities participate in your project, please do not forget to provide documents demonstrating their affiliation link to your organisation as part of your application.
- Associated partners — Applicants may participate with associated partners (i.e. partner organisations which participate in the action but without the right to get grant money). They participate without funding and therefore do not need to be validated.

- Consortium agreement — For practical and legal reasons it is recommended to set up internal arrangements that allow you to deal with exceptional or unforeseen circumstances (in all cases, even if not mandatory under the Grant Agreement). The consortium agreement also gives you the possibility to redistribute the grant money according to your own consortium-internal principles and parameters (for instance, one beneficiary can reattribute its grant money to another beneficiary). The consortium agreement thus allows you to customise the EU grant to the needs inside your consortium and can also help to protect you in case of disputes.
- Balanced project budget — Grant applications must ensure a balanced project budget and sufficient other resources to implement the project successfully (*e.g., own contributions, income generated by the action, financial contributions from third parties, etc*). You may be requested to lower your estimated costs, if they are ineligible (including excessive).
- Completed/ongoing projects — Proposals for projects that have already been completed will be rejected; proposals for projects that have already started will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (in this case, no costs can be reimbursed for activities that took place before the project starting date/proposal submission).
- No-profit rule — Grants may NOT give a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). This will be checked by us at the end of the project.
- No cumulation of funding/no double funding — It is strictly prohibited to **cumulate funding from the EU budget (except under 'EU Synergies actions')**. Outside such Synergies actions, any given action may receive only ONE grant from the EU budget and cost items may under NO circumstances be declared under two EU grants; projects must be designed as different actions, clearly delineated and separated for each grant (without overlaps).
- Combination with EU operating grants — Combination with EU operating grants is possible, if the project remains outside the operating grant work programme and you make sure that cost items are clearly separated in your accounting and NOT declared twice (see [AGA — Annotated Model Grant Agreement, art 6.2.E](#)).
- Multiple proposals — Applicants may submit more than one proposal for *different* projects under the same call (and be awarded a funding for them).

Organisations may participate in several proposals.

BUT: if there are several proposals for *very similar* projects, only one application will be accepted and evaluated; the applicants will be asked to withdraw one of them (or it will be rejected).

- Resubmission — Proposals may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission.
- Rejection — By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in this this Call document (and the documents it refers to). Proposals that do not comply with all the call conditions will be rejected. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of **them doesn't, they must be replaced or the entire proposal will be rejected**.
- Cancellation — There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call. In this case, you will be informed via a call or topic update. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.

- Language — You can submit your proposal in any official EU language (project abstract/summary should however always be in English). For reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English for the entire application. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call publication (for the contact information, see *section 12*).
- Transparency — In accordance with Article 38 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#), information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the [Europa website](#).

This includes:

- beneficiary names
- beneficiary addresses
- the purpose for which the grant was awarded
- the maximum amount awarded.

The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise your rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm your commercial interests.

- Data protection — The submission of a proposal under this call involves the collection, use and processing of personal data. This data will be processed in accordance with Regulation [2018/1725](#). It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your proposal, subsequent management of your grant and, if needed, programme monitoring, evaluation and communication. Details are explained in the [Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement](#).