

Expression of Interest (Eoi) for Kosovo information sessions

1st – Thursday, the 2nd of March 2023 at 10AM CET on Microsoft Teams

2nd – Wednesday, the 15th of March 2023 at 10AM CET on Microsoft Teams

Participation

The first Eoi information session was attended by 12 participants including representatives from three CSOs in Kosovo.

The second Eoi information session was attended by 13 participants including representatives from seven CSOs and international NGOs in Kosovo.

Introduction to GCERF

The Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) is the global fund dedicated to preventing violent extremism. GCERF is a multi-stakeholder fund based in Geneva, Switzerland. All GCERF funding stems from donor governments, which are pooled in GCERF and granted out to local CSOs.

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 based reintegration and rehabilitation (R&R) of returned foreign terrorist fighters and their families. At the time, the strategy covered Albania,

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.

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.

Through this call of EoI GCERF intends to grant at least two (2) awards during this round of funding. Of first priority is a grant oriented to strengthen capacity of frontline workers and institutions to address violent extremism and ensure sustainability of GoK's focus on R&R; and the second to support correctional and probation services with the challenges around radicalisation in prisons and reintegration of ex-offenders.

Q&A with participants

1. Clarifications about completing Annex C – proposed budget outline

All costs relating to deliverables, including the sub-recipients management costs should be budgeted in the template under the outputs. All costs associated with managing the consortium are put in the separate section.

2. How do you see the alignment between two priorities to be addressed by the consortia? Does addressing both priorities bring a higher value proposition?

We expect that there will be different partners for the two priorities: one working on strengthening capacity of frontline workers and institutions to address violent extremism and ensure sustainability of GoK's focus on R&R, and another one on supporting correctional and probation services with the challenges around radicalisation in prisons and reintegration of ex-offenders. We don't expect one consortium to cover both priorities.

3. When submitting an EoI as a principal recipient, how detailed should be the information on potential sub-recipients?

At least the identification of potential sub-recipients and specification of their value added to the consortium would be enough at this stage.

4. Are the current sub-recipients of other GCERF grants eligible to apply for this call?

Yes

5. Should the whole proposal be submitted now?

At this stage, there is only a need to submit the Expression of Interest (EoI) with requested documents. The call for EoI will be closed on the 1st of April, upon which the GCERF secretariat and Country Support Mechanism will start a preliminary review. Shortlisted candidates will go through a due diligence process. Those having passed due diligence will be requested to submit a full proposal which includes a results framework, a detailed budget and workplan and other legal documents.

6. This year Kosovo will have a new PCVE and CT strategy. Can the grant support the dissemination of this strategy in the target municipalities, as well as engaging and facilitating dialogue with frontliners and other actors that will be involved in the implementation of the strategy?

GCERF considers it important that local organisations are involved in this programming. It may also mean that part of the funding can be used to disseminate strategy through the local organisations or to get better engagement and ensure success of multidisciplinary teams.

7. Are we allowed to work directly with returnees?

GCERF doesn't have any restrictions on working with returnees directly. However, it is advised to consider sustainable solutions in such programming.

8. What is the word limit for the expression of interest?

There is no word limit for the EoI. However, the application needs to be fully completed and answer all the questions.

9. Which municipalities should be covered?

All of the municipalities mentioned in the Call for EoI can be included in the application (with a specific consideration of political situation and safety).

10. Are there any other criteria to be considered?

First of all, all the fields of the application need to be fully filled. Even if the organisation has not previously had a particular experience, this should be also mentioned.

11. What type of frontliners needs to be addressed?

The call targets all categories of frontliners working on PVE, returnees and vulnerable populations.

12. Are the international NGOs eligible for the call?

International NGOs can apply for the call, however the first priority will be given to local organisations. Alternatively, they can be part of a consortium led by a local CSO as a sub-recipient.

13. Is it possible to co-finance the project?

No, a contribution to the grant could be sought only from GCERF and there will be no cost sharing.

14. Can partners be based outside Kosovo and form an international consortium?

No, the focus of this call for EoI is the intervention in Kosovo only and GCERF's objective is to support the local organisations.

In case of other questions, please contact call.westernbalkans@gcerf.org