



Call for Proposals

Youth Democracy Cohort | Advocacy and Action Grants

28 February 2023

Project: Women and Youth Democracy Engagement - WYDE Youth

Grant scheme: WYDE Youth Pillar 1 - Round 1



Funded by
the European Union

1. Background information about the project

The WYDE Youth programme of the European Union's Women and Youth in Democracy Initiative (WYDE) aims to improve the enfranchisement, empowerment, and inclusion of youth in all levels of democratic participation at the national, regional and global levels. With half of the world's population being under 30, the continued survival of democracy is highly dependent on buy-in and support among youth.

A key pillar of the project consists in the co-ordination of the [Youth Democracy Cohort](#), an advocacy platform of the [Global Summit for Democracy](#). The Youth Democracy Cohort aims at gathering stakeholders to collaborate on international advocacy actions on youth issues. It aims to achieve this through policy dialogue and advocacy and action grants.

2. Objectives of the call for proposals

The proposed projects should deploy efficient and innovative activities aimed at **disseminating, advocating or monitoring the [Menu of Possible Commitments for participating States](#)**, developed by the Youth Democracy Cohort.

The call for proposals will specifically support active Youth Democracy Cohort members in their advocacy efforts.

The call also aims at empowering organisations working for the inclusion of diverse and marginalised youth in global policy fora, including organisations composed of young women and/or from the 'Global South'.

3. Scope of the grant

The financial support to be awarded to each initiative will be maximum **50.000 EUR** for an implementation period of **1 year**.

Organisations are encouraged to foresee collaboration between their projects and additional funds will be granted for activities implemented in collaboration with one or several Youth Democracy Cohort members.

4. Support package

The selected organisations will be supported by EPD through a customised support package by EPD and its members.

Aside from financial support, EPD will offer additional training and technical support to the selected organisations, according to their identified needs.

In sum, the support package looks as follows:

1. Financial support

- EUR 50.000 maximum per recipient.

2. Proposal development support

- Training on project design;
- Training on writing the project proposal;
- Training on creation of the budget.

3. Technical support

- Training on financial and procurement management;
- Support on structural organisational development;
- Training on project management;
- Training on communication, visibility and data protection.

4. Thematic support

- Provision of thematic expertise on democracy support, advocacy and youth participation in decision making.

5. Peer-to-peer learning & networking

- Facilitation of exchange on lessons learned and challenges between other selected organisations (across the WYDE project);
- Mentoring on donor outreach.

5. Eligibility criteria

5.1 Eligible beneficiaries

Organisations should comply with the following criteria:

- Being a registered legal entity;
- Not being concerned by the exclusion criteria (see Application Form, Annex 1).

Organisations with limited access to grants and little experience working with larger donors are encouraged to apply.

5.2 Eligible activities and costs

Activities conducive to achieving the main objective of the call are eligible.

The following types of activities are ineligible:

- actions concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences, congresses;
- actions concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses;
- actions supporting political parties or candidates in elections;
- retroactive financing for projects already in implementation or completed;
- projects for the exclusive benefit of individuals or restricted groups of individuals;
- environmentally harmful projects.

Eligible types of costs include: Staff costs and expert fees; travel and subsistence costs; costs of consumables and equipment; costs of service & supply contracts; office rent.

Ineligible costs include: Debts and service charges; provisions for losses, debts or potential future liabilities; purchases of land or buildings; currency exchange losses.

6. Application and selection process

6.1 Indicative timeline

Publication of guidelines	6 March 2023
Information session	13 March 2023

Draft application deadline	7 April 2023
Capacity-building workshops	7-21 April 2023
Final submission deadline and start of the evaluation of the proposals	5 May 2023, 23h59 CET
Negotiation, finalisation & award	May 2023
Indicative implementation period	June 2023 - May 2024

6.2 Draft application submission

The application period is open immediately. The draft submission should be sent before **Friday, 7 April 2023, 23h59** (Brussels time CET).

The full application package, available online on the [Youth Democracy Cohort](#) website is composed of:

- The application form filled and signed;
- The mandate (Annex 1);
- The statement on exclusion criteria (Annex 2);
- The organisation structural assessment (Annex 3);
- The budget application form (Annex 4);
- Organisation statutes and registration certification.

The application form and the 3 annexes should be sent to Laura Pénot at the following address: grants@epd.eu. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Upon submission of the proposals, applicants will receive a confirmation that their proposal has been received.

6.3 Information session

Two online information sessions (one in English in the morning and one in French in the afternoon) will be organised on **Monday, 13 March 2023**. Organisations willing to participate are invited to sign-up through [this online form](#). The session link will be shared a few days in advance by email. This session will allow interested organisations to get details and to ask questions for clarification.

During this event, organisations interested in applying for the call will be invited to declare their interest. EPD will provide match-making opportunities in order to build synergies among different projects.

6.4 Screening, shortlisting and capacity building

All organisations will undergo a due diligence check. Organisations are requested to send their statutes and registration certificate with the application package for this check.

The organisation structural assessment will not be eliminatory but will rather be the basis for capacity-building at the beginning and all along the project.

The 10 most promising project concepts will pass to the next step and be supported with capacity building workshops. Based on the draft application, strengths and weaknesses of the project will be analysed by EPD and organisations will be mentored through concept definition, narrative redaction and budget building depending on the needs of each organisation.

6.5 Evaluation of the final proposals

The final application should be sent before **Friday, 5 May 2023, 23h59** (Brussels time CET). All applications will undergo an evaluation against a set of evaluation criteria of the call. The evaluation will be done by an Evaluation Committee.

The list of evaluation criteria is as follows:

- Relevance of the proposed action to the objective of the call and to the objectives of the Youth Democracy Cohort (25 points);
- Expected effectiveness of the proposed action (25 points);
- Budget coherence with the activity plan (20 points);
- Soundness of the described implementation methods and organisational set-up (15

points);

- Creativity of the proposed action (15 points).

6.6 Negotiation, due diligence, finalisation and award

EPD will engage with all selected applicants and provide comments and requests in relation to the pre-selected proposals. A number of additional documents might be asked from applicants.

Once all comments have been addressed and additional information and documents have been provided, a grant contract will be signed between the applicants and EPD.

7. About EPD

The European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) is a non-profit organisation supporting democracy worldwide. It is a unique partnership comprising European democracy support organisations present in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America. EPD works inside and outside Europe as democracy is a universal aspiration and the contemporary challenges and opportunities for democracy are global in scope. More information about EPD is available at www.epd.eu.

For any further questions, please feel free to write an email to grants@epd.eu mentioning the title of this call.