

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	Yes, it will be shared on the Grants page of the EL*C website. In addition, this Q&A will be 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	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://lesbiangenius.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	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.
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	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 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 one of the four objectives listed in the Call for Proposals.
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.
Costs, budget	
Q	Can we include staff costs in the budget?
A	Yes, these should be included under “personnel costs”.
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	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.
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	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.