



Objective

We aim to select, provide financial support, and build the capacity of grass-root CSOs representing vulnerable groups, with annual grants.

We do it to increase the resilience of grassroots CSOs. We do it to advance the protection, promotion minority rights and awareness of EU fundamental rights. We are seeking to support smaller, rural organizations with grants to build a supportive environment for small CSOs engaged in the promotion of democratic values, minority inclusion and rights across Bulgaria, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Latvia, Czech, Estonia, Lithuania, Romania, and Slovenia.

Types of activities

- Local **accountability** projects i.e., community-local authority problem solving workshops and dialogues
- Activities that investigate, address, or publicise gaps or failures in the **rule of law**
- Projects that contribute to **democratic participation**, including civic responsibility education projects, and advocacy with local authorities or relevant political parties for inclusion of minorities
- **Legal capacity projects** and campaigns that build communities' legal capacity to access justice mechanisms to achieve their rights i.e., direct legal advice, mediator training, legal support involving violation of the rights of minorities.
- Local advocacy projects and **campaigns** that give voice to local minority (and majority) concerns and support policy changes to address challenges and failings.
- Watchdog and **monitoring activities**
- Organisation of civic platforms and **civic dialogues** linked to rights, coalitions and partnerships among CSOs and minority CSOs
- Research, data collection, producing evidence/reports for **advocacy**, strategy and planning meetings, monitoring and publications to influence local policy and decision-making
- **Trainings** of community members on their rights and/or anti-discrimination measures

- **Creative communications** campaigns, and awareness raising initiatives.
- School activities and **awareness raising** to minority youth on their rights

Note: we welcome all innovative and new ideas that encompass the themes above.

Terms of Reference

1. Projects must be EUR 15000.
2. Projects must be implemented between 1st February 2023 and 30th November 2023.
3. The maximum project duration is 10 months.
4. NOTE: Budgets must include the following costs:
 - a. 1 round-trip for 1 person (only travel) to Budapest, Hungary (for the central training)
 - b. 1 round-trip for 1 person (only travel) to Brussels, Belgium (for the exchange meeting)
 - c. Costs relating to in-country exchange meetings with other grantees in your country (if needed). There will be 2 per year.

Eligibility

In order to be considered eligible, organizations interested in applying must:

- (1)** be registered legal entities, to be non-profit making organisation or civil society organisation, have a bank account, be established and active in the target countries;
- (2)** prove having no public debt, comply with GDPR, anti-corruption measures and prove absence of conflict of interest;
- (3)** demonstrate their commitment and compliance to EU fundamental rights and values;
- (4)** have a balanced gender composition or community members represented within their internal leadership and team structure (desirable, not mandatory);
- (5)** be a small, local, rural, grass-root CSO representing the rights of minority and vulnerable groups, including minority/community led organisations, and have a close working relationship with and the trust of one or more disadvantaged ethnic, religious or linguistic community (including migrants and refugees);
- (6)** be able to demonstrate basic project management skills;
- (7)** have strong links with relevant minority communities and have the means in place to remain in contact with and effectively consult and involve the community/ies they are working with.

Note: own contributions are not expected.

Assessment criteria

Your proposal will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- (1) Relevance of the proposed project with the objectives of the program;
- (2) Effectiveness of the project explained through stated objectives, output, outcome, and implementation strategy;
- (3) Realistic target(s) and capacity to deliver planned activities which should be in line with the resources, capacities, and previous experiences of the applicant;
- (4) Clearly justified budget that represents value for money and efficiency;
- (5) Whether the proposed project includes sustainability aspects as well.
- (6) Whether the proposed project pays particular attention to minority women and gender issues.
- (7) Whether the organization applying is a smaller civil society initiative working at the grassroots level
- (8) Whether the initiative is minority-led.

Anticipated timeline:

December, 2022:	All for applications released
15 th January, 2023:	Application deadline
25 th January, 2023:	Successful applicants notified
15 st February, 2023:	Start of activities
30 th November, 2023:	Completion of activities
15 th December, 2023:	Final narrative and financial reports due

Submission process

More information and application form and budget available at:

<https://minorityrights.org/marioproject/>

You may also send the application form and budget to marioproject@minorityrights.org by 15th January, 2023.

Background



Minority Rights Group (MRG) campaigns worldwide with around 150 partners in over 50 countries to ensure that disadvantaged minorities and indigenous peoples, often the poorest of the poor, can make their voices heard.



PILnet is a global non-governmental organization that creates opportunities for social change by unlocking law's full potential. With

programs in Europe & Eurasia, Asia, and at the global level, PILnet aims to reclaim and reimagine the role of law so that it works for the benefit of all.



Minority Rights Group (MRG), along with *PILnet*, has partnered together on the “Minorities, Accountability, Rights, Independence, Organization development (MARIO)” programme. The grants are financed by MARIO, which is a three-year programme funded by the European Union.