|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  **European Union Initiative** | **Joint EU-UNDP** **Civil Society Support Programme** |  |

**Civil Society Support Program (CSSP) II Round II**

**Call for project proposals**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Civil Society Support Programme (CSSP) is a joint EU-UNDP initiative, which aims to strengthen the civil society in Abkhazia and, to an extent possible, in South Ossetia and to increase its resilience and responsiveness to effectively address the priorities of local communities.

The second phase of CSSP launched in July 2020 for the duration of 36 months strives to:

* Strengthen CSO capacities to efficiently and transparently manage operations and effectively address the local needs;
* Diversify and expand CSO engagement across various sectors and districts by increased connectivity and cooperation;
* Increase public trust in civil society.

**PURPOSE OF THE CALL:**

CSSP is inviting local civil society actors, including civil society organizations, initiative groups, think-tanks, representatives of expert community, academia and civic activists, to submit project proposals that address locally identified needs.

The Call encourages grassroots initiatives in the spheres of health and persons with disabilities (with a special view of addressing the detrimental effects of the COVID-19 pandemic) [[1]](#footnote-1); gender; human rights, community rights and child rights[[2]](#footnote-2), youth participation/activism; environmental resilience and climate change[[3]](#footnote-3); etc. but is not limited by these thematic areas.

Furthermore, applicants should take into consideration the following priorities of the current CfP:

* Projects should be designed in a participatory manner and involve collaboration with local communities and relevant stakeholders, including umbrella networks and district-level hubs[[4]](#footnote-4).
* Particular attention should be paid to cooperation between well-established CSOs with long-standing experience and newly registered CSOs and/or initiative/volunteer groups (especially youth organizations) with a clear strategy on coaching the young organizations.
* Partnerships between CSOs from different districts are encouraged.
* Projects, should demonstrate impact and outreach across all districts and diverse sectors through well-defined indicators.
* Partnerships with Abkhaz and South Ossetian CSOs, initiative groups and/or civic activists are encouraged.
* Projects should link to/coordinate with other initiatives, such as ENPARD, VET, COBERM, etc.

Note: Due consideration of COVID-19 crisis and inclusion of activities in response to COVID related needs are encouraged.

**IMPORTANT: To ensure diversification of activities and implementers, the maximum requested funding per organization can be no more than 35,000 USD. A budget up to 50,000 USD might be considered for projects initiated by 2 or more partner organizations.** **Co-financing or in-kind contribution by the applicant is encouraged.**

**Project maximum duration: 1 year.**

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:**

**We are now accepting project proposals until 15 October 2021, 18:00. No applications will be accepted after this deadline.**

All interested applicants will be offered capacity building trainings (Project Planning and Writing, Gender and Youth Mainstreaming) and individual online consultations provided by international experts. For details, follow Facebook and Instagram pages of Center “Prospect”[[5]](#footnote-5).

**Submission of Project Proposals:**

If you have a project proposal, which contributes to CSSP objectives and priorities, please complete a standard Form of Project Proposal and Budget (See attachments) and submit electronically to cssp@undp.org.

**Criteria for project proposal’s selection:**

* Relevance to the above-described aims and priorities of the CSSP, including process design and relevant thematic focus;
* Feasibility of the project – problem identification, soundness of analysis of the potential risks and evidence of ability of the applicant to contribute to addressing them, analysis of external stakeholders, etc.;
* Measurable and realistic long-term results/outcomes (objectively verifiable indicators);
* Demonstrated sustainability of the proposed project;
* Do no harm approach - mitigating any potential negative effects as a result of project activities and its sensitivity;
* Cost-efficiency and sound alignment of resources with expected project results;
* A special focus on gender, women, peace and security approach and addressing the need to engage, empower, protect and support women and girls;
* Diversity and inclusivity;
* Collaboration with other civil society actors and stakeholders;
* Outreach to remote and rural areas.

**Selection process:**

All project proposals will be reviewed by the EU/UNDP Evaluation Committee and approved/selected by the Steering Committee. All applicants will be informed accordingly.

**Eligibility criteria for applicants:**

* Be a non-commercial, non-profit entity;
* Have sufficient administrative, financial and technical capacity to implement a project.

**NOTE:** Non-registered initiative/volunteer groups, independent experts/specialists are strongly encouraged to submit their proposals in partnership with registered CSOs.

**IMPORTANT:**

Youth’s/Women’s and/or youth/women-led organizations, as well as youth organizations are strongly encouraged to apply.

Applicants based in the districts are encouraged to apply.

Applicants who have previously submitted project ideas to CSSP but were not selected are welcome to re-apply with a new project proposal, if it fully meets eligibility criteria.

**DISCLAIMER:** CSSP will acknowledge the receipt of each application within 3 business days. Please, contact us if you have not received a confirmation at cssp@undp.org;

UNDP is not responsible for any technical problems that might result in delays in the receipt and/or loss of your application(s).

1. For consultations Umbrella network - Health and PWDs can be approached at: ais@abhazia.org [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For consultations Umbrella network - Women, Youth and Human Rights can be approached at: chpabkhazia@yahoo.com [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. For consultations Umbrella network - Environment and Rural Development can be approached at: apsabara-eco-ngo@yandex.ru

For consultations Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD) can be approached at the following email address: card.abkh@mail.com [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Contact details of Umbrella organizations: apsabara-eco-ngo@yandex.ru; ais@abhazia.org; chpabkhazia@yahoo.com

Contact details of District level hubs – ochhub@gmail.com ; gudhub@gmail.com [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Fb page of Center “Prospect” – <https://www.facebook.com/%D0%90%D1%86%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%82%D1%80-Prospect-153803372092821>

Instagram page of Center “Prospect” - <https://www.instagram.com/studio_prospect/> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)