



Call for Proposals:

Financial Support for CSO's on
Improving Gender Equality
in Türkiye

Guidelines



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1. Background information

1.1 Introduction and background

Initiated in January 2023, the [WE ACT project](#) aims to strengthen the representation and participation of women and LGBTIQ+ communities in the political sphere at the local level in Türkiye. It is supported by the [European Union Delegation to Türkiye under the Thematic Programme on Human Rights and Democracy](#), and is implemented by [ALDA \(The European Association for Local Democracy\)](#), and [Daktilo 1984 Derneği](#) for a duration of 30 months within the 7 regions of Türkiye. To reach its final goal, the project is articulated through 3 strands of actions over a period of 30 months:

- **Empowering women aspiring to run in the 2024 local elections** in the 7 regions of Türkiye by providing them with capacity building, training and coaching to prepare and run effectively an electoral campaign, but also to perform a good local and participatory governance, if elected
- **Supporting Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Türkiye working for women and/or LGBTIQ+ communities** to strengthen them in their concrete actions and advocacy efforts towards policy making
- **Supporting media actors** to both ensure greater visibility for women politicians and counter and reduce sexist discourse and stereotypes in media

In order to capitalize on the project's results and multiply its impact at national level, the project foresees a **subgranting scheme dedicated to CSOs in Türkiye** that will fund up to **21 projects** in support of **gender equality, LGBTIQ+ rights, anti-discrimination** (gender, religious or ethnic), **civic and fundamental rights** for a duration of 10 months.

1.2 About ALDA, Daktilo 1984 and the funding programme

ALDA is a French-registered association working with and for local resilient communities, to address the future challenges from a democratic, environmental, social and economic point of view. ALDA supports citizens and groups of citizens in their initiatives aimed at improving their



local context, building bridges with local authorities in order to make the change real. In this framework, ALDA works through a participatory approach and the method of multilateral decentralized cooperation, always focusing on strong partnerships between local authorities and civil society organizations. Daktilo 1984 Association is a Türkiye based NGO that was founded in 2019 by a group of academics and intellectuals, based on core values of democracy, modern state governance, and the rule of law. Daktilo 1984 Derneği aims to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and public discourse by creating easily consumable media content with academic knowledge.

The WE ACT Project and subgranting scheme are funded by the European Union Delegation to Türkiye under the Thematic Programme on Human Rights and Democracy. The Thematic Programme for Human Rights and Democracy (HR&D) is a European Union programme that aims to promote democracy and human rights worldwide through support to civil society initiatives.

2. The call for proposals

2.1 Purpose and objective of the call

The present call for proposals targets **CSOs in Türkiye and aims to support their initiatives related to gender equality, LGBTI+ rights, anti-discrimination** (gender, religious or ethnic), **civic and fundamental rights**.

Projects submitted under this call for projects must therefore have **gender equality** as their main focus and objective, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

The call is expected to fund up to **21 impactful initiatives**, with a budget of **maximum of 4.000€ each**, that will support local development and local community actions, providing resources and attracting interest. Re-granted projects which proved successful for the community and/or created a strong local ownership are expected to turn into regular activities self-funded by the communities, where possible, or funded by other donors.

CSOs whose primary mission is gender equality, women's and/or rights and empowerment of LGBTI+ people, non-discrimination, civic and fundamental rights are the main target of this call, but it is not limited to them. **Other CSOs are also invited to submit projects as long as these issues represent a cross-cutting component of their work.**

2.2 Eligible activities

Project proposals may include the following types of activities:

- **Advocacy campaigns**
- **Civic mobilisation and awareness raising initiatives**
- **Empowerment activities/initiatives for women**



- **Trainings and capacity building of local actors on gender equality**
- **CSO networking events on gender equality**

Additional scores will be given to project proposals targeting cooperation:

- **with media organisations** from the targeted communities in Türkiye to increase awareness on and visibility of women and LGBTI+ people, not only in the political but also in the social sphere
- **between CSOs** working on gender issues, and/or - between CSOs and **local authorities**.

The proposals will have to guarantee that their activities will ensure **equal opportunities** to vulnerable groups (migrants, people with disabilities etc.).

2.3 Ineligible activities

The following types of activities are **not eligible**:

- Actions concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences or congresses
- Actions concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses
- Actions supporting political parties
- Actions intended to raise funds or promote the visibility of the applicant or its partner(s)
- Actions consisting mainly of research or of study
- Actions which consist exclusively or primarily in capital expenditure, e.g. land, buildings, equipment and vehicles, except in special circumstances
- Actions which discriminate - either directly or indirectly, against individuals or groups of people based on any ground such as sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, disability, race, color, religion, political beliefs, national origin, age, language, membership of a national minority and ethnic or social origin
- Actions including proselytism
- Core funding of the applicant

2.4 Size of the grants

The exact amount of the financial support will be based on the budget proposed by the applicant, which will be reviewed to ensure value for money.

Each applicant will receive a **maximum amount of 4.000€** to implement their project.

The grant will be transferred in EURO (€) by ALDA, while the applicants will manage their local actions and pay them in Turkish Lira, therefore in the reporting phase the exchange rate ([InfoEuro](#)) should be applied to calculate the exact amount to be reported. Additional information will be given during the approval and implementation phases.



2.5 Eligible costs

Eligible costs are **actual costs** incurred by the beneficiary which meet all of the following criteria:

- They are incurred during the lifetime of the submitted proposal;
- They are indicated in the estimated overall budget of the submitted proposal;
- They are necessary for the implementation of the project which is the subject of the grant;
- They will be paid before the submission of the final reports;
- They are identifiable and verifiable, in particular being recorded in the accounting records of the beneficiary and determined according to the applicable accounting standards of the country where the beneficiary is established and according to the usual cost accounting practices of the beneficiary;
- They comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation;
- They are real costs, reasonable, justified, and comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency;
- They are not covered through other EU grants in the form of contribution to unit costs, lump sums or flat-rate financing (ie. the project expenses are not already funded or covered by any other EU fund).

Please note that the Value Added Tax (VAT) will be considered as an eligible cost only if it is **not recoverable** under the applicable national VAT legislation.

Additional information about the eligible costs' categories will be available on the Budget proposal template (downloadable below under section 3.3 Application Package).

2.6 Eligible entities

In order to be eligible to apply for the call for proposals, the applicant must:

- **Be a CSO legally registered in Türkiye** as follows:
 - **Associations**
 - **Foundations**
 - **Non-profit cooperatives**
 - **Civil society networks and platforms** (these networks and platforms have to be represented by a CSO with a public legal personality);
 - **Civil initiatives** (these initiatives have to be represented by a CSO with a public legal personality)
- **Acting at local level in support gender-equality, women's and/or LGBTI+'s rights and empowerment, non-discrimination and civic and fundamental rights.** Other CSOs are also invited to submit projects as long as these issues represent a **cross-cutting component** of their work



Strong preference will be granted - when they match all the criteria - to CSOs applicant attending the online session “**Project Cycle Management Training & Infosession on the WE ACT Call for Proposals**” to be held on 14 and 20 March 2024, 14:00 to 16:00 Turkish time (registration link below), as well as to **CSOs whose representatives have previously participated in the Participatory Democracy Training** of the WE ACT Project and following the coaching program, and who will be

The sub-grant scheme does not support individual requests, political parties, their branches or public entities (such as municipalities). Support requests must be made on behalf of an organization listed above with a public legal personality.

Sub-grant beneficiaries must ensure all natural persons linked to the contract, including participants to workshops and/or trainings and recipients of financial support to third parties, do not include entities/persons included in the lists of EU restrictive measures.

2.7 Duration

The projects are expected to last 10 months. The selected applicants are expected to start the implementation of their project by the **1st of June 2024** and end no later than **31 March 2025**. No cost spent before or after this period will be eligible.

One additional month will be given from CSOs to prepare their final report.

2.8 Location

Activities must take place in Türkiye.

2.9 Target groups and beneficiaries

The sub-granted activities must directly involve and be addressed in priority to one or more of the following target groups:

- **Women**
- **LGBTI+ people**

The actions will have to ensure equal opportunities to vulnerable groups (migrants, people with disabilities etc.), and should impact citizens and local communities on the long term.

2.10 Payment

The payment will be made by ALDA to selected applicants, via bank transfers in two instalments:



- The first instalment of **60% of the grant contribution** will be submitted after the signature of the Partnership Agreement and upon submission of the corresponding Request for Payment and Financial Identification Form, within thirty days from the signature and presentation of all documents.
- The final settlement of **40% of the grant contribution** will be paid upon submission of the second Request for Payment and the submission of the final report, within thirty days from the **approval** of the final report (narrative and financial reports, accompanied by all justificatory documents and attachments in originals), duly completed according to the clauses of the Partnership Agreement.

The amount will be transferred in EURO (€).

The selected applicants will receive the guidelines for the financial and narrative reports, all expenditures must be traceable and justified by documents.

3. Application and evaluation process

3.1 Application process and deadline for submission

The call is open from **26 February** until **7 April 2024**. **The proposals must be submitted by 7 April 2024 23:59, Türkiye time**, filling in the **Online Application Form** (link below) **with all the required information and attachments** (Budget proposal and Official registration document, information below under section 3.3 Application Package). The attached documents shall contain ALL relevant information concerning the action and no additional annexes should be sent.

[**➔ Apply through the Online Application Form**](#)

Each applicant will be allowed to submit one project application only.

Two dedicated online sessions “Project Cycle Management Training & Infosession on the WE ACT Call for Proposals” are organised to present the call, support applicants in the preparation of their application and answer any potential question about the call. **CSOs willing to apply to the call are strongly invited to attend one of these sessions, as participation to it will grant additional points to applicants in the evaluation process.**

Register to one of the sessions (both sessions are the same in terms of content, you just need to register for one):



- ⇒ **Thursday 14 March 2024, 14:00 to 16:00 Turkish time: [Register through this link](#)**
or
⇒ **Wednesday 20 March 2024, 14:00 to 16:00 Turkish time: [Register through this link](#)**

Any error and major inconsistency related to the application instruction and the documents required may lead to the rejection of the application. Applicants must verify that their application is complete before submitting it. Incomplete applications may be rejected.

3.2 Languages of the call / application

The call is available in both English and Turkish. It is possible to submit applications to the call in both English and Turkish. However, applicants must be legally registered bodies (as detailed in article 2.6) in Türkiye.

3.3 Application Package

In addition to filling up the Online Application Form, the applicant will be required to provide the **additional documents**, in **uploading them directly in the application form** while submitting the application:

- Annex I. Budget proposal template ([download the template here](#)): to be filled out with the budget of your project proposal, in EURO (€)
- Annex II. Official registration document: statutes (for associations), memorandum (for foundations) or articles of association (for cooperatives) - or any other document proving the legal existence of the applicant

3.4 Evaluation process

Upon completion of the Administrative and Eligibility Check, the applications that meet all the eligibility criteria will be evaluated by an **Evaluation Committee (EC)**. The evaluation process will be realized following an Evaluation Grid, based on the above-mentioned criteria.

The results of the application's evaluation will be sent by email to applicants **within May 2024**. The EC will have the final decision on the selection of the re-granted projects and its verdict will be un-appealable.

Type	Criteria	Point
ELIGIBILITY	Applicant's legal registration: The applicant is legally registered in Türkiye under one of the statutes specified in the call	✓



	Project topic: the topic of the project is in line with the call and addresses at least SDG 5 or SDG 10	✓
	Project target groups: the project directly involves and addresses at least 1 one of the 2 key target groups	✓
	Project timeframe: The project will start on 1 June 2024 and ends no later than February 2025	✓
	Eligibility of the project activities: the project does not include any ineligible activity as specified in the call	✓
	Number of applications: the applicant only submitted one application to this call	✓
	Equal opportunities: the project activities ensure equal opportunities to vulnerable groups	✓
PROJECT EVALUATION	Operational and technical capacities of the applicant: the applicant has proven experience in project and budget management	1-3
	Operational and technical capacities of the applicant: The applicant has a consolidated expertise on the thematic focus of the call (e.g. previous experience with similar projects or activities)	1-3
	Relevance of the action: The action openly addresses the objective, the issues and sub-topics and thematic axes of the call for proposals.	1-5
	Relevance of the action: The work programme responds to the objectives of the proposed action, it is realistic and applies an appropriate methodology.	1-3
	Relevance of the action: The foreseen impact both in the short and long term is significant in terms of benefits for the territory and the target group.	1-3
	Effectiveness of the action: The action is credible in terms of adequacy between the budget, human resources, proposed activities and expected results and the budget presented is appropriately, efficiently and realistically balanced.	1-4
	Impact on the target group: The target group is clearly identified (both direct and indirect beneficiaries) and the expected results meet their needs.	1-5
	Sustainability of the action: project activities are designed to reduce or minimize negative environmental and social impact	1-2
	Follow-up and replicability opportunities: prospects for capitalization of previous initiatives, and synergies with CSOs past or current initiatives	1-2



ADDITIONAL POINTS	Applicant's involvement in WE ACT project: The applicant has previously attended the participatory democracy training of the WE ACT project and is currently following the online coaching programme	+1
	Applicant's involvement in WE ACT project: The applicant attended the online session "Project Cycle Management Training & Infosession on the WE ACT Call for Proposals" on 14 or 20 March 2024 (registration link above in the document)	+2
	Cooperation with other stakeholders: the project foresees cooperation with other CSOs, or media organisations or local authorities	+2

4. Contact

All the questions related to the present call for proposals and the participation modalities have to be addressed exclusively to the following email address: weact@aldaintranet.org

Do not forget to register to the online sessions "Project Cycle Management Training & Infosession on the WE ACT Call for Proposals" (14 or 20 March 2024, 14:00 to 16:00) to get more information about the call and answer your questions.



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