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## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

***Grants to support operating costs of grass-root civil society organisations working on LGBTI issues in Albania, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Turkey for 2022***

**ERA - LGBTI Equal Rights Association for the Western Balkans and Turkey** is launching a call for proposals within the project “The Time is Now: Consolidating Regional Efforts for Advancing LGBTI Rights and Equality in the Western Balkans and Turkey” (IPA 2017/394-394) funded by the European Union.

The call will be open until **04 April 2022, at 23:59 CET** and any application submitted after the deadline will be automatically rejected.

**LGBTI civil society organizations** working on LGBTI issues are invited to submit project proposals, provided that they fulfil the eligibility criteria for the call as listed below.

In order to be eligible to submit the application, the applicant must be:

1. Registered or non-registered non-profit organizations. In the case of non-registered organizations, an organization that would serve as a fiscal sponsor should be proposed.
2. Civil society organization working predominantly towards the advancement of the position of the LGBTI community;
3. Established in one of the grant scheme countries (*Albania, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Turkey*) and focused on implementing activities with the LGBTI community;
4. Must not be a partner organization under the project “The Time is Now: Consolidating Regional Efforts for Advancing LGBTI Rights and Equality in the Western Balkans and Turkey” (IPA 2017/394-394);
5. Directly responsible for the preparation and management of the project and not acting as an intermediary;
6. Established or active for at least one year before opening of this Call for Proposals.

Evaluation and selection of the projects will be made based on the following criteria – relevance of the action and its compatibility with the objectives of the grant programme under which the call for proposals is being financed, quality of application, clear goals, visible results, expected impact and sustainability of the action, past experience in LGBTI related work, commitment to protection and promotion of human rights of LGBTI persons, quality of work plan with cost-effective budget proposal for the upcoming 6 to 8 months. Priority will be given to smaller grass-root LGBTI organizations, and LGBTI organizations operating outside of the capital cities. The entire granting scheme must be completed by December 15, 2022. All narrative and financial reports be approved and cleared by 31 December 2022.

The priorities of this Call for Proposals are:

- 1) Support to the LGBTI CSOs in management of their own operations, development and progress, achievement of legal and financial sustainability and autonomy, increase of accountability and representativeness in becoming a strong voice in policy and legal reform, with particular focus on grass-root organizations at the local level;



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- 2) To strengthen regional networking and partnership building among CSOs, while implementing and maintaining a strategic approach towards networking and leveraging regional cooperation to advance LGBTI rights nationally;
- 3) To effectively protect, support, promote, monitor and advocate for human rights and fundamental freedoms of LGBTI people in WB&T on national, regional and international levels, particularly in the context of EU integration processes.

Types of costs:

This Call for Projects is intended to support the financial sustainability of grass-root organizations, working predominantly towards the advancement of the position of the LGBTI community, and cover part of their operating costs.

The costs that may be covered include: **salaries, office costs, travel costs and communication costs;**

Types of action which may be financed under this call comply with the objectives and priorities described in call for proposals. The following types of actions and/or a combination of them may qualify for financing (non-exhaustive list):

- Establishment of working groups and other means of direct cooperation, advocacy and dialogue with the government structures to provide recommendations and credible advice, thus influencing policy making and producing concrete change;
- Establishment of formal and/or informal dialogue and consultation platforms, and animation of the public debate on specific topic related to the thematic areas concerned by this Call, to promote the interaction between CSOs and public authorities at local, national and regional level;
- Capacity building actions for civil society organisations on advocacy and lobbying, research and analysis, in particular on the thematic areas concerned by this Call;
- Establishment and/or improvement of monitoring systems related to the creation of a legal and financial conducive environment for the approval and enforcement of the specific laws and regulations mentioned in the Priorities of this Call;
- Establishment of formal and/or informal fora, networking structures and platforms to promote knowledge and skills sharing among CSOs at national and regional level; Raising public and governments awareness on the importance of civil society organisations involvement in and contribution to policy-making and decision-making processes;
- Capacity building actions for civil society organisations on internal governance, financial and project management, funding diversification, advocacy and lobbying, research and analysis;

The following types of action are ineligible:

Actions concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences and congresses; actions concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses; actions concerned only or mainly with “one-off” conferences, and similar events; actions concerned only or mainly with academic research and/or feasibility studies; actions concerned only or mainly with infrastructure investments and/or the procurement of equipment; actions linked to political parties or of political/partisan nature; actions dealing with emergency relief or charitable donations; actions that fall within the general activities of competent state institutions or state administration services, including local government; actions in relation to: the tobacco industry (CAEN code 16), production of alcoholic distilled beverages (CAEN code 1591), arms and munitions (CAEN code 296).



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Types of activity which may be financed under this call (the list is not exhaustive):

- Desk research (research cannot be the main purpose of the action), baseline studies
- Training actions, study visits, field trips and internships
- Facilitation of contacts, consultations and discussions between different stakeholders
- Communication and information activities aimed at supporting consultation with stakeholders
- Organization of conferences, roundtables, workshops and seminars
- Promotion of the implementation of adopted laws and regulations
- Advocacy for the revision of existing legislation and adoption of new legislation in accordance with EU standards and requirements
- Establishment of dialogue with political parties, groups of parliamentarians or legislative bodies
- Monitoring activities, for example in the context of the accession process, as well as monitoring international commitments
- Publication of monitoring reports
- Drafting policy or legislation recommendations
- Public awareness raising campaigns
- Publication of leaflets, manuals on best practice
- Testing of innovative approaches
- Pilot income generating activities aimed at ensuring continuity of the action beyond the end of the contract;
- Development of entrepreneurship initiatives
- Testing and implementation of business plans and sustainability strategies

The total budget of the Call for Proposals amounts to 120,000 EUR, for financing of the **maximum amount of 12,000 EUR** per project. The period of implementation of the approved projects is **6 to 8 months per project**. All projects must be completed by December 15, 2022. Priority will be given to small grass-root organizations (with the yearly organisational budgets below 50.000 EUR) operating on the local level, which are in need of operational support. Application can be submitted in English or in any of the following local languages (*Albanian, Bosnian, Serbian, Montenegrin, Macedonian and Turkish*).

Full Application need to be send to: [office@lgbti-era.org](mailto:office@lgbti-era.org) with the subject line: **“Application [NAME OF ORGANIZATION]: The Time is Now”**.

Questions about the Call for Proposal may be sent via e-mail no later than 30 March 2022 to the e-mail address: [office@lgbti-era.org](mailto:office@lgbti-era.org)

Every Application received by email will be sent a reply email acknowledging the reception of the Application.

**The Application form and the Budget template are annexed to this Call for Proposals.**

To ensure equal treatment of applicants, ERA - LGBTI Equal Rights Association for the Western Balkans and Turkey cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of applicants, the project or specific activities.

All applicants will be contacted individually by email to be informed about results of evaluation.

INDICATIVE TIMETABLE OF THE GRANT APPROVAL PROCES

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Issuing the Call for Proposals	16 March 2022
Informational session via Zoom, to join the informational session, follow this Zoom link:  Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89228522700?pwd=QkFoczZ2dEY3OUpsN3dIZHk3U3dDUT09">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89228522700?pwd=QkFoczZ2dEY3OUpsN3dIZHk3U3dDUT09</a> Meeting ID: 892 2852 2700 Passcode: 223344	22 March 2022 at 10:00 CET and 25 March 2022 at 14:00 CET
Deadline for requesting any clarifications from the Project Manager	30 March 2022
Deadline for submission of Applications and detailed budget	4 April 2022 at 23:59 CET
Information to applicants on Application evaluation	11 April 2022
Contract signature	15 April 2022