



# **PROTEUS – Information session**

## ***Open Call for Proposals***

July 15, 2024



# Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme (CERV)

## Pillars:

1. **Equality, Rights and Gender Equality** - promoting rights, non-discrimination, equality (including gender equality), and advancing gender and non-discrimination mainstreaming
2. **Citizens' engagement and participation** - promoting citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union, exchanges between citizens of different Member States, and raising awareness of the common European history
3. **Daphne - fight violence**, including gender-based violence and violence against children
4. **Union values** - protect and promote Union values

# PROTEUS

## Protecting EU Values and Fundamental Rights through Public Participation and Civil Society Assistance in Central Europe

The overall aim of PROTEUS is to strengthen civil society organizations (CSOs), so that they are able to protect, promote, and raise awareness of European values and fundamental rights, above all

- democracy,
- the rule of law,
- human rights,
- the equality of men and women,
- and the non-discrimination against persons belonging to minorities.

# PROTEUS

Protecting  
EU Values and  
Fundamental Rights  
through  
Public Participation  
and  
Civil Society Assistance  
in Central Europe

## Program Objectives:

- Supporting democratic participation, public deliberation, and inclusion
- Strengthening CSO resilience to shrinking space
- Protecting and promoting EU values and fundamental rights, with a special focus on peripheral and rural areas
- Supporting civic activism in peripheral and rural areas

# G | M | F

# Transatlantic Foundation

- The Transatlantic Foundation (TF) is the European and EU-registered arm of the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF)
- Headquartered in Brussels
- TF trades as the German Marshall Fund of the United States

# 8 Project Countries - 8 Implementation Partners

**Bulgaria, Sofia Platform**

**Croatia, CERANEO**

**Czechia, Via Foundation**

**Hungary, Power of Humanity Foundation**

**Poland, Shipyard Foundation**

**Romania, Resource Center for Public  
Participation (CeRe)**

**Slovakia, Partners for Democratic Change  
(PDCS)**

**Slovenia, SLOGA Platform**

# Strengthening Watchdogs' Strategic Litigation Capacities

## **Objective:**

To strengthen civil society watchdogs' strategic litigation capabilities.

## **Eligible countries:**

Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia

## **Budget:**

400,000.00 EUR

# Eligible activities

- Provide legal aid to marginalized communities and individuals affected by human rights violations.
- Strengthen the strategic litigation capabilities of organizations representing aggrieved parties and victims of human rights violations with systemic importance before courts.
- Strengthen the strategic litigation capabilities of organizations using freedom of information (FOI) laws in a strategic manner to maintain transparency and to assist citizens and CSOs in filing FOI requests and appealing against denials.
- Conduct workshops, seminars, or training to enhance CSOs' legal expertise, with a special focus on available domestic, international, and European legal venues.
- Build complex communication and advocacy strategies around watchdogs' existing litigation work.

## **Important eligibility note:**

Activities on strategic litigation can be supported limited to capacity building, awareness raising activities, training, mutual learning and exchange of good practices and analytical activities.

Court actions and direct litigation activities are not eligible for support under this action.



# Eligibility criteria

## Applicant:

- non-profit-making CSO/NGO established in 1 of the 6 project countries

## Project duration:

- 6 to 12 months
- earliest starting date: January 1, 2025
- latest ending date: December 31, 2025

## Project location:

- project activities must take place in 1 or more of the project countries
- cross-border activities with other EU countries may be considered

## Budget:

- 10,000 to 30,000 EUR for single-country projects
- 10,000 to 40,000 EUR for cross-border projects

Compliance with rights and values under the EU Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

**!Co-finance of EU funded projects is not eligible!**

# Co-Applicant vs Partner

A **co-applicant** is a **nonprofit organization** that:

- a) Meets the **same eligibility criteria as the lead applicant**.
- b) **Implements** one or more **project activities**, either **individually or in collaboration** with the lead applicant, to achieve the objectives outlined in the proposal.
- c) Is **allocated** a part of the **project budget** and is responsible for the financial management of those funds.
- d) **Reports to the lead applicant**.

A **partner** is **profit or nonprofit** organization that:

- a) **Supports** the achievement of **project's** objectives.
- b) Contributes **voluntarily** or **benefits from the grant** through **contracts/invoices with the applicant and/or co-applicant**.

**For example:**

- Local administrations,
- Educational institutions,
- Media,
- Private companies, etc.

# Application process

**Submission deadline: September 1, 2024 (midnight)**

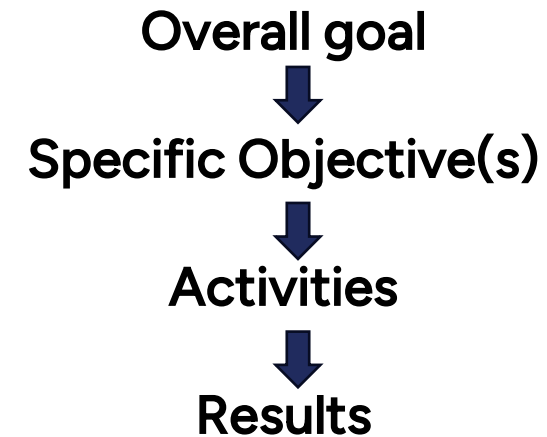
**Application package:**

- Application form (in both PDF and WORD format)
- Budget form
- Declaration on honor

**Email to [EngagingCE@gmfus.org](mailto:EngagingCE@gmfus.org)** with call reference number in subject line:

**D3.4/D18-CfP-INT7**

# Application form



## Qualitative results

- At least 1 or 2

## Quantitative results

- Number of publications
- Number of awareness raising actions / campaign carried out
- Number of people engaged in the CSO activities
- Number of national policies or laws influenced
- Number of targeted individuals provided with a service (hotline, legal advice, counselling services, informal education...)

# Budget form

## 1. Personal cost

- Engagement on the project (100%, 75 %, 50%, etc.)
- Unit definition:
  - month for employee
  - day for one-time hire (e.g. trainer, expert, etc.)
- Price per unit: **Total labor cost** NOT gross salary

## 5. Administrative costs

- maximum **7%** of total requested grant amount
- utilities, financial management, cyber security

# Award criteria

- Demonstrated **alignment with call objectives**, quality of **problem statement**, **needs assessment**, and **relevance** in relation to those objectives. (10)
- **Feasibility of goals**, the action proposed and **cost-effectiveness** of the budget (5)
- Commitment to democratic **values and fundamental rights** (3)
- **Synergies** of proposed action with other publicly or privately funded actions, focused on avoiding duplication. (3)
- Capability, organizational knowledge, and technical **expertise** of the applicant (2)
- **Creative approaches** and ability to base activities on insights gained from **past experiences**, both successes and failures. (2)

## **Bonus points:**

The project's activities take place in:

- rural areas (+2) or
- in towns and regional capitals (+1).

The **maximum score** of a successful proposal is **28 points**.

The **eligibility threshold** is **15 points**.

# Timeline

## Proposals evaluation:

September 2024 – October 2024

## Evaluation results:

November 2024

## Grant Agreement signature:

December 2024

**Funding:** 1-time payment after signing the GA



**Thank you!**

