

THE EMBASSY OF FINLAND: THE FUND FOR LOCAL COOPERATION (FLC) IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA IN 2014

Embassy of Finland in Bucharest is announcing a call for project applications in the Republic of Moldova under the Fund for Local Cooperation (FLC).

Objective of the Fund for Local Cooperation

The objective of the FLC is to complement other Finnish development efforts in the fields of poverty reduction and environmentally, economically and socially sustainable development, human rights, democracy and good governance and to strengthen the civil society. The Embassy's Local Cooperation Fund has been operating in the Republic of Moldova since 2008.

The FLC supports the overall aim set for the Finnish Development Policy (read more about Finnish Development Policy on <http://formin.finland.fi/Public/default.aspx?contentlan=2&culture=en-US&nodeid=15316>), i.e. eradication of poverty and guaranteeing a dignified life for all. Cross-cutting objectives, including gender equality, reduction of social inequalities and climate sustainability are required to be integrated to all Finnish funded projects, emphasizing those aspects that benefit most in the local context.

Award amounts will range from 30,000€ - 50,000€. Project duration is limited up to one year.

The Fund in the Republic of Moldova has two priority areas in 2014:

1. Support to the strengthening of democratic and accountable society that promotes human rights.

Promotion of the rights of the most vulnerable groups. Focus on integration of minorities, gender equality, children's rights and rights of people with disabilities. Alleviation of domestic violence and human trafficking.

Strengthening of democratic principles, good governance and rule of law; building capacity of human rights and democracy actors, strengthening access to justice and good governance as well as safeguarding human rights.

2. Support to the freedom of expression and media diversity

Promotion of transparency, access to information, accountability and public participation. Emphasis on free, critical and quality journalism.

Eligibility and Procedure for Application

Legally registered non-governmental organizations, whose objectives and activities are in line with the thematic priority areas and who have relevant and solid experience in implementing similar projects, are eligible to apply.

Projects can be carried out only by local civil society organizations in the Republic of Moldova. The Fund cannot be used for supporting activities of the government, ministries, municipalities or political parties, projects in which the beneficiary is a single person or private business, projects serving purely religious or charity purposes, microfinance, or for Finnish organisations.

Prospective applicants must provide detailed information on their organization and they are required to present past year's annual accounts and financial statement which is audited by a public accountant (external auditor) or by the organisation (internal auditor).

Detailed information regarding the proposed project should be provided by filling the application form. Activities proposed should reach a large audience (direct and indirect) and have potential for a broad impact and replicability. The proposed programme should not be fully financed by the donor; the fund is not intended for core-funding and the organisation must show its capability to run day-by-day activities. A detailed budget should be attached to the application.

The incoming applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Past experiences of projects with similar focus
- Specific, measurable, achievable and relevant objectives of the project
- Clarity on the main beneficiaries
- Effective and efficient use of the funds – the organization needs to demonstrate in the proposed budget that the funds will be used efficiently and effectively to reach the specified objectives
- Innovative approaches to solve problems in the community
- Sustainability of the results – the organization needs to indicate clearly how the impact of the project will be sustainable after the funding from the Embassy of Finland has finished

Additional Information

The Embassy of Finland reserves a right to accept or reject project concept notes or proposals. The Embassy has a right to evaluate and audit the project at any time; the organisation responsible for the project will then make all required documentation available for the evaluation/audit.

Only complete applications will be considered. The Embassy of Finland may ask further clarifications from the shortlisted organisations/proposals if necessary. The project proposal should be submitted in English.

Accountability on activities supported is to be ensured. No further funding can be provided to any organisation as long as the approved accounting for any previous funding is pending.

Deadline for submitting applications: **Monday 17th of March 2014 by 12:00 noon.**

Applications and possible further inquiries can be sent to the Embassy of Finland via email to sanomat.buk@formin.fi.

All applicants will be contacted. Only shortlisted organisations will be asked to provide past year's annual accounts and financial statement and other relevant information to the Embassy of Finland.

Please find further information on the procedures for applying for funds (including a model application form) on the Embassy website <http://www.finland.ro/public/default.aspx?nodeid=42785&contentlan=2&culture=en-US>.