

OPEN CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS



VOICES

Voicing Opposition to Domestic,
Sexual, Cyber Violence & Harmful Practices

Co-funded by:



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HISTORY OF CHANGES			
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1.0	02/04/2026	Initial Version	
2.0	28/05/2026	Wording amendment regarding the nature of the project to be funded, under the section “Eligible Lead Applicants and Partners” (Legal Eligibility)	13
		Addition of a clarificatory footnote regarding cooperation agreements, under the section “Eligible Lead Applicants and Partners” (Legal Eligibility)”	13
3.0	04/06/2026	Addition of clarifications regarding the budget finalisation process and the possibility of adjusting elements of approved projects prior to contracting.	17-18

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1. INTRODUCTION

The **Bodossaki Foundation (Greece)**, in consortium with the **NGO Support Centre (Republic of Cyprus)** and the **Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights (Greece)**, announces the Open Call for project proposals **‘Preventing and Combatting Diverse Forms of Gender-based Violence’**, addressed to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Greece and in the Republic of Cyprus. The Call is implemented under the programme **‘Voicing Opposition to Domestic, Sexual, Cyber Violence & Harmful Practices’ (VOICES)** and aims to strengthen prevention of and response to diverse forms of gender-based violence (GBV) by supporting CSOs active in this field, and enhancing their organisational capacity, sustainability and policy involvement.

VOICES is co-funded by the European Union, through the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme, as well as by the Bodossaki Foundation, the NGO Support Centre and the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights, with a total programme budget of €2,5 million.

Over the programme’s three-year implementation period (February 2026 - February 2029), VOICES will support approximately 37 CSO projects (29 in Greece and 8 in the Republic of Cyprus) through this Open Call. Funded initiatives will focus on **preventing and combatting diverse forms of gender-based violence (GBV)**, strengthening **survivor-centred protection systems**, and expanding **access to justice and specialised services**.

A total of **€1,625,000 (€1,300,000 for Greece and €325,000 for the Republic of Cyprus)** will be allocated through this Open Call.

In addition to financial support, VOICES will offer a comprehensive capacity-building programme, developed to address the specific organisational development and thematic needs of CSOs in Greece and the Republic of Cyprus, promoting their sustainability, advocacy impact, and policy engagement.

2. BACKGROUND

Gender-based violence remains one of the most pervasive human rights violations across the European Union, including in Greece and Cyprus, undermining fundamental freedoms, equality, dignity and social cohesion, as guaranteed under Article 2 of the Treaty of the European Union and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

In Greece and Cyprus, these challenges are particularly acute, as reflected in the findings of international monitoring bodies, including GREVIO and the CEDAW Committee. Despite the existence of legislative and policy frameworks, gaps persist in both their scope and implementation, while structural and operational constraints continue to undermine the

effectiveness of prevention and protection systems. Such constraints include, for example, geographic disparities, limited outreach mechanisms, and insufficient cross-sectoral cooperation between judicial authorities, service providers, and institutions, all of which hinder a coordinated and comprehensive response. Moreover, the rapid digitalisation of everyday life has enabled new and aggravated forms of GBV, such as online harassment, cyberstalking and non-consensual image-based abuse. Responses to these emerging risks remain uneven: adequate case-management mechanisms are still limited, specialised and tailored support for victims is not consistently available, and frontline professionals often lack the expertise required to identify and address digital forms of GBV.

In this context, CSOs can play a vital role in preventing and addressing GBV, particularly at the community level. Through awareness-raising, outreach and capacity-building, CSOs can strengthen prevention efforts, improve access to and the quality of support services, and enhance the skills of professionals and stakeholders, including in remote and rural areas. By fostering cooperation and the exchange of good practices, they can contribute to more effective prevention of and response to diverse forms of GBV.

Thus, further strengthening the enabling environment for CSOs remains essential to maximise their impact and long-term sustainability. Enhanced structural and financial support could help expand the scope, continuity and resilience of their interventions, while more systematic consultation and closer integration into policymaking processes would reinforce their contribution to comprehensive and coordinated responses. Continued investment in capacity-building, including access to specialised training and institutional development opportunities, would further support the quality, reach and effectiveness of their work.

In this light, the consortium invites CSOs with legal status in Greece and the Republic of Cyprus, active in preventing and combatting diverse forms of gender-based violence, to submit project proposals for the VOICES regranting programme. By supporting targeted initiatives, the programme seeks to contribute to strengthening prevention, protection and coordinated responses to gender-based violence across both countries.

3. OBJECTIVES, PRIORITIES AND TARGET GROUPS

3.1 OBJECTIVES

The Open Call aims to prevent and address diverse forms of gender-based violence in Greece and the Republic of Cyprus by providing financial support and targeted capacity-building to CSOs active in the prevention of and response to diverse forms of GBV.

VOICES also aims to strengthen the advocacy role, policy involvement and organisational development of CSOs active in fighting GBV, through offering a comprehensive programme of capacity building activities. Particular priority is given to small¹, grassroots², rural and remote

¹ A small CSO for the purposes of this programme is a CSO with an average total annual revenue (taxable and non-taxable) of less than €80,000.

² A grassroots CSO for the purposes of this programme is a non-governmental organization that originates and operates at the local level, usually driven by community members who are passionate about a particular cause or issue, such as poverty, education, health, environment and human rights. These organizations often work to

CSOs, which often operate closest to affected communities but face barriers in accessing funding, training and institutional support. By reinforcing their capacities and access to resources, the call seeks to promote more inclusive, locally grounded and sustainable responses to gender-based violence in both countries.

3.2 PRIORITIES

Each CSO project must address **one of the following three priority areas** of this Open Call:

- Preventing and Combatting Domestic and Sexual Violence **(Priority 1)**
- Preventing and Combatting Gender-Based Cyber Violence **(Priority 2)**
- Preventing and Combatting GBV-related Harmful Practices **(Priority 3)**

Regardless of the thematic focus, all applications are expected to demonstrate a strong survivor-centred, trauma-informed and rights-based approach, aligned with EU values and relevant EU legal and policy frameworks. All activities must uphold survivors' dignity, autonomy, confidentiality and safety at every stage of the project. Projects should include appropriate safeguards to actively prevent re-victimisation and secondary victimisation, including through ethical engagement practices, safe participation methods, and careful communication of sensitive information.

Applicants must also pay particular attention to gender- and age-related needs and risks, as well as to the specific circumstances of women and men, girls and boys, in all their diversity. Special consideration should be given to persons experiencing intersectional discrimination or facing heightened vulnerability, such as people with a migrant background, LGBTIQ persons, racial or ethnic minorities which include women at risk of harmful practices, Roma people, women or children with disabilities or facing mental health issues, pregnant women, women in detention, women living in rural areas and elderly women.

Proposals should clearly explain how these principles are embedded in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project activities.

PRIORITY 1: PREVENTING AND COMBATTING DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

This priority aims to prevent and combat domestic and sexual violence through comprehensive, coordinated, and survivor-centered actions. It supports initiatives that address the root causes of violence, strengthen protection and support services for survivors, improve investigation and prosecution, and ensure effective cooperation among institutions and stakeholders. The overall objective is to reduce the prevalence of violence, enhance survivor safety and recovery, and promote behavioural change and accountability, in line with human rights and gender-equality standards, based on a clear understanding of the gendered dynamics of domestic and sexual violence.

address social, economic, and environmental problems within their own communities, without the influence or support of larger organizations or governments. They are typically formed by volunteers who are directly impacted by the issues they seek to address, and they rely heavily on the participation and support of the community to achieve their goals. They often use community mobilization and empowerment strategies to bring about change, and they may engage in advocacy and public education to raise awareness about their cause.

Activities under this priority may include prevention and awareness-raising measures that challenge harmful gender stereotypes, promote equality and respectful relationships, and increase public understanding of consent and non-violence. They may also support education and training for professionals in relevant sectors, early identification of risk situations, and targeted interventions for vulnerable or at-risk groups. The priority further seeks to ensure the availability and accessibility of quality, survivor-centered support services, including safe accommodation, healthcare, psychosocial support, and legal assistance, while promoting effective referral mechanisms and coordinated multi-agency responses. Strengthening institutional capacity, improving data collection and monitoring, and enhancing accountability for perpetrators are also essential components contributing to a sustainable and effective national response.

PRIORITY 2: PREVENTING AND COMBATTING GENDER-BASED CYBER VIOLENCE

This priority addresses gender-based cyber violence as an evolving and increasingly pervasive form of gender-based violence that is perpetrated, facilitated or amplified through digital technologies. It recognises the growing scale, complexity and cross-border nature of online abuse, as well as its profound impact on the safety, dignity, privacy and equal participation of women and girls. It supports activities aimed at preventing and responding to online abuse such as cyber gender-based incitement to violence or hatred, cyberstalking, online harassment, the non-consensual distribution of intimate images (including those facilitated or exacerbated by AI technologies), sextortion and online grooming. Projects funded under this priority should demonstrate a clear understanding of the gendered dimension of digital violence, the specific risks and vulnerabilities arising in online environments, and the barriers survivors face in seeking protection, redress and support.

PRIORITY 3: PREVENTING AND COMBATTING GBV- RELATED HARMFUL PRACTICES

This priority supports activities aimed at preventing and addressing gender-based harmful practices, recognising their deep roots in structural inequality, harmful social norms and intersecting forms of discrimination. Funded projects under this priority should focus on addressing harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Intersex Genital Mutilation (IGM), forced abortion, forced sterilisation, child and forced marriage, honour-related violence, gynaecological and obstetric violence, forced contraception, forced pregnancy, sex-selective practices, denial of education to girls, forced disclosure of sexual orientation or gender identity, forced medicalisation of trans individuals, conversion practices imposed on LGBTIQ persons, and other forms of gender-based oppression. Proposals should demonstrate an understanding of the cultural, social and institutional contexts in which harmful practices occur, as well as the barriers faced by survivors in accessing protection, support and justice.

Each organisation can submit only one application to the Open Call, choosing one out of the three priority areas, either as lead applicant or as partner. Detailed information on the application process can be found in the ['Application Guidelines'](#).

3.3 TARGET GROUPS

The funded projects will target survivors and individuals at risk of GBV, with a particular focus on women and girls³ facing intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination. This includes those in remote or isolated areas, older women, women experiencing homelessness or substance use disorders, Roma women and girls, refugee and migrant women and girls, trafficking survivors, women and girls with disabilities, and LGBTIQ persons. Priority is also given to victims of gender-based cyber violence and harmful practices⁴.

Additional target groups include witnesses, victims' relatives, friends and bystanders who can play a stronger supportive role; frontline professionals and service providers—healthcare, law enforcement, social services, tech companies, community and faith leaders, and educators—whose coordinated action is essential. Media actors and journalists are also targeted to address gendered attacks and promote ethical, survivor-sensitive and non-stereotypical reporting. The funded projects will further engage national and local authorities responsible for survivor protection, along with policymakers at local, national and EU levels, and the wider public (including men and boys), in order to strengthen prevention, accountability and response to GBV.

3.4 FUNDING STREAMS

The Open Call for proposals is structured into two separate funding streams designed to accommodate CSOs of varying sizes and capacities.

Stream 1 will support **large-scale projects** with grants ranging from €30,000.01 to €60,000.00. Projects must each address one of the three priority areas outlined above and may be implemented **either** by a single CSO **or** by a partnership between two CSOs. Projects will have a duration of 12 months (with the possibility of being extended up to an additional 2 months, where duly justified). Approximately 19 projects (15 in Greece and 4 in the Republic of Cyprus) will be supported under this stream, with a total budget of **€1,088,750 (€871,000 for Greece and €217,750 for the Republic of Cyprus)**.

Stream 2 will support **small-scale projects** implemented by **small organisations**⁵ with grants ranging from €20,000.00 to €30,000.00. Projects must each address one of the three priority areas outlined above. They will be implemented by a **single small** CSO, with a duration of 10-12 months (with the possibility of being extended up to an additional 2 months, where duly justified). Approximately 18 projects (14 in Greece and 4 in the Republic of Cyprus) will be supported under this stream, with a total budget of **€536,250 (€429,000 for Greece, and €107,250 for the Republic of Cyprus)**.

³ Following the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030, this programme refers to both women and men in all their diversity, understanding these as heterogeneous categories that include differences in sex, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.

⁴ Such as FGM, reproductive coercion, forced or child marriage, honour-based violence, and non-consensual medical interventions affecting trans and intersex individuals.

⁵ A small CSO for the purposes of this programme is a CSO with an average total annual revenue (taxable and non-taxable) of less than €80,000.

Open call 'Preventing & combatting diverse forms of GBV'		
	<u>Stream 1: Large grants</u>	<u>Stream 2: Small grants</u>
Budget:	€1,088,750 (€871,000 Greece, €217,750 Republic of Cyprus)	€536,250 (€429,000 Greece, €107,250 Republic of Cyprus)
Grant range:	€30,000.01 - €60,000.00	€20,000.00 - €30,000.00
Open to:	Any size CSO	Small CSOs only
Can have partner:	Yes	No
Project duration:	12 (+ up to 2-month extension)	10-12 months (+up to 2-month extension)

The programme reserves at least 30% of the total call budget for small CSOs, as part of a comprehensive strategy to reach small/grassroots/remote/rural CSOs. In the event that an insufficient number of eligible applications is received under Stream 2 (small grants), any unallocated funds may be reallocated to Stream 1 (large grants) in accordance with the final ranking list of applications.

4. ELIGIBLE TYPES OF ACTIVITIES – WORK PACKAGES

General Specifications

In the application, the activities of the proposed project must be organized in Work Packages (WPs). Each Work Package must include a coherent set of activities, as well as the corresponding deliverables directly linked to those activities. Under this Open Call, there are **three (3) predefined Work Packages**:

Work Package 1:	Project management
Work Package 2*:	Preventing and combatting gender-based violence (GBV)
Work Package 3*:	Communication/Dissemination plan

Applicants may include **up to six (6) activities (not activity types)** in each Work Package.

***For Work Packages 2 and 3, there are both predefined types of activities and predefined activity indicators which are listed below.**

Applicants are strongly encouraged to set **realistic** and **achievable** indicator targets when designing their activities, as the achievement of agreed deliverables and indicators is directly linked to activity eligibility for payment.

WORK PACKAGE 1: PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The predefined types of activities under Work Package 1 are the following:

1. Project coordination, administration and internal communication, including coordinating tasks among team members, monitoring project progress, managing resources, and ensuring adherence to the approved work plan. It also involves maintaining effective internal communication and collaboration within the project team and, where applicable, with

partners, including organising coordination meetings and using appropriate communication tools and procedures.

2. Monitoring and reporting, including the preparation of interim and final progress reports, collection of indicator-related data, tracking of deliverables, ensuring quality control, and maintaining communication with the Consortium.

3. Risk Management, identifying, monitoring, and addressing risks that may affect project implementation, including operational, financial, legal, safeguarding, and contextual risks. It covers the development and regular updating of mitigation measures and the maintenance of a risk register throughout the project lifecycle.

4. Project Evaluation, including assessing the effectiveness and quality of project activities, collecting qualitative and quantitative feedback, and producing internal evaluation outputs to support learning, accountability and continuous improvements.

All progress reports must be included as deliverables under Work Package 1.

WORK PACKAGE 2: PREVENTING AND COMBATTING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

The predefined types of activities and activity indicators under Work Package 2 are the following:

1. Awareness-raising activities, including social media campaigns, outreach and empowerment initiatives and dissemination of information. These activities should aim to **prevent** domestic/intimate partner violence and sexual violence (such as rape), **promote** consent within sexual relationships, **combat** stereotypical gender portrayals, and **address** forms of gender-based violence in the digital space, in accordance with Articles 5-8, 34(8), 35 and 36(8) of the VAW/DV [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1385](#) on combatting violence against women and domestic violence.

Predefined Activity Indicators:

- Number of individuals reached by awareness-raising activities/campaigns
- Number of awareness-raising activities/campaigns

2. Capacity-building and training activities for professionals and relevant stakeholders, with the aim of strengthening the capacity of professionals to identify and respond to cases of gender-based violence, assess risks posed by perpetrators, and recognise the additional needs of survivors facing intersectional discrimination. Activities may also include training on detecting and responding to cyber gender-based violence, as well as support for the implementation of perpetrator programmes aimed at preventing repeat violence, in line with Articles 15, 16, 21(g) and 37 of VAW/DV [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1385](#).

Predefined Activity Indicators:

- Number of professionals and relevant stakeholders participating in capacity-building & training activities

3. Design and provision of services and measures improving access to survivor support services. Activities under this type involve creating or strengthening **direct support services for survivors**, especially in underserved or remote/rural areas. This includes **developing or expanding** medical and psychological services, **establishing or enhancing** survivor-led/survivor centered- and trauma-informed services, **improving** access to justice, **increasing** access to shelters, and **supporting** the creation or operation of one-stop shops or coordinated

support centers that address multiple needs (including for individuals facing intersectional discrimination and/ or in a vulnerable situation), in line with the requirements of Articles 26, 30 of VAW/DV [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1385](#).

Predefined Activity Indicators:

- Number of beneficiaries accessing GBV support services

4. Development of practical guidance and support resources. This activity type covers the creation of **new tools, guidelines, manuals and transferable working methods** that help professionals and organisations or institutions provide high-quality support services. It includes materials addressing the diverse forms of GBV, and the development of transferable working methods that can be adopted or adapted by different practitioners and organisations. Activities may, for example, focus on development of tools and guidelines for reporting, flagging an/or removal of harmful online violent content with gender connotation or tools to help relevant authorities identify the enhanced protection and support needs of survivors experiencing intersectional discrimination.

Predefined Activity Indicators:

- Number of new tools, guidelines, manuals or transferable working methods developed

5. Identification and exchange of good practices (local and national level). This activity type includes identifying, analysing and documenting good practices relating to GBV, as well as the development of improved working and learning methods.

Predefined Activity Indicators:

- Number of good practices identified and exchanged

6. Design and implementation of strategies and protocols. Activities under this type could focus on the development of strategies, protocols and operational frameworks supporting more coherent and effective GBV prevention and response across different sectors, services and institutions. This includes designing or updating thematic strategies, inter-agency protocols, referral frameworks, or standard operating procedures that guide coordinated action among CSOs, service providers or institutional actors.

Predefined Activity Indicators:

- Number of strategies and protocols developed
- Number of GBV-related reports/publications produced and disseminated

7. Coordination and strengthening of platforms, networks and groups for combatting diverse forms of GBV. This activity type supports the creation, expansion, or coordination of **networks and collaborative structures** working to combat different forms of GBV. It includes facilitating platforms, coalitions, alliances or working groups that promote cooperation, information sharing, and joint action among organisations and stakeholders.

Predefined Activity Indicators:

- Number of platforms, networks and groups supported

8. Research, data collection, and analytical activities⁶. This type concerns evidence-building activities, including research, studies, mapping, situation analyses, evaluations and the development or implementation of data collection systems or databases.

⁶ Projects must be practical and if research activities are included, they must be strictly linked to the project as a whole

Predefined Activity Indicators:

- Number of GBV-related reports/publications produced and disseminated
- Number of research or analytical activities addressing GBV

9. Advocacy, watchdog and monitoring activities. This activity type supports data-driven strategic advocacy campaigns targeting public authorities and institutional stakeholders, to promote the timely and effective implementation of the requirements of the [VAW/DV Directive \(EU\) 2024/1385](#) in Greece and the Republic of Cyprus.

Predefined Activity Indicators:

- Number of advocacy, watchdog and monitoring activities addressing GBV
- Number of national policies or laws relating to GBV influenced

10. EU mutual learning and exchange activities, including activities facilitating learning, cooperation and exchange with entities in other [EU Member States](#) in relation to the Open Call priorities.

Predefined Activity Indicators:

- Number of EU mutual learning and exchange activities
- Number of individuals participating in EU mutual learning and exchange activities

WORK PACKAGE 3 – COMMUNICATION/DISSEMINATION PLAN

The predefined types of activities and activity indicators under Work Package 3 are the following:

1. Communication Events & Outreach Activities (e.g. launch and closing events, press conferences, open days, public presentations).

Predefined Activity Indicators:

- Number of communication/outreach events
- Number of participants in communication/outreach events

2. Online & Social Media Communication (e.g. website content, social media posts, videos, newsletters, online campaigns).

Predefined Activity Indicators:

- Number of online communication outputs (e.g. posts, website content updates, newsletters, videos)
- Number of total online reach (e.g. unique visitors, impressions, video views)

3. Production of Communication Materials & Press Visibility (e.g. printed or digital materials, such as leaflets, brochures, posters, banners, infographics, fact sheets, videos, press releases, interviews, articles, media kits).

Predefined Activity Indicators:

- Number of communication materials produced
- Number of total online reach (e.g. unique visitors, impressions, video views)

5. CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

Through a comprehensive and tailor-made package of capacity-building opportunities, the programme empowers participating CSOs to strengthen their organisational effectiveness, enhance policy engagement, and build long-term sustainability.

Upon their self-capacity assessment, CSOs will benefit from access to a needs-driven organisational development training curriculum, complemented by hands-on professional support services, including team mentoring, executive coaching, and specialised legal and tax counselling. In parallel, participants will engage in a thematic and advocacy-focused training pathway, aimed at strengthening strategic advocacy skills and evidence-based policy influence.

The programme also places strong emphasis on peer learning, networking, and joint advocacy, fostering collaboration among CSOs and supporting the development of collective action. An advocacy network will be established, enhancing CSOs' advocacy role through collective action, the promotion and protection of fundamental rights and EU values, while increasing their visibility, influence, and strategic positioning within the civic space ecosystem.

6. ELIGIBLE LEAD APPLICANTS AND PARTNERS (LEGAL ELIGIBILITY)

Eligible lead applicants and partners are **Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)** with legal status in Greece and the Republic of Cyprus that fall under the following definition:

A civil society organisation is an organisational structure which serves the general interest through democratic processes, and which plays the role of mediator between public authorities and citizens, including all non-state, non-profit, independent structures, which oppose all forms of violence and promote and protect the fundamental rights and values on the basis of which the EU was founded.⁷

In particular:

For **Greece**, eligible lead applicants and partners are the following: **(i)** Civil Society Organisations, as defined under Law 4873/2021 as in force, namely associations (in Greek: σωματεία/σύλλογοι) and civil non-profit companies (in Greek: αστικές μη κερδοσκοπικές εταιρείες), with a public benefit purpose, and **(ii)** public benefit foundations provided under Greek Law 4182/2013 and Greek Law 5259/2025 from the date of its entry into force.

For the **Republic of Cyprus**, eligible lead applicants and partners are Civil Society Organisations based in the Republic of Cyprus and established in accordance with the relevant Law 104(I)/2017 and its amendments (non-profit associations, foundations, federations and/or unions), the Companies Law (Cap. 113) (for non-profit companies), the Charitable Foundations Law (Cap. 41), and non-governmental, non-profit organisations that have been established by special law.

Eligible lead applicants or partners (where applicable) must be independent of local, regional and national governments, other public authorities and political parties, and the project to be funded must not be of a religious, political or trade union/ commercial nature.

⁷ See related definition: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/glossary/civil-society-organisation.htm>.

In addition, to be eligible, lead applicants and partners must:

- be based in Greece for applications received in Greece and in the Republic of Cyprus⁸ for application received in the Republic of Cyprus.
- have completed at least twelve (12) months of operation since their legal establishment prior to the deadline for submission of applications.
- have the ability to submit financial data covering a period of at least twelve (12) months (calendar year).
- not be in a situation of conflict of interest, including any potential conflict of interest due to personal, family, financial, political, professional or other relationships involving members, partners, members of the management bodies, legal representatives, employees and associates in general of the lead applicant and its partner. Indicatively, though not exhaustively, situations of conflict of interest include cases where the lead applicant holds a direct or indirect participation in the partner, or vice versa, as well as cases where the same individual is a member of the management body of both the lead applicant and the partner.
- not have in force any partnership agreement of any kind, written or informal, with the Bodossaki Foundation and/or the NGO Support Centre and/or the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights, with the aim of jointly (assuming the responsibility for) implementing other programmes whether self-funded by the jointly acting parties or (co-) funded by the EU, the European Economic Area (EEA) or other organizations/entities⁹.

Natural persons are not eligible.

Eligible lead applicants and partners (where applicable) must respect the principles of democracy, human rights and the fundamental rights and values on which the EU is founded. In addition, eligible applicants and partners must not promote, approve or support, through their projects, communication strategies or public messages, any form of violence, especially violence with racist characteristics, against minors, against vulnerable persons in general, against women, domestic violence, and any form of gender-based violence.

Projects must also comply with the highest ethical standards, and with all applicable EU, international and national laws, including the [General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 \(GDPR\)](#).

Applications under Stream 1 (large grants) can involve one lead applicant alone or one lead applicant and only one partner. The project partner (if any) must share a common goal and actively contribute towards achieving the project objective(s), as defined in the proposal. The partner's role, responsibilities and added value must be clearly defined and duly justified in the project proposal.

For more information on the partnership framework and eligibility criteria, please consult the 'Application Guidelines'.

7. SIZE OF GRANTS

The Open Call offers two types of grants: **large and small**.

⁸ Areas of the Republic of Cyprus under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

⁹ Grant agreements concluded with the Bodossaki Foundation and/or the NGO Support Centre and/or the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights **are not included in this requirement**.

The grant amount for **large grant projects** under **Stream 1**, the funding ranges from a minimum of **€30,000.01** to a maximum of **€60,000.00** per project.

For **small grant projects** under **Stream 2**, the grant amount ranges from a minimum of **€20,000.00** to a maximum of **€30,000.00** per project.

Applications for **large grants (Stream 1)** may be submitted by either a single lead applicant alone or a lead applicant with one partner organisation.

Applications for **small grants (Stream 2)** must be submitted by a single small¹⁰ organisation without a partner. Small organisations may also submit an application for a large grant (Stream 1).

The project budget must include and account for costs from both the lead applicant and the partner (if applicable). The percentage and amount of the grant of the partner (if applicable) must be identifiable separately into the submitted budget and the relevant activities.

Organisations must use the budget template provided on the [programme webpage](#).

Grants for the selected projects will be issued as **lump sums**, in accordance with the European Commission's procedures and guidelines. This approach aims to **reduce the administrative burden and simplify project management**. Additional details can be found in the '[Application Guidelines](#)'.

8. DURATION OF PROJECTS

For **large grant projects (Stream 1)**, the implementation period must be **12 months**.

For **small grant projects (Stream 2)**, the implementation period must be **between 10-12 months**.

For all projects, an extension of up to two additional months may be granted, only under exceptional circumstances, subject to review and approval by the Programme Management Team, and without any increase to the approved project budget.

The duration of the projects and the start and end dates will be specified in the grant agreement for each project. The projects are expected to start during the **first quarter of 2027**.

9. LOCATION OF PROJECTS

All project activities must take place in **Greece** for **applications from Greece** and in the **Republic of Cyprus**¹¹ for **applications from the Republic of Cyprus**, apart from activities that fall under Activity Type 'EU Mutual Learning and Exchange Activities', which may be implemented in other [EU Member States](#).

10. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applications must be submitted **between 2 April 2026 and 1 July 2026 at 14.00** via the [Bodossaki Foundation's Programme Portal](#).

¹⁰ A small CSO for the purposes of this programme is a CSO with an average total annual revenue (taxable and non-taxable) of less than €80,000.

¹¹ Areas of the Republic of Cyprus under the effective control of the government of the Republic of Cyprus.

11. HOW TO APPLY

Each organisation may submit **only one application**, selecting one out of the three priority areas, either as a lead applicant or, in the case of large grants under Stream 1, as a partner.

To submit an application, organisations (lead applicants) must create an account on the [Bodossaki Foundation's Programmes Portal](#). After selecting 'Sign Up', the person creating the account will be asked to fill in their full name (first name and family name), an email address and a password, in order to complete the registration.

Once the account has been created, organisations can click on the 'Programmes' section of the Portal, select **VOICES** and click 'Create Application'.

Organisations that already have an account on the Bodossaki Foundation's Programmes Portal do not need to register again. They may log in using their existing credentials and select the programme **VOICES** to create an application.

During the application stage, 'How to Apply' workshops will be offered across Greece and the Republic of Cyprus, both in person and online.

12. EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

During **phase one** of the evaluation process, each project application will be assessed for compliance with the **administrative** and **eligibility criteria of the application**. More information regarding the administrative and eligibility criteria of the application can be found in Section 11 of the 'Application Guidelines'.

The project budget, the Declaration of Honour (both for the lead applicant and the partner, where applicable), and the Child Protection Policy (for projects involving activities with direct contact with children) are considered core documents and are mandatory for the submission of an application. Applications that fail to include these documents will be automatically rejected.

The templates for the budget form and the Declaration of Honour are available on [the programme's webpage](#).

Supporting documents include financial documentation and other required material, as specified in Section 14 of the '[Application Guidelines](#)'.

All documents, both mandatory and supporting, are required to be submitted at the time of application submission. Where supporting documents are missing, the Programme Implementation Team may request them, in which case organisations will be granted five (5) working days to submit them.

Organisations whose applications are rejected due to non-compliance with the **administrative and eligibility criteria of the application** will be informed by email and will have the right to submit an appeal within five working days from the date of notification. The right to appeal shall be exercised **only once** at this stage.

Appeals must be fully justified and documented and submitted electronically to the email addresses indicated in the Contact Information section, no later than **17:00 (local time)** on the fifth (5th) and final day of the appeal deadline. Appeals will be examined by the Appeals Committee, and organisations will be informed of its decision within ten (10) working days

following the appeal submission deadline. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final and irrevocable.

In phase two, applications that meet the **administrative and eligibility criteria of the application** will be evaluated by two (2) impartial evaluators appointed by the Consortium. At least one of them will be independent (external) to the Consortium and selected through an open call procedure. All evaluators are required to sign a declaration of absence of conflict of interest in relation to the organisations whose applications they assess.

Each evaluator will assess the project application individually and independently, in accordance with the Evaluation Criteria set out below. The average score of the two evaluations will be used for the evaluation of the application. A minimum average score of 60 points is required for an application to proceed further in the evaluation process.

If the difference between the scores exceeds 30% of the higher score, the application will be assessed by a third evaluator, appointed by the Consortium and independent of all applicant organisations and the Consortium. In such cases, the average of the two closest scores will constitute the final average score and will be used for the ranking of the application.

Applications achieving a minimum score of 60 points will be ranked according to their final score, without any modification to the order of ranking.

In phase three of the selection process, the shortlisted applications, as well as an additional 10% of the shortlisted applications, will be subject to a **legal eligibility assessment of the lead applicant and the partner (where applicable)**. During this phase, the Consortium will assess the legal eligibility of the lead applicant and the partner (where applicable) and will request the necessary documents proving their legal eligibility and for which they signed the aforementioned Declaration of Honour during the application submission stage. In such cases, organisations will have five (5) working days to submit the requested documents, following a relevant request from the Programme Implementation Team.

Organisations whose applications are rejected due to non-compliance with the legal eligibility criteria of the lead applicant and/or the partner (where applicable) will be informed by email and will have the right to submit an appeal within five (5) working days from the date of notification. The right to appeal may be exercised **only once** at this stage. Appeals must be **fully justified and documented** and submitted electronically to the email address indicated in the **Contact Information** section, no later than **17:00 (local time)** on the **fifth (5th) and final day** of the deadline of the appeal. Appeals will be examined by the Appeals Committee, and organisations will be informed of its decision within ten (10) working days following the appeal submission deadline. The decision of the Appeals Committee is final and irrevocable.

In the event of a final rejection due to non-compliance with the legal eligibility criteria, another organisation from the ranking list will be selected and assessed under the same procedure.

The application evaluation criteria and the maximum score per criterion are as follows:

Evaluation Criteria	Maximum score
1. Capacity and relevance of the lead applicant and the partner (if applicable) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Financial Capacity</i> • <i>Organisational Capacity & Expertise</i> • <i>Demonstrated Relevant Experience</i> • <i>Alignment with EU Values and Rights</i> • <i>Quality of Child Protection Policy (where applicable)</i> 	20
2. Relevance and justification of the activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The described aims, objectives, activities, deliverables and results of the proposed activity are relevant to the goals and priorities of the Open Call.</i> • <i>The proposed activity is fully justified as necessary and beneficial to the proposed target groups.</i> 	25
3. Quality, impact and sustainability of the proposed activities – including contribution to the advancement of gender equality & non-discrimination mainstreaming	25
4. Involvement of grassroots¹², small¹³ or rural-based CSOs¹⁴ (*for Stream 2 - which is reserved for small CSOs- only the 'Involvement of grassroots or remote/rural CSOs' will be assessed)	5
5. Collaboration with entities from other EU Member States	5
6. Value for money (based on the submitted project budget)	20
OVERALL RATING	100

The Selection Committee will examine the shortlist of applications based on the scores awarded and the evaluators' comments. It may modify the ranking of applications **only in duly justified cases**, where such modification is necessary to achieve the programme's objectives.

In addition, the Selection Committee shall determine the final grant amount for each approved project based on the submitted budget, taking into account the comments and recommendations of the evaluators and/or the Finance Unit. The Committee may adjust

¹² A grassroots CSO for the purposes of this programme is a non-governmental organization that originates and operates at the local level, usually driven by community members who are passionate about a particular cause or issue, such as poverty, education, health, environment and human rights. These organizations often work to address social, economic, and environmental problems within their own communities, without the influence or support of larger organizations or governments. They are typically formed by volunteers who are directly impacted by the issues they seek to address, and they rely heavily on the participation and support of the community to achieve their goals. They often use community mobilization and empowerment strategies to bring about change, and they may engage in advocacy and public education to raise awareness about their cause.

¹³ A small CSO for the purposes of this programme is a CSO with an average total annual revenue (taxable and non-taxable) of less than €80,000.

¹⁴ For the purposes of this programme:

In Greece, all areas are considered rural and/or remote areas, except all the municipalities of the prefecture of Attica (except the islands) and all the municipalities of the prefecture of Thessaloniki.

In the Republic of Cyprus, rural and/or remote areas are considered all areas except the municipalities of the cities of Nicosia, Limassol and Larnaca.

or reduce the proposed budget where deemed necessary to ensure value for money, particularly in cases involving ineligible activities or costs and/or over-budgeted activities.

Furthermore, based on the recommendations of the evaluators and the outcome of the budget review process, the Selection Committee, in cooperation with the lead applicant, may request adjustments to project activities, indicators, target values, implementation timelines, or other project elements, in order to ensure proportionality between the proposed activities, the expected results, the project duration, and the approved budget.

In such cases, the Selection Committee may request clarifications and/or supporting information from the organization(s) concerned during the contracting stage.

The Selection Committee will ensure that **at least 70% of projects selected** under the Open Call include **women/girls as a target group (subject to availability of eligible shortlisted projects meeting this criterion)**. Moreover, where an insufficient number of eligible applications is received under Stream 2 (small grants), the corresponding funding amount may be reallocated to Stream 1 (large grants), in accordance with the ranking list of applications.

The decision of the Selection Committee is **final and not subject to change**.

The final decision will be communicated directly to the applicant organisations, and the list of approved projects will be published on [the programme webpage](#) within **four (4) months** of the application submission deadline.

Organisations will have the right to request feedback on their applications following a relevant announcement.

13. GENDER EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION MAINSTREAMING

Gender equality and non-discrimination constitute **core horizontal principles** of the VOICES programme. All proposed projects under this open call must be designed and implemented in a way that recognises and addresses inequalities and unequal power relations arising from gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, racial or ethnic origin, migration status, socio-economic background, geographical isolation or other intersecting identities.

For projects addressing any of the priority areas of the call, **domestic and sexual violence, gender-based cyber violence** and/or **GBV-related harmful practices**, all proposed activities must apply a strong **gender and intersectionality lens**. Interventions should be responsive to the specific needs of women and girls, LGBTIQ persons, migrants, ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups. Applicants must demonstrate how gender equality and non-discrimination principles are embedded in their project design, partnerships, outreach and communication, as well as in their efforts to challenge harmful norms and improve equitable access to rights, protection and support services.

Projects aimed at preventing or responding to GBV, including those that provide support to survivors or individuals at risk, must adopt a **survivor-centred, rights-based and trauma-informed approach**, consistent with the **Istanbul Convention** and [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1385](#).

To ensure meaningful and measurable impact, applicants must integrate gender equality and non-discrimination considerations throughout the full project cycle, from needs assessment and outreach strategies to service delivery, monitoring and reporting. This includes, where relevant, accessible communication and venues, disaggregated data collection, targeted approaches for marginalised populations, and the active involvement of relevant community actors.

Further guidance on integrating gender mainstreaming and non-discrimination is provided in the **Application Guidelines**. Applicants are also encouraged to consult the [Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030](#) and other relevant EU and Council of Europe standards.

14. CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

In accordance with the European Commission Directives, funded organisations that will implement activities involving direct contact with children¹⁵ are required to have a Child Protection Policy in line with the [Keeping Children Safe Child Safeguarding Standards](#). Therefore, at the application stage, any organisation (both the lead applicant and the partner, where applicable) proposing projects that include activities involving direct contact with children **must** submit their current Child Protection Policy aligned with these standards. The Child Protection Policy is considered a **core** document, not a supporting document. Applications that fail to include this document will be automatically rejected.

In addition, applicants should ensure that the project proposal is based on a child rights approach, i.e. that all the rights of the [EU Charter of Fundamental Rights](#), [the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#) and [the Optional protocols](#), are promoted, respected, protected and fulfilled. The project should address children as rights holders and should ensure their participation in the design and implementation of the project.

CSOs (both the lead applicants and any partners) selected for funding that their project will include activities involving direct contact with children should also be guided in their work and philosophy by the best interests of the child, doing no harm and respecting the rights of the child as outlined in European and international legislation.

More information on what a Child Protection Policy should include are available in the [‘Application Guidelines’](#).

During the application submission period, an online training session on drafting a Child Protection Policy will be held.

15. CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions related to the Open Call may be submitted up to ten (10) working days prior to the applications’ submission deadline to the email addresses below, indicating in the subject line of the email the title of the open call. The Consortium has no obligation to respond to enquiries submitted after this deadline.

- helpdesk@bodossaki.gr (for organisations in Greece)

¹⁵ The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) defines a child as any human being below the age of eighteen (18) years, regardless of sex, origin, religion or disability, unless the age of majority is reached earlier, in accordance with the legislation applicable to the child.

- helpdesk@ngo-sc.org (for organisations in the Republic of Cyprus)

Responses to all enquiries will be published in the 'Frequently Asked Questions' (FAQ) section of the programme's webpage. Individual replies will not be provided. Applicants are therefore encouraged to check the webpage regularly for updates.

Technical questions related to the completion of the application form can be submitted through [the Bodossaki Foundation's Programmes Portal](#), in the 'Contact a Programme Representative' section, once the organisation has created an account on the Portal.

To ensure the equal treatment of all applicants, **no** prior assessments or opinions can be provided regarding the legal eligibility of applicants, the proposed actions or specific activities under this call.

Information with regards to the Open Call is also available at the [Funding and Tenders Portal](#).

16. COMPLAINTS MECHANISM

All complaints **related to the implementation of the VOICES programme** shall be addressed to and handled by the programme's **Complaints Committee**, which is responsible for processing and issuing decisions on complaints regarding suspected non-compliance with the principles of good governance. The Complaints Committee examines complaints received either directly via the dedicated email cerv-complaints@bodossaki.gr, or indirectly from the European Commission - Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST).

The Complaints Committee will issue a decision within thirty (30) days of submission of the complaint. To ensure transparency and accountability, cases involving suspected fraud, deceit or irregularity may also be reported to the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) via [the programme webpage](#). Further information on how to submit a complaint to OLAF can be found [here](#).

17. PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION

Regarding the data protection policy applicable to the implementation of the project, applicants are invited to consult the General Data Protection Policy of the Bodossaki Foundation, available [here](#), the General Data Protection Policy of Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights, available [here](#), the General Data Protection Policy of the NGO Support Centre, available [here](#), and the Specific Data Protection Information applicable to the VOICES programme available [here](#).

April 2nd, 2026