



## EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Union to  
the Philippines

10 October 2012

### Press Release

#### ***EU makes available Php 95 M grant for human rights projects***

The EU Delegation to the Philippines has launched on 10 October a Call for Proposals aimed at supporting civil society organisations in the field of human rights.

Civil society organisations from the Philippines and from the European Union may avail of grants worth € 200,000 to € 500,000 (Php 10 million to Php 26 million) for a duration of 24 to 36 months for projects involving human rights in the Philippines. Actions should focus on supporting human rights defenders and protecting and promoting the rights of children.

These grants are made available through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) – Country-Based Support Scheme. EIDHR is a thematic grant facility established by the EU in 2006 to provide support for the promotion of democracy and human rights in non-EU countries. One of its aims is to strengthen the role of civil society in promoting human rights and democratic reform, and in supporting the peaceful conciliation of group interests and in consolidating political participation and representation. EIDHR-supported projects are on-going in 101 countries including the Philippines. Examples of these human rights projects include "*Strengthening civil society in eliminating violence against children*" by Plan International-Philippines, which has so far benefited more than 1,500 children affected by domestic violence nationwide; and "*Defending the Defenders: A Program Promoting Human Rights and Protection of Human Rights Defenders*" by National Council of Churches in the Philippines, whose actions benefitted more than 300 human rights workers.

EU Ambassador Guy Ledoux said that: "The Call for Proposal reaffirms the commitment of the European Union in promoting human rights as an essential element underlying all its external relations including political dialogues and development cooperation ".

Eligible actions include:

- Human rights awareness raising towards concrete policy changes or improved claim-making by rights-holders that are poor, socially-excluded and vulnerable, including independent media initiatives for better public accountability;
- Legal and psycho-social assistance to local human rights defenders;
- Support efforts in the field of human rights documentation and monitoring, campaigns and claim-making;
- Capacity-building training and education activities including gender and human rights-based approaches to organisational development and management and learning exchanges between and among rights-holders and duty-bearers;
- Participatory action research or policy research or media activities as part of a wider range of public advocacy or human rights accountability activities.

Particular emphasis is placed on integration of rights-based approaches and broad-based participation including mainstreaming of gender equality, children's rights and rights of persons with disabilities in all proposed actions. Partnerships or consortiums of CSOs are encouraged to apply.

The European Union provides annually about Php 2 billion as grants for development and humanitarian assistance to the Philippines.

Deadline for submission of Concept Notes is on 29 November 2012.

For information on the application procedures, please go to:

[http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/philippines/funding\\_opportunities/grants/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/philippines/funding_opportunities/grants/index_en.htm)