# **COVID-19: Civil Society Resilience and Sustainability**

**CALL for applications**

**Capacity development training in the aftermath of the pandemic**

1. **CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVE**

**“COVID-19: Civil Society Resilience and Sustainability”** is a regional project run by IREX Europe (doing business as Equal Rights and Independent Media (ERIM)) and funded by the European Union. The project aims to support Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), independent activists and independent media to continue their work throughout and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

**The purpose of the call** is to strengthen the governance and management of CSOs by helping them to be more effective institutions within their community by meeting basic organizational needs and to increase their resiliency and sustainability in response the immediate effects of the pandemic crisis. The grants will cover expenses to help organizations reach a specific operational goal.

**Number of Grants:** up to 4

**Maximum Grant Size**: up to EUR 15,000

**Project Duration**: The minimum duration of a project is five months, and the maximum duration is 12 months

1. **TARGET GROUPS AND BENEFICIARIES**

Our activities are aimed at CSOs who were affected by and since the pandemic, lack the resources necessary to continue their work effectively and have the potential to build on the grant and become more sustainable.

Eligible beneficiaries are:

* Officially registered CSOs in Republic of Moldova
* Social enterprises from Republic of Moldova

**Preference** will be given to organisations located outside Chisinau due to economic and social disparities between the capital and remote areas, and those working to support the most vulnerable groups disproportionately affected by the pandemic crisis. We will also support a variety of organisations working to promote different causes, such as LGBTQ rights, women’s rights, environmental protection civic activism, etc.

**Priority will be given to applications from organisations who have not already received our support** under the “COVID-19: Civil Society Resilience and Sustainability” project. Applications from political or religious organisations will not be considered.

1. **ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA**

**These grants may be used for specific capacity building activities that include, but are not limited to:**

* *Organisational assessment* to establish CSO’s stage of institutional development and identify steps needed for organizational improvement or growth;
* *Training courses and focused technical assistance* based on organizational needs in areas such as, but not limited to, board development and governance, public relations, strategic planning, financial management, volunteer systems, advocacy and communication, IT and digital security etc.;
* *Consultancy and mentorship* in improving polices/planning documents, *strategies, structures, and processes*: strategic plans, professional development plans, communications strategies, COVID-19 response plans, business planning, fundraising strategies;
* *Monitor and evaluate* the progress of a CSO’s organizational development.

***ERIM could share with the selected CSOs a roster of trainers and experts in organisational development. Organisations may also select their own trainers but ERIM will have to approve all experts, trainers and consultants hired under each grant.***

**The following are excluded from funding consideration:**

* International events/programs/conferences;
* Equipment, unless a strong justification is provided.

**Minimum Eligibility Criteria**

* Applicants must be registered or legally organized in accordance with the Moldovan law.
* Applicants must have been active for a minimum of the last 3 years.
* Applicants must have at least 3 full time staff members.
* The applicant’s current statute and mission are in line with democratic and human rights principles or to support the most vulnerable groups disproportionately affected by the pandemic or regional crisis.

**Selection criteria:**

**•** The organisation has a clear social and/or environmental cause;

• The organisation shows past stability;

• The COVID-19 pandemic had a clear, negative impact on the organisation’s work and/or financial situation;

• The organisation has highlighted clear areas where it seeks improvement;

* The organisation proposed activities that will strengthen their organisation;

• The organisation showed willingness to participate and motivation to improve their internal procedures and strategic documents;

• The organisation has a low turn-over of staff.

1. **APPLICATION PROCESS**

The application documents/ templates that **shall be mandatory fulfilled and submitted are Annex 1- Narrative form and Annex 2 – Budget** that can be downloaded using the following LINK or can be requested by e-mail: moldova-csocd@erim.ngo. The application form can be submitted in Romanian, Russian or English to the e-mail addresses: moldova-csocd@erim.ngo Please, state in the subject line “COVID-19/Capacity development training”.

All the submitted documents shall be signed. Also please provide the excel version of the Budget (Annex 2) and the word version of the Narrative application (Annex 1). If possible, please, provide and English version of your application to the original one, google translate is an acceptable method of translation. Proposals must be submitted online by **18:00 local time**, **November 10, 2022.**

**All questions regarding this call shall be addressed at** moldova-csocd@erim.ngo**. Questions, comments, and requests for clarification will not be accepted after November 8, 2022. ERIM** is not obliged to provide clarifications to questions received after this date. The answers will be given no later than 5 days before the deadline for the applications submission.