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|  | EUROPEAN UNION  Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of North Macedonia |

# Launching of consultations: Call for Proposals for Civil Society and Media Organisations, IPA III Civil Society Facility (CSF) and Media 2024–25, Republic of North Macedonia

The Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of North Macedonia is launching a serial of consultations with civil society and other stakeholders to jointly identify priorities and other specifics for the Calls for Proposals programmed under IPA III Civil Society Facility and Media programme 2024-2025. This online consultation is open from 04th to 20th February, 2025.

The Calls will reflect the EU's strategic approach for the enlargement region, as outlined in the IPA III programming framework, and will focus on the key policy areas essential for advancing the EU integration of North Macedonia. In this context, civil society and media organisations play a crucial role in identifying key policy areas and actively engaging in the policy and decision-making processes across various themes that are important for the EU accession and approximation process.

To this end, the European Union programmed a substantive support for civil society and media organisations through the IPA Civil Society Facility (CSF) and Media Programme. In this context, the IPA III CSF and Media Programme 2024-2025[[1]](#footnote-2)outlines priorities for further political and financial engagement with civil society and media organisations, in line with the objectives of the DG NEAR Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement region 2021-2027*[[2]](#footnote-3).*

This **questionnaire should assist the EU Delegation in identifying priority themes, type of actions, and other specifics for the following Calls for proposals**:

1. Call for Proposals (Action Grants)- *Support to Civil Society systematic participation in the EU accession process and negotiations;*
2. Call for Proposals (Action Grants) - *Support to Civil society and media organisations across various thematic policy areas;*
3. Call for Proposals (Operating Grants) – *Framework Partnership Agreements*

Please submit the Questionnaire using the link below by **Thursday, 20 February 2025, COB**, to ensure your input is considered before launching the Calls in the first quarter of 2025.

We thank you for your cooperation and looking forward for your valuable contributions.

***Organisation/Institution Name*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Contact information*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Representative's Name & Title***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS**

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| ***Please provide your input for the proposed priority themes/sectors for all three Calls listed below, by attributing the highest/medium/ lowest degree of importance to the indicated thematic priorities. Additionally, you have a possibility to suggest any sub-sector(s) that should be taken into particular attention and the specific role that CSOs could have in that process*** *(i.e. what CSOs could do to contribute to each sector?).*  ***Please briefly justify the relevance for the chosen priority theme/sector(s).*** |

**SECTIONS 1:**

***Call for Proposals (action grants) - Support to Civil Society systematic participation in the EU accession process and negotiations***

Short Description: The action grants to be awarded under this Call should contribute to increased capacities of CSOs to systematically and directly engage in the EU accession. In particular, the actions should contribute to further development of CSOs' sectorial networking mechanism and structured models for sector policy dialogue. The actions should aim at developing CSOs' capacities to further unify their expertise towards strong and structured dialogue with the Government, including the twelve IPA sectorial working groups (SWG). Another focus should be CSOs’ efficient advocacy and systematic monitoring of the EU related reforms and their direct involvement in the accession process and contributing to good neighbourhood relations.

Proposed Priority themes/sectors for the Call:

1. **EU Accession and Negotiation**

(EU Accession and Negotiation Structural Dialogue with CSOs)

1 (Low Priority)

2 (Medium Priority)

3 (High Priority)

Selected specific sub-sector(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relevance justification: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Good Neighbourhood Relations**

CSOs networking and cooperation for strengthening the neighbourhood relations important for the EU accession progress)

1 (Low Priority)

2 (Medium Priority)

3 (High Priority)

Selected specific sub-sector(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relevance justification: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Reform Agenda and the Growth Plan**

(CSOs’ role in systematic monitoring and supporting the implementation of the Reform Agenda/Growth Plan)

1 (Low Priority)

2 (Medium Priority)

3 (High Priority)

Selected specific sub-sector(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relevance justification: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In case you consider that additional thematic priorities need to be addressed related to reinforcing the EU accession of the country, please indicate them below and briefly justify your answer.

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**SECTIONS 2:**

***Call for Proposals - Support to Civil society and media organisations across various thematic policy areas.***

Short Description The action grants to be awarded under this Call should contribute to various sector policy priorities selected through consultations with civil society, donor community and other stakeholders, during the preparation phase of this Call.

A strong focus will be given on the CSOs’ impact on local-level policies by building their capacity for dialogue with decision-makers, strengthening their watchdog role, and advocating for citizens' interests. Efforts will also focus on strengthening constituencies, mobilising support, and fostering strong local partnerships. Attention will be given to CSOs' work in addressing societal and environmental challenges, promoting the participation and empowerment of youth and women as drivers of change, combating corruption, and raising citizens' awareness and intolerance toward corruption.

A strong focus will be also given on strengthening media integrity, freedom of expression, digital literacy, and upholding journalism standards to better inform citizens and prepare society for EU accession. Gender equality in the media sector will be prioritised, including promoting gender-sensitive journalism, ensuring the safety of female journalists, tackling online violence, and closing gender gaps in newsrooms. Journalist safety is crucial, with efforts to address threats both online and offline. Additionally, addressing challenges related to freedom of expression and digital technologies—such as hate speech, disinformation, and algorithmic influence on information access—is essential, especially among young people.

Proposed Priority themes/sectors for the Call:

1. **Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development and Work**

(addressing relevant national legal/financial reform, and the six objectives DG NEAR Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement region 2021-27)

1 (Low Priority)

2 (Medium Priority)

3 (High Priority)

Selected specific sub-sector(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relevance justification: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Democracy, Elections and Good Governance**

1 (Low Priority)

2 (Medium Priority)

3 (High Priority)

Selected specific sub-sector(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relevance justification: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Rule of Law and Fighting Corruption**

1 (Low Priority)

2 (Medium Priority)

3 (High Priority)

Selected specific sub-sector(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relevance justification: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Freedom of Speech, Media Integrity, Digital Technologies and Cyber Security**

1 (Low Priority)

2 (Medium Priority)

3 (High Priority)

Selected specific sub-sector(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relevance justification: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Gender Equality, Civil Freedoms and Rights**

(as vertical/horizontal priority themes)

1 (Low Priority)

2 (Medium Priority)

3 (High Priority)

Selected specific sub-sector(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relevance justification: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Youth Engagement in Local Community Development**

1 (Low Priority)

2 (Medium Priority)

3 (High Priority)

Selected specific sub-sector(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relevance justification: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Social Economy, Job Creation and Social Inclusion**

1 (Low Priority)

2 (Medium Priority)

3 (High Priority)

Selected specific sub-sector(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relevance justification: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Green Agenda: climate change, environment and clean energy**

1 (Low Priority)

2 (Medium Priority)

* 3 (High Priority)

Selected specific sub-sector(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relevance justification: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In case you consider that additional thematic priorities need to be addressed related to reinforcing the EU accession of the country, please indicate them below and briefly justify your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 3:**

***Call for Proposals Framework Partnership Agreements with Operating Grants***

Short Description: This Call continues the EU's operational support to civil society and media organisations by selecting successful applicants to sign Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs) for supporting their annual work programmes for up to four consecutive years. The goal is to enable the implementation of CSOs' core activities in pre-defined sectors, with the primary objective of positively impacting citizens' lives and ensuring their active involvement in sector reforms.

The specific sectors/themes for this Call will be determined through consultations with CSOs and other stakeholders during the preparation phase of this Call. The focus will be on strengthening the expertise, oversight, and advocacy of CSOs in key sector reforms, aimed at improving services to citizens in the selected areas.

Proposed Priority themes/sectors for the Call

* Environmental protection & Climate change;
* Rule of Law and Access to Justice;
* Anti-discrimination;
* Anti-corruption, public procurement, transparency, effective oversight and remedy;
* Freedom of Expression and Media/Journalist Integrity and Safety
* Quality in Education (formal and non-formal) and Inclusiveness;
* Public administration reform, recruitment and services to citizens;
* Gender Equality, women and youth rights;
* Consumer Rights, Health, Safety at work and Occupational Right, and Patients’ Rights;
* Local economic development and quality of rural life;
* Fight against organised crime and Cyber security;
* Cultural Activism and Heritage Protection.

*Please mark the listed priorities as following:*

1 (Low Priority)

2 (Medium Priority)

3 (High Priority)

Selected specific priority themes/sector(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relevance justification: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(!) In case you consider that additional thematic priorities need to be addressed please indicate them below and briefly justify your answer.

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**OTHER SPECIFICS OF THE CALLS FOR PROPOSALS**

**THRESHOLD PER GRANT**

What should be the minimum and maximum budget threshold per grant contract for Call 1 and Call 2?

(*Please, consider carefully the financial capacity of potential applicants when suggesting the amounts below!)*

Suggested minimum project budget (EUR): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Suggested maximum project budget (EUR): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Suggested minimum project budget (EUR): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Suggested maximum project budget (EUR): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**GRANT DURATION**

What should be the maximum and minimum duration for implementation of a grant contract for Call 1 and Call 2 (e.g. from 18 to 36 months)

Suggested minimum project duration: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Suggested maximum project duration: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES (sub-granting)**

Financial support to third parties is a significant tool used by the EU to reach out to grassroots stakeholders. What should be the optimum maximum and minimum amount of financial support to third parties for smaller sized CSOs?

Suggested minimum ((EUR): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Suggested maximum (EUR): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What percentage of each grant's budget should be allocated for financial support to third parties?

\_\_\_\_\_%

In order to clearly define smaller sized CSOs, should this be regulated by defining a maximum threshold of applicant’s annual turnover in the Call (for e.g. up to 100,000 EUR)

Yes

No

Comments\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The capacity building and learning component is very important when providing grants or financial support to third parties. How should this be designed in order to be most effective?

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The involvement of CSOs’ constituency in action design and implementation is important. How this could be reflected in the requirements of this Call? Could you provide more specific example/s?

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**ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS**

Please provide any other suggestions that you may have regarding the Call.

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1. COM (2024) 2097 EU Civil Society Facility and Media Programme in favour of the Western Balkans and Turkey for 2024- 2025 *https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/8c819ddb-dcb4-452f-8faa-edbae1f6b0be\_en* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. *DG NEAR Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement region 2021-2027* [*https://tacso.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/EU-Guidelines-for-Support-to-Civil-Society-in-the-Enlargement-region-2021-2027-1.pdf*](https://tacso.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/EU-Guidelines-for-Support-to-Civil-Society-in-the-Enlargement-region-2021-2027-1.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)