

GUIDELINE FOR APPLICANTS- CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS FOR PROJECT GRANTS OF THE STRONG AND INCLUSIVE PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY (SIPD) PROJECT

Project background:

The Kyrgyz Republic remains an only country in the region attempting to build parliamentary democracy. Despite progress achieved, the Kyrgyz Republic continues to face systemic shortcomings in building inclusive, accountable and effective parliamentary democracy, with the Parliament setting national strategic priorities and effectively exercising its representative, legislative as well as oversight functions.

The “Strong and Inclusive Parliamentary Democracy” (SIPD) project was designed to support the aspirations of the Kyrgyz Republic to enhance its parliamentary democracy. The project is a ten-year initiative funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Kyrgyz Republic. The project has started its 1st phase in 2017 that will last until 2021.

The project has an overall objective of ensuring that citizens benefit from responsive, inclusive and accountable institutions and aims to achieve the following outcomes:

Outcome 1: Parliament sets national strategic priorities in accordance with citizens’ needs, and oversees their implementation by the government;

Outcome 2: Civil society actors promote active citizenship and effectively influence political processes to better serve the needs and priorities of the country’s citizens.

To enhance civil society’s cooperation with the parliament, its active participation in the decision-making process, the project is announcing a call for project proposals within the project grants scheme of the Civic Action Fund. The project will support initiatives aimed at developing, piloting and institutionalizing practices contributing to greater accountability, inclusion and responsiveness of the Parliament, its cooperation with the Public Councils to oversee the work of the executive institutions as well as civic education initiatives. The results are intended to enhance inclusiveness of the parliament with active participation of citizens.

Project grants provide issue-based support to specific activities, usually to be implemented within a short timeframe, including ad-hoc initiatives focusing on improving civil society’s access to and exchange with the Parliament, strengthening constituency-oriented policymaking as well as promoting civic education. All submitted project proposals shall focus on achieving clear, measurable outcomes that support the project aims. Organizations seeking project grants will be assessed along similar organizational ability dimensions, but the core considerations are to be focused on achievement of a clear, measurable outcome or outcomes that support the aims of Civic Action Fund.

1. Who may apply?

Participation in this public call is open to all non-governmental organizations [?] with equal opportunities for all civil society organizations (associations, foundations, think tanks) established and registered in the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic.

In order to qualify for the Civic Action Fund, the applicants must:

I. Legal regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be a legal non for-profit entity established and registered in the Kyrgyz Republic (KR), in accordance with valid legal regulations.
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II. Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have prior experience of at least 1 year in implementing projects within the suggested project areas of action; • Proven experience in implementing at least 2 projects within the suggested areas of action.
III. Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizations shall have a relevant staff to implement the proposed project. Their CVs will be requested if the proposal passes the 1st selection stage; • Knowledge and experience of conflict sensitivity and gender; • Project monitoring and reporting experience.

Applicants will be excluded from participation in the public call or from the allocation of grants if, at the time of submitting project proposals:

- They are subject to a conflict of interest;
- Provision of false and incorrect information; and
- They tried to obtain confidential information, exert influence over the work of the Grant Evaluation Commission.

2. Areas of action

In order for project proposals to be eligible, they must comply with the goals of the “Strong and inclusive parliamentary democracy” project and focus on one of the following themes:

- Innovative civic education initiatives to foster political education, activism, enlightenment, values of parliamentary democracy to various groups, including women, youth, communities, peer learning;
- Enhanced cooperation of the Parliament and the CSO sector related to promoting consultation mechanisms with citizens, or intergovernmental public finance management;
- Research and analysis for clear policy recommendations to the Parliament on interacting with executive institutions and effectively exercising its key functions.

3. Partnerships and partner eligibility

Applicants may apply individually or as a consortium with other organizations/institutions.

4. Budget

The maximum allowed budget amount per initiative is USD 45'000. Administrative expenditures (support services and overhead costs such as office supplies, telephone, fax, internet, courier costs, and financial services costs (bank transfers and financial fees) incurred by the organizations and any expected audit costs) shall not exceed 30% from the total project budget.

5. Selection process

- 5.1. Organizations shall submit project concept (max 4 pages) outlining justification of the project, key issues to address, approach to be used and relevance to further

strengthen parliamentary democracy, its inclusiveness as well as active citizenship and civic education;

5.2. Project's logical framework;

5.3. Only after the approval of the project concepts, organizations will be invited to submit detailed project proposals.

6. Notification of the decision

UNDP will contact only those organizations whose concept notes were approved by the Grant Evaluation Commission.