



**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 Subgrants in 2 lots**

**Lot A: Reference number: EU4GE-OxY-FSTP02**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS: 13 November 2023 at 16:00 Yerevan time**

**Lot B: Reference number: EU4GE-OxY-FSTP03**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS: 15 November 2023 at 16:00 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, 03 November 2023 at 11:00**, for **both Lot A and Lot B**.

Should you be interested in this session, please send an email by **Wednesday, 01 November at 13:00** to [grants@oxygenfund.am](mailto:grants@oxygenfund.am) indicating: name, surname, and email address of the persons who are going to participate as well as the organisation they represent. **An on-line link will be e-mailed one day before the session to all registered participants.**

**Expected subgrant duration for lot A:** up to 8 months

**Expected subgrant duration for lot B:** up to 6 months

**Size of each subgrant:** 20,000 Euro

**Starting date of each subgrant:** December 2023

**Open to:** organizations legally registered in Armenia; non-profit; with expertise relevant to the topic of the lot the organization is interested to apply.

**Language of the proposal:** English (preferred) or Armenian.

**Number of awards:** Only one subgrant will be awarded per each lot.

**Application:** Applications should be sent to [grants@oxygenfund.am](mailto:grants@oxygenfund.am) no later than the deadline for each lot. No links/Google files will be accepted.

More details on the application 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**).

The project “EQUAL - EU 4 Women Empowerment in Armenia” 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. 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.

One of the main pillars of EQUAL supports public information campaigns on shifting stereotypes and perceptions hindering women empowerment, notably through capacitating local organizations into doing so – with financial and technical support.

### **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.

**Main components of the project EQUAL: Freedom from Gender-based violence and discrimination in Armenia.**

The project EQUAL implies the subgrant component via financial support to third parties (FSTP). **These subgrants (lot A and lot B) and the following ones**, all together will allow involvement of NGOs working with women and girls facing multiple forms of discrimination and violence, 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. It calls for two groups of proposals – Lot A and Lot B.

#### 3.1 Lot A. Reference number: EU4GE-OxY-FSTP02

Within Lot A, the subgrantee will build up on its skills in social media monitoring (SMM) of hate speech against women through a *mentoring programme* delivered to the subgrantee by an international democracy support organization for 2-3 weeks, and act as a multiplier.

The *mentoring programme* is expected to focus on two strands: a) monitoring and identifying hate speech online - using the latest trends and techniques in social media monitoring and b) working with women leaders, particularly with women in politics, women journalists and community leaders to learn to combat online harassment at the policy and advocacy level.

Subsequently, the main outcomes will be used by project EQUAL for a public campaign and public events to raise awareness on the negative effects of hate speech and combat harmful practices based on women stories, monitoring findings, and recommendations.

**Objective of Lot A:** To foster a safer online environment for women by empowering media organizations and CSOs in effectively combating hate speech against women on social media.

**Outcomes** to be achieved with this financial support are the following:

a/ Activists, media organisations and CSOs' capacities to monitor hate speech in social media are improved.

b/ Strategy with recommendations on combatting hate speech against women in social media is developed.

c/ Awareness raised on the negative impact of online hate speech against women.

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

- Disseminate the new acquired techniques of SMM to other civic actors: training with 2 or more organizations
- Develop monitoring methodology
- Mentor in monitoring hate speech in social media
- Conduct monitoring on hate speech in social media and develop recommendations.
- Organize workshops, dialogue events
- Recognize, highlight hate speech in social media and raise awareness among activists, media organisations and CSOs
- Advocacy and/or awareness raising activities

Applicants must specify clearly what the funding will be used for, and how this responds to the objective of the call.

The prospective applicants are expected to detail in their proposal what particular angle of hate speech against women they would like to work on (for example, women in politics, women in business, women in public administration and LSGs, etc.) and what is the full list of their activities, described in details.

**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.*

### **3.2 Lot B: Reference number: EU4GE-OxY-FSTP03**

Within lot B, it is expected to target women at various marginalized groups, raising their awareness of labor rights, potential violation-trafficking-forced labor-discrimination, and educating them on how to behave and stand for own rights. Additionally, as an innovative mechanism, engage young experts towards tackling these challenges. The project should prioritize also the needs and concerns of potential beneficiaries, including forcibly displaced women, women with disabilities, minorities and others.

**Objective of Lot B:** To combat violation of labor rights of women of marginalized groups in Armenia.

#### **Outcomes:**

a/ Marginalized women are well-informed about labor rights, risks of trafficking and forced labor, exploitation and discrimination

b/ anti-trafficking young experts' laboratory is established

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

- Conduct workshops and training sessions to raise awareness among women from marginalized groups about their labor rights, the risks of trafficking and forced labor, and how to recognize and report exploitation and discrimination.
- Develop educational materials that provide information on labor rights, forced labor, and support services.
- Organize community-level awareness campaigns, seminars to engage local communities, especially in those where large number of forcibly displaced people are located.
- Recruit and train young and active women with readiness and fresh perspectives on combating these issues

#### **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

## **4. Application package**

**This section applies to both Lot A and Lot B.**

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

## 5. Criteria for the proposals' evaluation

**This section applies to both Lot A and Lot B.**

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”** protocol 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](mailto:grants@oxygenfund.am) no later than the deadline for the lot of your interest.

Each applicant may submit **only one application per lot**.

**Lot A:** Reference number: EU4GE-OxY-FSTP02

Deadline for submission of proposals: **13 November 2023 at 16:00 Yerevan time**

**Lot B:** Reference number: EU4GE-OxY-FSTP03

Deadline for submission of proposals: **15 November 2023 at 16:00 Yerevan time**

- **Important:** Please indicate in the subject line of your e-mail: **The reference number of the call and the applicant name**
- **Attached to the email message:** The proposal file must be in an unprotected PDF or Word format. The budget will be in the Excel format. **Note: no links/Google files will be accepted.**
- A submission confirmation notice of No-Reply will be sent to each applicant.
- The shortlisted applications will be evaluated by the Selection Committee.
- 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**

**“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.