

UNDP Moldova/ Civil Society Development Programme

Call for Proposals: Partnership projects between Romanian and Moldovan NGOs

Background:

UNDP Moldova implements the “Strengthening Civil Society” Project aiming at increasing financial sustainability of Civil Society Organizations by promoting individual giving, corporate giving, social entrepreneurship and service provision.

In 2010, with financial support from the Romanian Government we are pleased to announce this call for proposals aiming to support partnership for development projects between Romanian civil society and development actors from Republic of Moldova. The grants will be in line with Romania’s National Strategy for International Development Cooperation.

The total amount available for this Call for Proposals is about 120,000 USD and the value of each project proposed is a maximum of 50,000 USD, and a minimum of 35,000 USD. Projects should have duration of a maximum of 12 months.

Projects will only be considered from two or more applicant groups working together in a consortium. Grants will be awarded separately to each partner organization in the consortium, to a maximum of 30,000 USD per partner organization.

Each consortium can include any number of applicant organizations, but at least one of the applicant organizations must be based in Romania, and at least one applicant organization must be based in Republic of Moldova. Thus, experience and best practices exchange is strongly encouraged

Proposals should be completed according to the attached templates and guidance (TBD), and submitted before the deadline of **24th February 2010**.

Priority Areas for Call:

Romania’s National Strategy for International Development Cooperation is in principle structured to offer assistance in the following domains:

A. Good Governance: citizens’ participation, reform of public administration, decentralization, access to information.

B. The strengthening of democracy and rule of law: promoting human rights (child protection, equal opportunities, combating discrimination), legislative and institutional reform, etc.

C. Economic development: sustaining the transition towards a market economy, development of the private sector including by means of public private partnership (PPP), sustaining the privatization process, formulation of the monetary policy, management of public finances, assisting the development of information society

D. Education and career development/employment: supporting partner states in developing a curriculum, the trainers formation, reform of professional and technical education, labor market reforms.

E. Health: focus on the reproduction health, prevention and control of the spreading diseases (developing a system able to prevent and control it), fighting HIV/AIDS (promoting Romanian good practices in administrating the programs financed by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; the formation of trained medical personnel).

F. Development of infrastructure and environment protection: contribution to the rural infrastructure projects (water supplying, roads viability), contribution to the transport infrastructure programmes, energy,

telecommunication, housing projects, tourism projects and capitalizing the potential of the tourist's objectives and the environment infrastructure projects.

However, priority will be given to project proposals fitting under *the Strengthening of democracy and rule of law* priority, especially Human Rights promotion.

Review criteria have been developed to evaluate project proposals submitted and help the Steering Committee to allocate funds to projects. The criteria are based on a number of overarching principles which provide a framework for the decision-making of the Steering Committee:

First, all projects proposed should be within the legal mandate and competency of the relevant actors of each consortium.

Second, projects proposed should be fully in line with national development priorities and policies

Third, projects should offer tangible and measurable development impact. Applicant consortia must agree to the rigorous monitoring and evaluation regime.

Fourth, project results should be sustainable, with a view to achieving ongoing development impact beyond the duration of funding from the programme.

Eligible Applicants:

Applicants eligible to receive grants from must have **non-profit legal status** (*be non-profit making and be legal persons*).

Civil society, non-governmental organizations **legally** operating in Romania and/or Republic of Moldova for at least 2 years are eligible to apply.

Applications will only be accepted by consortia of actors working in partnership. Each consortium can include any number of partner organizations, but at least one of the partner organizations must be based in Romanian and one partner organization must be based in Republic of Moldova.

Each partner organization of the consortium must be legally registered in the country, in which they are based, and:

- Ø *not* act as an intermediary, but be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the proposal
- Ø have relevant experience in the area of application; if the proposal is jointly presented, at least one partner should have significant experience in the relevant field
- Ø present *audited* financial statements for at least one previous year

A consortium can submit only one application under this Call for Proposals. Applicant groups shall not be awarded more than one grant under this Call for Proposals, but organizations may submit proposals as members of more than one consortium.

Selection Process:

Following the deadline, project will be evaluated in several stages:

Administrative Screening- fist eliminatory stage: the project coordinator will verify if the application form is complete and all required documents have been presented

Eligibility and quality of the proposals – second eliminatory stage – the Grants Evaluation Committee will review proposals based on the selection criteria. Proposals will be scored and based on the final scoring the funding decision will be made.

Project Proposal Format

In preparing a Project Proposal for submission, please follow the format specified below. The overall length of your proposal should not exceed 7 pages (including cover page but excluding the required Appendices).

Applications should be submitted via email before 24th February, 2010 at tenders-Moldova@undp.org with the remark “**CSO Grant Programme**”.

I. Programme Summary

- Please provide a brief description of what the project aims are, and how these aims will be achieved.

II. Background and Rationale

- Clearly articulate the opportunity or problem you are addressing, including the scope, context and factors that create the opportunity or cause the problem. Describe the intended beneficiaries and geographic area of intervention (if applicable).
- Describe how the proposed project relates to ongoing activities in the field and how your effort to capitalize on the opportunity or solve the problem would be innovative or complementary to existing efforts.
- Explain how the project will contribute concretely to improving the current situation at country level.

III. Intended Results

- Please define briefly the specific objective(s) of the proposed project, with reference to the objectives of the programme.
- Please specify the results to be delivered by this project, showing how these contribute to meeting the objective(s). *Be specific and try to quantify results as much as possible.*
- Explain how sustainability will be secured after completion of the action. This may include aspects of necessary follow-up activities, built-in strategies, ownership, etc.

IV. Project Design and Implementation Plan

- Please describe the project design and major activities to be undertaken, linking these clearly to individual results outlined in Section III. This should be limited to broad, strategic categories of activities.
- Please describe which partner organization in the consortium will be responsible for undertaking each activity.
- Please explain how the project will be coordinated at the implementation level – linking the activities of national partners and other related donor initiatives.
- Please highlight potential parallel or co-financing opportunities if applicable, and/or involvement of the private sector as appropriate.
- Where the project is an extension or continuation of a previous project, please explain how the action is intended to build on the results of the previous project.

- Please identify any potential risks to achieving the project's objectives, and identify the main preconditions and assumptions that affect the implementation phase.

V. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Please specify quantitative and qualitative indicators for all results and describe the proposed methodology for their measurement.

VI. Institutional Arrangements and Management Plan

- Please provide a brief description of the partner organizations of the consortium and their previous experience in programmatic and/or analytical collaboration in this field.
- Please specify the respective roles of the different consortium partners, and identify which partner will assume the lead responsibility for achieving any joint results of the project.
- Outline the organizational structure and personnel requirements proposed for implementing the project (there is no need to include the names of individuals).
- Please describe the proposed internal governance arrangements to provide oversight of the project, as well as any coordination groups/ forums in which consortium partners intend to participate during project implementation.

Appendices

- A. **Work plan:** Applicants should complete and attach the work plan indicating when specific project activities will be undertaken under the proposed project.
- B. **Budget:** Applicants must include a summary cost estimate/project budget for each consortium partner, using the budget template provided.
- C. **CV of key staff involved.**
- D. **Partnership Agreement:** Each consortium partner should complete the partnership agreement provided in full, and must submit it in support of their application.
- E. **Legal Statutes:** Each consortium applicant should attach in pdf format a copy of documentation verifying their legal status.
- F. **Financial Accounts:** Each consortium applicant should attach a pdf of the organisation's most recent audited statement of accounts.

Review Criteria

Selection of the proposals will be based on the following criteria (overall percentile weight of these criteria is indicated within brackets):

1) Relevance to the goal and objectives of grant programme. Are the opportunities or problems that the project seeks to address relevant to the overall goal and objectives stated? i.e. Does the proposal address issues relevant for the transfer/sharing of experience in the selected domain? **[20%]**

2) Potential impact and added value. Beneficiaries and project impact, i.e. is the action likely to have a tangible **impact** on its target groups? What is the added value of the project support? **[20%]**

3) Methodology, Implementation arrangements and resources. Feasibility and consistency of the project activities, project plan and its proposed budget; appropriateness of the implementation arrangements and resources to be mobilized for the project; overall quality of the proposal documents (*form and content*). i.e How coherent is the overall design of the action? (in particular, does it reflect the analysis of the problems involved, taking into account external factors). Are the *activities* proposed appropriate, practical, and consistent with the objectives and expected results? Does the proposal contain *objectively verifiable indicators* for the outcomes/impact of the action? (Logframe) **[15%]**

4) Sustainability Financial and organizational sustainability; the benefit of the proposal in terms of project continuity and financial viability after the support ends, i.e. is the proposal's plan to ensure financial and organizational sustainability viable? **[15%]**

5) Capacities & Partnerships Institutional, financial and technical capacity of the applicant organizations (when applicable, also through the alliance established for the project) to carry out the proposed plan; applicants' degree of experience in project execution and in working with development issues; willingness of project partners to involve relevant smaller actors, either through subcontracting of activities or inclusion within project management or oversight structures. **[15%]**

6) Potential to become a good practice Does the experience possess a high potential for transfer/replication? The particularities of the experience are not an impediment so strong that the methodologies and lessons learned cannot be replicated by peer actors in their own context. The experience is framed within the paradigms promoted by the UNDP. It is oriented towards capacity-building and enabling for human development. The projects contain the direct involvement and ownership process in the practice of different target groups, actors and categories of people from planning to implementation stages; the project is likely to have a social and economic impact on the lives of beneficiaries, etc... **[10%]**

7) Innovation Degree of innovation proposed by the project. Is the project innovative globally, or in the country context? Have new ways to address the opportunities or problems been identified? Are issues specific to the capacities, rights, remittance migration and communities and trends in the proposed target area/country of operation taken into account? **[5%]**

The Evaluation Committee members will assign between 0 and 5 points to the above-mentioned criteria according to the following assessment:

- 0 – fails or missing/incomplete information
- 1 – poor
- 2 – fair
- 3 – good

4 – very good

5 – excellent

A percentile weight is assigned to each criterion, which will determine, in conjunction with the average points assigned by the evaluators, the overall score and ranking of the proposals.

Please note that the **quality of the presentation**, in terms of conceptual layout of the proposal, language, and visual impact is a factor in the judgment of any evaluator.