

Kosovo

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

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GCERF invites Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to apply for funding focused on capacity building of PVE and R&R actors at the local level and reinforcing local mechanisms and institutions to mitigate polarisation of children and youth.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 1 April 2023 - 11:59 PM (CET)

1. Background

The Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) is an independent Swiss foundation established to serve as the first global effort to support local, community-level initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience against violent extremist agendas. Operating at the nexus of security and development, GCERF is committed to working in partnership and consultation with governments, civil society, and the private sector in partner countries to support national strategies to address the local drivers of violent extremism. GCERF strengthens community resilience by supporting local community-level initiatives to address the drivers of violent extremism that promote social cohesion, community agency, equal access to opportunities, and individual's sense of purpose.

GCERF began its first investments in the Western Balkans in November 2017 with two rounds of funding in Kosovo. Out of the first two rounds of funding, GCERF funded five grants for a total commitment of USD 2.5 million over three years. These programmes cover a wide range of prevention topics, focusing on all four of GCERF's leverage points (Social Cohesion, Community Agency, Sense of Purpose, and Equal Access to Opportunities). GCERF's grants contributed to community-based reintegration of returnees from conflicts abroad and their families¹. The grants have been supported along the way by a dedicated Country Support Mechanism (CSM) that includes members of the Government of Kosovo, civil society, and the donor community.

In June 2020 GCERF promulgated a regional investment strategy focused on community

¹ Foreign terrorist fighters are defined by UN-Sec Council Counterterrorism Committee as individuals who travel to a State other than their State of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict". <https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/focus-areas/foreign-terrorist-fighters/> RFTFs therefore refer to men those who have returned or been repatriated to their country of citizenship.

based reintegration and rehabilitation (R&R) of returned foreign terrorist fighters and their families. At the time, the strategy covered Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Between November 2020 and March 2022 GCERF signed eight (8) grant agreements with six (6) principal recipients and two (2) direct grantees supporting more than sixteen (16) local organisations in the region. In 2022 GCERF began to review the investment strategy for Kosovo and in February 2023, the GCERF Updated Strategy Chapter for Investment in Kosovo was approved by the GCERF Governing Board. GCERF is now launching this call to identify consortium partners in Kosovo for 2023–2026.

This call for expressions of interest is meant to serve as a third round of funding of Kosovo to address growing threats to prevention of violent extremism and ensure the sustainable continuation of gains made in R&R.

2. GCERF's Investment in Western Balkans

GCERF's investment in the Western Balkans is intended to support governments and civil society partners to ensure successful R&R of returnees from conflicts abroad and their families. GCERF has signed 9 grants to this effect, which have been and will continue to be instrumental in supporting the R&R process. At the same time, GCERF's recent needs assessment in Kosovo illustrates that while significant gains have been made in the field of R&R, other forms of extremism are currently on the rise. This is particularly relevant in areas where there is distrust at the community level and division between different ethnic groups.

3. Country Alignment and Coordination

GCERF established a multi-stakeholder Country Support Mechanism in Kosovo in 2016 which remains active today. The mechanism is chaired by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and comprises members from various government institutions, including members of the donor community. Members of civil society and the international organisations also provide strategic guidance to the CSM. The main function of the CSM is to ensure ownership and strategic oversight of GCERF's work in Kosovo, from the assessment of needs, to the development of a strategy for investment, the development of expressions of interest like this one, review of proposal applications, and funding recommendations.

4. Call for Expression of Interest

GCERF, in collaboration with the CSM of Kosovo, is pleased to announce a call for expressions of interest for CSOs in Kosovo to form a consortium and become a Principal Recipient (PR) of GCERF funding. GCERF will fund consortia of CSOs to build capacity of PVE and R&R actors at the local level and reinforcing local mechanisms and institutions

to mitigate polarisation of children and youth. Consortium grants are managed and supported by the PRs, who are the legal recipients of GCERF funding and provide funding to other consortium members or “Sub-Recipients” (SR).

GCERF intends to grant at least two (2) awards during this round of funding. The first priority is a consortium grant strengthening capacity of frontline workers and institutions (and multidisciplinary teams) to address violent extremism and ensure sustainability of GoK’s focus on R&R. The second grant is intended to support the correctional and probation services with the challenges around radicalisation in prisons and reintegration of ex-offenders.

In line with the **Investment Strategy** and **Country Needs Assessment**, the focus of the investment will be:

Who:

- National/local institutions and frontline workers
- Local and community based CSOs/ grassroots groups
- Children and youth, including returnees but also other minority groups including Serbian, Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian, Turkish, and Bosniak youth.
- Returnees and their family members or legal guardians

Where:

- Mitrovica (South, North, Leposavic, Zubin Potok, Skenderaj, Zvecan, Vushtrri)
- Gjilan (and Vitia)
- Pristina
- Peja
- Han I Elezit
- Podujevo
- Gjakova

What:

GCERF will fund a consortium led by a local organisation to implement programmes that facilitate safe, healthy, and dignified rehabilitation and reintegration (R&R) of returning foreign terrorist fighters (RFTFs) and their families while creating resilience to violent extremism in the wider community over the long-term. CSO actions will be implemented in collaboration with government authorities and aligned with existing R&R strategies. R&R interventions will contribute to the following objectives:

National and Local level Collaboration

- Contribute to the implementation of national and local strategies to prevent violent extremism and support community based rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees from conflicts abroad and their families.
- Strengthen the capacity of local organisations in the municipalities mentioned above.
- Strengthen the capacity of multidisciplinary teams to address the drivers of violent extremism and support R&R work at the municipal and community level.
- Support correctional services to identify and address radicalisation and to support rehabilitation efforts of persons incarcerated (male and female).
- Support probation services with R&R of ex-offenders (male and female).

Grant size

GCERF plans to sign grant agreements with CSOs by the end of July 2023. GCERF will fund at least two (2), or perhaps three (3), consortium grants in Kosovo. The grant size will be USD 500,000 to 1,000,000. GCERF has allocated USD 1.5 million for this round of funding.

Grant duration

The grants will be no less than 24 months and no more 36 months in duration.

Grantee

Each consortium should be led by a Principal Recipient (PR) which will be responsible for providing subgrants to other consortium members (Sub-Recipients). Priority will be given to consortia whose members have experience implementing socioeconomic and governance programmes, specifically in the context of preventing violent extremism. Experience with implementing rehabilitation and reintegration programming is also highly desirable.

Expressions of Interest

Applicants are asked to demonstrate that they meet GCERF's established prerequisites and that they possess the required capabilities to be a PR of GCERF funding.

PREREQUISITES

- (i) Appropriate legal registration of the consortium lead in one of the four countries for this call.
- (ii) Willingness and capacity to accept and fulfil the role of a PR (as described above).

CAPABILITIES

- (iii) Established relationships and credibility with the relevant national and local authorities, institutions and front liners (e.g. multidisciplinary teams, schools, psychologists, social workers, etc.), and other stakeholders involved in R&R of FTFs and their families.
- (iv) Experience in addressing various forms of extremism, including through the digital space.
- (v) Experience in managing sub-recipients and assessing and enhancing their capacities.
- (vi) Ability to manage community-based partners and implement multiple grants out of a consortium grant.
- (vii) Experience and capacity in programme management.
- (viii) Experience and capacity in financial management and in the management of and accounting for donor grant funding.
- (ix) Willingness and capacity to engage international partners as sub-recipients and service providers.

How to Submit an Expression of Interest

Please see below Annex 1.

All Expressions of Interest must be duly filled and submitted electronically to **call.westernbalkans@gcerf.org** by **1 April 2023**. The email should be marked as '**EOI-Western Balkans**' - in the subject line - and specifying in which country your organisation is applying for grant funding. GCERF will host an EOI information session online on **2 March 2023 at 10AM (Geneva time) for all those who would like to ask questions related to the EOI. Joining instructions will be available on GCERF's website 27 February.**

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted to conduct a due diligence.

ANNEX 1: Application

Please ensure the following documents are included in your application:

1. Copies of organisational registration documents
2. Latest Audit Report
3. Theory of Change in GCERF template
4. Proposed organisation chart for the project (not for your organisation)
5. Completed Annex B (Details of your past projects – below)
6. Completed Annex C (Proposed budget)

7. Organisational Information

Organisation Name			
Type of organisation (national, international)			
Date of Establishment			
Annual Budget Over the Last Two Years (USD)		2021	2022
Number of Full-Time Employees			
Headquarter Address			
Number of Field Offices			
Website			
Social Media Accounts			
Contact Person	Name		
	Position		
	E-mail Address		
	Phone Number		

8. Proposed Programme Information Summary

Proposed Programme Title	
Proposed Duration (months)	
Proposed Geographic Location(s)	
Preliminary Funding Request (USD)	
Proposed Programme Objective	

I. PART 1 – PROPOSED PROGRAMME CONCEPT

1. Context of Local Recruitment and Radicalisation

In the Proposed Geographic Location(s) above: What are three key issues driving recruitment and radicalisation in the selected communities?		
What are the PVE drivers that your programme aims to address?		
What other PVE initiatives are underway in these areas and what is the complementarity with the proposed programme? Are you involved in any PVE coordination mechanisms?		
2. Focus Population Group(s)		
What evidence / experience / expertise do you have in PVE programming?		
Explain how and why you selected locations and population groups.		
What level of consultation have you undertaken with target groups?		
Please provide findings from focus groups, interviews, past programming		
Focus populations – Based on the broad groups in the EOI, please list the specific groups of people (sex and age disaggregated) who you plan to work with in each location and explain why		
Specific Group	Location	Reason to include
3. Theory of Change Narrative		
What problem or gap are you trying to address?		
What objective do you intend to achieve to contribute to solving these problems?		
What are the key activities you will implement to achieve this objective?		
What do you need other stakeholders to do in order for		

these activities to meet the desired objective?	
4. Programmatic Approach	
Who are other stakeholders in the project (e.g. state, religious authorities, security sector, etc.) and how will you work with them?	
How will the proposed programme contribute to the National Strategy on P/CVE and CT (if it exists)?	
What are the top three risks within your programme's control that you foresee and how do you plan to mitigate them?	
How the principle of Do-No-harm will be reflected during different stages of programme development and implementation?	
How will gender and social inclusion be addressed in the programme?	

II. PART 2 – ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

Not obligatory to have, can be developed

Does your Organization have a Strategic Plan ? (period covered?)					
Were any of your programmes evaluated by an external agency in the last three years? (date, organisation)					
Do you have a written policy or guidelines covering the areas below ?					
Gender, Diversity, Social inclusion	Child Protection and Safeguarding	Whistle-blower	Monitoring and Evaluation	Security Management	Communications
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Number of Finance Staff					
Do you have a written policy or guidelines covering the areas below ?					
Accounting and Financial Reporting	Budget & Cash management	HR management	Procurement of goods and services	Fraud, bribery, corruption	Conflict of Interest
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Who were the three largest donors of your organisation (total value of signed contribution)?					
2020 (Name)	(USD)	2021 (Name)	(USD)	2022 (Name)	(USD)

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If you are applying as a Consortium Lead, please fill the below section

Please describe your experience of being a Consortium lead				
Describe the capacity building you have provided to partners				
Do you have a written guidelines that address the areas below ?				
Identification and selection of partners	Contracting mechanism of partners	Capacity development of partners	Operational management of partners (M&E)	Financial management of partners
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Which proposed organizations will join the consortium?				
NAME	Main Role and Added Value			

Annex B – Past Projects

Please only describe projects that your organisation has directly worked on during the past 36 months. Please enter the relevant and requested information into the table below.

SN	Objective of the Project	Donor	Budget (USD)	Duration	Location	Was it P/CVE, CT, or R&R relevant?
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						

Add rows as required

Annex C – Proposed Budget Outline

Note: When providing your estimated budget, take into consideration the quantity of Outputs you plan to deliver for your population groups listed in 1.2 as well as the geographical areas and size of the population groups that those Outputs cover. This budget estimation would involve estimating the cost of delivering the various activities that lead up to the delivery of the Output to the population group. Also take into consideration the costs associated with measuring the Outcomes for your population groups.

Preliminary Funding Request (please adjust the number of Outcomes and Outputs based on your proposed programme and ToC flow chart)		
	Description	Total Amount (USD)
Outcome 1	Note: Budgeting for Outcomes is not required. Only Outputs.	
Output 1		
Output 2		
Output 3		
Outcome 2		
Output 1		
(Consortium) Management Costs (if applicable) Including personnel costs, M&E baselines etc		
TOTAL		

Declarations in support of application for the role of Principal Recipient

Has your Organisation previously applied to GCERF (Yes/No)

If your organisation is selected as a Principal Recipient, you will be expected to form a Consortium of potential Sub-Recipients that meets the expectations of both a GCERF Consortium and Sub-Recipients. A Principal Recipient is responsible for coordinating the development of a Consortium Proposal. A Principal Recipient is expected to establish written agreements with each potential Sub-Recipient prior to the submission of a Consortium Proposal.

By signing this Expression of Interest you confirm:

- your organisation acknowledges and is able to accept the role of a Principal Recipient as described above;
- that the information provided is correct to the best of your knowledge;
- you have read and agree to comply with the terms described in the GCERF code of conduct.

Name	
Designation/Position	
Organisation	
Signature	