



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

Empowering Yezidi Community to Promote Active Participation at Local Level

Reference number: EU4GE-OxY-FSTP07

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS: 31 July 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 **Thursday, 25 July 2024 at 11:00**.

Should you be interested in this session, please send an email by **Wednesday, 24 July, 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 10 months

Size of the subgrant: 20,000 Euro

Starting date of the subgrant: September 2024

Open to: organizations legally registered in Armenia; non-profit.
Experience of working with Yezidi community is required.
Organizations that have already been awarded a subgrant under the project EQUAL cannot be eligible for this subgrant.

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.

Armenia has made positive strides in promoting and increasing women’s civic and decision-making power; Effective participation in civic life, decision and policymaking is a fundamental human right guaranteed under international and national legal instruments. Armenia has ratified a number of international conventions and treaties related to human rights, women’s rights and, in particular, the rights of ethnic minority women. These include the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child \(CRC\)](#), the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights \(CCPR\)](#), the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](#), the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(CESCR\)](#), [European Convention on Human Rights \(ECHR\)](#). Armenia also signed another strategic document, the [Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action](#), which was adopted in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women. Moreover, Armenia is a member state of the CoE since 2001 and in 2017, the [EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement \(CEPA\)](#) was signed aiming at enhancing gender equality, combating discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, and ensuring equal opportunities for women.

These documents obligate Armenia to protect and promote the rights of ethnic minorities, ensuring their equal participation in civic and public life.

Yezidi community – the largest national minority in Armenia, comprise 1.08 percent of country’s population¹; however, they are not actively involved in decision-making processes at different levels, including girls and women.

Objective of the call: Promote activism, enhance leadership, and foster participation of Yezidi community in sustainable development efforts in Armenia.

Outcomes

a/ Yezidi population, including girls and women, are prepared and empowered to take an active role in their communities and participate in decision-making.

b/ Public is aware of potential of the Yezidi people through multi-channel awareness campaign.

Activities may include

- Implement a capacity building program based on needs, interests, and project priorities
- Conduct workshops on leadership development, community organizing and mobilization
- Conduct activities to raise awareness on specific topics at community level

¹ The answer to the question about the nationality during the RA 2022 census was indicated in the questionnaire according to the respondent's self-determination and desire. The nationality of the children was determined by the parents. The term Yezidi is used for the community that identifies itself as such, <https://www.armstat.am/am/?nid=82&id=2623>.

- Host cultural events and celebrations to promote unity and showcase Yezidi traditions and heritage and consider media coverage of these and other relevant activities
- Implement specific leisure activities targeting Armenian and Yezidi communities, including young women and girls
- Collect recommendations on specific issues related to Yezidi community and implement advocacy activities at different levels
- Launch a campaign to raise awareness about Yezidi women's contributions and challenges
- Establish partnerships with local NGOs, government agencies to leverage resources and support for community initiatives.
- Engage with local policymakers and stakeholders through advocacy meetings and workshops to promote policies that support community development. Activities that foster supportive environment for Yezidi girls and women.

At least 60% of all the direct beneficiaries are women and girls.

At least 30% of all the direct beneficiaries are youth.

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.

5.0 Experience of implementing projects with Yezidi community: max. 16 points

5.1 Relevance of the planned project: max. 32 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, ethnicity or religion.

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: 10 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: 12 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
- Logical proportionality: the admin and activity budgets are reasonably shared.

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-FSTP07**

Deadline for submission of proposals: **31 July 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: (i) Registration certificate. (ii) The proposal file must be in an unprotected PDF or Word format. (iii) 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 risk and capacity 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.