



ENPI/2014/354-499

WE GOV! Empowering MENA CSOs participation policy making

Co-funded by the European Union under the Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility



www.gvc-italia.org



INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

Jordan/Libya/Palestine/Tunisia

Deadline for application:

11th December 2016





ENPI/2014/354-499

WE GOV! Empowering MENA CSOs participation policy making

Co-funded by the European Union under the Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility



www.gvc-italia.org

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. CONTEXT | PAGE 4 |
| 2. INTRODUCTION | 5 |
| 3. OBJECTIVES | 5 |
| 4. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES | 7 |
| 5. ELIGIBLE REQUIREMENTS OF CSOS | 8 |
| 6. PROJECT PROPOSALS DESIGN | 8 |
| 7. ASSESSMENT PROCESS & TIMEFRAME | 10 |
| 8. WE GOV! FINANCIAL SUPPORT | 12 |
| 9. DEADLINE & APPLICATION | 12 |
| 10. CONTRACT AND PAYMENT | 12 |
| 11. VISIBILITY GUIDELINES | 13 |
| 12. INFORMATION CONTACT | 13 |



ENPI/2014/354-499

WE GOV! Empowering MENA CSOs participation policy making

Co-funded by the European Union under the Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility



www.gvc-italia.org

List of acronyms

CFP – CALL FOR PROPOSALS

CBO – COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION

CSO – CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATION

MENA – MIDDLE EAST NORTH AFRICA

E WASH - EMERGENCY, WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE GROUP

WASH - WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE



1. Context

“WE GOV! Empowering MENA CSOs participation policy making” is a three years regional initiative – from 1st March 2015 to 28th February 2018 – funded by the Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility of the European Union and led by the Italian NGO GVC - Gruppo Volontariato Civile.

The action takes place in four Arab countries: Jordan, Libya, Palestine and Tunisia and is implemented in partnership with the following organisations:

- ACHRS – Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies, Jordan
- HAI – Human Appeal International, Palestine
- MA’AN – Ma’an Development Centre, Palestine
- ACCUN – Association Citoyenneté et Culture Numérique, Tunisia
- YA Basta! Padova, Italy

As stated in EU Agenda for Change 2011, *“good governance in its political, economic, social and environmental terms is vital for inclusive and sustainable development in MENA region”*. Further to that the EU Agenda focuses on supporting *“the emergence of an organized local civil society able to act as a watchdog and partner in dialogue with national governments”*¹.

In this framework and also following the EU Communication ‘Europe’s engagement with Civil Society in external relations’ of 2012², WE GOV! overall objective is to contribute to build a favourable environment for inclusive, democratic and sustainable growth in Jordan, Libya, Palestine and Tunisia by fostering the involvement of CSOs. In particular, the action aims to:

- **Strengthening the involvement of civil society organizations** in the reform policy processes improving their role as watchdog by means of raising their participation thorough an integrated programme of capacity building.
- **Strengthening the role of CSOs as watchdog in the reform agenda and policy process** through improving governance mechanisms, enhancing their capacities and establishing networks and alliances among CSOs and other stakeholders working at local and regional level.

At the core of the action is the launch of an international Call for Proposals for small and pilot projects to be implemented by CSOs at national and regional level. The purpose of such a sub-granting mechanism is to offer CSOs the opportunity to:

- **experiment** and practice activities related to **social accountability** and **good governance** principles;
- promote decision making processes and dialogue between CSOs and governmental institutions;
- strengthen **regional network and knowledge sharing** across the MENA region among CSOs facing similar issues in their country;
- build their **development capacity** during the implementation of their pilot projects in order to improve their management quality.

¹ Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change; COM(2011) 637 - 13.10.2011.

² <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2012:0492:FIN:en:PDF>



2. Introduction

The EU funded WE GOV! Project promotes governance-related initiatives in Jordan, Libya, Palestine and Tunisia and it will redistribute sub grants to CSOs and their network for related activities.

A **global budget of 200.000 EUR** is available to support CSOs initiatives in the 4 mentioned countries.

The sub-granted projects have to be implemented between the 1st January 2017 and 31st of December 2017.

Governance-related projects will be granted through a sub-granting mechanism, accountable and transparent, as it is extensively described in this document. Projects submitted will be evaluated at national level by a Selection Committee.

Projects proposed can present different types of activities and strategies, as long as they respond to the general objectives of the present CfP and to the specific criteria outlined for each target country.

The financial support will be given to pilot activities and projects improving CSOs and public engagement in enhancement or creation of social accountability and local/national governance mechanism.

Applicants are encouraged to present proposals which promote project objectives and values.

3. Objectives

The general objectives of WE GOV! CfP are:

- To **support CSOs practicing social accountability** and **good governance principles**.
- To **establish participation in decision making** process and **dialogues between CSOs and government** institutions.
- To **expand civil society space** and **increase democracy in action** through networking, participatory activities linking CSOs and governmental institutions in the four countries targeted by the CfP.
- To **reinforce CSOs capacity** to contribute to the building of an enabling environment by ensuring their independence, internal governance, transparency and accountability.
- To **highlight the regional dimension** of the **EU policy in the Southern Neighbourhood Region** and specifically in the 4 partner countries targeted by WE GOV! project.

The pilot projects will be operating in the field of governance, from the most complex and developed environment to the most fragile one and will be implemented according to national priorities agenda.

Furthermore, the CfP encourages the following type of projects.

At regional level:

- Projects, involving at least two countries from the 4 countries targeted by WE GOV! project in order to increase interaction between CSOs and authorities at the regional, national and local levels.



- Projects supporting closer cooperation among CSOs operating in similar areas of intervention and that can develop further their capacity of advocacy through networking and regional initiatives.

At national level and following specific contexts:

Jordan

In particular, projects promoting networking around common issues, i.e.:

- human rights,
- election monitoring,
- social issues such as youth and women inclusion,
- strengthening the role of CSOs as watchdog in a political reforms decision making bodies,
- developing capacity of youth and women in leadership skills.

Libya and Tunisia

Projects promoting and showing the operational and strategic usefulness of CSOs involvement and networking around common issues such as:

- human rights,
- gender mainstreaming,
- education,
- preservation of cultural heritage,
- social issues such as youth and women inclusion or participation, when this specifically helps to mainstream these components in public politics and strategic planning,
- elections monitoring establishing collaborative mechanisms between CSOs and national authorities also via e-campaigns and “take action” initiatives,
- creating a common code of ethics that could be used as a basis to be followed by all CSOs throughout the country,
- or any other innovative method to promote governance and CSOs participation in public life.

Palestine

Projects strengthening the role of Palestinian CSOs as watchdog of policy and decision making bodies and specifically:

- Priority will be given to action aiming to empower capacities and resources of the EWASH³ - Emergency, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (EWASH), and in particular to promote reform and increase public accountability, to advocate and to be a watchdog player in the WASH sector, to contribute to WASH sector analyses and to meaningfully participate in the definition of performance criteria and related monitoring systems, to support the production of local

³ The Emergency, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (EWASH) group is a coordination body founded in 2002 to address the emergency situation that resulted from Israeli incursions into the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It aims to coordinate the work in the water, sanitation and hygiene sector to avoid duplication and help ensure optimum results.



evidence on key issues of public service delivery related to WASH at local and national level and to draft recommendations based on findings.

- Priority will be given to networks of small CBOs and grassroots organizations working at community level to advocate and promote solution for an improved access to services and natural resources through a real participation/dialogue with the Palestinian Authority. A special attention will be paid to initiatives promoting the role and responsibility of the Palestinian Authority in all the West Bank through dialogue and engagement with civil society tackling issues related in particular to: women, children, youth and people with disabilities, preservation of the environment, natural resources, and cultural heritage. Further, priority will be given to projects foreseeing a scaling up strategy in the involvement of public authorities, going from the community level to the regional and / or national level.

4. Eligible activities

A proposed project should meet some of the following activities:

- Initiatives focused on the communication and collaboration gap between CSOs and government institutions and decision-makers.
- Activities facilitating the interaction and cooperation among CSOs and government institutions officials.
- Initiatives foreseen to create formal spaces for CSOs in the policy making and facilitating policy dialogue.
- Activities promoting a shift of CSOs from service provision to governance, especially in the case of Jordan and Palestine, as well as indirectly the civic participation in policy decision making.
- Activities mainstreaming the role of CSOs and the importance of its participation in policy-making processes among government institutions and the general public.
- Initiative increasing mutual trust and exchange between institutions officials and CSOs representatives.
- Awareness-raising and trust-building activities.
- Lobby and advocacy activities identifying or stressing unaddressed policy issues and bringing them to public attention, giving voice to the wide range of political, environmental, social and community interests and concerns.
- CSOs initiatives to identifying problems and develop advocacy plans in order to produce concrete and tangible results.

Projects aiming at promoting proselytism, hate speech or any other form of radicalisation will be excluded from the sub-granting⁴.

⁴ Other uneligible actions are: actions concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences and congresses; actions concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses; actions in the formal education sector; one-off conferences: conferences can only be funded if they form part of a wider range of activities to be implemented; actions which consist exclusively or primarily in capital expenditure, e.g. land, buildings; actions to support micro-finance or similar cash schemes;



5. Eligibility requirements of CSOs

Primary target group for this CfP are Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), i.e. 'all those organisations including all non-market and non-state organisations outside of the family in which people organize themselves to pursue shared interest in the public life and that play as independent development actors'.

In this framework, reference is made to the concept of CSOs as stated by the EU in the Communication *'The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations'* of 2012⁵.

In particular, in order to be eligible for a grant the applicant must:

- Be a legal person *and*
- Be non-profit making *and*
- Be a CSO established in one of the 4 target countries of WE GOV! (Jordan, Libya, Palestine and Tunisia) *and*

Be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action. CSOs can act individually or in consortium with others.

Partnerships are also encouraged under this CfP. Applicant must include at least two partners (co-applicants) part of an already established network or an *ad hoc consortium* of CSOs. Partners (co-applicants) must satisfy the eligibility criteria as applicable to the applicant himself.

Please note that specific eligibility criteria can apply to Libyan associations and that projects submitted by Libyan CSOs based in Tunisia could be accepted.

6. Project proposals design

Applicants are encouraged to submit project proposals that:

actions which discriminate against individuals or groups of people on grounds of their gender, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or lack of them, or their ethnic origin; actions supporting political parties.

⁵ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2012:0492:FIN:en:PDF> 1.2. What the EU means by CSOs, page 3. The EU considers CSOs to include all non-State, not-for-profit structures, non-partisan and non-violent, through which people organise to pursue shared objectives and ideals, whether political, cultural, social or economic. Operating from the local to the national, regional and international levels, they comprise urban and rural, formal and informal organisations. The EU values CSOs' diversity and specificities; it engages with accountable and transparent CSOs which share its commitment to social progress and to the fundamental values of peace, freedom, equal rights and human dignity. They include membership-based, cause-based and service-oriented CSOs. Among them, community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, faith-based organisations, foundations, research institutions, Gender and LGBT organisations, cooperatives, professional and business associations, and the not-for-profit media. Trade unions and employers' organisations, the so-called social partners, constitute a specific category of CSOs.



ENPI/2014/354-499

WE GOV! Empowering MENA CSOs participation policy making

Co-funded by the European Union under the Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility



www.gvc-italia.org

- Focus on good governance and participation and contribute to WE GOV overall objective i.e.: to build a favourable environment for inclusive, democratic and sustainable growth in: Jordan, Libya, Palestine and Tunisia by fostering the involvement of CSOs.
- Clearly state the knowledge, understandings, skills, conditions and/or thematic that will be addressed by their intervention.
- Present a wide range of “good governance” activities, as long as they are coherent with local/national needs and specific context.
- Demonstrate a clear governance focus such as: Dialogue mechanism, Awareness Raising, Lobby/Advocacy, Networking, etc.

Projects have to take place in one of the eligible country (Jordan, Libya, Palestine and Tunisia) and could have local, regional or national dimension.

This sub-granting mechanism is an incentive to develop a broader and wider activity; therefore, it's important to clearly mention expected results and outcomes that will be achieved with this concrete institutional and financial support.

In order to maximize and multiply the opportunities offered by the sub-granting, projects should be fully documented and will be part of the WE GOV! Online Platform as well as of the whole WE GOV visibility policy.

➤ Each organization can submit maximum one project.

➤ Duration:

The project duration will be between Min. 8 months and Max. 12 months.

➤ Budget design and grant size:

Selected proposal will be funded according to the budget foreseen in the proposal.

The total amount of sub-grants to be awarded can possibly be:

- Between 4.000 – 10.0000 € for CSOs implementing small scale projects or pilot initiatives,
- Between 20.000 – 35.000 € for CSOs potentially ready to work in network or on a more regional dimension.

Budgets have to be outlined in local currency (Tunisian/ Jordanian / Libyan Dinar/ Shekel in Palestine) using the proper template attached.

In kind or monetary contribution will not be accepted.

Before the signature of the grant the budget could be renegotiated with the applicants.

At the signature of the contract the total budget will be also indicated in EUR according to the InfoEur exchange rate of the month available on the website http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/infoeuro/index_en.cfm.

➤ Quality design and Impact



GVC and its partners recommend all interested applicants to develop proposals which have a long term and sustainable impact. Therefore, proposals should be able to demonstrate the following:

1. Applicants should provide a context-based project idea, in line with the governance sector and the current political situation applying to eligible countries.
2. The projects should mainstream participation, establishing new connections between CSOs, Local and National authorities and other sectors or fields.
3. Proposals should have a participatory methodology both in planning and implementation.
4. Proposals should reflect interest and advocate for the needs of the most vulnerable communities.

7. Assessment process and Timeframe

The assessment process will be conducted internally by WE GOV! “selection committee” composed of GVC representatives as well as experts together with its partners and possibly with external national experts.

More than one proposal by country could be selected.

Only applications submitted by email (using attached templates - word and excel) will be accepted. Applicants may be required to produce additional clarifications and documentation, if needed.

Successful applicants will be notified via email and invited to a kick-off meeting in Tunisia, Jordan and Palestine to be held by GVC and WE GOV! partners. The timeframe envisaged for the assessment process is the following:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Launching of the Call for Proposal | 11 th November 2016 |
| Application's deadline | 11 th December 2016 |
| Selection stages in each country | 12-20 th December 2016 |
| Information to applicants | From 20 December 2016 (indicative) |
| Implementation period and follow up | January 2017 – December 2017 |
| Deadline for final report | End of January 2018 |

Please do note that at this stage **applications** can be submitted **in English, French or Arabic**, but standard templates of this CFP are available only in English and French.

Please note that after approval and during implementation, the narrative and financial reports will be accepted only in English or French.

An impartial non-voting secretary will participate to the Selection Process in order to ensure transparency and fairness.

The same evaluation criteria will be applied across all the eligible countries according to the following grid:



ENPI/2014/354-499

WE GOV! Empowering MENA CSOs participation policy making

Co-funded by the European Union under the Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility



www.gvc-italia.org

| EVALUATION GRID | | Score |
|--|---|------------|
| Eligibility criteria and type of applicants | Is the proposal submitted by a consortium/network? How many CSOs/CBOs are composing the network/consortium? Is it relevant to the activities and sector proposed? | 0 - 5 |
| | Does the proposal contribute to policy agenda? Does the proposal improve coordination mechanism and empower civil society roles toward decision makers? | 0 - 5 |
| | Has the CSO or network been targeted by WE GOV activities in the past? | 0 - 5 |
| | Will the proposals improve the capacities of the CSO/network? Is the proposal coherent with CSO/network capacities? Is the proposal supporting CSOs/network normally excluded from bigger financial opportunities due to its size/experience? | 0 - 5 |
| Relevance | How much is the proposal relevant to the objectives stated in the guidelines? | 0 - 5 |
| | How much is the project relevant to national criteria and priorities? | 0 - 5 |
| | Does the proposal respond to an assessed need? | 0 - 5 |
| | How much the project mainstream good governance mechanisms and practices? | 0 - 5 |
| | How much the proposal raises awareness on public? | 0 - 5 |
| | How relevant are the targeted Local/National Authorities and general public to proposals objectives? | 0 - 5 |
| Date and places | Does the project has a rational timeframe and is it in a relevant place to be implemented? | 0 - 5 |
| Activities | Are the activities eligible and suitable to reach expected results and objectives? | 0 - 5 |
| Applicant experience | Does the CSO/network have experience in similar actions? Does the CSO/network have the capacities to implement the project? | 0 - 5 |
| Beneficiaries | Is the target number of beneficiaries realistic and coherent? Does the project target different type of beneficiaries, actors and stakeholders? | 0 - 5 |
| | How much the proposal includes human rights approaches and pay attention to vulnerable categories? | 0 - 5 |
| Outputs/ Deliverables | Does the proposal foresee the production of outputs or clear deliverables? Will those outputs be shared among partners and published online in WE GOV Platform? | 0 - 5 |
| Creativity and innovation | Does the proposal use a creative approach to tackle issues and relevant sectors of intervention? | 0 - 5 |
| Feasibility | Is the project feasible? Is the proposal part of a wider path of the organization? Does the project take advantage of previous experiences to replicate them in the future? | 0 - 5 |
| Sustainability | Has the project a clear vision of its sustainability? | 0 - 5 |
| Budget | Is the budget clear? Are costs realistic? Is the balance between costs and benefits realistic? | 0 - 5 |
| Maximum Score of Proposals | | 100 |



ENPI/2014/354-499

WE GOV! Empowering MENA CSOs participation policy making

Co-funded by the European Union under the Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility



www.gvc-italia.org

8. WE GOV! Financial support

The **total amount of Financial Support to be allocated is 200.000 EUR** for the 4 eligible countries.

9. Deadline and applications

Official deadline for applications is the **11th of December 2016**.

Applications must be sent by email to the following address:

To: wegov.subgranting@gvc-italia.org

Applicants must fill in the following WE GOV! forms:

- Annex 1: Applicant info sheet
- Annex 2: Project proposal
- Annex 3: Budget

Info days at country level for potential applicants could be organised at country level to advise applicants and CSOs on WE GOV! International CfP. For further details at country level please contact with:

- ACHRS Amman Centre for Human Rights Studies: achrs@achrs.org - Jordan
- GVC, ester.zappata@gvc-italia.org - Lybia, Tunisia and multi-country proposals
- GVC, development.coord@gvc-italia.org – Palestine

Narrative and financial reports during execution of the sub-granted projects will be done either in English or French. Arabic is allowed only at the project proposal's stage.

10. Contract and payment

Successful projects will be granted under the WE GOV! Sub-grant mechanism, as follow:

- 1st pre-payment of 50% of the budget at the signature of the grant contract
- 2nd instalment: 40% after spending at least the 80% of the 1st instalment
- 3rd and last payment: 10%

All financial reports will include original invoices and all the relevant supporting documentation. The financial report will be sent together with a narrative report.

11. Visibility guidelines

Sub-granted CSOs and their network will have to respect the visibility rules set by the European Union and the "Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Actions" (2010).

Particularly, messages and communication must be compatible with social and cultural norms and every external communication (report, teaching materials, attendance sheet, etc.) produced by sub-



ENPI/2014/354-499

WE GOV! Empowering MENA CSOs participation policy making

Co-funded by the European Union under the Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility



www.gvc-italia.org

granted projects will have the EU flag and the mention “This project is co-funded by the European Union”.

Communication materials, such as awareness raising and advocacy tools, will bring also the following non-responsibility statement: “This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents are the sole responsibility of *(name of CSOs/network)* and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union”.

During trainings, conferences/workshop and public events the sub-granted action have to guarantee the acknowledgment of the EU funding and the presence of EU flag on all visibility materials produced and disseminated by the sub-granted projects.

GVC will ensure the visibility of any relevant activity or important event in close coordination with the sub grantees and will inform promptly the EU Delegations in Jordan, Libya, Palestine and Tunisia.

12. Information Contact

WE GOV team can provide you more information regarding the application process or support you in case of specific questions about this CfP. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the following address: wegov.subgranting@gvc-italia.org