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CALL FOR GRANT PROPOSALS

Supporting advocacy for the right to free assembly in the Balkans and the Eastern Partnership region

The European Center for Not-for-Profit Law Stichting (ECNL) is pleased to announce a call for proposals to support national advocacy actions on the right to free assembly. Grant amounts are not fixed, but successful grant applications may range up to \$10,000.

Overview

The right to free and peaceful assembly is an indispensable element of democracy and a healthy civil society. Recent years have seen a new era of mass protests, but also an increase in practical restrictions to the right in the Western Balkan and Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries. Under its *Monitoring the Right to Free Assembly* project, ECNL supports its informal network of local partners to monitor local laws, observe protests, research emerging issues and report and take action against legal and practical challenges affecting the freedom of assembly. The 2017-2018 monitoring reports from 12 countries can be found here: <http://ecnl.org/publications/monitoring-the-right-to-free-assembly-in-12-countries-2018/>

In 2020, to support local partners engage in research and action that advances legal reform processes and improves existing practices, ECNL is inviting proposals from applicants who would like to engage in national advocacy actions designed to promote and protect the freedom of assembly in their countries.

ECNL is particularly interested in proposals that include outreach to a broader range of stakeholders (i.e. judges, members of Parliaments, Ombudsman or other national human rights institutions municipalities, women and youth) and/or aim to identify emerging areas affecting assembly rights in the given countries, such as use of new technologies, impact on climate activism, social movements or civil disobedience. We strongly encourage applicants to apply with innovative ideas and approaches that will increase understating of existing and new trends and help formulate action to protect the freedom.

How to Apply

Interested and eligible applicants can apply by completing the application coversheet and submitting it to ECNL, along with the narrative and budget proposal by email to Andrea Judit Toth at andrea@ecnl.org by **April 10, 2020** the latest. Please ensure that the subject of your email is "**Assembly Subgrant Application 2020.**"

To apply for this grant, applicants must submit the following items in English:

- Application coversheet (see below);
- Narrative proposal (not more than 3 pages, Times New Roman 11, single space);
- Filled-in advocacy action plan (see template);
- Budget proposal (see template).

Narrative Proposal

The following elements must be addressed in the narrative proposal (not more than 3 pages):

- Summary of the proposed action, including:
 - Title and main objective of the proposal;
 - Clear description of the problem that you are trying to address (problem statement);
 - Specific objectives with planned activities under each, with short description of the action and expected results;
 - Statement on how the action will have a demonstrated impact and engage relevant stakeholders; including how it will engage with different groups such as women and youth.
 - Promotion of the project: what kind of tools and dissemination methods will be used to communicate the results and ensure they reach wide audiences to achieve the impact.
- A timeline for completing the proposed activities (beginning the earliest in May 2020 and ending latest by the end of November 2020) together with a short monitoring plan on how to measure what was achieved;
- Background information about the applicant organization including a statement of relevant work history demonstrating the applicant's experience, expertise and capacity to implement the activities covered in the proposal. Please also include explanation how the project fits with the organizational mission and how will you ensure follow up action after the grant is completed;
- List of key personnel that you plan to engage in the project (with 1 paragraph about each person's skills and what expertise/role they will have in the project).

The filled-in advocacy action plan should be a separate document.

Eligibility Requirements

This call is open to domestic civil society organizations working at the national or sub-national level in one of these [DAC List of ODA recipient countries](#): **Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Kosovo, Serbia, Ukraine.**

The action should be designed with a combination of activities to achieve the results. Examples of activities that could be supported under this program include:

- Applied research;
- Awareness raising campaigns, social media campaigns;
- Analysis of problematic proposals/legislation/practices;
- Planning and execution of advocacy campaigns;
- Roundtable discussions, workshops, events;
- Activities aiming to educate politicians, journalists, etc.;
- Coalition building;
- Any other activities that promote the right to free assembly.

The following activities will not be supported under the current program:

- Organization of one-off events;
- Activities which aim to raise a profit;
- Activities supporting a specific political party;
- Donations for charitable causes;
- Religious activities;
- Buying of land, real estate, vehicles;
- Provision of loans or payment of interest on loans;
- Reconstruction of offices;
- Health treatment or operations abroad.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- Compliance with eligibility requirements and application procedures;
- Quality of proposal, including broad outreach to different stakeholders, relevant issues addressed, innovative methods used, feasibility, and likelihood of success;
- Proposed budget and apparent value for cost;
- Demonstrated experience and expertise related to the issues and activities proposed;
- Demonstrated capacity to exercise responsible stewardship of received funds.

Terms of Reference

All sub-grant recipients must submit a final narrative and financial report on the use of funds, activities conducted, and outcomes of their projects prior to receiving their final grant disbursements. Mid term reporting will also be required and linked to project funding. All sub-grant recipients must complete the activities funded under this grant no later than November 30, 2020.

Deadline

Applicants should submit their applications no later than **April 10, 2020**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Background Information

ECNL is the leading European resource and research center in the field of policies and laws affecting civil society, freedom of association, assembly and participation. ECNL's aim is to support the creation of environments where people can freely organize, jointly shape and contribute to the development of societies. ECNL develops tools and mechanisms for monitoring implementation of laws and practices, provides its expertise through comparative researches, analyses and policy recommendations. More information about ECNL and its mission and activities could be found at <http://ecnl.org/>.

Application Coversheet

Please complete the coversheet and submit it, along with your narrative and budget proposal to Andrea Judit Toth at andrea@ecnl.org by **April 10, 2020** the latest. Please ensure that the subject of your email is "**Assembly Subgrant Application 2020.**"

Organization:

Full Name of person submitting the application:

Position in the organisation:

Address:

Country:

Email Address:

Telephone Number:

Mission of the organization:

Title of the project:

Synopsis of the project (no more than 100 words):

Click on the boxes below to indicate that you have properly completed the application.

- I have attached a narrative proposal that is no more than 3 pages in length.
- I have filled in the advocacy plan.
- I have attached a line-item budget.