



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

Prevention of Violence Against Women with Disability

Reference number: EU4GE-OxY-FSTP05

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS: 07 May 2024 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 **Monday, 29 April 2024 at 11:00**.

Should you be interested in this session, please send an email by **Thursday, 25 April, 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. **An on-line link will be e-mailed one day before the session to all registered participants.**

Expected subgrant duration: up to 7 months

Size of the subgrant: 20,000 Euro

Starting date of the subgrant: June 2024

Open to: organizations legally registered in Armenia; non-profit; with experience relevant to the topic of the call.

Language of the proposal: English (preferred because there are international partners in the selection committee) or Armenian.

Number of awards: Only one subgrant will be awarded.

Application: Applications should be sent to grants@oxygenfund.am no later than the deadline. 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 (referred to as **EQUAL**) is funded by the EU. The project **EQUAL** aims to elevate and empower women in Armenia to bring about societal change across the country. To do so, EQUAL responds to the direct needs of vulnerable groups of women through ensuring access to quality support services, providing them access to economic resources, enhancing capacity for entrepreneurship, equal access to labor relations and new opportunities for economic self-development. EQUAL adopts a cross-cutting approach to tackling women's issues that are often pushed to the margins of policymaking, stimulating a survivor-centered approach and sharing international best practices for ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination.

EQUAL employs a three-level financial support to third parties (FSTP) schema, targeting Coalitions, CSOs and individual women. FSTP allows involvement of CSO 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 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.**

This subgrant 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.

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a widespread issue in Armenia, with domestic violence being particularly prevalent. Around 700 cases of domestic violence are reported each year, though underreporting continues being a significant issue. The hotlines of Coalition to Stop Violence against Women continue to receive over 3,000 calls per year. Moreover, GVB has extended into the digital realm, with social media and the internet becoming platforms for sexism, misogynistic assaults, threats, and sexual harassment directed at women.

Women with disabilities face heightened vulnerability to various forms of violence and discrimination, exacerbated by cultural beliefs and practices that further marginalize them. 188,459 people with disabilities are registered in Armenia as of 01 July 2023. Out of them 89,778 are women.

A recent qualitative rapid assessment of GBV among refugees in Armenia conducted by UNFPA provides witnesses that some of the community beliefs and practices may put female member of family with disability in further risk of violence and discrimination: "...if you have family member with disability, especially girl with disability, on one would marry even the other female family members without disability, because they think their child will have disability as well". And this is an identified issue not only among refugees but also in host communities. The assessment also flags the issue of discriminatory cultural context towards girls vs. boys, their limited access or information about services. Another issue voiced in the report is that women with disabilities do not recognize violence, so they do not report it. Moreover, women with disabilities are not aware of the available services on one hand, and reporting channels are not disability sensitive on another. Therefore, there is a need for sensitizing the state and non-state institutions and building their capacities on working with women with disabilities on various topics as disability and gender, discrimination, communication, appropriate language, etc.

Based on the data provided by domestic violence support centers, only 2.5% of the women receiving services in 2023 had disabilities:

| Year | Number of women who received support | Among them – women with disabilities |
|------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2021 | 230 | 0 |
| 2022 | 471 | 7 |
| 2023 | 519 | 13 |

Prevention of violence against women with disabilities requires a comprehensive approach that will address the unique challenges and vulnerabilities faced by this group.

Objective of the call: To enhance safety and well-being of women with disabilities through awareness raising and improved services to reduce violence and discrimination.

Outcomes

a/ Women with disabilities are equipped to recognize, report, and seek support for instances of violence and discriminatory practices.

b/ Stakeholders are capacitated and sensitized to ensure sensitive and inclusive services to women with disabilities experiencing violence.

Activities may include

- public campaigns
- workshops
- conferences
- trainings for women with disabilities
- trainings for service providers, state and non-state institutions, various stakeholders

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

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. Double funding of activities is not acceptable.*

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

5. Criteria for the proposals' 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**” 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 no later than the deadline for the lot of your interest.

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

Reference number: **EU4GE-OxY-FSTP05**

Deadline for submission of proposals: **07 May 2024 at 18:00** 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 satisfactorily.
- 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.