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## Preventing and combating intersectional violence towards LGBTIQ women and non-binary persons –

### Call for proposals

EL\*C - EuroCentralAsian Lesbian\* Community is happy to announce its call for proposals for a violence-free lesbian\* future. Our goal is to support and build capacities of LGBTIQ Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) across the European Union and in countries participating in the EU's CERV Programme - currently in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia - so that they can start, continue or develop further their work to combat or prevent gender-based violence (GBV) against LGBTIQ women and non-binary persons. In 2024-2025 EL\*C dedicates altogether 1,900,000 EUR to this project; and this call for proposals will be followed by another CFP in 2025.

Please note that the term "LGBTIQ women and non-binary persons" refers to cis, trans and intersex women, and non-binary persons who self-identity as lesbian, bisexual and queer. Also, with "LGBTIQ CSOs" the CFP is referring to LGBTIQ-led and/ or focused civil society organizations.

#### WHAT exactly will be supported?

- Projects which contribute to one or more of the below objectives:
  - **To understand and meet the specific needs of LGBTIQ women and non-binary persons who are victims of gender-based violence (GBV) and provide tailor-made support for them.**

*Please see below a few examples only for illustrative purposes. Projects under this objective may include, among other activities, mapping the needs of LGBTIQ victims of GBV, starting outreach and provision of support services for LGBTIQ communities directly or through other existing service providers e.g. crisis centers, but also continuing, developing and adjusting existing services, outreach work, developing skills and capacities of staff and volunteers or training professionals working with victims of violence. Educating the public or specific stakeholders or addressing prevention of violence may be also included, etc.*

- **To ensure that systems for protection and prevention of GBV are used to serve LGBTIQ women and non-binary persons and advocate for changes as needed.**

*Please see below a few examples only for illustrative purposes. Projects under this objective may include, among other activities, researching, analyzing and improving the response to the needs of LGBTIQ victims of violence including actions of authorities, service providers, multi-agency*

*collaboration; improving implementation of national or European laws, standards and policies, undertaking capacity-building, finetuning processes and procedures, strengthening coordination between agencies, fostering cross-movement learning, collaboration and coalition-building, and undertaking advocacy to improve laws, educate decision-makers etc.*

- **To strengthen the sustainability, skills and capacities of LGBTIQ CSOs in responding to the GBV-related needs of LGBTIQ women and non-binary persons and in becoming visible representatives for the topic.**

*Please see below a few examples only for illustrative purposes. Projects under this objective may include, among other activities, identifying skills and capacity gaps in responding to the needs of LGBTIQ women and non-binary persons, addressing those gaps as well as gaps in organizational processes, procedures, capacities, resources and gaps in collaborations with other LGBTIQ actors and women's rights actors or other key stakeholders, etc.*

During project implementation grantee partners will have access to tailor-made capacity-building, including peer learning and mentoring support to become sustainable, strong and effective voices against violence against LGBTIQ women and non-binary persons. These measures will be provided based on a needs assessment that will take place at the start of project implementation.

- Applications can be submitted in one of two categories:

#### **-Category I.: Starting Up and Tailoring GBV Work**

This category is recommended for LGBTIQ CSOs launching new work or tailoring existing work for LGBTIQ women and non-binary persons. For instance, an LGBTIQ CSO may launch its own services to support victims or may work with existing service providers – e.g. women's or LGBTIQ crisis centers, other service-providers - on introducing a new element of service in order to meet the specific needs of LGBTIQ women and non-binary persons. It is also recommended for those introducing a new element to the existing service, outreach, prevention or advocacy work in order to meet the specific needs of the LGBTIQ community, or its parts (e.g. members living in rural areas, persons exposed to multiple discrimination, etc.). Projects are encouraged to include collaboration and learning. Grant requests may range between 10,000 and 30,000 EUR.

#### **-Category II.: Scaling up GBV Work**

This category is recommended for LGBTIQ CSOs already engaged in prevention or combating of GBV and planning to consolidate, grow, expand, develop it in new directions or deepen their work to a new level. It is also recommended for coalitions of CSOs planning to achieve better provision of services and/ or systemic change at the local, national or regional level. Projects are encouraged to include collaboration and learning. Grant requests may range between 30,000 and 60,000 EUR.

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Please note that EL\*C plans to launch another call for proposals in 2025. Applicants will be able to apply again in 2025, but the cumulative amount of 60,000 EUR cannot be overstepped in the two cycles.

- **Activities** listed below may receive funding. Please note that activities not listed below cannot be funded.

- Activities on preventing and combating gender-based violence against LGBTIQ women and non-binary persons, including where such violence is committed online or in the context of people fleeing from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine;
- Coalitions and partnerships among LGBTIQ CSOs and feminist CSOs in the field of preventing and combatting gender-based violence; coordination and strategic cooperation between LGBTIQ CSOs, feminist CSOs and other stakeholders, public or private sector entities;
- Provision of free advice, watchdog and monitoring activities on EU and international policies in the field of preventing and combatting violence against women, such as the Istanbul Convention or other EU legal and policy documents;
- Promotion of the implementation of adopted laws in the field of preventing and combatting gender-based violence, regulations and Court cases;
- Lobbying/ Advocacy to influence policy and decision-making processes, including revision/updating/adoption of policies and legislation in the field of preventing and combatting gender-based violence;
- Research and analysis aimed at informing policymaking at EU and national level, development of tools and standards to support EU policies and actions in the prevention and combatting gender-based violence against LGBTIQ women and non-binary persons;
- Provision of gender-sensitive support services to LGBTIQ women and non-binary persons, such as victim support tailored to the specific needs of victims who are LGBTIQ women and non-binary persons, including specific medical and psychological support, victim-centered and trauma-informed services, access to national helplines, access to justice, increased accessibility of shelters, including comprehensive support for victims of sexual harassment at work, training of professionals, etc.;
- Awareness raising and communication/information's activities aimed in particular at creating links and animating communities in the field of preventing and combatting gender-based violence against LGBTIQ women and non-binary persons;
- Community-based mobilization with direct involvement of LGBTIQ women and non-binary persons (e.g., working with violence survivors, with cultural mediators, with community leaders, etc.);
- Tackling gender stereotypes as root causes of gender-based violence against LGBTIQ women and non-binary persons;
- Awareness-raising and capacity-building to foster participation, ownership, and knowledge in the development, adaptation and/or implementation of legislation and/or frameworks or action, for instance through a multidisciplinary working group (which meets regularly and has appropriate decision-making power), enhancement of coordinating mechanisms and procedures (e.g., protocols).

- Other activities not listed above cannot be included in the project; for example, regranting cannot be included.

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- The length of the project may be **between 6 months and 12 months**.
  - The project request can be **minimum 10,000 EUR and maximum 60,000 EUR**. Grant requests for Category I. should range between 10,000 and 30,000 EUR; and for Category II. between 30,000 and 60,000 EUR.
  - **No co-funding** is necessary, EL\*C will cover 100% of the costs.
  - The start date should be in **August or September 2024**.
  - For all projects 50% of the grant amount will be paid out immediately and the other 50% following the approval of the interim report. The interim report is due at midterm of the project while a final report needs to be submitted 30 days after the end date.

### WHAT costs can be included in the application?

- General principles for admissible costs are the following:

- they must be actually incurred by the applicant
- they must be incurred in the grant period
- they must be declared under one of the budget categories included in the application forms
- they must be incurred in connection with the planned actions
- they must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular recorded in the applicant's accounts in accordance with the accounting standards applicable in the country where the applicant is established and with the applicant's usual cost accounting practices
- they must comply with the applicable national law on taxes, labor and social security
- they must be reasonable, justified and must comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular, regarding economy and efficiency.

- Categories of costs **that can be included** are the following:

- Personnel costs
- Subcontracting costs
- Travel and subsistence costs
- Equipment costs (must be declared as depreciation costs)
- Other goods, works and services

- Costs **that are not allowed** are the following:

- costs or contributions that do not comply with the conditions set out above
- costs related to return on capital and dividends paid by a beneficiary
- debt and debt service charges
- provisions for future losses or debts

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- interest owed
- currency exchange losses
- bank costs charged by the beneficiary's bank for transfers from EL\*C
- excessive or reckless expenditure
- deductible or refundable VAT (including VAT paid by public bodies acting as public authority)
- costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during grant agreement suspension
- in-kind contributions by third parties
- costs or contributions declared under other EU grants (or grants awarded by an EU Member State, non-EU country or other body implementing the EU budget)
- costs or contributions for staff of a national (or regional/local) administration, for activities that are part of the administration's normal activities (i.e. not undertaken only because of the grant)
- costs or contributions (especially travel and subsistence) for staff or representatives of EU institutions, bodies or agencies.

- As for specific guidance for the various budget categories included in the application forms, we will add more information in the Q&A document on the [EL\\*C Grants Program's webpage](#), and we will talk about these in the information sessions.

## WHO will be funded?

### Eligibility criteria:

Applicants meeting the following eligibility criteria will be considered for funding:

- **Legally registered, non-profit and non-governmental, civil society organization in their country of operation**
- Established in a **Member State of the European Union** (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs) **and CERV-participating countries, currently Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia.** Please feel free to check the updated list of CERV participating countries on this link: [CERV-participating country](#).
- **LBTIQ CSO**, that is, LBTIQ-led and/or focused CSO
- Applicant **respecting EU values** such as dignity, equality and justice (as laid down in Art.2 of the Treaty on European Union and the EU Charter of fundamental rights)
- **Fully completed application form, submitted** before the deadline. Applications can be submitted in any EU member state language, however, English is preferred. Submitting in another language will not lead to any disadvantage.

Applicants found ineligible will be informed within 2 weeks after the application deadline.

### Selection criteria:

Eligible proposals will be assessed along the below selection criteria:

- Operational capacity (20 points)  
*How complex is the project as compared with the applicant's prior experience? Has the applicant managed other similar projects in the past? Based on the application, does the applicant have the capacity to implement the project?*
- Relevance of the proposed action (20 points)  
*Is the project's goal/ objective relevant from the perspective of the call for proposals? Based on the information provided in the application, is the project relevant for LGBTIQ women and non-binary persons in the applicant's context?*
- Design of the action and implementation approach (15 points)  
*Do the planned activities contribute to the objectives? Are the activities realistic and doable within the project period? Are the activities well-planned? Does the application only include activities that are listed in the call for proposals? What methods are they planning to use? Do the methodologies serve the project's objectives and the values that the CFP is serving? Are the methodologies well-chosen, doable and effective?*
- Sustainability of the action (15 points)  
*Is the project's impact going to influence the life of the community beyond short-term gains? What are the mid-term and long-term impacts that the project will contribute to? Is there a vision for potential long-term sustainability?*
- Budget and cost effectiveness (15 points)  
*Are the planned budget items reasonable, detailed, and in line with the planned activities/ objectives? Are they under-planned or possibly overestimated?*
- Intersectionality (15 points)  
*Is the applicant/ project working with LGBTIQ women and non-binary persons facing multiple hardship, exclusion, discrimination? Is this angle integrated into the application?*

A Selection Committee comprising of EL\*C Board Members – thus persons elected by the community - will assess eligible proposals and will make funding decisions. Only a select number of EL\*C Board Members will take part in this work, in particular those who do not have any conflict of interest in relation to potential applicants.

We will acknowledge the receipt of the application. It is possible that EL\*C will be in touch with you with clarifying questions regarding the application. It is also possible that the Selection Committee will suggest changes to the project.

Eligible applicants will be informed about the grant decision as soon as possible. Awarded projects will be also announced on the [EL\\*C Grants Program's webpage](#).

Please note that applicants with awarded projects will be required to express their commitment to upholding European values and standards. Also, in rare cases they may be requested to undergo a due diligence check prior to signing the grant agreement.

## HOW to apply?

You need to submit the completed **application form** before 23:59 CET on **June 22-nd, 2024**, to the following email address: [grants@lesbiangenius.org](mailto:grants@lesbiangenius.org)

You can download the application form in several languages from the [EL\\*C Grants Program's webpage](#).

EL\*C will provide online information sessions in English about the call for proposals. You may register for the information sessions [here](#). It is sufficient to register for one session, as the information provided will be the same in each session. Following your registration, we will send you the link to the information session.

- April 29 at 9:00 CET
- May 10 at 12:00 CET
- May 15 at 17:00 CET
- May 23 at 17:00 CET

A **Question and Answers document** will be available on the [EL\\*C Grants Program's webpage](#), with updates after every information session.

In addition, if you cannot find an answer to your question in this document, in the Q&A file or during the information sessions, you may also send an email to [grants@lesbiangenius.org](mailto:grants@lesbiangenius.org) any time prior to May 23, 2024. We will regularly update the Q&A document with responses sent to your questions.

A complaints mechanism will be included in the [EL\\*C Grants Program's webpage](#) to explain what measures can be taken if an applicant wants to challenge the grant decision or selection process.

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