**Call for Proposals**

**To support DPOs and CSOs to advocate for improved implementation of the**

**Law of Georgia on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

**December 5, 2022**

Europe Foundation is pleased to announce a call for proposals for Disabled People’s Organizations (DPOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) operating in Shida Kartli, Kvemo Kartli, Kakheti, and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions of Georgia and working on promoting and protecting the rights of people with disability through monitoring and advocacy efforts directed toward better implementation of the 2020 Law of Georgia on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The grant support aims at contributing to more accountable and transparent public policy making in Georgia through promoting participatory civic monitoring and advocacy as it relates to the rights of people with disabilities. In addition, it aims at strengthening the institutional and thematic capacities of the grantee DPOs and CSOs, so that they are better able to fulfill their mission.

The call is announced under the project ***Advocacy for the Implementation of Disability Law,*** led by Coalition of Independent Living (CIL).

**About Europe Foundation**

Europe Foundation’s mission is to empower people to effect change for social justice and economic prosperity through hands-on programs, helping them to improve their communities and their own lives. Its programs equip CSOs and civic activists to define and achieve positive outcomes for themselves and their communities. The Foundation employs a participatory approach, which allows civil society actors to determine the issues that are of importance to the right-holders and to develop interventions that will be effective in addressing identified needs - a critical factor in building a vibrant democracy. At the same time, Europe Foundation mobilizes communities and/or interest groups around specific issue areas to create demand for change. The Foundation also believes that substantive and sustainable democratic changes cannot be affected without issue-based partnerships between diverse groups of stakeholders. It is for this reason that Europe Foundation has made it its priority to nurture and promote public-private-NGO partnerships that contribute to consensus building and ensures participatory decision making.

Europe Foundation’s vision for civil society development is reflected in its operational and grantmaking interventions, which are guided by the following mandates and approaches: citizen monitoring, corporate and community philanthropy, evidence-based advocacy and policy making, cross-border/cross-community cooperation, cross-cutting gender policy, youth integration, public-private partnerships, and open door grantmaking.

**Background**

To fulfill its obligations under the United Nation’s Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), Georgia adopted a Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which entered into force in January 2021. While this was an important step forward for the people with disabilities (PWDs), they are very far from enjoying equal rights, as both local and national authorities are slow and often resistant to implement the existing regulatory framework. At the same time, CSOs and DPOs working on disability rights or with PWDs and their families, lack capacities needed to better advocate for the needs, priorities, and rights of their constituencies. This is especially true for those CSOs and DPOs that operate in rural and ethnic minority populated regions of Georgia.

To contribute to better implementation of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Coalition for Independent Living (CIL) in partnership with Europe Foundation initiated the project funded by the US State Department’s Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. It aims at strengthening DPOs and other disability organizations to effectively cooperate with local and central governments and advocate for equal treatment of PWDs under the Law. Given Europe Foundation’s mission and mandates, the Foundation will focus on institutional and thematic strengthening of Georgian CSOs and DPOs working on the promotion and protection of PWD rights, so that they can better serve their role and become more effective in achieving their missions.

As an infrastructure organization that strives to promote civic participation and democratic governance in Georgia, Europe Foundation has long been supporting Georgian CSOs and DPOs in improving their institutional and thematic capacities, so that they can contribute to more accountable, needs-based, and transparent public policy making. The Foundation’s capacity development approach both motivates and enables CSOs/DPOs and their staff to gain the knowledge and skills needed to make their work more effective and sustainable. It is a needs-based, demand-driven, and continuous process that employs such diverse tools as thematic trainings, common capacity building workshops that promote cross-sectoral learning, experience sharing events locally and internationally, learning by doing opportunities, etc. An important aspect of Europe Foundation’s capacity building approach is its Organizational Development Initiative, which provides more focused advice on how best to improve the institutional capacity of an individual CSO in the following six areas: board governance, program management, financial management, human resource management, communications, and fund development.

The CSOs and DPOs selected under this competition will have a unique chance to develop participatory civic monitoring and advocacy projects that are directed toward meeting their constituencies’ needs, while at the same time receive technical assistance and budget funds to strengthen their institutional and thematic capacities with guidance from Europe Foundation.

**Goal and Objectives**

The goal of the grant competition is to identify and support CSOs and DPOs from Shida Kartli, Kvemo Kartli, Kakheti, and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions of Georgia in their efforts to promote and protect the rights of people with disability. The grant support aims at

1. Contributing to more accountable and transparent public policy making in Georgia through promoting participatory civic monitoring and advocacy as it relates to improved implementation of the 2020 Law of Georgia on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and
2. Strengthening the institutional and thematic capacities of the grantee DPOs and CSOs, so that they are better able to fulfill their mission.

**Selection Criteria**

Grants will be awarded to projects demonstrating the following:

1. Persuasive, evidence-based justification (such as available research and/or surveys) of the importance and saliency of an issue selected for the proposed civic monitoring and advocacy effort(s) to contribute to proper implementation of the Law of Georgia on the Rights of Person with Disabilities in Georgia and UNCRPD;
2. Results-oriented, feasible, and needs-based action plan ensuring wide participation of citizens[[1]](#footnote-1) or affected groups of citizens in monitoring and advocacy processes, including a clear description of the methods to be applied in monitoring,[[2]](#footnote-2) advocacy,[[3]](#footnote-3) and citizen mobilization;[[4]](#footnote-4)
3. Efficient and well-thought-out strategy of interaction between DPOs, CSOs, media outlets, and public authorities in the process of civic monitoring and advocacy, directed toward achieving positive outcomes;
4. Sound action plan for equipping DPOs, CSOs and their constituencies with knowledge and skills needed to implement professional civic monitoring and advocacy campaigns, which in turn will contribute to developing local civic resource;
5. Well-thought-out project monitoring and evaluation plan with reliable quantitative and/or qualitative baseline data and indicators for measuring and evaluating the project’s impact;
6. Scope and relevance of the project’s impact;
7. Sustainability of the project (please note that sustainability can refer to activities, structures, knowledge, and outcomes that result from project implementation);
8. Cost-effectiveness of the project.

The following general criteria will also be used to assess the projects:

1. Degree of compliance with the objectives and conditions of the call;
2. Degree of compliance with the Foundation’s mission and mandates;
3. Effective, feasible and result-oriented project methodology;
4. Sound analysis of internal and external risks and efficient methods of risk mitigation;
5. Demonstrated commitment from major stakeholders, including concrete information about formal and informal partners;
6. Organization’s capacity to implement a project as demonstrated by: (a) relevant qualifications of the involved personnel and/or experts, (b) past experience in civic monitoring and advocacy, and (c) capacity to manage a grant;
7. Gender-based analysis to ensure equal access of men and women to project activities and products to influence decision-making processes; (The detailed information on gender issues is available in the following questionnaire on the Foundation's website <https://epfound.ge/static/file/202110281739-gender_mainstreaming_checklist_eng.pdf>; it is not necessary to answer the questions in the questionnaire separately but to integrate the considerations into the project planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation phases).
8. Analysis of minority considerations that relate to direct or indirect effect of the project activities and expected results on different minority groups; (The detailed information on minority issues is available in the following questionnaire on the Foundation's website <https://epfound.ge/static/file/202110281832-minority-mainstreaming-checklist-eng.pdf>; it is not necessary to answer the questions in the questionnaire separately but to integrate the considerations into the project planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation phases).

**Selection Process**

To ensure an objective and non-discriminatory selection process, proposals will be reviewed by a board of independent experts. The final decision on grant awards will be made by Europe Foundation. The Foundation reserves the right not to support any project proposal, if it deems the quality of submitted proposals unsatisfactory. During the review process, additional information may be requested. The applicant will be asked to present requested information within three calendar days of the request.

**Evaluation of Project Results**

During the selection process, special attention will be paid to the proposed criteria and mechanisms for evaluation of project results. The projects shall list project evaluation criteria, outcome and impact indicators, and baseline data for the proposed indicators. To determine the degree to which a grant project accomplished its goals and objectives, the Foundation may carry out an independent evaluation of grant projects.

**Grant Funds**

The maximum grant award for each proposal is GEL 70,000. The duration of the project should be between 12 to16 months.

Grant funds may be used only for the activities directly related to implementation of a grant project. Grant funds cannot be used for covering organization’s on-going expenses, construction expenses, purchase of real estate, or covering the applicant organization’s debt.

Grant funds may be used for the following:

* Expenses related to collection of data and evidence
* Direct costs for project-related events (e.g. rental of facilities, translation, equipment, etc.)
* Communication (phone, fax, e-mail)
* Pro-rated portion of salaries for key participants (e.g. director, accountant) and reasonable honoraria for the invited experts (if any). A clear justification must be provided for project staff salary levels and percentage of hours dedicated to project activities.
* Transportation of project participants
* Purchase of stationery and a limited amount of equipment (e.g. computer, software), and
* Other expenses directly related to project implementation.

The following program activities **cannot be supported by the Foundation**:

Sound analysis of internal and external risks and efficient methods of risks mitigation;

Demonstrated commitment from major stakeholders, including concrete information about formal or informal partners;

* Humanitarian activities
* Support for a particular political party (however work that includes all parties on issues like electoral processes may be possible if it is inclusive, unbiased, and objective)
* Lobbying for political purposes (EF may advocate only for issues which bring about public and social good)
* Court cases and disputes of a grantee
* Religious activities
* Capital construction projects for commercial purposes
* Military projects of any kind
* Small credits and loans for start-up businesses
* Theoretical and market research
* Study and/or travel grants
* Purchase of medical equipment

**Eligibility**

Non-profit disabled people’s organizations (DPOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) legally registered as well as networks and coalitions operating in Shida Kartli, Kvemo Kartli, Kakheti, and Samtskhe-Javakheti are eligible to submit proposals for the call. Priority will be given to local organizations registered in the targeted regions.

In case applicant is not registered in the targeted region, organization has to demonstrate proven evidence of working in one of the regions and create alliance with an partner organization registered and operating locally.

Civil servants, members of the current parliament, staff of the public broadcaster, and/or leaders and members of political parties cannot participate in a grant project as a grant remunerated participant.

Interested applicant can submit one proposal within a call.

**Application Submission Procedures**

Interested applicants may submit full application by email to [info@epfound.ge](mailto:info@epfound.ge) no later than **January 23, 2023, 16:00** (please indicate *DPO Grant Competition* in the subject line of your e-mail). The following documents should be submitted to EF (proposal writing guidelines, application forms and other relevant templates are available on the Foundation’s website at <https://epfound.ge/en/grantmaking/application-forms>):

* Full proposal in Georgian or English (stamped and signed by the applicant organization’s Director)
* Logic model
* A detailed itemized budget (in Excel), as instructed in the proposal form
* Applicant organization’s registration certificate and act of comparison from the Revenue Service.

Proposals submitted to the call must be the original and sole work of the applicant organization. Any plagiarism of any portion of the documents will result in the immediate disqualification from the call.

The Foundation will retain all materials and documents submitted through the call. The Foundation does not use information presented by the applicants for purposes other than review and does not provide this information to any outside persons or institutions, except when required by Georgian law or requested by Europe Foundation funders.

**Contact Information**

Europe Foundation is located at 3 Kavsadze St., 2nd Floor, 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia. Tel./Fax: (995 32) 225- 39-42, 225-39-43.

The contact person for this call is Viktor Baramia (vbaramia@epfound.ge).

**Timeline**

Announcement: **December 5, 2022**Online Q&A Session: **December 21, 2022, 16:00.** Registration is possible on the following link: <https://bit.ly/3Fs8D1p>   
Deadline for submission of applications: **January 23, 2023 by 16:00** (Tbilisi time)

1. **Citizen participation** is one of the necessary elements of democratic governance and it refers to involvement of citizens in public decision making. It is a process that allows individuals to influence public policy making by allowing them to take part in devising and implementing policies that are directed toward addressing the citizens’ concerns. Civic participation ensures a constructive dialogue between different interest groups and stakeholders and is directed toward achieving desired results. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **Civic monitoring** denotes a process during which citizens directly engage in overseeing the performance of public authorities. This may include monitoring of service delivery, public policy development, and implementation of public programs. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. **Advocacy** is an action by an individual or group for the purpose of influencing the adoption, implementation or enforcement of public policies. The end result of successful advocacy efforts is needs-based public policy and service provision. Civic monitoring ensures the protection of citizens’ rights and promotion of their legitimate interests, especially of marginalized groups. Advocacy efforts increase citizens’ access to public information and services. This process requires that citizens are provided opportunities to voice their views about concrete issues of concern, to protect their rights, and to promote their interests. There are many means and methods of advocacy, including media campaigns, public speaking, community mobilization to gain broad public support, publishing evidence-based research, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. **Community mobilization** is a process that is initiated by the community members, community-based organizations or other interested stakeholders, in order to join efforts in identifying and prioritizing common issues of concern and mobilizing resources for improvements. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)