



Expression of Interest (Eoi) for the Western Balkans Information Session

Wednesday, 15 September at 10AM (Geneva time) on WEBEX

Participation

The Eoi information session was attended by 30 participants including representatives from 1 CSO in North Macedonia, 3 in Albania, 1 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1 in Kosovo and 2 international organisations (United Kingdom, United States) as well as representatives from local government institutions, donor representatives and other stakeholders such as the OSCE.

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.

In the Western Balkans, GCERF has been supporting 1) the community-based rehabilitation, reintegration and resocialization of returned foreign terrorist fighters and families and 2) the enabling environment in the receiving communities through grants to CSOs. First rounds of grantmaking in Kosovo started in 2017, of which all but one programme ended in 2020. In early 2020, GCERF worked with Atlantic Initiative and the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy (ICRD) to conduct a Western Balkans regional needs assessment in the context of RFTFs, and to develop a theory of change to inform GCERF's Strategy for Investment in the Western Balkans focused on community-based reintegration of FTFs and their families. A Regional Accelerated Funding Panel (RAFP) where governments and the donor community are represented was created. A first call for Eois was launched in August 2020. With support from the RAFP, GCERF selected and funded 6 consortia and 1 direct grantee in Albania (3), Kosovo (2) and North Macedonia (2).

GCERF is launching a new call for Eoi in order to fill some gaps in programming and to initiate grant making in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). In early 2021 BiH expressed interest in becoming a partner country upon which the regional needs assessment and strategy were revised and approved by the GCERF Governing board. There has not been any funding granted in BiH.

Through this call of Eoi GCERF intends to grant at least two (2) awards during this round of funding. Of first priority is a comprehensive Rehabilitation and Reintegration grant in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the second is a regional grant to provide capacity building support on "Case Management".

Q&A with participants

1. *Is there a determined amount for the BiH grant and case management grant?*



GCERF will consider different options for awarding the funding, but intends to award 1 -2 grants to cover the priorities of 1) a comprehensive Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Resocialisation (RRR) grant in BiH and 2) a Western Balkans case management capacity building grant. An organization can choose to apply for both objectives, or just one.

There is no fixed budget division for both grants/objectives. The current estimation indicated in the call for Eols are for grants between USD 300,000 and USD 1 million based on the needs assessment and flexibility of current GCERF grants. Based on this estimation, at least USD 1 million is expected to be granted towards a RRR programme in BiH and 300K and 500K for a 3-year period for a regional capacity building initiative focused on case management.

2. Should the consortia that apply consist of NGOs in all four countries?

GCERF will consider any configuration of consortia and partners including local organisations in any of the four countries as well as international NGO.

The most competitive application for case management grant will likely consist of local organisations working with an international NGO to achieve the right expertise.

3. Can programmes extend beyond the four countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia) mentioned in the Western Balkans?

No. Current funding will be granted towards projects in the four Western Balkan countries that are currently GCERF partner countries, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia. Projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina will receive priority.

If other Western Balkan countries become a GCERF partner country in the future, a new call for Eols will be launched.

4. Are organisations that currently receive funding from GCERF eligible to apply?

Yes, current GCERF grantees are eligible to apply.

5. Do all consortium members need to be legally registered in their respective countries?

The organization applying to be a consortium lead needs to be legally registered as an organization (this means obtaining a tax identification number, an audit report and an authorisation to operate). Consortium partners do not need to be legally registered at this stage. However, if the proposal moves forward and the government requests for all consortium partners to be legally registered, the lead organisation should either assist the partner in obtaining such registration or find some other sort of remedy.

6. Should the case management capacity building project cover all four countries, or can it be specific to three or less?

GCERF intends it to cover all countries and will prioritise one grant that can cover all four countries.

7. If the Eol is successful, what are the next steps?

The call for Eols will be closed on the 27th of September, upon which the GCERF secretariat will start a preliminary review. Subsequently the RAFF will conduct their review. In Mid-



October the RAFP and GCERF will shortlist candidates. Due diligence will be conducted with every shortlisted candidate. This will include a physical or virtual meeting with programmatic and operational staff of the lead organization to discuss previous experience, organizational structure and motivation as well as a financial due diligence including budget management, accounting systems, internal controls, etc.

Organisations that pass the due diligence stage will be requested to submit a full proposal which includes a results framework, a detailed budget and workplan and other legal documents.

GCERF expects grants to be signed in the first two weeks of January 2022. However, in case of particularly strong proposals grants may be signed by the end of 2021.

8. Can international organizations be part of the consortia?

Yes. A local organization can either hire international experts for specific activities or deliverables, can bring international organizations in as their partners in the consortium, or a combination of the two. There are key differences in relationship of external experts/partners and therefore different processes and requirements. Hiring international experts as consultants will require formal procurement processes which will be subject to audits. A partnership will mean contributions to quarterly and financial reports, capacity plans, etc.

9. Are there limitations to the budget that is granted to international organisations as SRs?

No.

10. The budget template provided is output based. Should other direct costs be added separately?

All costs relating to deliverables should be budgeted in the template under the outputs. All costs associated with managing the consortium are put in the separate section. However, this means that the costs of consortium partners that fall under the deliverables should be added in the output rows. More rows can be added to the budget template to add as much detail to the budget as possible which can include more details (such as more details on consortium management costs such as HR and office management or M&E such as baseline survey and final evaluations).