CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Financial Support (FSTP) to Regional actions in policy-making and dialogue activities

CFP reference number: **UNOPS/FO/2026/127**

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PARTICULARS

1.1. UNOPS project objective(s)

The EU Civil Society Facility in Central Asia Project, funded by the EU and implemented by UNOPS with technical expertise provided by the Danish Institute of Human Rights (DIHR) invites civil society organizations to respond to the Call for Proposals (CFP) for the grant: Regional Action in policy-making and dialogue activities for the Central Asia region:

Kazakhstan

Kyrgyzstan

Tajikistan

Turkmenistan

Uzbekistan

An empowered and capable civil society is a key component of effective governance and is an asset in itself. Civil society organizations (CSOs) contribute to more inclusive and effective policies, equitable and sustainable development, social cohesion and accountable governance by representing diverse perspectives, generating evidence on issues affecting communities, facilitating public participation, and contributing expertise and recommendations to policy processes.

The state of civil society across Central Asia varies from country to country, yet a number of common challenges can be identified. CSO often face limited opportunities and capacities to participate effectively in policy dialogues or advocacy activities. Access to relevant evidence, opportunities for cross-country learning and exchange, and mechanisms for translating local knowledge and experience into policy-relevant recommendations also remain uneven. At the same time, CSOs that are keen to engage in consultations on EU policies and programs in Central Asia may lack sufficient knowledge about the EU's relevant priorities and activities in the region. Moreover, accessing funds remains challenging for numerous CSOs due to complex procedures of international donors and other administrative hurdles, exacerbated by increasingly stringent working conditions.

There is a recognised need to bolster CSOs' capabilities and facilitate cross-country learning, regional cooperation and networking to enhance the work of civil society in the region. This includes supporting CSOs and other relevant knowledge actors to generate, document and share evidence, expertise, good practices and lessons learned,

and to make such knowledge accessible and relevant to policy dialogue, advocacy and decision-making processes.

Strengthening civil society at the regional level in Central Asia is a key EU priority. UNOPS is committed to supporting these efforts by strengthening CSOs' participation in policy processes, contributing to more inclusive and effective policies, accountable and legitimate governance, greater social cohesion, and more open and democratic societies.

The EU-funded "Civil Society Facility in Central Asia" project aims to address key capacity challenges faced by targeted CSOs in Central Asia through project management services, enabling them to engage coherently and meaningfully with the EU and other key stakeholders, particularly within their own communities and societies.

Within this framework, this Call for Proposals supports a broad range of civil society initiatives across the identified thematic areas. Alongside advocacy, capacity-building, community engagement, networking and other relevant activities, the Call encourages initiatives that incorporate knowledge production and sharing. This may include generating and analysing evidence, documenting experiences and good practices, producing policy-relevant knowledge products, facilitating peer and cross-country learning, and disseminating knowledge to relevant stakeholders. Such initiatives may be implemented at national or regional level and should contribute to stronger civil society engagement, cooperation and participation in policy and decision-making processes.

1.2 Background and objectives of the grant/funding

The selected grantees will be responsible for implementing projects in the following areas:

1. **Climate change and environmental protection.**

This call seeks to address pressing environmental challenges, bolster climate resilience, and promote transparent sustainable natural resource management across Central Asia. It will support projects that empower civil society to act as key participants in green transition, fostering inclusive participation in and dialogue on environmental policies and encouraging community-led adaptation to climate impacts, and contribute to the production and sharing of knowledge and evidence on climate and environmental challenges and solutions. Proposals may align with one or more of the following priority areas:

1.1. **Strengthening community climate resilience.**

Objective: To enhance the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities by implementing locally appropriate, affordable, and sustainable technologies and practices related to climate change and environmental protection, while supporting the generation and exchange of knowledge on effective community-based adaptation approaches.

Suggested project focus: Research and documentation of locally developed or tested adaptation practices; mapping of climate risks and community vulnerabilities; collection and analysis of community-level evidence on meaningful participation in climate related processes that affect them ; development of case studies and practical guidance; assessment of the effectiveness and replicability of adaptation approaches; and national or regional exchange of knowledge and lessons learned on community climate resilience.

Projects may also support introduction and testing of water-saving irrigation systems (drip, solar-powered), drought-resistant seeds and sustainable agriculture, early warning systems for extreme weather, soil conservation techniques, greenhouses for food security, climate-resilient livestock management, and green landscaping.

1.2. Promoting green entrepreneurship and "green" jobs.

Objective: To promote inclusive and participatory green entrepreneurship and employment opportunities that contribute to transparent and environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient development, while strengthening knowledge and exchange on emerging green economic opportunities in Central Asia.

Suggested project focus: Support research and mapping of emerging green sectors, skills and employment opportunities; analysis of barriers to green entrepreneurship, particularly for women, youth and other underrepresented groups; documentation and dissemination of successful green business models and practices based on community participation in decision making processes; development of practical knowledge products for entrepreneurs and CSOs; and national or regional exchange of experiences and lessons related to green jobs and entrepreneurship.

1.3. Community engagement in climate decision-making.

Objective: To ensure inclusive and participatory environmental governance by empowering local communities, especially marginalized groups, to actively participate in decision making processes in relation to the development, implementation, and monitoring of climate and environmental policies and local adaptation plans, and by strengthening the use of community knowledge and evidence in decision-making

Suggested project focus: Facilitation of community forums and citizen assemblies and other participatory processes on climate and environmental risks, training and support for community advocates, development of participatory monitoring tools, support for Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) plans; and advocacy for integrating community priorities into municipal and national development strategies.

Projects may also support participatory and community-led research; collection and analysis of citizen-generated environmental data; mapping of community priorities and environmental concerns; monitoring of climate and environmental policies and commitments; production of policy briefs, recommendations and other knowledge products; documentation of community perspectives and local knowledge; and mechanisms for sharing this evidence with decision-makers, CSOs and other relevant stakeholders.

1.4. Knowledge Production, Exchange and Regional Learning on Climate and Environmental Issues

Objective: To strengthen the availability, accessibility and exchange of locally grounded evidence and knowledge on climate change and environmental challenges and solutions in Central Asia, and to support its use by civil society, communities and decision-makers through inclusive dialogue and meaningful participation of communities in decision-making processes that affect them.

Suggested project focus: Applied and participatory research; comparative or cross-country studies; environmental and climate data collection and analysis; mapping of human rights impacts, opportunities and challenges, actors, practices or policy gaps; documentation of local and indigenous knowledge and successful approaches; case studies and policy briefs; development of accessible knowledge products; regional peer learning and exchange; and dissemination of evidence and lessons to relevant civil society, policy and practitioner audiences.

2. Digitalization and Technology

This call seeks to harness the transformative potential of digitalization and emerging technologies to advance human rights compliance, civic participation, transparent public service delivery, and bridge the digital divide in Central Asia. It will support projects that equip civil society with digital tools and skills, promote data- and evidence driven advocacy, foster an open, secure, and inclusive digital ecosystem, and contribute to the generation and exchange of knowledge on digital transformation and its implications for human rights and civic participation. The proposals for activities may may align with one or more of the following priority areas within this topic:

2.1. Evidence-Based Policy and Regulatory Analysis.

Objective: To generate and disseminate high-quality, policy-relevant evidence and comparative research that identifies gaps, risks, opportunities and emerging trends in the digital regulatory landscape of Central Asia, providing a stronger evidence base for civil society engagement, advocacy and policy development in line with international standards.

Suggested Project Focus: Knowledge products and analysis across CA countries of, for example, personal data protection laws, national AI strategies and draft laws, and legal and procedural readiness and provide recommendations towards alignment with relevant international and European standards.

Projects may also map, analyse and assess existing digital tools for civic participation (e-government portals, e-petitions) and national AI regulatory frameworks and propose recommendations for user-centric improvements, policy briefs, comparative studies for and potential harmonization within the Central Asian region.

2.2. Civil Society Participation in Digital Lawmaking.

Objective. To ensure that laws regulating the online spaces (e.g., digital rights, cybersecurity, misinformation platform regulation, etc.) are developed transparently, with meaningful civil society input, and uphold human rights.
Suggested Project Focus: Organizing multi-stakeholder consultations, recommendations for amendments and shadow reporting on specific draft digital laws, producing publicly accessible plain-language guides to complex digital legislation for citizens, journalists, and SMEs, establishing and facilitating civil society advisory groups or other mechanisms for engagement with parliaments or ministries on digital issues, and running advocacy campaigns against provisions that threaten digital rights, using strategic litigation where possible.

2.3. Capacity Building in Digital Tools and AI.

Objective. To equip civil society, human rights activists and defenders and marginalized communities with the practical skills and ethical understanding to safely and effectively use digital technologies and critically engage with AI,while promoting the exchange of knowledge and experience within civil society.

Suggested project focus:Conduct training programs on digital security (encryption, secure communication), secure communication, data literacy, and identifying disinformation, hold workshops on responsible use of AI tools for social good e.g. data analysis for advocacy, automated monitoring of public information and ethical guidance on the use of AI in organizational management and civil society work.

2.4. Piloting "Digital Ombudsman" Mechanisms.

Objective. To test and demonstrate innovative models for protecting citizens' digital rights, providing a channel for redress against unfair platform moderation, data misuse, or discriminatory algorithms.

Suggested project focus: Designing and piloting services and platforms that offer legal and technical advice to citizens, conducts reporting on and documents of digital rights violations (e.g., unjustified content removal, data breaches).

- Aligns digital monitoring and service tools with Ombudsmen offices and other relevant entities or assesses relevant regional or international approaches for protections of privacy and digital rights compliance, including their effectiveness, accessibility and potential for adaptation or replication in other Central Asian contexts.

- Producing and sharing practical recommendations, methodologies and lessons learned with relevant CSOs, public institutions and regional stakeholders.

2.5. Implementation of International AI Governance Principles.

Objective. To translate high-level international AI governance and human rights principles (UNESCO, OECD, EU) into concrete, locally relevant practices, knowledge and policy recommendations for the ethical development and use of AI in Central Asia.

Suggested project focus: Contextualising and adapting International recommendations on AI Ethics, developing regional case studies, and including considerations on the protection of private data and other human rights-related issues.Organizing workshops and roundtables on AI Ethics for tech developers, students, and government IT specialists on human-centric AI design.Researching and documenting emerging AI practices, risks, opportunities and governance challenges in Central Asian contexts.Facilitating regional exchange of knowledge and experience on AI governance, including lessons from different Central Asian countries.

3. Governance, Social and Responsible Business.

This call seeks to strengthen democratic governance through active involvement of civil society, foster a transparent and supportive business environment, and promote knowledge on and respect for the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in Central Asia. It will support projects that build bridges between civil society, the state, and the private sector to drive transparent and inclusive development. This may include practical initiatives, advocacy, capacity-building and multi-stakeholder engagement, as well as research, evidence generation, documentation and exchange of knowledge and good practices that can inform policy, public dialogue and civil society action. Proposals must align with one or more of the following priority areas.

3.1. Improvement of Legislation for a Fair Business and Civic Environment.

Objective. To advocate for and contribute to the development of legal frameworks that are transparent, fair, and conducive to both civil society engagement and responsible business growth in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights,, including through evidence-based analysis and advocacy.

- Analysis and advocacy for simplifying registration and reporting procedures for NGOs and SMEs. Proposing amendments to laws on public procurement, access to information, or anti-corruption to ensure greater transparency and CSO engagement in public monitoring.
- Comparative or country-level research on regulatory barriers, implementation gaps and emerging good practices affecting civil society and responsible business conduct.Production and dissemination of policy briefs, legal analyses, case studies and other knowledge products for civil society, policymakers and business actors.

3.2. Enhancing E-Government for Citizen-Centering Services.

Objective. To make government services more accessible, efficient,transparent, inclusive and responsive to citizens' needs through human rights-based digital innovation, user-focused design and evidence on citizens' experiences and needs.

Suggested project focus: Conducting user experience audits of key e-government portals and providing concrete recommendations for improvement. Developing and piloting new online services for marginalized groups (e.g., elderly, people with disabilities) in partnership with local authorities and developing public awareness campaigns and training on how to use existing e-services, focusing on digital literacy for all. Researching, documenting, and sharing barriers to accessing e-government services, particularly for marginalized and underserved groups and successful approaches, lessons learned and good practices in citizen-centred digital public services at national or regional level.

3.3. Promote Public Control and Multi-Stakeholder Monitoring.

Objective. To empower civil society and the private sector as independent watchdogs and expert partners in monitoring government performance, public spending and implementation of public policies, and in using evidence generated through monitoring to strengthen accountability and policy dialogue.

Suggested project focus: Establishing citizen monitoring groups to track the implementation of specific state programs (e.g., in education, healthcare, infrastructure) including through scorecards and transparency indices to assess and publicly rate the performance of ministries or local administrations.Creating formal platforms for dialogue where CSOs and business associations can jointly provide feedback on regulations affecting the business climate.Producing analytical reports, policy briefs, case studies and recommendations based on monitoring findings.

3.4. Capacity Building for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

Objective. To enhance the competitiveness, sustainability and responsible practices of local SMEs by building their managerial, digital, and green skills and improving access to relevant knowledge, expertise and peer learning.

Suggested project focus: Training of trainers (ToT) programs and workshops for business owners and consultants on integrating "green" practices, digital tools, and ethical standards in management of SMEs, as well as ensuring human rights compliant supply chains and energy efficient and climate friendly solutionsResearch and mapping of knowledge, skills and capacity gaps among SMEs in areas such as digitalization, sustainability, responsible business and green transition.Development and dissemination of human rights-based and

practical guidelines, case studies, toolkits and other knowledge resources for SMEs and organizations supporting them.

3.5. Promoting Responsible Business Conduct, Business and Human Rights, and Ethical Standards.

Objective. To integrate principles of responsible conduct, human rights, ethics, and sustainability principles into business practices, while strengthening the evidence base, knowledge and dialogue on responsible business conduct in Central Asia.

Suggested project focus: Designing and piloting certified training modules on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, UN Global Compact, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human rights, OECD Guidelines, and circular economy models for companies and CSOs.Implement initiatives to showcase and promote successful cases of green solutions, social initiatives, and ethical business conduct. Facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogues to develop local or sector-specific codes of responsible conduct for businesses. Research and analysis of responsible business practices, implementation gaps, challenges and incentives in specific countries or economic sectors. National or regional knowledge exchange among civil society, businesses, experts and public institutions on responsible business practices and relevant international standards.

4. Women Empowerment.

This call aims to advance gender equality and women's rights in Central Asia by supporting initiatives that empower women, protect them from violence, and amplify their voices in society and strengthen the evidence and knowledge available to advance gender equality. Projects should be transformative, inclusive and focused on creating sustainable change for women and girls, particularly those from marginalized groups. This may include practical interventions, advocacy, capacity-building and networking, as well as research, data collection, documentation, knowledge exchange and the development and dissemination of evidence that can inform policy, practice and public dialogue. Proposals may align with one or more of the following interconnected priority areas.

4.1. Combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) - A Comprehensive Approach.

Objective: To strengthen prevention, protection, and justice responses to violence against women and girls, ensuring survivors have access to appropriate support, while strengthening evidence, knowledge and learning on effective approaches to preventing and responding to GBV.

Suggested Project Focus: Prevention & Awareness: Community-based workshops focused on promoting positive gender roles, implementing school programs that teach students about healthy and respectful relationships, launching media campaigns designed to actively involve and engage men and boys in these

efforts. Providing Legal & Psychological Support, for example through hotlines, free legal aid and court accompaniment for survivors, especially from rural areas or vulnerable groups (LBTI women, women with disabilities). Running or supporting crisis centers, shelters, and providing economic reintegration programs for survivors (vocational training, job placement). Conducting research, data collection and analysis on the prevalence, forms, drivers and consequences of GBV; barriers to accessing protection and justice; and implementation of relevant laws and policies.

4.2. Women's Economic Empowerment and Leadership.

Objective. To address economic and structural barriers and create pathways for women to achieve financial independence, career advancement, and leadership positions,while strengthening knowledge and evidence on barriers, opportunities and effective approaches to women's economic empowerment.

Suggested Project Focus: Training in digital literacy, green technologies, business management, and access to start-up grants or microloans for women-led SMEs. Establishing and running legal clinics on workplace discrimination/harassment, campaigns for equal pay and parental leave, supporting women workers in informal sectors.Conducting research and data collection on women's labour-force participation, unpaid care work, entrepreneurship, access to finance and resources, workplace discrimination, leadership and other barriers to women's economic participation.

4.3. Building Supportive Networks and Communities.

Objective. To foster solidarity, knowledge exchange, peer learning and collective action by creating and strengthening networks that connect women and women's organizations across sectors, regions, and backgrounds.

Suggested Project Focus: Creating and supporting networks for women entrepreneurs, women in STEM, women journalists, or rural women activists and organizing regular networking events, forums, and online platforms for connection and mutual support.Facilitating alliances between different women's groups to advocate on common issues (e.g., childcare, safety).Creating mechanisms through which networks can document and share members' expertise, experiences, good practices and lessons learned.Facilitating cross-country exchanges, thematic discussions and collaborative knowledge initiatives connecting women's organizations, experts and practitioners from different Central Asian countries.

4.4. Strategic Research, Knowledge Exchange and Regional Cooperation.

Objective. To generate and share evidence-based knowledge, strengthen regional learning and foster cross-border collaboration to address systemic gender inequalities, inform policy and practice and contribute to public discourse.

Suggested project focus: Training journalists on gender-sensitive reporting, developing a regional media campaign to shift narratives about women's roles, countering online misogyny.Organizing cross-border forums on shared challeCountry-level or regional comparative research on laws, policies, practices and emerging issues affecting women and girls; analysis of structural and social barriers to gender equality; and studies addressing evidence and data gaps.Development and dissemination of policy briefs, analytical reports, case studies, practical guidance, data visualizations and other accessible knowledge products tailored to relevant audiences.

4.5. Monitoring, Data Collection, and Advocacy for Vulnerable Groups.

Objective. To strengthen the availability and use of evidence on the experiences, needs and rights of women facing multiple and intersecting forms of disadvantage, and to use this evidence to promote institutional accountability and reform through, for example. more inclusive policies and services.

Suggested project focus: Community-led and participatory research, needs assessments and mapping involving rural women, women with disabilities, ethnic minorities, older women and other marginalized or underserved groups.Developing participatory tools, such as "citizen report cards", to monitor the accessibility and quality of government services (health, social protection) for women and children with disabilities.Producing alternative reports to relevant national, regional and international human rights mechanisms, such as UN committees (CEDAW, CRPD) based on credible evidence and grassroots data.Translation of monitoring and research findings into policy recommendations, advocacy materials and accessible knowledge products for relevant institutions and stakeholders.Dissemination and exchange of data, methodologies, findings and lessons among CSOs, affected communities, researchers, policymakers and other relevant actors, while applying appropriate ethical, privacy and data-protection safeguards.

5. Youth Engagement in Policy and Decision-Making.

This call aims to strengthen the role of youth in Central Asia as active participants and partners in shaping their communities and societies. Projects should aim at building sustainable ecosystems for youth-led change, focusing on empowerment, evidence-based advocacy, and the creation of meaningful spaces for youth influence. Proposals must align with one or more of the following three strategic priority pillars.

5.1. Incubation and Institutional Development of Youth Initiatives.

Objective: To equip young people, especially from socially vulnerable and underrepresented groups, with the skills, knowledge, and formal structures to launch and sustain their own community-focused initiatives.

Suggested Project Focus:Practical training cycles on media literacy, ecological citizenship, social entrepreneurship, and conflict resolution, culminating in micro-grants for community project prototypes.Providing pro-bono legal aid for formal registration of youth organizations and tailored workshops on financial management and grant reporting.Organizing local and regional thematic meet-ups (e.g., for young environmentalists, tech activists) to foster peer support and collaboration from the outset.Documentation and sharing of youth-led approaches, experiences, lessons and good practices through peer-learning activities, case studies, digital resources or other accessible formats.

5.2. Evidence-Based Advocacy and Systemic Influence.

Objective: To generate credible data and develop sophisticated advocacy tools that enable youth to effectively influence and reform laws, policies, and decision-making processes.

Suggested Project Focus:Conducting participatory action research to map gaps in national youth policies and their implementation, with a focus on marginalized groups.Creating participatory monitoring tools to track and publicly score the level of genuine youth influence in local council decisions or school/university governance. Establishing and promoting formalized youth advisory councils to municipal governments or piloting digital platforms for structured youth input on public budgets.Organizing events where youth teams, with legal mentors, develop and present concrete draft amendments to outdated legislation.Sharing research findings, youth-generated data, methodologies and policy recommendations with other youth organizations, CSOs, policymakers, researchers and relevant stakeholders at national and regional levels.

5.3. Scaling and Sustaining Proven Youth-Led Models.

Objective: To provide strategic support to established youth organizations, enabling them to grow their impact, ensure sustainability, and create safe, innovative spaces for the next generation.

Suggested Project Focus: Support for Youth Entrepreneurs and youth-led organizations through, for example, mentorships linking green/tech startups with experienced entrepreneurs and strategic planning support for organizations with a proven track record, helping them diversify funding and build robust governance.

- Establishing and running inclusive community spaces, maker-spaces, or online platforms dedicated to vulnerable youth (LGBTQI+, ethnic minorities, young artists/activists at risk).
- Providing structured mentoring programs pairing veteran civic leaders/experts with rising youth leaders, and organizing regional study tours for experience exchange. Launching a prestigious regional award for innovative youth-led initiatives, or a fellowship program that provides personal development grants to outstanding young activists.

1.3 Targeted impact of the grant/funding

The Regional Action in policy-making and dialogue activities aims to strengthen the role and participation of civil society in addressing key regional challenges, contributing to public awareness, stronger civic engagement, evidence-informed dialogue and policy change. Grant-funded initiatives may achieve this through practical interventions, advocacy, capacity-building, community engagement and networking, as well as through the generation, documentation, exchange and dissemination of knowledge and evidence.

The grant funding aims to achieve the following thematic impacts, which collectively contribute to the overarching goal of enhancing the capacities, networks, knowledge base, role and participation of Central Asian CSOs in national and regional policy-making processes and dialogues.

1. Digital Transition and Transformation

Impact: A Central Asian civil society that is an informed, skilled, and influential partner in shaping a rights-based, secure, and inclusive digital future for the region. Grants will strengthen CSOs' capacities to generate and use evidence on digital transformation, contribute to human rights based digital policy and regulatory discussions, promote public oversight of digital governance, strengthen digital skills and responsible use of emerging technologies, and share knowledge and practices across countries and sectors. This will contribute to ensuring a transparent digital transformation and the EU–Central Asia digital partnership, which is informed by locally grounded evidence, civil society expertise and democratic values.

2. Climate Change and Environment Protection

Impact: Community-led resilience and accountability in environmental governance. Grants will empower local communities and CSOs to implement green solutions, monitor environmental commitments, and advocate for just policies. This will raise public awareness and pressure for action, positioning CSOs as indispensable partners for governments and the EU in achieving the Green Deal and climate adaptation goals in Central Asia. Increased exchange of knowledge and experience will strengthen the ability of civil society and communities to contribute to informed and inclusive environmental decision-making at local, national and regional levels.

3. Governance, Social and Responsible Business

Impact:

A more transparent, accountable and socially responsible governance and business environment, supported by stronger civil society participation and evidence-informed dialogue. Grants will enable CSOs and other relevant actors to monitor public policies and programmes, contribute to improved legal and regulatory frameworks, strengthen citizen-centred public services, promote responsible business conduct, and generate and share knowledge on governance and business-related challenges and solutions. This will strengthen the role of civil society as a source of expertise, a facilitator of dialogue and an accountability actor in relations between citizens, the state and the private sector.

4. Women's Empowerment

Impact: A powerful, evidence-driven regional movement for gender equality that transforms institutions and social norms. Funding will build a robust network of women leaders and organizations capable of providing services, shaping positive media narratives, and advocating for legal and economic reforms. This will ensure women's rights are central to policy dialogues, making CSOs the primary drivers of a more equitable and inclusive regional agenda.

5. Youth Engagement in Policy and Decision-Making

Impact: Stronger and more meaningful participation of young people as equal partners and contributors to policy and decision-making processes. Grants will strengthen youth-led organizations and initiatives, create and reinforce opportunities for youth participation, support youth-led and participatory generation of evidence, and enable young people to translate their experiences, priorities and knowledge into advocacy and policy recommendations. Peer learning, documentation of effective youth-led approaches and regional knowledge exchange will contribute to stronger networks and more sustainable and evidence-informed youth participation.

Cross-Cutting Regional Impact:
Across all thematic areas, grants are expected to raise public awareness, strengthen organizational capacity, and identify policy "champions." Grants will also promote knowledge exchange by supporting the documentation and sharing of experiences, evidence, good practices and lessons learned. Country-based and regional initiatives are encouraged to make relevant knowledge accessible to civil society, communities, practitioners, decision-makers and other stakeholders and, where appropriate, facilitate cross-country learning and cooperation. Collectively, these efforts will strengthen civil society's contribution to evidence-informed policy dialogue and its engagement with the EU and other relevant stakeholders.

1.4 Scope of the grant/funding

The financial support will be provided within the framework of the EU Civil Society Facility for Central Asia Project until **March 2028**. The foreseen financial support will be implemented over a period of **up to 12 months**.

An application may, and is strongly encouraged to, encompass more than one thematic area, provided that they complement or interact with one another.

NOTE: Applicants may apply under one or more thematic areas. Applications covering multiple thematic areas will not receive preference over applications focusing on a single thematic area. Where multiple thematic areas are selected, their connection and complementarity should be clearly demonstrated. The transboundary proposals will receive preference.

1. Digital Transition and Transformation
This scope covers projects that ensure digital transformation is inclusive and rights-based. Eligible activities include: comparative policy research on data protection, AI governance, and cybercrime laws; advocacy for civil society participation in digital lawmaking; capacity building on digital security and AI literacy for CSOs and citizens; and piloting innovative accountability mechanisms (e.g., digital rights helpdesks).

2. Climate Change and Environment Protection
This scope supports community-led action for environmental sustainability and resilience. Eligible activities include: implementing local climate adaptation technologies (water/soil conservation, renewable energy); promoting green entrepreneurship and job creation; facilitating community participation in developing and monitoring local adaptation plans; and initiatives for renewable energy access and energy efficiency.

3. Governance, Social and Responsible Business
This scope aims to enhance transparency and accountability in rights-based governance and responsible business conduct. Eligible activities include: analysis and advocacy for improved legislation affecting CSOs and SMEs; initiatives to simplify and increase access to e-government services; civil society monitoring of public programs and spending; capacity building for SMEs on green and digital skills; and promoting ethical standards and business conduct.

4. Women's Empowerment
This scope funds initiatives advancing gender equality and women's rights. Eligible activities include: comprehensive programs to prevent and address gender-based violence (awareness, legal aid, shelters); projects for women's economic empowerment and leadership development; strengthening women's networks, peer learning and collective action; building and strengthening women's professional networks and communities; research, monitoring and data collection on gender inequalities and the experiences of marginalized women; development and dissemination of policy-relevant knowledge products; and national or regional knowledge exchange and cooperation..

5. Youth Engagement in Policy and Decision-Making
This scope supports the meaningful participation of young people in civic, policy and decision-making processes. Eligible activities include: institutional support and training for new youth-led initiatives; evidence-based research and advocacy campaigns to influence youth policy; scaling successful youth organizations through mentorship, safe spaces, and networking; and creating formal channels for youth dialogue with government institutions.

1.5 Target beneficiaries

Support will only be provided to **legal entities registered under the respective national laws in the Central Asia region**. An advantage will be given to CSOs from rural and provincial areas, supporting people with disabilities and promoting gender equality, women-led organizations, and cross-country collaboration (involving two or more Central Asian countries or regions within one country).

1.6 Grant/funding available

Total amount of grant/funding available

The following table indicates the total amount of grant/funding available under this Call for Proposals.

Currency	Amount	Amount in words
USD	225,000	two hundred twenty-five thousand

Grant/funding amount limit per applicant

The following table indicates the limit of grant/funding allowable per applicant under this Call for Proposals.

Currency	Amount	Amount in words
USD	15,000	fifteen thousand

1.7 Grant/funding duration

The expected duration of the grant/funding is:

Year	1
Month(s)	0

Minimum duration of the grant should be 3 (three) months.

1.8 Applicant eligibility

Applicant category(ies)

The following categories of applicants are eligible to apply under this Call for Proposals:

Companies - For-profit entities (non-profit nature of the project)

National non-governmental organizations (NGOs):
- Civil society organizations (CSOs)
- Grass-roots organizations
- Foundations

An applicant organization may submit only **one grant application**. However, a single application may cover multiple thematic areas if they are interrelated or complementary.

If the applicant does not have the sufficient expertise required for the implementation of the Grant Support Project Activities proposed to meet the objectives of the Grant/Funding described in the CFP, the applicant may submit a proposal together with another entity(ies), particularly with an entity located in the country where the Grant Support Project Activities are to be implemented.

The designated lead entity shall execute the Grant Support Agreement and receive the grant funds.

Each single registered organization may submit only one proposal. However, if an organization has multiple branches or representative offices that are separately registered as legal entities, each of those separate registered offices is permitted to submit an individual proposal.

Applicant country of registration and nationality

Applicants that are included or excluded under this Call for Proposals with regard to country of registration are as follows:

- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan
- Uzbekistan

Applicants must be legal entities registered under the respective national laws in the Central Asia region.

Additional conditions of ineligibility

The applicant shall not fall under any of the conditions listed in the Instructions to Applicants, Article 1, which make the applicant ineligible for this grant/funding.

1.9 Content of proposal submissions

Applicants shall include the following:

- Proposal (upload as a document in Grant+)
- Annex 1: Declarations (upload as a document in Grant+)
- Annex 2: Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) implementing partner self-assessment (complete in the UN Partner Portal (UNPP) or in Grant+)
- Annex 3: Financial proposal (complete in Grant+)
- Annex 4: Results framework (complete in Grant+)

Applicants must carefully read and understand the Requirements in this Call for Proposals and the Instructions to Applicants before completing the Proposal and Annexes.

Guidance for applicants on Annex 2: Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse implementing partner self-assessment

Applicants are requested to complete the PSEA implementing partner (IP) self-assessment through the UN Partner Portal (UNPP) if they are eligible to register on this platform. Using the UNPP promotes consistency, accessibility, and reusability of PSEA information across the UN system, and supports smoother engagement with UN partners.

Applicants are encouraged to check whether they are already registered in UNPP and whether a PSEA assessment has been completed with another UN entity, as assessments in UNPP are generally valid for five (5) years. In this case, applicants should provide their UNPP ID number in their organization profile in Grant+. For applicants not yet registered in Grant+, complete the following steps:

- Access the UNPP dashboard.
- New IPs should use the following registration link. Applicants are encouraged to consult the UNOPS Guidance for Grantees on the United

Nations Partner Portal (UNPP) for detailed instructions on registration, profile management, the PSEA self-assessment, and available support resources.

- Once registered in the UNPP, applicants should complete the PSEA implementing partner (IP) self-assessment directly in the UNPP under the PSEA module. For further guidance, refer to the UNPP PSEA User Guide for Partners, available in several languages.

If applicants are ineligible to register on the UNPP, they should complete the PSEA IP self-assessment in Grant+.

If an applicant is successful, they may be required to undergo a full PSEA capacity assessment in addition to the self-assessment listed above and may be required to complete a broader organizational capacity assessment. The capacity assessments may lead to required actions to improve capacity. Those actions would be included in an agreement with the IP, who would be expected to report on progress against those actions on a regular basis.

1.10 Partial proposals

Partial proposals will **not** be permitted. Applicants shall submit a proposal for the total scope of the grant/funding and address all of the requirements in this Call for Proposals. Evaluation will be based on compliance with the total requirements.

1.11 Sub-granting[1] and contracting[2]

Activities not permitted to be sub-granted or contracted

1.12 Proposal currency

The proposal budget shall be prepared in the following currency:

- **US Dollar (USD)**

[1] Sub-grant is when an entity is selected by the implementing partner (IP) to implement activities on behalf of the IP and complies with the same principles as outlined in the UNOPS Operational Instruction on Grant Support.
[2] Contracting is done when an IP procures services, goods or works using the procurement procedures of the IP.

1.13 Language of proposals

All proposals, information, documents and correspondence exchanged between UNOPS and the applicant shall be in:

- **English**

1.14 Proposal submission

The deadline for the submission of proposals is December 6, 2026. Proposals shall be submitted using the following method:

- Create their profile in Grant+: grantplus.unops.org;
- Create their organization profile; and
- Apply to the funding opportunity CFP ref. no.: **UNOPS/FO/2026/127** within Grant+.

Grant+ is the UNOPS grant management platform. An online information session on uploading proposals into Grant+ will take place on November 11, 2026 at 11 AM, Astana time, Kazakhstan.

Google Meet joining info for the information session:

meet.google.com/pgj-eiix-nko

User guides and how-to videos are also available on the platform by clicking on the 'Guidance' tab at the top right of the Grant+ landing page.

In case of any technical issues, applicants may contact UNOPS System Support by clicking on the '?' icon in the top-right corner of the page after registering on the platform. For questions related to the content of this Call for Proposals, please refer to Contact information.

Refer to Article 10, "Proposal Submission", of the Instructions to Applicants for details on the specific requirements for proposal submission.

1.15 Type of legal instrument

The applicable legal instrument(s) are identified hereunder and are available on the UNPP:

- Grant Support Agreement

1.16 Contact information

All correspondence, notifications, and requests for clarifications in relation to this Call for Proposals shall be submitted directly in Grant+. In the Grant+ page of the proposal, click on “Clarifications” and ask your question. The answer will be posted on that same clarifications tab.



1.17 Important dates and deadlines

The following tables provide the key dates and deadlines for this Call for Proposals.

Activity	Date	Time	Timezone
Submission of proposals	November 30, 2026	24:00	Astana
Request for clarification	November 22, 2026	24:00	Astana
Expected agreement start date	March 1, 2027		

Activity	Date	Time	Type	Additional information
Pre-proposal meeting	November 11, 2026	11:00 Astana time	Google meet	meet.google.com/pgj-eiix-nko

2. REQUIREMENTS

2.1. Approach and methodology

The application should provide the title of the proposed project, describe the goal, objectives, outcomes and outputs, activities, expected result for each of the outputs and outcomes, and the applicant's existing technical and organizational capacity to implement this project. The application should include a team structure with clear division of roles and capacity of each team member, monitoring and implementation plans.

The following cross-cutting areas should be covered in the proposal:

- Health and Safety Requirements
- Social and Environmental Requirements (such as gender and social inclusion)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Requirements
- Sustainability Requirements, both internal to the organization as well as considerations regarding the implementations of the specific activities under the grant.

2.2. Implementation Plan requirements

Using the proposed outputs, deliverables and activities, in view of achieving the outcomes of the grant/funding, complete the Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan should accurately show the sequence and timeframe for the delivery of each activity and output.

2.3. Implementing Partner Monitoring Plan requirements

Complete the Implementing Partner (IP) Monitoring Plan. The Plan should contain indicators for each output, baseline and target values for each of the indicators.

Applicants will be required (upon selection) to submit both quarterly and final reports detailing progress on deliverables. The proposed budget must allocate resources specifically for building capacity in Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), bank fees or any other obligatory payments.

2.4. Budget requirements

a. Budget Ceiling: **US Dollars 15,000**

b. At a minimum, the budgets must include:

   i. An estimate of direct costs, including all expenses that are required for, and can be tracked directly to, the grant/funding accounts. Direct costs must be broken down by expense subcategory, expense line item and year.

   ii. A description of assumptions or justifications underlying the estimates

c. The costs will be eligible only if these are incurred for the purpose of this grant/funding and within the duration mentioned in the legal instrument (including any amendments)

d. Article II, Section 7, of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations provides, inter alia, that the United Nations, including UNOPS as a subsidiary organ, is exempt from all direct taxes, except charges for public utility services, and is exempt from customs restrictions, duties, and charges of a similar nature in respect of articles imported or exported for its official use. All proposals shall be submitted net of any direct taxes and any other taxes and duties

e. Grant budgets may include indirect costs up to 7 per cent of direct costs.

3. EVALUATION METHOD AND CRITERIA

Proposals submitted in response to this CFP document shall be evaluated following the cumulative analysis methodology, which consists of the following steps:

a. Preliminary screening: This includes an assessment of whether proposals comply with the formal and eligibility criteria stated in Table 1: Formal and eligibility criteria. All proposals that pass this stage will go through a subsequent evaluation as follows.

b. Technical evaluation: This assesses the technical points achieved by each proposal, as per the maximum obtainable points assigned per criteria group in Table 2.1: Parts of the technical proposal evaluation. Only proposals that meet the minimum threshold indicated in Table 2: Technical criteria shall be considered substantially compliant at this stage. Evaluation of the technical proposals shall be completed prior to opening the financial proposals.

c. Financial evaluation: Financial proposals will only be opened for proposals that have achieved the minimum threshold in the technical evaluation. Financial proposals shall be checked for any mathematical errors in accordance with Article 15, "Minor Informalities, Errors or Omissions" in the Instructions to Applicants. The total financial proposal points achieved for each proposal are determined in accordance with Table 3: Financial criteria.

d. Combined analysis: This evaluation will be conducted based on a combined analysis, analyzing all of the relevant costs, risks and benefits for each proposal. The combined analysis includes the scores from both the technical evaluation, including factors such as risks, sustainability, and others, and the financial evaluation, using a predefined weighting method.

The maximum number of points that an applicant may obtain for their proposal is as follows:

- Technical proposal: **80** points
- Financial proposal: **20** points

The maximum total number of points an applicant may obtain for both the technical and financial proposals is 100. The weighting of the technical and financial proposals will be 80:20.

UNOPS may request clarification or further information in writing from applicants at any point during the evaluation process. In this case, any response from an applicant shall not modify the substance of the proposal, including both the technical and financial aspects of the proposal. UNOPS may use such information to interpret and evaluate the relevant proposal.

The evaluation of a proposal by UNOPS shall be carried out against the evaluation criteria described in the following tables.

3.1. Preliminary screening

Table 1 Formal and eligibility criteria

Criteria evaluated on a pass/fail basis during the preliminary screening	Documents to establish compliance with the criteria
1. The applicant is eligible as defined in Article 1, "Applicant Eligibility" in the Instructions to Applicants.	• Proposal • Annex 1: Declarations • Annex 2: PSEA capacity self-assessment
2. The proposal is complete and includes all completed forms and other documentation requested in the Particulars, 'Content of proposal submissions'.	• All documentation requested in the Particulars, 'Content of proposal submissions'
3. The applicant accepts the conditions in the template for agreement, as specified in the Particulars, 'Type of legal instrument'.	• Annex 1: Declarations

3.2. Technical evaluation

Table 2 Technical criteria

Criteria evaluated based on scoring during the technical evaluation	Documents to establish compliance with the criteria could by
The maximum number of technical points obtainable is detailed in Table 2.1: Parts of the technical proposal evaluation. To be technically compliant, applicants must obtain a minimum threshold of 70% of the total obtainable points.	• Proposal • Certification of incorporation of the applicant to the 5 Thematic Working Groups, established under the project "EU Civil Society Facility in Central Asia".

Table 2.1 Parts of the technical proposal evaluation

Part	Obtainable points
1. Applicant's capacity and expertise	25
2. Proposed methodology, approach and implementation plan	35
3. Key personnel proposed	20
Total technical proposal points	**80**

Table 2.1.1 Part 1: Applicant's capacity and expertise

No.	Criteria to be evaluated	Documents to establish compliance with the criteria (not exhaustive)	Obtainable points
1.1	The applicant has the general organizational capability to support effective implementation: management structure; financial stability and project financing capacity; management controls.	• Proposal • Copy of audited financial statements for the last 3 years	6
1.2	The applicant has relevant specialized knowledge and experience in similar activities, clearly articulated in the application.	• Proposal	5

Table 2.1.1 Part 1: Applicant's capacity and expertise

No.	Criteria to be evaluated	Documents to establish compliance with the criteria (not exhaustive)	Obtainable points
1.3	The applicant has the presence or experience working in the relevant region, country or area.	• Proposal	5
1.4	The applicant's existing and implemented projects complement this grant support project activity(ies).	• Proposal	2
1.5	Lessons learned by the applicant from other projects are factored into the proposal for the implementation of the proposed grant support project activity(ies).	• Proposal	2
1.6	The Applicant is a member of one of the 5 Thematic Working Groups, established under the project "EU Civil Society Facility in Central Asia".	• Certification of incorporation of the applicant	2
1.7	The applicant has experience successfully delivering similar grant support project activities during the last 3 years prior to this CFP.	• Proposal	3
Total points for Part 1			**25**

Table 2.1.2 Part 2: Proposed methodology, approach and implementation plan

No.	Criteria to be evaluated	Documents to establish compliance with the criteria (not exhaustive)	Obtainable points
2.1	The proposal is substantially compliant and does not contain any material deviation(s) from the minimum requirements as stipulated in this CFP document, which indicates the applicant's understanding of these requirements.	• Proposal	3

Table 2.1.2 Part 2: Proposed methodology, approach and implementation plan

No.	Criteria to be evaluated	Documents to establish compliance with the criteria (not exhaustive)	Obtainable points
2.2	The applicant's proposed approach and methodology is properly articulated and structured (outcome, output and activities), and consistent with objectives and targeted outcomes of the grant/funding and the objectives of the UNOPS project activities under which this grant/funding opportunity is available.	• Proposal, Section 3	8
2.3	The proposed approach is technically sound and feasible given the operating environment (e.g., access, security, climatic conditions, etc.).	• Proposal, Section 3	3
2.4	The proposed approach is considered and justified to be an efficient way to deliver the activities and achieve the proposed outputs.	• Proposal, Section 3	3
2.5	The activities proposed under the Implementation Plan are aligned with the proposed approach and methodology. The Implementation Plan demonstrates the applicant's capacity to plan and implement the grant support project activities within the identified timelines.	• Proposal, Sections 3 and 4	5
2.6	The applicant has identified tangible outputs that clearly support the achievement of the expected outcomes.	• Proposal, Section 4	4
2.7	The proposal satisfactorily demonstrates that the Health, Safety, Social and Environmental (HSSE) requirements in relation to the grant support project activities will be met.	• Proposal	1
2.8	The proposal satisfactorily demonstrates that the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) requirements in relation to the grant support project activities will be met.	• Proposal	2

Table 2.1.2 Part 2: Proposed methodology, approach and implementation plan

No.	Criteria to be evaluated	Documents to establish compliance with the criteria (not exhaustive)	Obtainable points
2.9	The Monitoring Plan details how different work elements will be monitored and measured. The indicators (with identified baseline and targets) provide a true measure of the result and are the means of verifying a realistic way to capture the information required.	• Proposal, Section 5	6
Total points for Part 2			**35**

Table 2.1.3 Part 3: Key personnel proposed

No.	Criteria to be evaluated	Documents to establish compliance with the criteria (not exhaustive)	Obtainable points
3.1	The composition, size and structure of the applicant's proposed team are appropriate and justified, and the proposed management roles and key personnel roles are clearly articulated and suitable for implementing the grant support project activities.	• Proposal, Section 6	9
3.2	The proposed team has the qualifications and experience required to ensure the successful delivery of the assignment	• Proposal, Sections 8 and 9	11
Total points for Part 3			**20**

3.3. Financial evaluation

Table 3 Financial criteria

Criteria evaluated based on scoring during the financial evaluation	Documents to establish compliance with the criteria
The maximum number of financial points obtainable is detailed in Table 3.1: Parts of the financial proposal evaluation. To be technically compliant, applicants must obtain a minimum threshold of 70% of the total obtainable points.	• Online Financial proposal

Table 3.1 Parts of the financial proposal evaluation

Part	Obtainable points
1. Financial evaluation	20
Total financial proposal points	**20**

Table 3.1.1 Financial evaluation

No.	Criteria evaluated based on a cumulative analysis methodology during the financial evaluation	Documents to establish compliance with the criteria	Obtainable points
1.1	Applicant organizations comply with the maximum budgets stipulated in the Budget requirements.	• Annex 3: Financial proposal	5
1.2	The allocation of budget among different categories (budget lines) is appropriate, particularly the allocation between activities and the operational budget.	• Annex 3: Financial proposal	7.5
1.3	The applicant's cost estimates and the assumptions made for such estimates are reasonable.	• Annex 3: Financial proposal	7.5
	Total financial proposal points		**20**