

Questions and Answers Regarding the Application process	
Q	Can we send our draft application to you for an initial review before we submit it? It would be useful for us to know that we are going in the right direction with the application.
A	We cannot review or comment draft applications. Having said that, you may ask questions about the eligibility of activities and other general questions in information sessions and also in email (to grants@lesbiangenius.org) prior to April 28 th . We will also update this Q&A with these questions and answers.
Q	Can you share the presentation (that you showed in the info session) online?
A	It is already shared on the Grants page of the EL*C website. In addition, a Q&A document is also shared on the website to provide transparency for all potential applicants.
Q	If we have another question when we write the application, should we join another info session call or should we send an email?
A	You may join another info session if you want to ask it in person, or you should send an email to grants@lesbiangenius.org any time prior to April 28 th .
Q	We are not sure if we should apply for this grant, or for the next round of your “Preventing and Combating Gender-Based Violence Against Lesbians” grant which will also take place in 2025. Can you please advise?
A	Theoretically, if you are working on gender-based violence you could consider applying under both calls, however the same project cannot be funded by both programs. The budget for the Gender-Based Violence program will be bigger, however non-member organizations may also apply. The timing is planned in a way, that you will know the result of this application prior to having to submit the application for the upcoming GBV grant.
Eligibility, selection	
Q	Is it possible to submit a joint application with other EL*C member organizations?
A	We do not encourage joint applications this time, but you as the main applicant can have project partners.
Q	Can there be several applicants or just one applicant?
A	There has to be one applicant, but this applicant may involve project partners.
Q	Do the project partners have to be also EL*C member organizations?
A	No, the project partners do not have to be EL*C member organizations, but they can be.

Q	We are an NGO based outside of the EU. If we find a partner organization that is in the EU, can we apply together and work together on the project?
A	Even if you find a main applicant who is based in the EU, the project activities have to serve objectives of actors/ communities within the EU, they have to take place within the European Union and the costs also have to be incurred within the EU. Thus, I am afraid these criteria would not allow actual work outside the EU.
Q	If we are not yet an EL*C member, how can we apply for this grants program?
A	You first need to apply for full membership, which is a completely separate process. There is guidance on the EL*C website on how to apply for full membership. https://lesbiangeni.us.org/membership/ Please note that full membership is only available for lesbian*-led and lesbian*-focused groups. You will need to go through several steps in order to become a full member. First, you need to fill in an online application request. This will be followed by a conversation with an EL*C staff member. Lastly, EL*C's board will make a decision about approval. Once there is a formally confirmed approval about membership, you can then submit the application to the grants program. Please note that the application process takes some time thus we encourage you to start the membership application process as soon as possible.
Q	The official form of our organization is "Verein", are we eligible to apply?
A	The exact name/ form of non-governmental, non-profit organizations changes from country to country. In Germany "eingetragener Verein/ e.V." refers to a registered association, a non-governmental, non-profit organization. Thus, if you are an e.V., you are eligible to apply from this perspective.
Q	Our organization is not legally registered yet. Is it possible that another, legally registered EL*C full member organization applies on our behalf?
A	Unfortunately, it is not possible, as it is not allowed to use a third party or fiscal sponsor for the application.
Q	Is it an eligibility requirement to have a bank account that is officially linked to our organization? We are now in the process of getting it, but we do not know if we will have it when we submit the application.
A	It is not an eligibility requirement, thus you will not be excluded if you do not have a bank account at the time of application. However, should the application be approved, we can only transfer the money to the official bank account of your organisation; thus by the start of the project you must have a bank account.
Q	You write in the Call for Proposals that „Priority will be given to applicants not yet funded by EL*C in 2023 and 2024, and to those without funding. In addition, funding requests from small grassroots CSOs will be prioritized over well-established groups with significant budgets.” What does well-established mean?

A	It is about the financial situation of the organization. We mean groups with significant budgets and other sources of funding.
Q	If we already received funding from EL*C in 2023, would you advise not to apply given that EL*C will prioritize member organizations who did not yet receive funding from EL*C?
A	We expect to receive many proposals given the difficult funding context; and indeed EL*C will prioritize member organizations who did not yet receive funding from EL*C. Having said that, all eligible proposals will be scored, and in the end, it will be up to the Selection Committee to make funding decisions.
Q	Is it possible for a small organization to apply for the maximum amount of money?
A	Yes, if the NGO has the capacity for a bigger project.
Q	Is it possible to apply for a London-based NGO for a project supporting Iranian lesbians?
A	Unfortunately, the NGO has to be based in an EU member state, thus the London basis makes the NGO not eligible to apply. Supporting Iranian lesbians who live in the EU could otherwise be eligible, but not if they live outside the EU.
Q	If I would manage the project and I would be at first in the country where the project's target group is, but later I would need to go to another EU country, would this be a problem/ obstacle to eligibility?
A	No, as long as the NGO/ you would be able to manage the project.
Project activities	
Q	Does the project have to be a new project, or can it be the continuation of an earlier project/ activity?
A	It can be, but it does not have to be a completely new project. You may decide to continue an earlier project or activity, as long as it is clear where you start from and what you want to complete/ accomplish with the project.
Q	6-8 months is a pretty short period to implement a full project. Do we need to carry out a complete project from start to end during this time? Or can the application be one phase of a larger project?
A	It can be part of a larger project, but it has to be very clear, how it fits into the bigger project. It has to be clear where the project starts and where it ends.
Q	What does it mean that the start date has to be in June 2025? Is it enough if we start the internal planning in June, or do we already have to start the project activities?
A	You may include June 1, June 30 or any other day in June as a start date. From our perspective, it is enough if you start your internal planning processes at that time.
Q	What is the latest possible end-date of the project?

	If you follow the guidance in the call for proposals, you may decide to start the project latest on June 30-th 2025, and add 8 months to that day for the longest possible project duration.
Q	Do we need to give you an exact timeline of the planned activities? Sometimes it is difficult to foresee, when can we have a specific workshop or other event.
A	No, in the application you do not need to provide the exact time of all activities, but when you fill out the Project Implementation Measurement Matrix, we will ask about the approximate timing of activities.
Q	Are the “Deliverables” we have to list in the Activity Implementation Measurement Matrix for EL*C or for the European Commission?
A	EL*C has its own Deliverables for the European Commission, and your Deliverables are for EL*C. In case your project is approved, we will help you finalise the list of deliverables.
Q	We are thinking about an advocacy project that would benefit the entire LGBTIQ community, not just the lesbian* community. Would this project be eligible, would this meet the objectives?
A	In the application you would need to explain how the project serves the needs and priorities of the lesbian* community, how it is going to involve lesbians*, what impacts it will bring to them, etc.
Q	We live in an authoritarian country where advocacy at the national level is not possible as the government does not talk to LGBTI organizations. Does it mean we cannot apply with advocacy or other rights protection work?
A	You could consider many different ideas even if national-level advocacy is impossible, for instance you could discuss advocacy at the local level, regional level, or preparing a monitoring report about the current implementation of the rights of lesbians*, etc. This is just a brainstorming, please do not take it as advice.
Q	We are thinking of proposing an awareness raising/communication campaign. Is it ok if we do it in Spain (our country), or do we have to do it in the whole of Europe?
A	Doing it in Spain, or even just in your city, fulfils the geographic criteria and it does not have to cover the whole of the European Union.
Q	We are currently running a project against hate speech and hate crime. It is a general project, not focusing on lesbians in particular, but we are thinking of creating an awareness-raising communication campaign focusing specifically on lesbians. Is this something that would fit the criteria in terms of the target group?
A	Yes. You will have to explain how the campaign supports the four objectives listed in the Call for Proposals.

Q	We are thinking about a project that would rebrand our organization, and we want to do a communications campaign around this rebranding. Would this be an eligible objective and activity?
A	A communications project like this by itself would not be eligible, as the communications work would need to be connected to the protection of rights, monitoring, advocacy work. However, if your NGO would use the communications work to serve one of these work areas, the project could be eligible.
Q	We are a queer art collective, fighting against discrimination against lesbians with art. Can art and contemporary creation be considered as an “innovative approach” (<i>one item in the Activity list EL*C provided</i>).
A	As long as it contributes to the objectives listed in the Call for Proposals, yes. Please note that an art project in itself is unlikely to receive funding if it is not clearly integrated into a project that protects and promotes the rights of lesbians*.
Q	Can you please provide an example for the following eligible activities listed in the CFP: Internal/organizational capacity development activities, testing of innovative approaches, Communication and information activities?
A	For instance, if your objective is to strengthen the capacity of the organization to undertake monitoring and research activities, you may decide to offer training in monitoring for members of the NGO. The testing of innovative approaches in rights protection and promotion may include any new tool, idea, approach that would help you improve the rights protection and promotion for lesbians*. As for communications, it may include any form or channel or tool in communications and campaigning that serves the objective you define in the application, in line with one of the four main objectives of the CFP.
Q	Is training our staff and volunteers an eligible activity if our objective is strengthening the capacity of our NGO? Or meeting with other organisations in the same field to exchange experiences?
A	Yes, these can be all eligible activities if they contribute to the objective of strengthening NGO capacity to promote/ protect the rights of lesbians*.
Q	If we want to reinforce the NGO’s internal functioning and strengthen our capacity by training volunteers on how to handle racism, transphobia, etc., would this qualify as internal / organizational capacity development activities?
A	Yes. The activity has to be in line with the main objectives of the project.
Q	We just faced a situation where two activists attempted to commit suicide. If we would want to bring together activists to strengthen each other, would this qualify as internal/ organizational capacity development activities?
A	Yes. The activity has to be in line with the main objectives of the project.

Q	We provide urgent housing for queer people who live on the streets of Marseille. Usually we pay for their short-term stay in hotels. Does it count as regranting (which is not an eligible activity)?
A	No, this is not regranting. You are paying for a service, which is about providing accommodation.
Q	I am the founder of a student association at a university, and one of our activities is a book club. Would it be an eligible activity to buy books for the university library?
A	Purchase of books could be an eligible activity, but if you do only that, it won't be enough for the project. You would need to define clear objectives and activities beyond just purchasing books.
Costs, budget	
Q	Can we include staff costs in the budget?
A	Yes, these should be included under "personnel costs".
Q	Could we include under "personnel costs" also other costs in addition to those who have employment contracts? For instance, those who work as freelancer but would work as part of the project management team?
A	Yes, if they work as part of the project management team, they should be included under "personnel costs."
Q	What does "subsistence" mean in the budget? What can we include under "equipment"?
A	Please take a look at page 8 and 9 of the application form where we included a detailed explanation about these cost categories.
Q	What does "specialized tools and equipment" mean?
A	We have not defined what specialized tools and equipment means, it depends on what is needed for the project. Please see more guidance on equipment on page 8-9 of the application form.
Q	Can we include the fee for a speaker - in a training, workshop or conference - under "subcontracting"?
A	Yes.
Q	Can we include core operational costs, such as rent, electricity, maintenance?
A	Yes, you may include such costs as long as these are reasonable and are related to the activities and objectives. Please see our example for this in the "other costs" section of activity one in the budget example within the application form.
Q	Can we include costs that are related to renovating our space where we would do the project activities?

A	Even though technically you can include such costs under “other costs”, we do not advise you to do it as this is not directly linked to the main objectives of the CFP or to the activities included in the CFP.
Q	We are working in partnership with lesbians on other continents. Can we include activities and costs in the project that are incurred by these partners, for instance, for their Zoom subscriptions and for their possible travel costs to Europe?
A	Unfortunately, not. The project activities have to serve objectives of actors/communities within the EU, they have to take place within the European Union and the costs also have to be incurred within the EU.
Q	Is there any criteria on how much we can include in any of the budget lines, any limitations?
A	It is up to you, how you divide the budget that you apply for. What we will be looking at, is if the budget is in line with the objectives and the activities.
Project implementation, reporting, payment	
Q	Can you tell us about reporting? Is this a lumpsum grant?
A	Yes, these grants will be lumpsum grants. This means that once the budget is approved, you will work with that budget. Having said that, the reporting will not include financial reporting, but it will take place based on the Activity Implementation Measurement Matrix. We will provide all details about reporting at the very beginning of project implementation.
Q	For the matrix do we have to provide exact numbers e.g. on how many workshops, trainings we plan to do and when?
A	Please provide estimates to the best of your knowledge, however you do not need to worry if you cannot be very specific at this early stage. Should the project be approved, we will discuss the Matrix with all grantees and finalize it at that stage.
Q	Do we need to send EL*C our invoices? And in general, what shall we do with the invoices and other project documentation?
A	Invoices should be kept for three years after the end of the project. The three years of record keeping is requested by the European Union. Should there be an audit for the project, you/ EL*C may be requested to show the invoices. This also goes for other documentation that you may be using for the project. We will require that grantees send us some documentation about activity implementation, and we will also share with you reporting templates at the start of project implementation.