



**Organising International Solidarity
CSO-LA/2018/402-422
Small Grant Facility – Thematic Lot
Guidelines for Grant Applicants**

DEADLINE TO APPLY 6 NOVEMBER 2022, 24H00 (BRUSSELS TIME)

1. Background

Since its 2012 Communication entitled “*The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe’s engagement with civil society in external relations*”, the European Union (EU) adopted a policy shift to support civil society not only as a provider of aid but also as a pivotal actor of governance acknowledging the role of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to build stronger democratic processes, accountability systems and to achieve better development outcomes. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, whose goal 17 recognises the need to work in stronger partnership, reinforced the commitment of the EU to support and to work in collaboration with CSOs.

The Organising International Solidarity (OIS) Programme

Since 2019, SOLIDAR members and their partners in the Global South have been focused on the implementation of the Organising International Solidarity (OIS) Programme: an EU-funded programme aiming to enhance the capacity and effectiveness of SOLIDAR members and their partners in the field to engage in the implementation of the SDGs, in particular on decent work, social protection, just transition and shrinking space for CSOs, as well as strengthening SOLIDAR representational capacities to collect views and inputs from members and their partners in the field and establishing a dialogue with the EU and International policy makers. One of the key components of the OIS programme is the Small Grant Facility (SGF): provision of grants to third parties. These grants will support the organisation of activities that contribute to strengthen partnership among SOLIDAR members, partners and allies in the field.

In 2021, SOLIDAR adopted its new strategy, ensuring a transversal approach of our advocacy work on the promotion of Just Transition and Civic Space. This thematic lot aims to building the capacities of SOLIDAR members and partners in the Global South on Just Transition and Shrinking Space in line with sustainable development.

2. Description of the call

2.1. Objectives and results of the Small Grant Facility Scheme (SGF)

The SGF fund will support policy advocacy, capacity building and awareness raising regarding just transition and shrinking space for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as part of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

The fund has the objective of reinforcing SOLIDAR members, partners and allies' capacity to be involved in EU policy-making processes, and the setup of active advocacy and lobby initiatives regarding just transition and shrinking space for CSOs. It will also contribute to strengthening the partnership and collaboration among SOLIDAR members, partners and allies in the field (at country, sub-regional and regional levels). As result, the actions will:

- Reinforce the knowledge and capacities of SOLIDAR members, their partners and allies in partner countries to advocate for Just Transition and civic space as part of the 2030 Agenda;
- Support the identification of common goals and challenges for SOLIDAR members, their partners and allies in the different regions, and countries of the action;
- Promote the role of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as key stakeholders for democracy, civic space and just transition towards sustainable development;
- Strengthen the capacities of SOLIDAR members, their partners and allies in partner countries to engage in policy dialogues with the EU and other key international stakeholders;
- Increasing the visibility of SOLIDAR Network as a membership-based organisation promoting social justice through just transition globally.

2.2. Location

Actions must take place in the following countries:

- West Africa: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Mali, Niger, Benin and Senegal.
- East and South Africa: Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, South Africa and Zimbabwe.
- Central America: El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.
- Andean America: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.
- Asia: China/Hong Kong, Cambodia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines and Thailand.

2.3. Duration of the action

- Minimum duration: three months.
- Maximum duration: four months.

The action must be implemented by 31 March 2023.

2.4. Overall budget and Cost of the actions funded

In 2022, the Small Grant Facility total budget is 30,000EUR. The call for proposal is divided into two lots:

Lot 1 – Just Transition

Regional action on **Just Transition involving at least 5 countries** (See section 2.2 Location) **and with focus on capacity building**. The global budget envelope is 20.000 EUR.

- Minimum budget for one proposal: 10.000 EUR.
- Maximum budget for one proposal: 20.000 EUR.

Lot 2 – Shrinking Space

National action on **Shrinking Space and Human Rights Defenders for actions located in one eligible country** (See section 2.2 Location). The global budget envelope is 10.000 EUR.

- Minimum budget for one proposal: 2.000 EUR.
- Maximum budget for one proposal: 2.500 EUR.

The grant may cover up to 85% of the budget. The rest will be co-funded by the beneficiary(ies). E.g.: a proposal can ask for a maximum budget of 20.000 EUR, of which up to 17.000 EUR can be covered by SOLIDAR.

Grants payments are subject to the 80% pre-financing payment at the start of the project. The grant balance payment will be done after the submission to and approval by SOLIDAR of the narrative and financial reports based on the actual eligible costs incurred.

Note 1: grants will be transferred to the beneficiaries' organisations in the partner country in euros.

Note 2: it is compulsory to respect the structure of the budget proposal template.

3. Eligibility criteria

3.1. Who can apply?

Only the following **entities** can apply for financial support: CSOs, social movements, representative and membership-based organisations and (independent) trade unions that fulfill the following organisational **selection criteria** can apply:

- Be recognised as a legal non-profit entity under relevant laws, where such laws exist;
- Located and operating within one of the countries above mentioned;
- Can prove a clearly defined focus on advocacy;
- Have a democratic decision-making structure, independent from the government.

SOLIDAR members and partners are highly encouraged to submit applications. Affiliated members¹ of the OIS programme cannot lead nor be co-applicant. Each organization can submit one application only as leading applicant. However, an organisation may be part of more than one submission as co-applicant.

¹ OIS affiliated members are MPDL, Forum for International Cooperation, Solidarité Laïque Burkina Faso, Solidar Suisse Hong Kong Limited, FOS, and Olof Palme International Center

Leading applicants must be established in one of the countries mentioned above and be directly responsible for the implementation of the action.

The proposals must be a result of a consultative process among the different parts involved in order to strengthen partnership.

3.2. Which actions are eligible?

Actions need to have a clear link with the thematic focus of the call (just transition and shrinking space as part of the 2030 Agenda). In this sense, actions will include the following activities:

For Lot 1 – Just Transition

- Facilitation of one regional Training of Trainers; which will replicate a previous Training of Trainers developed by SOLIDAR and Olof Palme International Center (OPIC) and use the same materials. The organisation(s) that receive the grant are expected to participate in the original workshop organised by OPIC in November (exact date to be defined).
- Provide support to the participants who have taken part in the training of trainers (two rounds) so they can deliver on their plans to start national alliances for Just Transition. (Support in how to organise alliances and facilitate their practical work such as development of common agendas and advocacy goals, but also support in terms of paying out small funds to the trainers to cover their costs for the organising of national alliances.)
- Follow up on the progress of national alliances started as a result of the Training of trainers and report to SOLIDAR/OPIC.

For Lot 2 – Shrinking Space

- lifeline support in case of financial, legal or administrative repression;
- legal support;
- capacity-building projects such as training;
- innovative advocacy and campaigning actions.

PLEASE NOTE: Humanitarian actions are not eligible.

3.3. Which costs are eligible?

Only 'eligible costs' can be covered by an action grant. The categories of costs that are eligible and non-eligible are indicated below. The budget is both a cost estimate and an overall ceiling for 'eligible costs'. Costs must be directly related to the implementation of the action and incurred within the implementation period of the action.

Only the following **costs are eligible** for financial support and have to abide to the Guidelines of the Call for Proposals:

- General running costs linked to the implementation of the action itself;
- Salaries and Honorariums for personnel working for the applicant;
- Costs directly linked and necessary for the realization of the action (e. g. production of materials, costs related to the venue, travel costs for speakers, etc.).

4. Selection criteria

Incomplete proposals or with non-compliant information with this application guideline will be directly classified as non-eligible. Applications will be checked for compliance with eligibility and quality criteria by a selection jury that will evaluate and rate the project proposals in line with the selection criteria.

Preference will be given to proposals that reflect a joint proposal of SOLIDAR members, partners and allies in partner countries AND/OR applications with a strong partnership with SOLIDAR members.

5. Evaluation grid

Jury members will evaluate the proposals according to the evaluation grid below.

Not to be filled by applicant!

Selection criteria	YES/NO
The submission deadline has been met and the budget ceiling has been respected	
The leading applicant and co-applicants (if any) are NOT affiliated members of the OIS programme	
Applicants and co-applicants are recognised as legal non-profit entities under relevant laws and have provided the registration number in the application form	
Applicants and co-applicants are located and operating within one of the countries of the action (See 2.2. Location)	
Applicants and co-applicants are legally established in a partner country (See 2.2. Location)	
Applicants and co-applicants have a defined focus on advocacy	
Applicants and co-applicants have a democratic decision-making structure	
For Lot 1, the action involves at least 5 countries from the list of nations under 2.2. Location.	
The proposed action has a minimum duration of 3 months and a maximum duration of 4 months	
Award criteria	Max. Score
The proposal has been developed through a consultative process among SOLIDAR members, their partners and allies in partner countries	5
The proposal is a joint initiative of SOLIDAR Members/partners and allies	5x2

The proposal enhances the cooperation among SOLIDAR members and partners and contributes to at least one of the grant's expected results	5
The proposal reinforces members' and partners' capacity to be involved in EU policy-making processes	5x2
The proposal has a clear focus on just transition or shrinking space as part of the 2030 Agenda	5
The expected results of the proposed action are sustainable	5
The activities are appropriately reflected in the proposed budget	5x2
The ratio between the estimated costs and the expected results is satisfactory	5

6. How to apply

Please download the following documents, which you can also find on [SOLIDAR website](#):

1. the [application form](#) in Excel,
2. the [budget proposal](#) in Excel,
3. the [activity plan](#) template.

Once the documents are filled, please upload them in the [online form](#).

Deadline for submission: 6 November 2022, at 24h00 (Brussels time).

7. Indicative Calendar

Launch of call for proposals	27 September
Deadline for submission proposals	6 November
Evaluation and selection process	7- 18 November
Contracts with beneficiaries	21 November – 5 December
Implementation period	December 2022 – March 2023
Reporting deadline	17 April 2023

For further support you can contact SOLIDAR, indicating in your message subject: "SGF2022":

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