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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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Implemented  
by the Council of Europe

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Support to civil society to better network at regional level to counter hate speech and hate crime  
in the Western Balkans  
HF 45 – REGIONAL HATE SPEECH CRIME GRANT

<b>Project</b>	EU/CoE Joint Programme Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey; Action on promoting diversity and equality in the Western Balkans.
<b>Awarding entity</b>	<b>COUNCIL OF EUROPE</b> Directorate General of Democracy DGII Anti-Discrimination Department No Hate Speech and Co-operation Unit
<b>Funding</b>	European Union and Council of Europe
<b>Duration</b>	Projects shall be implemented by 02 October 2022. Reporting requirements shall be completed by 31 October 2022.
<b>Estimated starting date</b>	18 April 2022
<b>Issuance date</b>	07 March 2022
<b>Deadline for applications</b>	27 March 2022

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## APPENDICES:

- Appendix I - Application Form
- Appendix II - Provisional budget (Template)
- Appendix III - Template Grant Agreement (for information only)

### HOW TO APPLY?

- Complete and sign the **Application Form** (See **Appendix I**)
- Attach a provisional budget (using the template reproduced in **Appendix II**)
- Attach the other supporting documents:
  - Work plan of the proposed project (list of activities)
  - CVs of project manager(s)
- Send these documents in electronic form (Word .and/or PDF) to the following e-mail address: [tenders.antidiscrimination@coe.int](mailto:tenders.antidiscrimination@coe.int). Emails should contain the following reference in subject: HF 45 – REGIONAL HATE SPEECH HATE CRIME GRANT.
- Applications must be received **by 27 March 2022 (end of day)**.

## I. INTRODUCTION

This call for proposals is launched in the framework of the joint European Union and Council of Europe programme “[Horizontal Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey II](#)” (Horizontal Facility II), aiming to support South East Europe and Turkey in complying with European standards. This call for proposals falls under the action “[Promotion of Diversity and Equality in the Western Balkans](#)” and concerns the six Western Balkan beneficiaries.

As part of the action in question,

- a regional campaign against hate speech “[Block the hatred. Share the love.](#)” was launched in December 2020 and implemented since then in the 6 Beneficiaries in the Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. The campaign aims at addressing the public on the danger of hate spreading within societies, including by using testimonials from public figures from the region that are well known for their responsible use of social media, public intake on diversity and engagement on equality.
- In parallel, the action is engaging with Police Administrations and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from the LGBTI community to foster their dialogue in addressing hate crime and protecting victims, including a dialogue on better collection of data and evidence; ensure rapid reaction to individual cases and work with the judiciary to that end; co-operate to secure community events such as pride parades.

Project proposals shall aim to produce an added value to the European Union/the Council of Europe work in combating hate speech and hate crime in the region and its awareness raising dimension, notably by reinforcing the networking and capacities of civil society organisations in this field, their dialogue with institutions, and its multiplying effect to reach out to people partnering with the EU and CoE.

## II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE EUROPEAN UNION / COUNCIL OF EUROPE ACTION

The action “Promotion of Diversity and Equality in the Western Balkans” is focused on supporting Beneficiaries in the region on countering hate speech and hate crime; promoting and protecting rights of LGBTI persons; strengthening anti-discrimination institutions/mechanisms and co-ordination in line with standards of the Council of Europe, notably the recommendations of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI).

The action goals are:

- To address the phenomena of hate speech and support Beneficiaries in the Western Balkans on countering hate speech and hate crime.
- To promote and protect the rights of LGBTI persons and other vulnerable social groups in the region.
- To strengthen institutional capacities and coordination, as well as to improve anti-discrimination mechanisms in line with European standards, notably those from the Council of Europe and the European Union.
- To support the public authorities in the Western Balkans and Turkey in applying the recommendations of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance and the relevant case-law of the European Court of Human Rights.

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<sup>1</sup> \*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Project partners include Equality Bodies, Police Administrations; civil society organisations specialised on discrimination and hatred related issues.

### III. BUDGET AVAILABLE

The available budget under this call for proposals is 20.000 Euros (twenty thousand Euros). In principle, the Council of Europe intends to award 2 individual grants for the scope of this call, of 10.000 Euros each.

### IV. REQUIREMENTS

#### 1. General objective

The grants will support activities aiming at enhancing the responses to hate speech and hate crime in the Western Balkan region and its 6 Beneficiaries, notably by increasing the awareness of public institutions and the population of the negative effects hatred has on societies.

The project proposal should be linked with [ECRI General Policy Recommendation No. 11](#) and [ECRI's General Policy Recommendation No. 15](#), as well as to hate speech and hate crime issues identified in the latest country monitoring reports of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI): [Albania](#), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), [Montenegro](#), [North Macedonia](#); [Serbia](#).

Projects could address the following:

- **With regards to hate speech, under LOT 1**: reinforcing capacities of local CSOs to develop counternarratives and network on hate speech at regional level, notably to respond to stigmatisation of certain vulnerable groups.
- Develop initiatives to sensitise the public on hate speech and its negative effects, in line with the [Block the hatred. Share the love. campaign](#) under this action and acting as multiplier of its messages.
- Engage in dialogue with citizens/the public on forms of hatred in the region, and possible responses and forms of reporting.
  
- **With regards to hate crime, under LOT 2**: capacity building of national authorities, law enforcement, judiciary, civil society and other actors, to effectively allow them to combat hate crime and bring justice to victims, including on improving data collection.
- Actions for supporting vulnerable communities and sensitise them on hate crimes, including by getting them closer to relevant institutions and CSOs.
- Strengthening victim support services and information at the local level

#### 2. Means of action

Projects may include activities such as capacity building and multi-stakeholder dialogue initiatives, development of tools, awareness raising or information products, community actions, and so on. Activities should be built based on the Council of Europe standards as mentioned above.

Project are encouraged to have a gender dimension, for example through engagement with women from vulnerable communities, or through targeted actions.

#### 3. Implementation period

The implementation period of the projects should start on 18 April 2022 (see indicative timetable under VIII. below) and shall not extend beyond 2 October 2022.

Reporting requirements shall be completed on 31 October 2022 **at the latest**.

Projects completed prior to the date of submission of the applications will be automatically excluded. As regard projects started prior to the date of submission of the applications, or prior to the date of signature of the grant agreement, only those costs incurred after the date of submission of the grant application could be eligible (provided the agreement concerned so provides).

#### **4. Target stakeholders**

Projects should target in particular civil society organisations, state institutions, victims of hate speech and hate crimes and vulnerable communities, for example, but not exclusively, ethnic and religious minorities, Roma, LGBTI, migrants, women, etc. As an ultimate end, the public at large is considered a targeted stakeholder.

The above list is not exhaustive, and projects may propose to target other relevant stakeholders, while keeping in mind the general objective of the Project.

#### **5. Budgetary requirements**

Project proposals shall be accompanied by a draft budget (See **Template Budget, in Appendix II**) amounting to a maximum of 10.000 Euros (ten thousand Euros) that be awarded by the Council of Europe. The estimated budget must be consistent, accurate, clear, complete and cost-effective, in the light of the activities proposed.

Each grantee is expected to contribute approximately 10% to the overall project budget, in addition to the funds allocated by the Council of Europe.

Each Grantee shall also be required to contribute to the project either by way of its own resources or by contribution from third parties. Co-financing may take the form of financial or human resources, in-kind contributions or income generated by the action or project.

#### **6. Further to the general objective, preference will be given to:**

- Projects/actions foreseen to be implemented as a partnership between NGOs from different beneficiaries.
- Projects/actions ensuring a regional dimension, by involving the 6 beneficiaries in its activities.
- Projects/actions with clear link to the EU/CoE Block the hatred. Share the love. campaign. (for hate speech) for LOT 1.
- Projects/actions with involvement of partner beneficiaries such as police administrations (for hate crimes) for LOT 2.

Projects are encouraged to have an intersectional dimension.

#### **7. The following types of action will not be considered:**

- Projects/actions providing financial support to third parties (re-granting schemes);

- Projects/actions concerning only or mainly individual scholarships for studies or training courses;
- Projects/actions supporting political parties.

## 8. Funding conditions:

The funds for each grant should in principle be distributed as follows:

- 80% will be paid when the Grant Agreement between the two parties is signed;
- the balance will be paid based on actual expenditures incurred, and after the presentation and acceptance by the Council of Europe of the final narrative and financial reports for the Grant implementation.

## 9. Reporting requirements:

- **narrative reporting** requires a full narrative report on the use made of the grant and a copy of the register of the persons present during each of the activities, including names and signatures of participants;
- **financial reporting** requires in particular a statement in the currency in which the Grant Agreement will be concluded (Euros or local currency), in English, stating the payments made for the implementation of the activities, certified by the responsible financial officer of the Grantee, accompanied by “appropriate original supporting documents” (see below). The Council of Europe reserves the right to ask for summary translations of invoices into English. If for legal reasons the original documents must be retained by the Grantee, certified copies must be submitted with the financial statement.

“Appropriate original supporting documents” refers to signed contracts, invoices and acceptances of work (for all transactions), payment authorisation for all transactions should also be provided in case the Grantee uses such practice, and reliable evidence of payment (authorised payment order and bank statement).

As regards round tables / conferences, presenting “appropriate original supporting documents” requires presentation of a programme indicating the title, dates, venue, and agenda of the event; the names of persons facilitating the event, a signed list of participants, the contracts with the owner of venue of the event (e.g. hotel) for the rent of premises, food and beverages of participants, invoices from the owner of the venue of the event for the above services, and a report on the results of the event (see narrative reporting above).

As regards consultancy services, presenting “appropriate original supporting documents” requires presentation of evidence of the outputs produced, contracts with experts and consultants containing a specific description of services to be carried out, invoices produced after the works have been performed and delivered (the specialities of the consultants shall correspond to the nature of activities for which they are contracted).

As regards travel fees / lodging of experts and participants, presenting “appropriate original supporting documents” requires presentation, where relevant, of contracts with a travel agency for travel fees and lodging, invoices of the travel agency indicating destinations, dates, ticket costs, and names of the travelling persons, a programme of the event indicating the names of the experts and signed lists of participants.

The above description is not comprehensive. Any doubt regarding the interpretation of the notion of “appropriate original supporting documents” should lead the Grantee to consult the Council of Europe.

## **V. HOW TO APPLY?**

### **1. Documents to be submitted:**

Each application shall contain:

- the completed and signed **Application Form** (See **Appendix I**);
- a provisional budget (using the template reproduced in **Appendix II**);
  - the other supporting documents: work plan for the project activities and the CVs of project manager(s).

**Applications that are incomplete will not be considered.**

### **2. Questions**

General information about Horizontal Facility II can be found on the website of the Council of Europe: <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/horizontal-facility> and information of interest concerning the Action “Promotion of diversity and equality in the Western Balkans” can be found on the website of the Council of Europe, [Horizontal Facility II - Promotion of diversity and equality in the Western Balkans \(coe.int\)](https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/horizontal-facility).

Other questions regarding this specific call for proposals must be sent at the latest one week before the deadline for the submission of proposals, in English and shall be exclusively sent to the following address: [anti-discrimination@coe.int](mailto:anti-discrimination@coe.int), with the following reference in subject: **HF 45 – QUESTIONS REGIONAL HATE SPEECH HATE CRIME GRANT**

### **3. Deadline for submission**

The application form, **completed and signed**, together with the supporting documents, must be submitted in electronic form (Word and/or PDF) to the following e-mail address: [tenders.antidiscrimination@coe.int](mailto:tenders.antidiscrimination@coe.int). Emails should contain the following reference in subject: **HF 45 – REGIONAL HATE SPEECH HATE CRIME GRANT**.

Applications must be received **by 27 March 2022 (23:59 CET)**. Applications received after the above-mentioned date will not be considered.

### **4. Change, alteration and modification of the application file**

Any change in the format, or any alteration or modification of the original application file, will cause the immediate rejection of the application concerned.

## **VI. EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE**

The projects presented will be assessed by an Evaluation Committee composed of three staff members of the Council of Europe.

The procedure shall be based on the underlying principles of grant award procedures, which are transparency, non-retroactivity, non-cumulative awards, not-for-profit, co-financing and non-

discrimination, in accordance with [Rule 1374 of 16 December 2015 on the grant award procedures of the Council of Europe](#).

The applicants, and their projects, shall fulfil all of the following criteria:

### **1. Exclusion criteria:**

Applicants shall be excluded from the grant award procedure where they:

- a) a. have been sentenced by final judgment on one or more of the following charges: participation in a criminal organisation, corruption, fraud, money laundering, terrorist financing, terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities, child labour or trafficking in human beings;
- b. are in a situation of bankruptcy, liquidation, termination of activity, insolvency or arrangement with creditors or any like situation arising from a procedure of the same kind, or are subject to a procedure of the same kind;
- c. have received a judgement with res judicata force, finding an offence that affects their professional integrity or constitutes a serious professional misconduct;
- d. do not comply with their obligations as regards payment of social security contributions, taxes and dues, according to the statutory provisions of the country where they are established;
- e. are an entity created to circumvent tax, social or other legal obligations (empty shell company), have ever created or are in the process of creation of such an entity;
- f. have been involved in mismanagement of the Council of Europe funds or public funds;
1. are included in the list of persons or entities subject to restrictive measures applied by the European Union (available at [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu)).

By signing the Application Form, applicants shall declare on their honour that they are not in any of the above-mentioned situations (See **Appendix I, Item 12/14**).

The Council of Europe reserves the right to ask applicants at a later stage to supply the following supporting documents:

- for the items set out in paragraphs a), b) and c), an extract from the record of convictions or failing that an equivalent document issued by the competent judicial or administrative authority of the country where the applicant is established, indicating that these requirements are met;
- for the items set out in paragraph d), a certificate issued by the competent authority of the country of establishment;
- for the items set out under item 1 above;
  1. for natural persons, a scanned copy of a valid photographic proof of identity (e.g. passport)
  2. for legal persons, an extract from the companies register or other official document proving ownership and control of the applicant.

### **2. Eligibility criteria:**

In order to be eligible for a grant, an applicant must:

- be constituted as a non-governmental organisation in one of the 6 beneficiaries of the Horizontal Facility Programme and its regional action on promoting diversity and equality;
- be entitled to carry out in the territory of the beneficiaries the activities described in its project proposal;
- at least three years' experience in the field of human rights and combating discrimination;
- have sufficient financial capacity (stable and sufficient sources of funding) to maintain its activity throughout the period for which the grant is awarded and to participate by way of its own resources (including human resources or in-kind contributions);
- have sufficient operational and professional capacity, including staff, to carry out activities described in its project proposal;
- have a bank account.

**Multiple applications are not allowed and shall lead to the exclusion of all applications concerned.**

### **3. Award criteria**

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- the relevance and added value of the project proposal with regard to the objectives of the call (50%)
- the quality and accuracy of the application (25%);
- the relevance with European standards on combating hatred, notably ECRI's general policy recommendations as mentioned above (25%).

## **VII. NOTIFICATION OF THE DECISION AND SIGNATURE OF GRANT AGREEMENTS**

On completion of the selection process, all applicants will be notified in writing of the final decision concerning their respective applications as well as on the next steps to be undertaken.

The selected Grantees will be invited to sign a Grant Agreement (See Appendix III, for information only), formalising their legal commitments. **Potential applicants are strongly advised to read the draft contract, in particular its requirements in terms of payment and reporting.**

## **VIII. INDICATIVE TIMETABLE**

<b>Phases</b>	<b>Indicative timing</b>
<b>Publication of the call</b>	7 March 2022
<b>Deadline for submitting applications</b>	27 March 2022
<b>Information to applicants on the results of the award procedure</b>	4 April 2022
<b>Signature of the grant agreements</b>	11 April 2022
<b>Implementation period</b>	18 April – 2 October 2022

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