



2020 Western Balkans Call

Overview

PeaceNexus has been supporting organisations in the Western Balkans since 2014 and currently supports 9 organisations across the region (for more information about our programme and testimonials from our partners, click [here](#)).

With this 2020 Western Balkans call, we wish to partner with organisations that contribute to social cohesion in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia and organisations that work on the regional level. We are particularly interested in supporting actors that work to increase the quality and intensity of collaboration across ethnic and national lines, thus contributing to regional mobility, dialogue and reconciliation. Likewise, we wish to support organizations able to mobilise and engage citizens in support of transitional justice and democratic reforms.

Under this call, we do not support specific projects nor provide institutional (core) funding. Instead, we provide: **conflict sensitivity** support to help organisations adapt to their context and contribute to social cohesion; **organisational development** support to help peacebuilding organisations become more effective; or **inclusive dialogue with business** support to enable relevant actors facilitate collaborative solutions to business-community-government issues that are relevant for social cohesion.

In these uncertain times, PeaceNexus believes that it is critical to continue investing in organisations and initiatives geared towards social cohesion. While the scale of our funding and the type of accompaniment we offer is not compatible with emergency funding nor operational support, we believe that our process support can be catalytic in helping organisations adapt to changing circumstances. In all three areas of support, we work with partners to help them overcome internal or external challenges that hinder their effectiveness and ability to reach their own goals. If you are selected for our support, we will start by visiting you (as soon as possible) to make sure we understand the specificities of your situation and can accompany you accordingly.

Before putting together an application, you are strongly advised to consult the overview provided below and to go through the documentation specific to the support area you are interested in. These documents give additional information on our support, including concrete examples and frequently asked questions (FAQs) specific to each support area. **Applicants need to complete a webform and upload their application by 7 June (23.59pm CET). Applicants may only apply to one support area.**

Indicative timeline for this Call :

- Launch of the call: 30 April
- Deadline for submission of applications: 7 June
- Publication of list of selected partners on our website: end of July
- Kick-off workshops with selected partners: September*

**or as soon as COVID-19 - related travel restrictions are lifted*

What can be supported under this call?

Support Area 1 – Conflict sensitivity (CS) Support

Helping organisations adapt to their context and contribute to social cohesion

<p>Rationale</p>	<p>Conflict sensitivity is typically defined as the ability of an organisation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the context in which it operates • Understand the interactions between its actions and the context • Act upon this understanding to avoid negative impacts and maximise positive impacts on lines of tension present in the context <p>The concept is relevant in environments such as the Western Balkans, where societies have moved away from violent conflict but remain affected by underlying lines of tension and polarisation. Due to the legacy of the past, Western Balkans organisations often face context-sensitivity challenges: for example, they can do harm by unintentionally reinforcing existing prejudices between different groups. At the same time, organisations often have untapped potential to contribute to social cohesion, regardless of whether they work on reconciliation directly, or have a different mandate focused for example on journalism, democratic engagement, education or culture. We aim to help realise through this potential by helping organisations adapt to their context.</p>
<p>For whom</p>	<p>We welcome applications from all organisations that want to maximise the positive impact of their work by better adapting to their context. We're particularly keen to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organisations/networks that work regionally and/or connect diverse stakeholders within and across divided communities at the local level • grant-making organisations and foundations aiming to develop conflict-sensitive funding & partnership practices
<p>Type of support</p>	<p>Facilitated process of organisational change focused on helping you to adapt to your context, including in terms of your organisational functioning.</p> <p>This can be about developing tools and capacities for regular context analysis or adapting M&E to better track your impact on the context. It can also be about ensuring diversity and inclusion in your human resources management or developing new programmes with explicit social cohesion ambitions.</p>

Support Area 2 – Organisational Development (OD) Support

Helping peacebuilding organisations become more effective

<p>Rationale</p>	<p>We believe that if organisations manage to overcome internal challenges, then their interventions will be delivered more effectively and they will make more relevant, inclusive and sustainable contributions to peacebuilding.</p> <p>Our Organisational Development (OD) support is informed by the idea that</p>
-------------------------	---

	dedicated resources can create a space for self-reflection and an opportunity for an organisation to address what impedes its ability to effectively deliver on its mission. While OD processes need to be fully owned internally to be successful, we believe that process accompaniment by a third party such as PeaceNexus can nevertheless facilitate a transformation that is difficult to achieve alone.
For whom	We welcome applications from organisations that want to address internal challenges to maximise their impact on reconciliation and peaceful democratic development. We seek out change-makers with a demonstrated potential to challenge the status quo.
Type of support	Facilitated process of organisational strengthening, for example to help your organisation clarify its identity and positioning; improve its ability to assess results and strengthen organisational learning; improve its governance mechanisms and practice.

Support Area 3 – Inclusive Dialogue with Business (IDB) Support
Enabling business-community-government dialogue in divided communities

Rationale	We believe that while economic development has a high potential to positively contribute to stability and peaceful relations, it is also often a source of tension in environments that have not fully recovered from past conflicts or affected by social polarisation. Therefore, citizens, governments and businesses all have a stake in promoting economic development that is well managed and realises its potential to build social and economic resilience. This is why we support inclusive dialogue: when it is well-facilitated and prepared, it can be a powerful tool to enable these actors to solve disputes early on and eventually identify sustainable win-win decisions.
For whom	Applicants can be any civil society organisation (either working at local or national level), informal community group , government institution or business that is a stakeholder regarding a particular case of economic development involving the private sector in divided communities or across multi-ethnic areas. Prospective applicants need to be directly affected by the issue at hand and be ready to participate in a multi-stakeholder dialogue.
Type of support	Process support to multiple stakeholders to conduct a dialogue and jointly identify implementable solutions. The process support is used to prepare for and/or convene preventive and problem-solving dialogue sessions between multiple stakeholders and can include the services of mediators or technical experts.

What does PeaceNexus support entail?

PeaceNexus’ contribution includes more than a financial contribution. As an engaged partner our support includes:

- **Direct process accompaniment from PeaceNexus:**

We support our partners throughout the partnership, from process design to the final steps of implementation. We visit each partner after their selection to facilitate a participatory assessment

of the challenges to address through the PeaceNexus support. The agreed objectives and roadmap will form the basis of a Partnership Outline which is the contractual basis of PeaceNexus' financial investment. While our role is largely defined by what our partners want help with, at the beginning of the process it usually involves helping the partner select and contract the relevant external experts. As the process unfolds, our role includes monitoring process developments, providing feedback and input and assisting our partner where needed on the roadmap implementation in order to achieve their overall change or dialogue objectives.

- **Financial contribution to cover costs directly associated with the process**

The budget and total amount allocated to each partner is determined by the roadmap which we jointly establish after the initial kick-off visit. It covers the costs of external consultants and possibly additional thematic or technical expertise, as well as expenses directly related to the process (typically logistics costs related to meetings). **By providing the direct accompaniment mentioned above, we play a complementary role to external consultants**, for example by helping partners to make the best use of the support they receive.

What is outside of the scope of PeaceNexus support and cannot be funded?

PN grants are neither operational project funding nor core funding and the following costs are not eligible:

- Operational activities (any kind of project or programme activities)
- Core funding
- Administrative overhead costs
- Equipment, furnishings or office rent
- Financial audits
- Tuition for degree programs
- Accreditation processes
- Campaigns for building capital/endowments
- Staff costs or recurring board expenses
- One-off trainings and other capacity building measures unrelated to the broader objectives

What is the application and selection process?

Application process: step-by-step indications

- If you are interested in applying, please make sure to thoroughly read this overview, as well as specific documentation related to the support area you are interested in. Applicants may apply to one support area only.
- If you have questions that are not covered by these documents and our FAQs, please send an email to deborah.reymond@peacenexus.org **by 29 May 2020**.
- Please make sure to consult internally when developing your application. Once your application is finalised, please visit the [Application Portal](#) and: 1) fill in the webform (requesting basic information about your organisation) 2) upload your application form (in word or pdf format) . The deadline for applications is **7 June 2020** (23.59pm CET).
- Once you submit your application, you will receive an automated confirmation of receipt.

- There is no need to follow up with us from your side, we will only get in touch if we need clarification about your application or if you are shortlisted.
- Unsuccessful applicants will hear back from us by the end of July.

Special provisions

- As a general rule, we do not accept applications on behalf of others. However, in exceptional cases we accept fiscal sponsorship by another organisation. For example, a network whose secretariat is hosted by a member organisation can apply through its host organisation – but the primary applicant needs to develop and fully own it. If this is the case, briefly explain your organisation’s setup and the reason for not being a legal entity.
- We encourage you to submit your application in English. In case it is not possible for you, you may submit it in BCS or Albanian and we’ll arrange translation when needed. However, please kindly note that the working language of our partnerships tends to be English.

Selection process

Our calls for proposals are very competitive. We have put systems in place to ensure our review is rigorous and impartial, and all eligible applications will be assessed the following selection criteria:

<p>Support Area 1 Conflict Sensitivity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance of the applicant and potential to positively contribute to social cohesion We need to understand through concrete examples what you are working on and how your work positively influences your environment. It is also important for us to understand where you see opportunities to contribute to social cohesion. • Readiness to take up conflict sensitivity at an organisational level We want to understand the challenges that you face in adapting to your context and why you want to invest your time and energy in this process. We’re particularly keen to know what makes you think that greater conflict sensitivity would make a positive difference for your impact.
<p>Support Area 2 Organisational Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance of the applicant and ability to address issues that undermine peaceful democratic development We need to understand what difference your work makes and to whom. It is important for us to understand where you have already a track record that contributes to peacebuilding and democratic development, and where you see more potential for even more impact. • Readiness to engage in an organisational development process We encourage you to be self-reflective and upfront in the articulation of your internal challenges. We also want to understand what ‘success’ would look like and how you expect the OD process to contribute to your effectiveness and impact.

<p>Support Area 3 Inclusive Dialogue with Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance of the issue for social cohesion The issue(s) at stake needs to have a high relevance in terms of social cohesion. When looking at relevance, we gauge whether the issue is pressing and deeply impacting multiple stakeholders. We assess whether solving the issue would bring tangible long-term benefits to the affected community and contribute to a more cohesive social fabric. • Likelihood of positive impact Your application needs to show that there is a realistic chance that dialogue can resolve an issue and should demonstrate that different stakeholders are ready to engage in dialogue with each other, and would be willing to change their course of action based on agreements reached through dialogue.
--	---

Our Western Balkans team will conduct the assessment and prepare the shortlist **but the final selection decision will be taken by the Board of PeaceNexus in early July.**

[If we are selected, what will be the reporting requirements of PeaceNexus?](#)

Since we remain in close touch with our partners throughout their processes, our **reporting requirements are light**. We only ask for a brief (learning-oriented) narrative report at the end of each phase of support, and a financial report reflecting the actual expenses. To reflect on our practice, we conduct online surveys with our partners every other year, and we commission external evaluations of long-term partnerships (more than 3 years) once they have ended.