

**CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR REGIONAL GRANTS**

**for enhancing access to social and economic rights of vulnerable groups of foreigners in the Western Balkans countries**

**Inclusion of FOreigners in WB – accesS To social and Economic Rights (FOSTER)**

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**BACKGROUND**

In the EU reports, the situation in the Western Balkan countries is still marked with significant shortcomings in fulfilling the key political criteria. The region is in early stage of preparation of freedom of movement of workers and access to the labor market. But although the institutional and legislative frameworks for the protection and promotion of human rights and freedoms and protection against discrimination are developed and mostly aligned with the EU legislation, in practice, ensuring equal opportunities, especially for foreigners and marginalized groups, remains challenging. Economic plan for investment in the Western Balkans 2021-2027 EU aims to foster regional cooperation and convergence with the EU and offers a path for a successful regional economic integration that will ultimately speed up the process of EU integration. To achieve this, it is crucial inter alia to enhance overall social inclusion in the WB societies, including the inclusion of foreigners. The Action plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027 acknowledges that the challenge of integration and inclusion is particularly relevant for migrants. Furthermore, it emphasises that promoting integration and inclusion is strongly linked with the imperative of economic development.

The Presidency discussion paper on strengthening migration management system in the WB region (2020) has noted that integration and labour migration schemes are among the least supported areas of engagement and that for further improvement all aspects of migration capacities should be upgraded. With the launching of the Open Balkan initiative and strengthening of the Berlin Process, it is expected that migration movements within the region will intensify. Although the states are responsible to provide appropriate services, to a large extent the enjoyment of fundamental human rights of foreigners depends on CSOs assistance and support. In such a context, migration dynamics creates need for additional empowerment and upgrading of knowledge of CSOs. CSOs from across the WB region will be trained on creating functional systems that enable foreigners to access the fundamental rights, including integration programs and community support. The action will strengthen the capacities of the CSOs and national human rights institutions (NHRI) to contribute in policymaking, promotion and protection of human rights of foreigners and their inclusion into sustainable social and economic development of the WB region. CSOs will be empowered with knowledge and skills in developing and implementation national and regional projects and advocacy materials to improve the social and economic rights of vulnerable foreigners.

**Purpose of the Call**

This action is launched within the project “Inclusion of FOreigners in WB – accesS To social and Economic Rights (FOSTER)” that was developed as a regional response of 7 CSOs affiliated in the Balkan Refugees and Migration Council (BRMC)[[1]](#footnote-1) and Danish Refugee Council (DRC) to address common migration-related challenges in the Western Balkan region, with the focus on fundamental human rights of different vulnerable groups of migrants and foreigners, particularly their access to social and economic rights. The project is funded by European Union within the scope of EU Civil Society Facility and Media Programme in favour of the Western Balkans and Turkey for 2021-2023 (IPA III) under the lot “Human Rights, Anti-discrimination and Inter-Cultural Dialogue”.

1. **Objectives** *(See Guidelines for the applicants Section 2)*

The **overall objective** is fully protected and promoted fundamental rights of foreigners within the WB region, according to the EU standards, with special focus on economic and social rights of vulnerable foreigners.

The **specific objective** is strengthened capacities of the CSOs and human rights institutions to contribute to relevant policymaking, promote and protect fundamental rights of vulnerable foreigners and their inclusion into sustainable social and economic development in the WB region.

1. **Target groups** *(See Guidelines for the applicants Section 2)*
2. Vulnerable groups of foreigners, such as regular and irregular migrants, refugees, victims of different crimes, and other vulnerable persons among foreigners in the WB countries;
3. State and local institutions;
4. Media;
5. Local citizens and municipalities.
6. **Scope of activities**

The applicants are invited to propose activities they assess as relevant to the objectives of the Call.

Examples of the activities *(See Guidelines for the applicants Section 4 – Types of activity)*:

* workshops, seminars and other training and mentoring actions, particularly including those aimed at supporting relevant internal capacity development (of the applicant organisations);
* activities aiming to deliver concrete services responding to the needs of vulnerable foreigners and/or other relevant target groups, including legal aid, psychosocial support, healthcare, etc.;
* activities promoting social inclusion, gender issues, inter-cultural and/or inter-religious literacy and dialogue;
* activities aimed at fighting discrimination and/or cooperation with relevant independent bodies;
* public awareness and communication campaigns;
* media campaigns, production of news and relevant information tools (leaflets etc.);
* education and training, including of local media as target groups;
* activities strengthening the watchdog role of CSOs in the implementation of relevant policies and reforms;
* policy monitoring and publication of relevant monitoring reports;
* research, analysis and advocacy activities;
* activities that promote implementation of relevant laws and regulations;
* activities that support discussion between different stakeholders and/or consultation with stakeholders, including establishment of dialogue with political parties or local legislative bodies;
* activities that promote cooperation and exchange between different local communities and local self-governments, in support to the position of the foreigners in their communities;
* activities strengthening networking and coalition building, particularly through information sharing, experience exchange and joint advocacy;
* other activities enhancing the promotion and protection of fundamental rights and access to services.

**Rules for call for proposals** *(See Guidelines for the applicants, Section 4.)*

Eligibility of applicants

In order to be eligible for a grant, the Lead applicant and Co-applicant(s) must:

* be a legal entity registered before 1 December 2023;
* be established in one of the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo[[2]](#footnote-2)\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia or Serbia,
* be non-profit-making;
* civil society organization;
* be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action.

Partners (Co-applicants) must satisfy the eligibility criteria as applicable to the Lead applicant itself.

Number of applications and grants per applicant

For this call for **proposals its mandatory for the lead applicant to partner with at least one co-applicant**. The Lead Applicant and at least one Co-applicant **must** be established in different WB countries.

The lead applicant **may not** submit more than **1** application under this call for project proposals.

The lead applicant **may not** **be a co-applicant** in another ( second ) application in this call for proposals

The co-applicant **may not be a lead or co-applicant** in more than 1 application in this call for proposals

The Lead applicant and co-applicant **may not** be awarded more than 1 grant under this call for project proposals. One legal entity can be awarded contract in a role of Lead applicant or in a role of Co-applicant.

Geographic coverage. Proposed activities must take place in the territory two or more of the following locations: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia or Serbia.

Duration of the proposed activities. The applicant should foresee all project activities to be completed in **five (5) months** from the date of contracting.

Number of grants. **Up to six (6)** regional projects will be supported.

Size of funds. For each project **up to** **10.000 EUR**.

**INFO SESSION** *(See Guidelines for the applicants, Section 5.)*

Info session on the selection process regarding the implementation, financial monitoring of the project and reporting will be organized online on **14 November 2024** at 10:00h.

All interested parties can use the following link for participating in Info session:

**Microsoft Teams link:**

**[Join the meeting now](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZmQwOTBiNGEtZTc1Yy00NGI5LTk0NTgtN2M4NmM0ZDAwMGY5%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22543afb0d-867c-44df-9698-b4ef2be83679%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22661ca4c9-5c0b-467c-b8ba-161280872ee3%22%7d" \o "Meeting join link" \t "_blank)**

Meeting ID: 324 200 883 697

Passcode: iHSmch

(link)

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZmQwOTBiNGEtZTc1Yy00NGI5LTk0NTgtN2M4NmM0ZDAwMGY5%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22543afb0d-867c-44df-9698-b4ef2be83679%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22661ca4c9-5c0b-467c-b8ba-161280872ee3%22%7d>

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCEDURE** *(See Guidelines for the applicants, Section 5)*

The application must be submitted on the provided application forms, in the English language, and must be completed in full according to the given instructions in the Guidelines for applicants.

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:** 29 November 2024 at 23:59 CET

**contact:**

Project proposals, applications for info session, as well as all questions and requests for any clarifications should be sent to e-mail: [contact@myla.org.mk](mailto:contact@myla.org.mk)

1. Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC), Belgrade Centre for Human Rights (BCHR), Civil Rights Program Kosovo (CRP/K), Group 484, Macedonian Young Lawyers Association (MYLA), Legal Centre Podgorica and Vaša prava Bosnia and Herzegovina (VP BiH). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. \* This designation is without prejudice to position on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)