



Contracting Body: OXYGen Foundation for Protection of Youth and Women Rights

Funding Agency: European Union, within framework of the EU-Armenia: Partnerships for Change Programme

Project: EQUAL – EU 4 Women Empowerment in Armenia

CALL for PROPOSAL (CfP) for a Subgrant

Reference Number: EU4GE-OxY-FSTP01

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS: 12 October 2023 at 18:00 Yerevan time

Notice: To help applicants to clarify any **uncertainties to the extent possible/allowable** before the online submission, an on-line information session via Zoom will be organized on **Friday, 6 October 2023 at 11:00 am**.

Should you be interested in this session, please send an email by **Wednesday, 4 October at 13:00** to grants@oxygenfund.am indicating: name, surname, and email address of the persons who are going to participate as well as the organisation they represent (max. two participants per organisation). **An on-line link will be e-mailed one day before the session to all registered participants.**

Expected subgrant duration: 10-12 months

Size of the subgrant: 60,000 Euro

Starting date: November 2023

Open to: Local coalitions/networks/consortiums with women's rights/GBV experience

Eligibility requirements: Legally registered in Armenia; non-profit; with expertise relevant to the topic of this call.

*Non-registered applicants (coalition/network or a consortium of 3 members minimum) are eligible and shall apply through a single application. If selected, OXYGen will sign a subgrant contract with a lead organization. The same eligibility requirements apply to all organizations within a consortium.

Language of the proposal: English (preferred) or Armenian

Number of awards: Only one subgrant will be awarded

Application: Applications should be sent to grants@oxygenfund.am no later than **12 October 2023 at 18:00 Yerevan time**. More details on the process are provided under **Article 7**.

1. OxYGen Foundation

OxYGen Foundation for Protection of Youth and Women Rights (OxYGen) is an independent advocacy and development foundation driven by its vision of an Armenia free of poverty and suffering, in which women and men can exercise their rights and influence decisions that impact their lives.

OxYGen is implementing its program interventions based on its 5-year strategy in line with its strategic priorities: Gender Equality, Youth Empowerment, Accountable Governance, Economic Justice, and Resilience Building and Humanitarian assistance.

2. The Project EQUAL

EQUAL – EU 4 Women Empowerment in Armenia project is funded by the EU (referred to as **EQUAL**).

In Armenia, several efforts have been undertaken by the state in recent decades to advance gender equality and promote women's rights. While considerable progress has been made in several areas, these efforts were generally not coordinated or were unilaterally implemented, reducing the effectiveness of national institutions at improving the general well-being of women and girls throughout the country. Despite efforts made to advance gender equality, multiple crises continue to affect women's rights and escalate the intensity of challenges to achieving gender equality in Armenia. Challenges remain with regard to establishing comprehensive national policies on gender equality, anti-discrimination and prevention of gender-based violence (GBV). In general, policymaking is not gender sensitive.

Capacity gaps among the national and local government to ensure gender-sensitive and gender-responsive governance in Armenia hinders the implementation of national strategies for gender equality. This is interlinked with the insufficient capacity of political institutes, and law enforcement bodies, as well as limitations in implementation of the Gender National Strategy. Physical, psychological, and online violence against women and girls remains a major problem perpetuating women's limited involvement in political and socio-economic life. There is no adequate response to domestic violence (DV) and provision of protection to the victims.

EQUAL adopts a cross-cutting approach to tackling women's issues that are often pushed to the margins of policymaking, including human trafficking, sexual and reproductive education, harassment in the workplace, or the impact of gender norms in social groups.

The project aims to elevate and empower women in Armenia to bring about societal change across the country. To do so, EQUAL provides women with support to exercise their political, economic and socio-cultural rights, targeting specifically those from vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

Objectives of the project EQUAL

Overall objective: State and non-state actors take meaningful actions to address and prevent all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination and contribute to gender equality in Armenia for women, men, girls, and boys in all their diversity.

Strategic objective: strengthen their resilience and ability to take meaningful action to address and prevent all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination in Armenia.

One of the main components of the project EQUAL: **Freedom from Gender-based violence**

The project EQUAL implies the subgrant component via financial support to third parties (FSTP). **This subgrant and the following ones**, all together will allow involvement of NGOs, coalitions and consortiums working with women and girls facing multiple forms of discrimination, as well as safeguard their meaningful participation with their priority interventions and solutions to detected issues through awarding-supported interventions.

3. The Proposal

The current Call for Proposal is envisaged within the project EQUAL – EU 4 Women Empowerment in Armenia.

Objective of this call: Contribute to the improvement of GBV related legislation, policies and procedures for addressing the harmful practices resulting in gender discrimination.

Outcomes to be achieved with this financial support are the following: (please note that all three are complementary):

a/ Existing gaps in the GBV legal framework are identified following a participatory approach and building on the experience of survivors.

b/ A roadmap with concrete recommendations for the improvement of the GBV legal framework and specific actions for its implementation are developed.

c/ Based on the roadmap, joint advocacy of the recommendations at national level and coordination mechanisms for response to GBV at community levels are improved involving the relevant stakeholders.

Examples of eligible types of activities: [**the list is indicative, not exhaustive*]

Gender transformative, evidence-based, grass-roots participation and rights-based approach is strongly encouraged to be mainstreamed in the proposal. Applicants must specify clearly what the funding will be used for, and how this responds to the objective of the call.

- Capacity building programs for stakeholders to increase their gender-sensitivity and skills to address gender-based violence.
- Dialogue events, focus groups, consultation meetings and any other kind of online and in-person events bringing together different stakeholders to explore common ground and coordinate joint action.
- Advocacy initiatives and activities aiming at supporting the implementation of the national and international frameworks (legal, policy and practical measures) on prevention of violence against women.
- Activities that contribute to the development of the National Gender Strategy and National Action Plan 2024-2026 from a GBV perspective.
- Needs assessments related to coordination of proper community level response to GBV.

- Mapping and piloting of the best practices of community level response mechanisms to GBV.

The following types of activities are ineligible

- 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 supporting political parties
- actions supporting charitable fundraising

Note: *The subgrant may not be used to finance actions which have already been completed. Financed activities cannot commence prior to the award of the subgrant.*

4. Application package

If the application deadline is not met, it will be automatically rejected.

Only full packages of applications will be considered for review.

Full package of documents will comprise of the following:

- a. The proposal and budget prepared in the proposed format attached to this CfP as **Annex 1: Grant Application Form** and **Annex 2: Budget Template**
- b. Scanned version of the State Registration Document
 - of the registered coalition/network, or
 - of the lead applicant of non-registered coalition/network, or
 - of all members of the consortium
- c. Declaration
 - signed by lead applicant of non-registered coalition/network. The template is attached to this CfP as **Annex 3a: Declaration by non-registered coalition or network**, or
 - signed by all the members of the consortium. The template is attached to this CfP as **Annex 3b: Declaration by consortium**.

5. Criteria for the proposal's evaluation

The proposal packages will be evaluated by the selection committee (also referred to as "SelCom"), against the below criteria.

5.1 Relevance of the planned project: max. 35 points

- Quality of the problem analysis and potential solutions: the specific policy issues and the interests of the target groups, beneficiaries and other involved parties have been comprehensively appraised.
- Quality of proposed interventions: considering their adequacy to address the identified problems.
- Gender empowerment and social inclusion: to what extent the proposed project contributes to strengthening gender equality and promoting social inclusion, making sure it leaves no one behind.
- Participation and engagement of beneficiaries at grassroots level: the project allows equal participation of all target groups, without discrimination based on gender, race, social status, or religion.
- Experience of implementing projects of similar nature

5.2 Feasibility of the planned project: 30 points

- Consistency of the logic of intervention: coherence between the project objective, planned outputs and expected outcomes.
- Implementation methodology: based on previous experience and lessons learned from best practices, the proposal must showcase how the expected results are achievable
- Project planning: the proposed timeframe and activity planning realistic under the given circumstances and with the budget available.
- Clear management structure - responsibilities, coordination, and collaboration modalities.
- Risk assessment and mitigation measures.
- MEAL: modes of data gathering and monitoring, defined data sources, accountability and learning.

5.3 Sustainability of the planned project: 20 points

- Sustainability planning: the applicant has demonstrated clear consideration and a comprehensive understanding of the project's sustainability and of the steps required to ensure the positive effects and impacts after the project's closure.
- Capacity building: the proposal contributes to capacity building at the level of the individual and/or the organization/institution.

5.4 Financial criteria: 15 points

- Alignment with activities: the proposed costs detailed in the Budget Template directly correspond to activities described in the Grant Application Form.
- Budget transparency: the budget includes a detailed breakdown of all costs, and these are clearly justified in narrative form in the corresponding sheet of the Budget Template.

- Cost effectiveness: the proposed costs are reasonable and within the range of what would typically be expected for similar products.
- Legal and regulatory compliance: all proposed costs comply with relevant laws and regulations.
- Logical proportionality: the admin and activity budgets are reasonably shared and appropriate, ranging between 30%/70%.

6. Decision

The results of the evaluation will be fixed in the “**Grantee selection**” document signed by the SelCom designating (i) those to be rejected, (ii) the best candidate and (iii) the second best who will be put on the reserve. They will receive respective emails from OXYGen. The best candidate will undergo a risk and capacity assessment by OXYGen and be requested to clarify/revise activities and budget lines as needed. None of these final corrections shall be contrary to the equal treatment of applicants or call into question the grant award decision. The only situation when the grant award decision can be annulled is when the nature and extent of the risks are assessed as high and poor performance by the recipient is probable. The SelCom will be notified on this and the second-best applicant that has been put on the reserve will be sent an additional letter of pre-award and assessment. After the final award decision is made, the contracting process will commence.

7. From Application to Contracting

- Applications should be sent to grants@oxygenfund.am no later than **12 October 2023 at 18:00 Yerevan time**.
- **Please indicate “[the reference number of the call and the applicant name]” in the subject line of your e-mail.**
- The proposal file must be in an unprotected PDF or Word format. The budget will be in the Excel format.
- A submission confirmation notice of No-Reply will be sent to each applicant.
- The shortlisted applications will be evaluated by the SelCom.
- After the evaluation conducted and selection decision is made, each shortlisted applicant will be notified about being rejected or put on a reserve or selected for an award. The latter will receive a pre-award notice from OXYGen.
- Final award notice will be sent after the assessment is completed.
- The contract will be signed.

[Annex 1: Grant Application Form](#)

[Annex 2: Budget Template](#)

[Annex 3a: Declaration by non-registered coalition or network](#)

[Annex 3b: Declaration by consortium](#)

“EQUAL - EU 4 Women Empowerment in Armenia” project is implemented by OxYGen Foundation, European Partnership for Democracy NGO, Netherlands Helsinki Committee NGO, Women’s Support Center NGO, WINNET Goris Development Foundation in cooperation with Winnet Sweden NGO. The project is funded by the European Union.