



# THE ALLIANCE FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN EUROPE

## *Supporting progress for gender equality and women's rights*

### "2021 FUND FOR COVID SOLIDARITY" – OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS

#### **BACKGROUND**

The newly created [Alliance for Gender Equality in Europe](#) (the Alliance) is the first and only pooled fund and network of its kind in Europe, creating and sharing knowledge, building capacity and bolstering a culture of strategic philanthropy for gender equality issues in the European Union. It emerged from consultations with the women's sector as a whole, women's funds and civil society organisations, as well as corporate and private donors. This is its first call for proposals for organisations based and working in the 27 nations which officially comprise the European Union. It will be hosted at the Network of European Foundations (NEF), a Brussels-based association of leading European foundations dedicated to strengthening philanthropic cooperation.

The COVID-19 pandemic is disproportionately impacting women and girls worldwide, including in Europe. As a result, women are losing traction in their quest for equality. Heightened poverty and a dramatic rise in Violence Against Women (VAW) are two examples of this downward trend. Women and girls belonging to disadvantaged groups and/or at risk of multiple discrimination depending on their social or ethnic/national origin, such as women with disabilities, women in prostitution, elderly women, migrant and asylum-seeking women, are particularly at risk. Health and legal protections may become even more limited as resources for organisations working in these fields become stretched to the breaking point. Strengthening the sector as a whole, including boosting capacity and sustainability, is critical.

We recognize that civil society organisations in Europe continue to operate under exceptionally challenging conditions and that small frontline organisations working on women's issues are facing particular difficulties. This Fund therefore aims to address these short-term immediate needs. Our ultimate goal is to offer a unique opportunity to strengthen and support progress for women's equality in the longer-term, including creating networking opportunities for grantees and donors to engage in knowledge-building and sharing best practices.

#### **2021 FUND FOR COVID SOLIDARITY – GRANTMAKING PRIORITIES**

Proposals should fall within the broadly-defined objectives of the Fund, contributing to gender equality and women's rights. **This is a Covid Solidarity Fund and resources for 2021 are earmarked for the women and girls who are living in the most vulnerable situations and who have been the most negatively impacted by Covid.**

Our objective is to provide support to organisations in the closest contact possible with people on the ground. While we anticipate primarily funding small, frontline organisations, the Fund will also consider specific project proposals from larger organisations innovating or experimenting in an area where there is demonstrable need.

This fund aims to distribute resources equitably across the European Union. Therefore, we aspire to create a geographic balance of grantees.

In this first year of funding, our call for proposals intentionally encompasses a broad range of thematic areas in order to find the most creative, effective and impactful initiatives. To that end, we invite applications for either general operating support or for specific projects. We aim to support a thematically diverse slate of proposals.

Priority thematic areas are:

- Access to economic resources, entrepreneurship, digital divide.
- Access to education and training: promoting opportunities for education and vocational training, including communications and information technologies.
- Violence Against Women/health and social protection: combatting gender-based violence, securing access to healthcare and social protection.
- Climate change and gender.
- Technology development and innovation.

Proposals in other areas will be considered.

**SUPPORT MODALITIES**

- Funding can be awarded either for general operating/core support or for specific projects.
- Small, frontline organisations will be prioritised, with annual budgets that do not exceed 450,000 €.
- Larger organisations will be considered only for specific project support.
- Funding will be awarded for the duration of one year.
- Funding will range from 30 000€ – 50 000€ per grant (grant requests should not exceed 50% of the organisation's budget).
- Our total funding for this initial open call is 600 000€.
- Grantees are expected to attend one Network event at the end of the grant period bringing together donors and grantees. The Alliance will support travel and related expenses.

**APPLICATION PROCESS – ELIGIBILITY**

**APPLICANTS**

- Geographic scope: applications from civil society organisations registered and working in the 27 countries of the EU.
- Types of organisation: non-governmental associations, community-based organisations, social enterprises, national or regional funds (regranting is possible).
- Legal status: must be registered as a non-profit with the appropriate national authority.

**PROJECT PROPOSAL**

- The proposal should meet the criteria as laid out above
- The proposal should be based on a one-year implementation schedule.
- Multi-country projects are eligible.

**APPLICATION PROCESS – TIMETABLE**

<b>Application process opens</b>	September 6, 2021
<b>Application deadline</b>	October 6, 2021
<b>Applicants notified of proposal status by email</b>	December 1, 2021
<b>Event with all grantees and donors</b>	Fall 2022

## **GRANT ALLOCATION**

For this initial Fund, the Steering Committee of the Alliance for Gender Equality in Europe, under the auspices of the Network for European Foundations, will make final granting decisions. A Selection Committee of experts will play a participatory role.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Applications should be submitted to [our online platform](#). All applications must include the necessary annexes as indicated in order to be considered (see application form).