

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS FOR A CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP IN ADVOCACY AND POLICY DIALOGUE IN FAVOR OF GENDER EQUALITY

1. Framework

This call for participants forms part of the project *Capacity-Building in the Southern Mediterranean to Open Policy Dialogue and Monitoring for Women in Society - CSO WINS*, funded by the Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility in the framework of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument of the European Union.

The objective of this project is to strengthen the capacities of civil society organizations (hereafter, CSOs) working for equality between women and men in the southern Mediterranean to actively and efficiently participate in the monitoring of policies concerning gender equality and women's rights in the political, economic, social and cultural fields.

The project is implemented by the European Institute of the Mediterranean, in partnership with the Association DJAZAIROUNA des victimes du terrorisme, the Center of Arab Women for Training and Research, the Fédération de la Ligue démocratique des droits des femmes (FLDDF), the Forum Femmes Méditerranée, the Palestinian Businesswomen's Association Asala, and the Réseau Universitaire et Scientifique sur les Femmes et le Genre.

In this framework, a 6-day capacity-building workshop is scheduled from 4 to 9 of April 2016 in Morocco on advocacy¹ and monitoring of the progress of women-related policies aimed at 36 representatives of organizations from the Euro-Mediterranean region.

There will be 24 representatives of CSOs which are willing to carry out advocacy actions, and 12 representatives of organizations that have developed good advocacy practices and that were selected in June 2015 (see list: <https://www.euromedwomen.foundation/pg/actus/view/4778/fr/1>).

During the workshop, strategic advocacy action plan outlines to promote gender equality will be prepared by the 24 representatives of the CSOs as an exercise in applying the new skills acquired. In the weeks following the workshop, the 24 representatives of CSOs will be asked to enrich their outlines, and on the basis of these outlines, 8 organizations will be selected to develop a specific advocacy action with the support of the CSO WINS project.

Moreover, the representatives of these 8 organizations will benefit from peer learning exchanges in order to foster networking with organizations with similar advocacy objectives. Finally, the 24 representatives of the CSOs selected for the workshop will be invited to a dialogue with policy authorities scheduled in Tunisia in 2017 in order to build a monitoring strategy of women-related policies in the southern Mediterranean. This dialogue will notably involve European policy-makers and other key actors.

The aim of this call for participants is to select 24 representatives of CSOs based in the southern Mediterranean, notably outside the capitals and big cities, wishing to strengthen their capacities in advocacy and policy dialogue² in favor of gender equality at an organizational and individual level.

¹ **Advocacy** means the process, based on proven evidence, of influencing policy-makers, key actors and public opinion to support and implement actions contributing to the fulfilment of a cause. Advocacy is the means to bring about a change in governance, attitudes, power, social relations or institutional functions. For further information, see: "Advocacy toolkit. A guide to influencing decisions that improve children's lives" http://www.unicef.org/evaluation/files/Advocacy_Toolkit.pdf

² **Policy dialogue** means a communication and negotiation process aimed at reaching a consensus on complex issues. It involves different interest groups to debate a policy-related issues based on comparable data and exchange of experiences.

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2. Objective, results and contents of the capacity-building workshop

The workshop aims to strengthen the capacity of southern Mediterranean organizations to hold the authorities accountable and mobilize opinion leaders³ on gender equality and women's rights at a national and regional level, and to foster the transfer of lessons learnt as well as networking in this field.

The main results expected from the workshop are:

- Acquisition of advocacy and policy dialogue skills in favor of gender equality by 24 representatives of CSOs, which will be evaluated through tests and self-assessment questionnaires;
- Preparation of strategic advocacy action plan outlines in favor of gender equality by 24 representatives of CSOs. These outlines will set out an advocacy goal, a target group, indicators, and the strategy envisaged by the organization to achieve its objective.
- Structuring of a network of southern Mediterranean organizations pooling their efforts and actions through the exchange of experiences and good practices in advocacy and monitoring of gender equality-related practices.

The workshop will have the follow components:

- Lobbying, advocacy and policy dialogue tools in favor of equality between men and women and women's rights;
- Planning of advocacy and policy dialogue actions at a local, national and Euro-Mediterranean level (one session will be devoted to exchanging with the European authorities and policy-makers views on women-related policies in the southern Mediterranean);
- Support for the formulation of strategic advocacy action plans outlines to promote gender equality;
- Governance and organizational skills applied to advocacy: persuasion and dialogue strategies with the authorities and the media, fundraising, monitoring and assessment of advocacy actions, and so on;
- Coaching and networking techniques to enhance synergies and peer learning experiences between the organizations of the Euro-Mediterranean region.

The workshop methodology will be practical and participatory in order to foster mutual learning between participants as much as possible. This approach can take the form of small groups or pairs, analyses of practical cases, role play, and so on. Moreover, the contents of the workshop will be adapted to the participants' profiles, who will be requested to indicate their training needs in the application form.

The workshop's languages will be Arabic, and French or English (a simultaneous translation service will be available depending on the needs of the participants).

³ **Opinion leaders** means professionals, research organizations and media that have a key influence on public opinion on the role of women and gender models in society.

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3. Profile of the potential beneficiaries

The beneficiaries must:

- a. Work on behalf of a not-for profit NGO⁴ in one of the following countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia;
- b. Hold a position of responsibility enabling them to make decisions and introduce new procedures and practices within the organization they represent;
- c. Represent an organization whose main objective is to promote gender equality and/or women's rights, active in the field for at least three years before the publication of the call for participants;
- d. Represent an organization with a limited advocacy and monitoring capacity of gender equality-related policies and women's rights and wishing to engage in actions of advocacy and monitoring of policies in this field;
- e. Represent an organization willing to actively engage in a network of organizations developing actions of advocacy and monitoring of gender equality-related policies in the southern Mediterranean;
- f. Commit to actively participate in all the activities scheduled (see point 5 of the call), to exchange with the representatives of other CSOs involved in the project, and to exploit the workshop's contents in their daily work;
- g. Have a good command of Arabic or English or French.

The following are not eligible:

- Representatives of organizations engaged in proselytism and supporting political parties;
- Private individuals not linked to an organization working in favor of gender equality.

4. Advantages for the beneficiaries

The candidates selected in the framework of the call for participants will have the opportunity to:

- Participate in a 6-day workshop conceived ad-hoc for the representatives of CSOs willing to engage in advocacy and policy dialogue in favor of gender equality in the southern Mediterranean;
- Access materials and resources useful to get into policy dialogue and advocacy in favor of equality;
- Contribute to the preparation of the strategic advocacy action plan of the organization they represent and implement a specific advocacy action if their organization is selected following the workshop (see point 1 of the call);
- Participate in peer learning exchanges, if the organization that they represent is selected following the workshop (see point 1 of the call);
- Play an active role in the monitoring of gender equality-related policies thanks to dialogues with the policy authorities notably involving European policy-makers and other key actors (see point 1 of the call);
- Contribute to a dynamic networking and partnership process with representatives of organizations with similar advocacy objectives.

The project will pay for the transport, accommodation and meals of the representatives of the 24 CSOs selected to participate in the workshop and other activities carried out in the framework of the CSO WINS project. Moreover, the organizations selected to develop a specific advocacy action after the workshop will receive financial support for the implementation of this action.

⁴ https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Civil_society_organisation

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5. Scheduled activities

- Selection of the 24 representatives of CSOs: January 2016;
- Holding of the capacity-building workshop: 4 to 9 of April 2016;
- Preparation of strategic advocacy action plans by the 24 CSOs based on the outlines produced during the workshop, and selection of 8 action plans among the 24, in order to support their specific implementation: May – June 2016;
- Implementation of specific advocacy actions by the 8 out of 24 CSOs that will be selected based on the strategic action plans previously developed and with the support of experienced CSOs (peer learning exchanges): from June 2016;
- Dialogue with policy authorities (notably European policy-makers and other key actors) and preparation of a monitoring strategy of southern Mediterranean women-related policies in Tunisia: 2017.

6. Submission of applications

Interested candidates are invited to complete the online application form, in English, in French or in Arabic, before January 8, 2016 inclusive, on http://www.iemed.org/presentacio-en/liemed/convocatoria-de-propostes/convocatoria-de-participants-a-un-taller-de-promocio-de?set_language=en. Please remind that **only one application form per organization will be accepted**. Candidates who have difficulties completing the online form can send an email to: euromedwomen@iemed.org

Only the applications meeting the eligibility criteria described in point 3 of this call will be taken into account. The evaluation of the applications will follow the selection criteria described below.

7. Selection criteria

- a. Profile of the CSO: civil society organizations whose activity in the field of gender equality is real and acknowledged;
- b. Commitment of the CSO to develop advocacy and monitoring of gender equality-related policies and currently with low capacity to develop these actions;
- c. Commitment of the CSO to actively contribute to a process of exchange of information and networking in the long term with other organizations from the region pursuing similar advocacy objectives;
- d. Geographical situation of the CSO: the project will endeavour to balance the origin of the organizations as much as possible and ensure that most of them are located outside the capitals or big cities;
- e. Topic of the advocacy actions: the CSO WINS project aims to support advocacy actions in several fields of women's life: political, economic, social and cultural;
- f. Representativeness of the candidate within the CSO: due to his/her function and/or time of service, the candidate has sufficient legitimacy and knowledge to introduce changes in the CSO;
- g. Commitment of the candidate to pass the skills acquired onto his/her organization and actively participate in all the project's activities (see point 3 of the call);
- h. Languages: good command of Arabic or French or English is essential.

Women's applications are encouraged; however, those from men are not excluded.

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8. Data protection

This call for applications will be subject to computer processing. The answers on the form are necessary to assess the applications and will only be processed with this purpose by the project leaders. Candidates can, upon request, obtain their personal data, review it or complete it.

9. Notification of selected candidates

The project promoters will select 24 candidates plus a reserve of 10 candidates, if they receive enough applications. All candidates having submitted an application will be informed about the result of the selection process via email.

The candidates selected must confirm in writing that they accept the conditions of participation in the workshop and in the activities scheduled by the project within 15 days following the notification of their selection; otherwise they may be disqualified. The list of the 24 candidates selected and the organizations they represent will be published.

We recommend that you regularly consult the IEMed website, which will provide information on the progress of the CSO WINS project: <http://www.iemed.org/euromedwomen>

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