

## Comprehensive Support to Human Rights Defenders in Turkey

### Guidelines for applications

#### The Project Description

As part of a three-year EU funded programme to support human rights defenders (HRDs) in Turkey, five international organizations with various expertise formed a Turkey Consortium to jointly implement the project. Members of the Turkey Consortium are International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Front Line 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 as objective to provide comprehensive support to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms in Turkey through various grants. In this context, the Consortium is currently launching a call for proposals for **Institutional grants**

- (1) to support human rights organisations 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.

#### I. Application process

To apply, the applicant must:

- a Complete the application forms in all their parts with accurate data, including the Annexes (i.e. budget);
- b Draft the project proposal based on the information in these Guidelines.
- c Submit their completed application by 14 June 2021 via email, to [t2@protectdefenders.eu](mailto:t2@protectdefenders.eu), with the subject line “Application institutional grants”;

Applicants’ questions may be submitted via email to [t2@protectdefenders.eu](mailto:t2@protectdefenders.eu).

Please note that incomplete applications may not be evaluated.

**Budget:** maximum 20.000 Euros

**Duration:** The earliest start date for the grants should be July 2021 with the end date before the 31 January 2022 .

#### II. Eligibility Criteria

The target group of institutional grants are human rights defenders in and from Turkey. Human rights defenders can be individuals with different expertise, civil society organizations working on

different subject areas, initiatives such as student groups or newly emerging groups. There is no requirement for defenders to have formal registration in the form of a civil society organization. Applications from all over the country and in all working areas are welcome but applications from HRDs who work outside of big cities, and/or cover those areas through their activities are strongly encouraged.

Applicants who have already received support from this funding scheme are eligible, however new applicants will be prioritized.

The following criteria will be taken into consideration whilst evaluating each grant application :

**1. Identity:** The application should be in the name of a human rights defender(s) or organisation(s) working for human rights in accordance with the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders;

**2. Situation:** The application should be in the name of a human rights defender(s) who is/are facing restrictions, limitations to realize activities and/or risks because of their human rights work.

**3. Needs:** The applicant(s) should require support to continue their human rights work. Lack of access to alternative sources of support will be taken into account but is not a sole determining factor.

### III. Eligible activities

In defining the activity, each applicant should carefully consider their feasibility in the current context of restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Activities deemed unrealistic in the current context may be negatively assessed.

The scope of activities that can be funded by institutional grants can include:

1. Consolidation of operational capacities of local human rights defenders or organizations, to allow them to 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.

#### Core funding

The scope of core funding can include costs 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 expenses (such as website/mobile site/smart-phone application purchase and upgrades, multimedia integration and upgrades etc); translation, interpretation, and publications expenses and other costs (such as report producing costs, administrative and operational costs etc).

#### Projects/Activities

The scope of activities and/or projects may include longer-term activities/projects as well as one-off events/activities at the domestic or international level.

These may include for example seminars and conferences (internal capacity building, retreats, certificate programs etc); trainings and workshops (for the team of the organization, for a target group, 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); internal capacity building on areas such as psycho-social support for HRDs and fundraising.

Other activities may include: 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; litigation and legal assistance etc; media and communication activities; outreach activities (including coalition building work with other human rights defenders, 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 , actions that help strengthen strategic cooperation with allies, etc); strategic planning and other organizational development activities.

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

#### **IV. Selection process**

##### **a Application**

Applicants must submit a full application with all integral annexes (see section I. Application process).

Upon submission, ProtectDefenders.eu shall send an official confirmation of receipt of application.

##### **b Evaluation of the proposal**

The proposal will be evaluated according to the criteria set herein, by the Board of ProtectDefenders.eu composed of the Consortium members. The Board will evaluate the application based on the pre-set eligibility criteria as well as based on quality, effectiveness and efficiency of the project proposal. Results of the evaluation will be communicated to the applicant in writing.

##### **c Due diligence**

If necessary to complement the assessment, ProtectDefenders.eu will contact the organisation to schedule a call to conduct a due diligence check or clarify unclear elements of the application. ProtectDefenders.eu reserves the right to ask for changes to the proposal, the proposed budget or the workplan, to guarantee the respect of the contract conditions and the coherence with the action at any time before the signature of the agreement.

##### **d Signing of the agreement**

An agreement will be signed with the applicants whose proposals were deemed satisfactory and approved by the Board. The purpose of the agreement will be to formalise the terms and condition of the mutual cooperation for the management and the implementation of the project. It will also outline all relevant decision-making, reporting, accountability and financial rules and regulations applicable. This aims to ensure that the project achieves objectives and results in accordance with ProtectDefenders.eu and donor requirements. ProtectDefenders.eu shall not be liable for any costs associated with the preparation, transmittal, or presentation of any materials submitted as a part of this application.

#### **V. 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.

## **VI. Reporting Requirements**

The beneficiaries of grant(s) must provide interim and final narrative and a financial reports, and supporting documents and receipts should be provided to verify and document expenditures. The interim reports are to be submitted according to the dates laid out in the signed agreement and the final report is 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, 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 length and amount of the grant. The Secretariat will provide templates for narrative and financial reports available in English and Turkish.

Proper reporting during a first grant is decisive in reviewing and considering future grant applications submitted by the same actors.