Second call for proposals for the Fund for Local Cooperation (FLC) 2019 in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia is open

The Finnish Fund for Local Cooperation (FLC) is a fund managed by the Office of the Ambassador to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The fund supports initiatives of local non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations and other institutions in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

The priority areas of the Finnish development policy are: rights and status of women and girls, the growth of developing countries' economies to generate more jobs, livelihoods and well-being, democratic and better-functioning societies and food security, access to water and energy, and sustainable use of natural resources. **Any project funded from FLC cannot be contradictory to these objectives, but should support them in the local context.** More information on Finnish development policy can be found behind the following link:

http://formin.finland.fi/public/default.aspx?nodeid=49312&contentlan=2&culture=en-US

The FLC helps local civil society actors to carry out well-targeted projects with a clear goal and sustainable outcome in the field of human rights, democracy and good governance, particularly in regard to gender equality. The approach is to establish partnerships with a limited number of organizations instead of supporting one-time activities like workshops or seminars.

Priority areas of the FLC in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia are gender equality, disabled persons and economic empowerment of the most vulnerable. The Office of the Roving Ambassador prefers to focus on projects with the cost of share of around 20 000 – 25 000 euros. The implementation of the project has to start in 2019.

Criterion for Eligibility:

- The organization(s) in question should have a genuine, credible domestic basis; the proposed program should not be launched or fully financed by the donor.

- Activities proposed should reach a large audience and have potential for a broad impact.

- Prospective applicants must provide detailed information on their organization.

The applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Past experiences of projects with similar focus

- Specific, achievable and relevant objectives of the project

- Clarity on the main beneficiaries

- Effective and efficient use of the funds - the organization needs to demonstrate in the proposed budget that the funds will be used effectively to reach the specified objectives

- Innovative approaches to solve problems in the community

- Regional and cross-border approach is appreciated

- Sustainability of the results. The organization needs to indicate clearly how the impact of the project will be sustainable after the funding from the Embassy of Finland has finished.

- Overall openness is important. The projects have to be registered in Armenia, Azerbaijan or Georgia.

The Fund cannot support activities of **political parties, activities of unregistered organizations, projects in which the beneficiary is a single person or a single family, purely charity purposes or Finnish beneficiaries**. The Fund is designed **to support projects, and not to support operating expenses of organizations**. The administrative costs for the project has to be reasonable.

How to Apply

Applicants must provide the following preliminary information on the applicant and the project in their applications.

Information on the applicant

1. Name of the organization:
2. Address:
3. Telephone:
4. Email:
5. Director (person in charge):
6. Telephone: office
7. Telephone: mobile:
8. Description of the organization:
9. Official status of the organization (including the registration number and date):
10. Location:
11. Number of members:
12. Number of full-time employees:
13. Financing sources of the organization:
14. Description of the key activities of the organization:

Information on the proposed project

The applicant should provide a full Project Proposal, which covers at least the following issues:

1. The reason for launching the project
2. The previous experience of the organization in the same sector and the same theme
3. The existing financing from other agencies
4. The objective of the project
5. The description of the approach: how the project intends to create changes, what methods would be used, how different social groups and interests would be taken into consideration.
6. Description of the activities
7. Target group. The relation of the organization with the target group.
8. Expected results (as concrete as possible)
9. Risks
10. Schedule for the program and each task
11. Inputs
12. Budget in detail (unit costs included; salary costs detailed; payment schedule unless included in the contract).
13. Description of the personnel involved.
14. Monitoring arrangements. Reporting schedule. Auditing arrangements

Additional Information

The Office of the Ambassador to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia reserves the right to accept or reject project proposals. Project duration is limited up to one year. The Embassy has a right to evaluate and audit a project at any

time; the organization responsible for the project has to make all required documentation available for the evaluation/audit if asked.

Application and possible attachments have to be written **in English**. The budget has to be submitted **in euros.** Only complete applications will be considered.

The Agreement with the Office of the Ambassador to Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia has to be signed and stamped by an authorized representative of the organization and will be subject to the ministerial decision regarding the allocation of the development cooperation funding.

The accounting of the activities supported is to be ensured. No further funding can be provided to any organization until it has provided an approved accounting report regarding any previous funding.

Applications and possible further enquiries can be sent via email to ita-22@formin.fi. All applicants will be informed to the email indicated in the application when a final decision is made.

Deadline for submitting applications: **Monday, October 21, 2019 by 17:00**. Project proposals **after deadline will not be considered.**

Additional information will be provided by: Tarja Parkkinen, 2nd Secretary at the Office of the Roving Ambassador.
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