

**GRANTS TO SUPPORT AND DEVELOP MULTIDISCIPLINARY CENTERS ON GBV AND DV**

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION



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[Introduction and background 3](#_Toc131084865)

[Objectives 3](#_Toc131084866)

[Expected results 4](#_Toc131084867)

[Activities that can be funded 4](#_Toc131084868)

[Available budget 4](#_Toc131084869)

[Timetable and deadlines 5](#_Toc131084870)

[Admissibility and documents 5](#_Toc131084871)

[Eligibility 5](#_Toc131084872)

[Financial and operational capacity 6](#_Toc131084873)

[**Financial capacity** 6](#_Toc131084874)

[**Operational capacity** 6](#_Toc131084875)

[**Exclusion** 6](#_Toc131084876)

[Evaluation procedure and award criteria 7](#_Toc131084877)

[**Evaluation procedure** 7](#_Toc131084878)

[**Award criteria** 8](#_Toc131084879)

[**Due diligence** 9](#_Toc131084880)

[Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements 9](#_Toc131084881)

[**Starting date and project duration** 9](#_Toc131084882)

[**Milestones and deliverables** 9](#_Toc131084883)

[**Form of the grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount** 9](#_Toc131084884)

[**Budget categories and cost eligibility rules** 10](#_Toc131084885)

[**Reporting and payment** 10](#_Toc131084886)

[**Non-compliance and breach of contract** 11](#_Toc131084887)

[How to apply 11](#_Toc131084888)

[Help 11](#_Toc131084889)

# **Introduction and background**

The European Family Justice Center Alliance (EFJCA) works towards an effective and sustainable multidisciplinary collaboration to tackle gender-based violence and domestic violence by providing Family Justice Centers (FJCs) and related multidisciplinary models with the knowledge and tools to maintain high quality standards in line with the EU values as laid down in Art. 2 of the Treaty on European Union and the EU Charter of fundamental rights.

To improve and strengthen the multidisciplinary approach of gender-based violence (GBV) and domestic violence (DV), the EFJCA invites in 2023 within the EU program Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) their European member organisations to submit proposals within the call ‘Grants to support and develop multidisciplinary centers on GBV and DV’. The grants will support the (further) development of new and existing FJCs and related multidisciplinary models and improve their work towards a victim/survivor-centered and trauma-informed approach and create pathways of hope and empowerment.

This call for proposals describes the objectives, expected results, maximum amount of regranting to eligible organisations and proposed activities. It further describes the selection procedure and reporting mechanism for the management of the regranting by the EFJCA.

# **Objectives**

The main objective of the re-granting is developing, implementing, improving and strengthening safe places in European countries for victims/survivors of gender-based violence and domestic violence, places where all the needs of the victims/survivors are met; their safety is assured; children are protected and perpetrators are held accountable, in accordance with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention. This will be done through the funding of projects which aim to:

* Stimulating the development and establishment of new FJCs and related multidisciplinary centers (start-up/how to start).
* Embedding good and evidence-based practices within existing FJCs and related multidisciplinary models with the aim on further professional development and capacity building.

The re-granting will increase knowledge on and implementation of EU law and policy and the Istanbul Convention at national and local level. It will provide members with the means to improve their work in line with EU values.

All proposals are expected to contribute to achieving at least one of the following objectives:

* Strengthened capacity to protect and promote EU rights and values.
* A more supportive environment for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and rights defenders such as national human rights institutions.
* Better-developed advocacy and watchdog role of CSOs.
* Increased involvement of CSOs in policy- and decision-making processes with local, regional, and national governments.
* Increased citizen awareness of EU rights and values.
* Strengthened regional cooperation within civil society.

In the application the applicant has to clearly state which objective or objectives their project aims to address.

# **Expected results**

Depending on the chosen activities and assignments within the submitted and approved projects, the expected results can be distinguished according to:

* Expansion and strengthening of multidisciplinary cooperation in a region and/or partnership regarding the approach to GBV and DV, including the aim of (further) developing FJCs and related multidisciplinary centers. This includes project whereby the sustainability of the new and existing centers is more guaranteed.
* The embedding of good practices in the FJCs and related multidisciplinary centers, providing stronger and substantiated help and guidance to victims of GBV and DV.
* The stronger involvement of Voices and survivors in the local operation of FJCs and related multidisciplinary centers and the development and embedding of programs that empower victims, with the aim of making this a strong offer in the FJCs and related multidisciplinary centers.
* The specific development of target group-oriented approaches, so that tailor-made interventions can be offered in the FJCs and related multidisciplinary centers.
* Improved awareness and more detailed help for specific and severe forms of GBV and DV, such as intimate terror and non-fatal strangulation, so that victims of these forms receive the specific attention and multidisciplinary approach they need.

# **Activities that can be funded**

Activities that are eligible to receive funding are:

* Development and establishment of new FJCs and related multidisciplinary centers.
* Embedding good and evidence-based practices within existing FJCs and related multidisciplinary models.
* On-the-floor training in specialized multidisciplinary services for starting FJCs and related multidisciplinary centers.
* Capacity building.
* Programs on sexual violence and collaboration with services specific for sexual violence.
* Programs for involving and empowering victims/survivors and organizing peer-group-support.
* Working on sustainability: design of a process by which long term strategy both policy-wise, organizationally, financially as well as the development of the services, are to be worked through, with a professional policy making specialist to guide this process.
* Organizing stakeholder-meetings, conducting a local survey and setting up the process towards multidisciplinary approach for starting centers.
* Improving specialized interventions for specific groups.
* Awareness raising and training on Non-Fatal Strangulation and ‘Intimate Terror and Coercive Control’.

# **Available budget**

The available budget is EUR 60.000

#### Minimum and maximum cost of projects

The proposed projects must have an overall budget between 15.000 EUR and 22.000 EUR, of which the grant will finance 80%. Applicants must be prepared to cover the remaining 20% as co-financing.

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# **Timetable and deadlines**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Timetable and deadlines | |
| Call opening | 30 January 2024 |
| Online meeting for applicants – general information | 28 February 2024, 16:00 – 17:00 CET |
| **Deadline for submissions** | **31 March 2024** |
| Evaluation | April 2024 |
| Information on evaluation results | April 2024 |
| Signing of Grant Agreements | April/May 2024 |
| Maximum project duration | May 2024 – February 2025 (10 months) |

# **Admissibility and documents**

Proposals must be submitted before the call deadline (see timetable above).

Proposals must be submitted electronically via the Online Grant Management System. Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided in the Online Grant Management System.

Proposals must be complete and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents. Mandatory annexes include:

* Detailed budget table (template available for download at the top of the application form).
* CVs (standard) of core project team.
* List of notable projects from the last ten years.
* For applicants with activities involving children: the organisations child protection policy in either English or the country language of the applicant, covering the four areas described in the Keeping Children Safe Child Safeguarding Standards.

**Note:** if the applicant and/or any of the partners work directly with/have contact with children, they must provide their child protection policy. Activities to develop a child protection policy will be eligible and are encouraged. If the applicant is already working with children and doesn’t have a child protection policy , there will be no funding of any child-related activities, but those applicants will not be excluded from the application process or other activities.

# **Eligibility**

Applicants must fulfil at the criteria listed below:

* Be a privileged member of the EFJCA[[1]](#footnote-1).
* Be a legal entity, non-profit organisation.
* Be established in a Member State of the European Union, including overseas countries and territories (OCTs).
* Respect EU values as laid down in Art. 2 of the Treaty on European Union and the EU Charter of fundamental rights.

# **Financial and operational capacity**

Before submission the application, applicants will need to fill in a survey regarding operational and financial capacity. The survey will be subject to validation of the EFJCA. In addition, the applicant will be asked to check a self-assessment questionnaire before it can upload an application. The questionnaire can include questions such as:

* You understand that in case of fraud of corruption, that the project will be closed and amounts already reimbursed needs to be paid back? 0 Yes 0 No
* Do you understand that any attempt to falsification of information in a project including non- existing partnership, data, results, bank account etc. can be considered as fraud? 0 Yes 0 N

## **Financial capacity**

Applicants must have stable and sufficient resources to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects.

## **Operational capacity**

Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications** and **resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature).

This capacity will be assessed as part of the evaluation process based on the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain it by the time task implementation starts.

Applicants will have to show their capacity via the following information:

* + General profiles (qualifications and experiences) of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project.
  + Description of the organization’s experience.
  + Activity report of last year of the main applicant (and the partners, if applicable).
  + List of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years of the main applicant).

Additional supporting documents may be requested, if needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

## **Exclusion**

Applicants which are subject to an EU exclusion decision or in one of the following exclusion situations that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate:

* + Bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant’s debts).
  + In breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with
  + unlimited liability for the applicant’s debts).
  + Guilty of grave professional misconduct (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).
  + Committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism- related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision- making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).
  + Shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).
  + Guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95 (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).
  + Created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision- making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).

Applicants will also be refused if it turns out that:

* During the award procedure, they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information.
* There were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

# **Evaluation procedure and award criteria**

## **Evaluation procedure**

The proposals will have to follow the standard submission and evaluation procedure (one-stage submission + one-step evaluation).

An evaluation committee (assisted by independent outside experts) will assess all applications. Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements (admissibility, and eligibility. Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated against the operational capacity and award criteria and then ranked according to their scores.

The project will be evaluated in three steps. First, objective information will be summarized regarding all aspects of the application form and submitted documents.

##### Step 1: Summary of the project

* + Financing of projects that have already started
  + Project description/summary
  + Project name
  + Goal project
  + Target group / topic of the project
  + Means/activities to achieve goal
  + Intended results
  + Applicant evaluation criteria
  + What is the contribution for?
  + Number of participants/clients
  + Number of volunteers
  + Project duration
  + Total project costs

##### Step 2 Review of the project

The review will consist of a short narrative per topic and a proposed score by the EFJCA re-granting project team.

##### Step 3 The review ends with a recommendation of the EFJCA re-granting project team:

* + Approve/Disapprove
  + Grant amount
  + Specific conditions
  + Restrictions

## **Award criteria**

The award criteria for this call are as follows:

##### Relevance (maximum score: 25 / minimum score: 17)

* + Match between regular activities of the applicant and the goals of the call for proposals
  + Clearly defined target groups with appropriate gender perspective
  + Capacity of the applicant to reach the most vulnerable target group
  + Relevance of the project in light of the Union Values and the call for proposals
  + Added value compared to existing activities/projects in the country/region of applicant

##### Quality: (maximum score: 20)

* + Quality and feasibility of the complete project
  + Methodology of the interventions/activities
  + Financial feasibility of the detailed budget compared to the results
  + Governance and sustainability of the organization

##### Impact (maximum score: 15)

* + Ambition and expected long-term impact of results on the target groups
  + Sustainable effect/embedding project
  + Collaboration with other European FJCs and/or relevant multidisciplinary models

##### Formal requirements (checklist yes/no)

* + Collaboration with other European FJCs and/or relevant multidisciplinary models
  + The articles of incorporation (bylaws)
  + A recent extract of your organization from the Chamber of Commerce
  + The latest substantive annual report or an overview of the activities of your organization
  + The latest financial statements or profit and loss/ balance sheet
  + This year's current operating budget.
  + If available: A project plan / work plan / schedule with all activities within the project
  + A specified project budget and coverage plan.
  + Child Safeguarding Policy
  + Other documents that you find relevant to your application.

##### The EFJCA re-granting project team will calculate the average score per project

Maximum points: 60 points.

Individual threshold for the criterion ‘Relevance’: 25/18 points, ‘Quality’: 20/14, ‘Impact’: 15/10. Overall threshold: 42 points (70% of maximum points)

Proposals that pass overall threshold will be considered for funding - within the limits of the available call budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Award criteria** | **Maximum score** |
| Relevance | 25 |
| Quality | 20 |
| Impact | 15 |
|  |  |
| **Total** | **60** |

## **Due diligence**

Additionally, as part of the selection process, a due diligence process, including adherence to EU values, could be carried out. The eventual signature of a grant agreement may be subject to this due diligence process, including requests for additional information to facilitate transparency.

The due diligence process can include a review of the applicant organization’s online presence, including its social media channels and the social media channels of its key personnel and trustees/board members, and verification of other sources available in their Member State, including annual reports, state registers, etc., as well as engaging on a dialogue with the concerned organisation.

# **Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements**

If you pass evaluation, your project will be invited for grant preparation, where you will be asked to prepare the Grant Agreement together with the EU Project Officer.

This Grant Agreement will set the framework for your grant and its terms and conditions, in particular concerning deliverables, reporting and payments.

All grantees will be required to sign a Declaration of Honour, a draft which is available here to ensure respect and adherence to EU principles and values.

## **Starting date and project duration**

The project starting date and duration will be set in the Grant Agreement. The maximum duration of projects is 10 months, from May 2024 to February 2025.

## **Milestones and deliverables**

Applicants will need to set indicators and deliverables in their application. The indicators and deliverables for each project will be managed through the Online Grant Management System and will be reflected in the Grant Agreement.

Grantees will have to ask attendees in events to participate in the EU Survey on Justice, Rights and Values. This survey allows the granting authority to monitor training, mutual learning and awareness- raising events closely. The beneficiaries will receive a weblink to the survey, to be forwarded to the attendees. They will have access to the survey results for their project and can use them for their project evaluation.

## **Form of the grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount**

The grant parameters (grant amount, total eligible costs, payment intervals) will be fixed in the Grant Agreement. The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

The grant will be budget-based, based on unit-cost calculations, and paid out in lump-sum instalments. It will reimburse only certain types of costs (eligible costs).

The costs will be reimbursed at the funding rate fixed in the Grant Agreement (80%).

Moreover, please be aware that the final grant amount may be reduced in case of non- compliance with the Grant Agreement (e.g. improper implementation, breach of obligations, etc).

Maximum total cost of grants is EUR 22.000. The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

## **Budget categories and cost eligibility rules**

The budget categories and cost eligibility rules are fixed in the Grant Agreement.

*Budget categories for this call:*

* + A Personnel (staff) costs:
    - * Employees or equivalent
      * Natural persons under direct contact and seconded persons
  + C.1A Travel costs
* Direct travel costs
* Direct subsistence costs
  + C.1B Accommodation
  + C.1C Subsistence
  + C2 Equipment
  + C3 Other goods
  + E Indirect costs

Specific cost eligibility conditions for this call:

* + Travel and subsistence unit cost: yes
  + Car travel costs: yes
  + VAT: non-deductible VAT is eligible (but please note that since 2013 VAT paid by beneficiaries that are public bodies acting as public authorities is NOT eligible)
  + Other:
    - In-kind contributions for free are allowed, but cost-neutral, i.e. they cannot be declared as cost,
    - Project websites: communication costs for presenting the project on the participants’ websites or social media accounts are eligible; costs for separate project websites are not eligible.

## **Reporting and payment**

The deadlines for reporting and payment will be discussed individually and set in the Grant Agreement. However, as a general rule, the payments will be split into three lump sums:

1. Pre-payment of 30% of the total sum awarded after signing the Grant Agreement,
2. Mid-project payment of a further 40% of the total sum awarded when the beneficiary is close to spending the initial payment and presents a spending summary and progress report,
3. Final payment of the remaining 30% upon project completion

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## **Non-compliance and breach of contract**

The Grant Agreement provides for the measures the EFJCA may take in case of breach of contract (and other non-compliance issues).

# **How to apply**

All proposals must be submitted directly online via the Online Grant Management System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

Submission is a 2-step process:

1. Create a user account in Online Grant Management System, register your organisation and follow the instructions provided in the system.
2. Submit the application through the Online Grant Management System after logging in, fill out the application and click ‘Submit’. The applicant will receive a copy of its application via e-mail.

# **Help**

All applicants can download a document containing Guidelines for Applicants, which contains detailed instructions on how to fill out an application (available for download at the top of the application form).

If you have a question or have a technical issue, please do not hesitate to contact us directly:

Pascale Franck & Bert Groen:

[board@efjca.eu](mailto:board@efjca.eu)

1. Privileged EFJCA members are members that pay a yearly fee for their membership which gives them certain benefits, like free FJC conference registration and reimbursement of costs in line with the EU guidelines, free access to the EFJCA international exchange meetings, free registration and/or price reduction on trainings provided by the EFJCA, active involvement in European FJC developments, regular interaction with the EFJCA, free access to EFJCA webinars and possibility for re-granting project. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)