



European Union

Call for project ideas

The EU-facilitated Dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina

The European Union (EU) is soliciting innovative project ideas from consortia of established local civil society organizations¹ from both Kosovo* and Serbia that are in line with the following aims:

- 1) Communicate more and better to the larger public the benefits and the potential of the EU-facilitated Dialogue on the normalisation of relations between Belgrade and Pristina and how it positively impacts on lives;
- 2) Encourage public debates at all levels on how the Dialogue can further advance the normalisation of relations between Belgrade and Pristina and between the two societies;
- 3) Sharpen the interaction and peer-to-peer exchange between various actors from Kosovo and Serbia, relevant for a better understanding of the Dialogue, thus acting as agents of normalisation of relations.

Background

The EU-facilitated Dialogue on the normalisation of relations between Belgrade and Pristina, launched in March 2011, is a milestone in the troubled relations between Kosovo and Serbia. The Dialogue has achieved a number of results through the establishment of direct contacts at various state levels and the implementation of several agreements with the aim to provide benefits to the people, increase stability and mutual understanding, and lead ultimately to a further normalisation of relations.

¹ Civil Society Organisations encompass non governmental organisations, grassroots organisations, cooperatives, trade unions, professional associations, universities, media and independent foundations- all non-profit.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Progress in the Dialogue is for both Kosovo and Serbia linked with progress on their paths to the EU, as stated by the recently launched EU-Western Balkans Strategy².

Yet, the Dialogue as such and the agreements reached are not sufficiently realised by and communicated to the citizens of Kosovo and Serbia. As a result, their positive impact on improving people's lives is not fully understood. The achievements reached within the Dialogue have more potential to advance the normalisation of relations between the two societies and to reduce the level of distrust of the political and public audiences in Kosovo and Serbia.

Purpose of the call

The purpose of the call is to identify projects that have the potential to bring the EU-facilitated Dialogue closer to society, informing and engaging the public at large and therefore strengthening it through a broader and more active involvement of citizens.

Preference will be given to:

- Projects that communicate the content of the Dialogue and its benefits to the citizens and also promote debates between experts, professionals, organizations and local communities on the potential of the Dialogue, with an measurable impact on changing perceptions towards it, including through research and business community involvement.
- Projects that propose new approaches and involve new actors thus broaden the discussion on the need for a further normalisation of Belgrade-Pristina relations, including in the context of Kosovo's and Serbia's paths to the EU.
- Projects envisaging intra- and inter- society discussions or initiatives which could positively shape the attitudes towards the Dialogue, broaden the support base for it and ensure local ownership for follow up initiatives.
- Projects that by building on in-depth review of the root-causes for the public perception of the Dialogue, foster enhanced transparency of the process through public consultations with diverse communities primarily engaged in and/or affected by the Dialogue.
- Create new knowledge and information through research to be used in above mentioned activities.

Eligibility criteria for applicants

- Non-commercial, non-profit civil society organisations legally established in Kosovo or Serbia acting as lead implementing partner of a Consortium composed of locally established organisations from both Kosovo and Serbia. The lead implementing partner shall have completed at least 1 project over the last 3 years with partners from

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/communication-credible-enlargement-perspective-western-balkans_en.pdf

minimum 2 different countries AND focusing on themes relevant to the objectives of the call such as reconciliation, civic engagement, participatory democracy, confidence building, communication and awareness raising;

- Administrative, financial and technical capacity of the Consortium members to implement the proposed project demonstrated, in the case of the lead implementing partner, by a minimum of 2 successfully completed projects over the last 4 years with a cumulative budget equivalent with or higher than the requested amount;
- Proved experience in the field and good track record of working with donors.

Criteria for project ideas' selection

- 1) Relevance to the above-described purpose and criteria;
- 2) Potential of the action to bring the Dialogue closer to the citizens and provide tangible impact on improving their lives;
- 3) Do no harm or entail any potential negative effects on the Dialogue process as such as a result of project activities;
- 4) Targets both information and interaction among individuals and communities, including women and youth, and promotes equal opportunities;
- 5) Need for innovation both in terms of proposed activities and composition of the Consortium;
- 6) Feasibility of the proposal from a project cycle management approach, including the theory of change, logframe approach and logical framework matrix;
- 7) Measurable and realistic short and medium term outcomes and output (objectively verifiable indicators);
- 8) Demonstrated sustainability of the proposed activities;
- 9) Cost-efficiency and sound budgeting of resources;
- 10) Co-financing and/or in-kind contribution by the applicant are encouraged.

The maximum requested funding per application can be no more than € 300,000 and it needs to be well justified in relation with the proposed set of activities and the structure of the Consortium. No more than two project proposals will be selected for funding. The duration of the project can be maximum 18 months.

Submission of project ideas

NGO Consortia of local established organisations from both Kosovo and Serbia forming a partnership represented by a lead implementing partner and having a project idea complying with the criteria above are invited to complete a standard **Project idea application form** (see attachments) and submit it electronically to FPI-2-CALL-FOR-IDEAS@eeas.europa.eu. Other supporting documents (such as partnership agreements, detailed methodology, work programme etc) are welcome.

Deadline for applications

We are now accepting project ideas from today, 13 March until 13 April 2018, 10:00 a.m. No applications will be considered after this deadline.

Selection process

All project ideas will be reviewed by an Evaluation Committee composed of EU representatives from the EU Delegation to Serbia, the EU Office in Kosovo, the European External Action Service and the European Commission. The Evaluation Committee will decide who will be invited to submit a full set of project documents, and will notify all applicants.

The selected applicant will need to coordinate the action with another EU funded project supporting a public media campaign on the Dialogue and in general to consult the EU throughout all the stages of implementation process.

Contacts

Further information on the call can be obtained emailing the functional email address indicated above.