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Transatlantic  
Foundation



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# PROTEUS – Information session

## *OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS*

APRIL 16, 2025



# Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values program (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

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# 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, Belgium
- TF trades as the German Marshall Fund of the United States

# Supporting Advocacy and Awareness-Raising Action to Promote Transparency and Anti-Corruption

## **Objective:**

Strengthen CSOs in their advocacy and awareness-raising action related to the transparency and accountability of governments

## **Eligible countries:**

Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

## **Budget:**

300,000.00 EUR

# Eligible activities

- Promote transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct within public and private institutions.
- Monitor and investigate any form of corruption or misuse of public funds.
- Encourage collaboration across sectors and between different stakeholders, including government agencies, business, academia, and CSOs.
- Advocate legal and regulatory reforms aimed at closing loopholes and strengthening anti-corruption laws.
- Build the capacity of individuals, organizations, and institutions to prevent, detect, and respond effectively to corruption.

## Important eligibility note:

Activities on strategic litigation can be supported but are 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.

# Promoting Awareness of EU Rights and Values in Peripheral Regions

**Objective:**

Enhance the understanding of and support for EU rights and values, with a special focus on fundamental rights, democracy, and the rule of law, among populations in peripheral and rural areas.

**Eligible countries:**

Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

**Budget:**

300,000.00 EUR



# Eligible activities

- Online/offline awareness-raising and outreach activities promoting the importance of rights and values under the EU treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights among the general public and key actors such as local stakeholders.
- Organization of civic dialogues, discussion platforms, and debate series on EU rights and values themes and their impact on citizens' everyday life.
- Local heroes and storytelling campaigns anchoring EU rights and values through accessible and tangible examples.
- Local/regional/cross-border rights and values (human rights) festivals.
- Youth camps dedicated to the theme of EU rights and values.
- Local/regional media campaigns featuring content on the local impact of rights and values

## Eligible activities (continued)

- Public art and participatory theatre projects.
- Anti-fake-news campaigns combating disinformation related to rights and values.
- Petition and advocacy campaigns to mobilize communities to advocate for local policies aligned with EU values.
- Activities aimed at strengthening information integrity in electoral contexts, particularly through fact-checking, combating disinformation, and monitoring platform content by CSOs
- Activities aimed at strengthening electoral integrity, particularly through information campaigns on voting rights, the recruitment and training of civic election observers, and the implementation of civic election observation efforts.

# Eligibility criteria

## Applicant

- non-profit-making CSO/NGO established in 1 of the 8 project countries

## Project duration

- 6 to 12 months
- earliest starting date: July 1, 2025
- latest ending date: July 31, 2026
- reports due by September 1, 2026, the latest

## 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

# Eligibility criteria

## Budget

### EU Values

- €10,000 to €15,000 for single-country projects
- €10,000 to €30,000 for cross-border projects

### Transparency

- €10,000 to €25,000 for single-country projects
- €10,000 to €40,000 for cross-border projects

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

We cannot co-finance other EU-funded projects (not eligible)!

# Co-Applicant

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.

# Partner

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**.

Examples:

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

# Application form

## Qualitative results

(Why?)

- At least 1 or 2
- Aligned with the project's purpose **and** activities
- Based on non-numerical data (e.g. testimonials, surveys, context to data sets)

## Quantitative results

(How many/much?)

- Out of the indicators specified in the form, only those relevant to the project should be defined
- Add other results you expect from the project

- 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...)

# Application form

Target group(s)

Target group	Reached total	of which			Age group
		female	male	non-binary / self-identified	
Civic leaders					
Youth					N/A
Women		N/A			
Citizens					
Minorities					
LGBTQ					
Refugees					
Experts/ Think-tankers					
Journalists					
Lawyers					
Academia					
International organizations representatives					
Public officials					
Business representatives					
Bloggers					
Delete/Add as necessary					
<b>Project total</b>					

# 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



# Budget form

Budget category and item	Cost description	Unit	Number of Units	Price per unit (EUR)	Total (EUR)	Grant requested from TF	Own contribution	(If applicable) Funds from other sources: [INSERT FUNDER NAME]¹
<b>1. Personal costs</b>								
1.1. Manager	(Specify the person, if already known; percentage of the employee's engagement in the project as a proportion of total working time: e.g., one-time payment, 50% or 100% of total working time per month)	month	12	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
1.2. Assistant	(Specify the person, if already known; percentage of the employee's engagement in the project as a proportion of total working time: e.g., one-time payment, 50% or 100% of total working time per month)			€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
1.3. Expert	(Specify the person, if already known; percentage of the employee's engagement in the project as a proportion of total working time: e.g., one-time payment, 50% or 100% of total working time per month)			€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
1.4.				€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -
<b>Total personal costs</b>					€ -	€ -	€ -	€ -

# 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 if** the project's activities take place in:

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

# Application process

**Submission deadline: May 19, 2025 (midnight)**

**Confirmation of receipt after the deadline**

**Application package:**

- Application form (in both PDF and WORD format)
- Budget form (Excel)
- Declaration on honor
- Child protection policy of the applicant (in case project activities involve children)

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

**D2.10/D14-CfP-INT5 or D4.4/D22-CfP-INT9**

# Timeline

## **Proposals evaluation:**

May 2025 – June 2025

## **Evaluation results:**

June 2025

## **Grant Agreement signature:**

June-July 2024

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

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Thank you!  
Благодарим!  
Děkujeme!  
Hvala!  
Dziękujemy!  
Köszönjük!  
Ďakujeme!  
Vă mulțumim!