

Comprehensive Support to Human Rights Defenders in Turkey

Guidelines for Grant Applications

The Project Description

The European Union (EU) awarded funds for a three-year grant-making programme to support human rights defenders (HRDs) in Turkey. With the support of ProtectDefenders.eu Secretariat in Brussels, five international organizations with various expertise and capacity formed a Consortium to implement the project together. Members of the Consortium are International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Frontline Defenders (FLD), Reporters Without Borders (RSF), World Organisation Against Torture Europe (OMCT-Europe), the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association Europe (ILGA-Europe). Activities will be implemented with the support of ProtectDefenders.eu Secretariat.

The project has an objective to provide a comprehensive support to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms in Turkey through various grants

The grant-making mechanism has two main components:

Protection grants pay for provisions to improve the security and protection of human rights defenders and their organizations at risk through rapid response measures.

Institutional Support grants (1) to support human rights organizations to keep carrying out their activities (2) to strengthen their domestic and international networks, (3) to improve their capacity in documenting human rights abuses, access to justice and advocating for a more enabling environment for human rights defenders in Turkey.

Protection Grants

Emergency grants for human rights defenders are allocated by Front Line Defenders. For a detailed information on the scope of emergency grants, eligibility criteria and application process, please follow [this link](#).

Scope of protection grants include, but not limited to:

- improving physical security of an organization or individual, digital security and communication security;
- supporting legal fees for HRDs who are being judicially harassed;
- paying for medical fees for HRDs who have been attacked or who have suffered a medical condition as a result of their peaceful human rights activities;
- providing family assistance for imprisoned HRDs or family members who are at risk because of a HRD's activities.

Institutional Support Grants

Institutional support grants are allocated by ProtectDefenders.eu Secretariat in consultation with Consortium member organizations. You may send your applications in this category to t2@protectdefenders.eu per e-mail or can fill in our secure web form online.



Applications methods for a grant support under this category is explained under [application process](#) title on our Turkey website.

Eligibility Criteria

The target groups of institutional support grants are human rights defenders (HRDs) in and from Turkey. According to United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, “human rights defenders are those individuals, groups and organs of society that promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.” Hence, human rights defenders can be individuals and civil society organizations working on different human rights related areas, informal initiatives such as student groups or newly emerging groups. For our Turkey project, there is no requirement for defenders to be registered in the form of a civil society organization.

The ProtectDefenders.eu Secretariat will give priority to human rights defenders who are currently in Turkey, who work in the most difficult situations and in remote areas such as outside of big cities. Special attention will also be paid to those most vulnerable and targeted, including women HRDs, Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Intersex (LGBTI) HRDs, journalists and bloggers, and those denouncing the use of torture or working with survivors of torture.

ProtectDefenders.eu Secretariat will take certain criteria into consideration whilst evaluating each grant application :

- 1. Identity:** The application should be submitted by a human rights defender(s) working for human rights in accordance with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders;
- 2. Situation:** The application should be submitted by human rights defender(s) who is/are facing administrative restrictions, limitations to realize activities and sustain their human rights work.
- 3. Needs:** The applicant(s) need(s) support to continue doing human rights work. Lack of access to alternative sources of support will be taken into account but is not a sole determining factor.

Amount

The minimum amount for each application is 5000€. It is possible to apply for several grants or for various activities in one grant as long as the total amount that one beneficiary receives does not exceed 60.000€ for a duration of 3 years.

Scope

The scope of activities that are funded by institutional support grants include:

1. Consolidation of institutional support of local human rights defenders or organizations, to allow them develop human rights initiatives and/or sustain their work.
2. Expansion of capacities to implement local innovative activities and projects to prevent and respond to infringements facing human rights defenders or organizations, and to advance a human rights agenda.

Eligible activities

There are two types of activities defined as eligible for grants under the project. It should be noted that these two types of grants can be combined in one and the same application. Applicants does not have to choose one type of grant for one application. Instead, the applications should be driven from needs of the human rights defender(s).

Core Grants

Scope of core funding includes activities to develop human rights initiatives and to sustain their work. Proposals can include a wide range of activities such as to build and maintain a stable office (office equipment and furniture, rent, physical office maintenance with its inner and outer parts, security measures and equipment, utilities, repairs etc), staff related costs (such as new recruitment and recruitment for expansion, project related or temporary staff, maintaining existing staff etc), digital or software, information security, website and social media design expenses (such as website/mobile site/smart-phone application purchase and upgrades, multimedia integration and upgrades etc), administrative and operational costs, translation and interpretation, publications and other costs (such as transportation costs in international and domestic levels, audit, evaluation and report producing costs etc) etc.

Grants for Projects/Activities

Scope of the funding includes activities related to advocacy or public campaigns, community building, trainings, documentation, joint development and implementation of protection plans by human rights organizations and networks, etc.

More specifically, proposals can include advocacy missions and activities to sensitize policy makers, practitioners, professionals, public campaigns and awareness raising about human rights; research and investigation, trial monitoring, monitoring human rights violations and data collection activities; legal actions and costs such as litigation and legal assistance etc; media and communication activities; outreach activities (including coalition building work with other human rights defender actors, for increasing the engagement of community members etc); solidarity and collaboration activities (actions that support strengthening human rights defender organizations and initiatives, actions to support communities at risk or on topics prioritized in the specific objective, actions that help strengthen strategic cooperation with allies, support to innovative projects etc); strategic planning and organizational development activities; fundraising, development and marketing activities.

Proposals can cover one-off events/activities, or a series of activities and projects both at domestic and international level, seminars (internal capacity building, retreats, certificate programs etc); conferences; training and workshops (for the team of the organization, for a target group, in or for cooperation to create a training, for building capacities of local organizations etc); field missions (outreach, networking, research/investigation, exploration etc); publications (leaflets, booklets, posters, flyers, reports, articles etc in paper and blogging, broadcasting, article etc in digital).

A list of eligible costs for the implementation of these activities can be found in the budget template.

Application process

Call for applications will remain open and will be received on a rolling basis. The project might open calls for specific thematic areas in later stages of the project depending on the Consortium's overall assessments.

To apply for a grant, applicants can follow two ways:

Online Application

You can fill and submit your application using a [secure web form](#) on the ProtectDefenders.eu Turkish website. The secure web form is available in Turkish and English.



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E-mail Application

If you prefer to download documents to fill, you can send both application form and budget proposal template as an e-mail to submit your application.

You can reach and download the [online application form](#) and [budget proposal template](#) by clicking on them or on ProtectDefenders.eu Turkey web page. Forms are available in Turkish and English. To complete your application, you should fill and submit both of them via e-mail at t2@protectdefenders.eu.

Please note that it is possible to communicate with the Secretariat via gpg email or Jitsi chat.

Evaluation of Applications

Once the Secretariat of ProtectDefenders.eu receives a complete application, the application will be submitted to the Board of the Consortium which meets every 3 months to review grant applications. Therefore, depending on when the application is submitted, it will be reviewed in a maximum of 3 months' time. If the applicant is bound to a strict time frame or a deadline, they can reach out to the ProtectDefenders.eu Secretariat via email (t2@protectdefenders.eu) to request a faster review of their applications.

When the application is successful and the applicant is selected to receive a grant, a grant agreement will be signed between the beneficiary and the Secretariat. The grant agreement specifies the project's budget, duration, action plan, narrative and financial reporting requirements as well as applicable legal terms.

Payment Methods

Each validated institutional support grant will be distributed via secure means.

The decision to use one specific method of payment will be made in close consultation with grantees by taking their informed preferences into account and in accordance with risk assessment by the programme officer. The payment will be made after the signature of the agreement by secure means and in tranches as determined in the grant agreement.

Reporting Requirements

The beneficiaries of grant(s) should provide interim (if applicable) and final narrative and financial reports as to the use of grants provided by the Secretariat, and supporting documents and receipts should be provided to document expenditures. Final narrative and financial reports are to be submitted one month after the end of the project for which the grant has been awarded.

In case of under-spending of grants due to various reasons, the beneficiary is responsible to return unspent funds to the grant maker.

The time frame of reports are defined in the grant agreement according to the conditions of each grant application such as the type, length and amount of the grant. The Secretariat will provide templates for narrative and financial reports available in English and Turkish.

Depending on the type, length and amount of the grant as well as the organization's capacity and experience in grant management, need for interim narrative and financial report will be determined.

Proper reporting is decisive in reviewing future grant applications submitted by the same applicant.



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