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
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
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 a **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 with call reference number in subject line:
D3.4/D18-CfP-INT7
Application form

Overall goal

Specific Objective(s)

Activities

Results

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...)
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!