

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Call for Proposals – Financial Support to Third Parties – FSTP 3a (Regional Networks)

Project “Our Rights, Our Future!” | EU Grant Contract NDICI HR INTPA/2024/459-151

CfP reference	CfP-OROF-FSTP3a-2026
FSTP modality	FSTP 3a – Regional Networks
Geographical Scope and Lots	FSTP 3a – Regional: Lot 1 – Latin America, Lot 2 – Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Lot 3 – South East Asia, Lot 4 – Sub-Saharan Africa
Submission language	English/Spanish/French/Portuguese
Contracting Authority	COSPE: Lot 1 (Latin America), Lot 2 (MENA); FORUMCIV: Lot 4 (Sub-Saharan Africa); CCPR: Lot 3 (Southeast Asia)
Publication date	03/06/2026
Submission deadline	03/07/2026 11 :59 pm CET
Indicative allocation of Funds (EUR)	EUR 30,000 per lot (4 lots)
Grant size (EUR)	Min EUR 20,000 – Max EUR 30,000
Implementation period	Min 6 months – Max 10 months
Financing modality:	Cost-based
Submission link	Applications FSTP3a
Q&A submission deadline	21/06/2026, questions must be submitted to info.lac@forumciv.org
Information sessions	16/06/2026, 11:00 am CET, via Zoom (English – French) 16/06/2026, 4:00 pm CET, via Zoom (Spanish – Portuguese)

1. Background

1.1 Context

The rights to freedom of association and peaceful assembly are enshrined as fundamental human rights in international law, notably in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and are further reflected in national constitutions and regional human rights systems. These rights are widely recognised as essential to democratic participation and accountability.

However, despite this strong legal framework, their effective enjoyment remains limited in practice. A global trend of shrinking civic space has intensified in recent years, driven by increasing repression of civil society organisations and social movements. According to the latest data from Freedom House reports, 54 countries registered deterioration in 2025 and only around 21% of the world's population lives in countries classified as “Free”, while approximately 40% lives in countries classified as “Not Free”. In parallel, according to the CIVICUS Monitor 2025, 73% of the world's population lives in countries where civic space is restricted or repressed, and nearly 31% lives in contexts where civic space is completely closed.

Governments increasingly use legal, administrative and informal measures—often justified by security or public order concerns—to restrict civic action. These measures limit dissent, weaken independent civil society and undermine democratic governance. As a result, oversight of public authorities and corporations is reduced, access to independent information is constrained, and the capacity to protect and promote the rights of marginalised groups is significantly weakened.

Legal and regulatory barriers, including restrictive rules on registration, operation and funding, combine with repressive practices such as arbitrary arrests, excessive use of force, and surveillance to create a hostile environment for civic engagement. These dynamics are further reinforced by discrimination, social exclusion and entrenched power structures, which disproportionately affect women, LGBTIQ+ persons, Afrodescendants, Indigenous Peoples, human rights defenders, journalists and youth movements.

Civil society actors face overlapping legal, physical, digital, financial and social risks, often compounded by impunity and weak rule of law. These risks are aggravated by psychological stress, social stigma, and economic insecurity, creating a complex and often overwhelming operating environment. Importantly, these risks are not only generated by state actors, but also by private entities, including corporations, criminal networks, or hostile social groups, particularly in contexts marked by conflict, extractive industries, or polarised political environments.

In this context, the gap between formal protections and lived realities highlights the urgent need to strengthen support to CSOs defending freedom of association and peaceful assembly. While these rights are fundamental to democratic governance and human rights systems, their effective protection requires sustained efforts to address both structural and context-specific barriers. Supporting CSOs—especially those operating in high-risk environments or representing marginalised groups—is therefore essential not only to safeguard civic space but also to uphold the broader principles of human rights, participation, and accountability at national, regional, and international levels.

1.2 About the OROF project

The project “Our Rights, Our Future!” (OROF) is funded by the European Union under Grant Contract NDICI HR INTPA/2024/459-151 and implemented by a consortium composed of ForumCiv (lead), COSPE and the Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR), in nine targeted countries of four key Regions (South East Asia: Indonesia and Sri Lanka; Africa: Kenya, Senegal and Eswatini; MENA: Tunisia and Palestine; Latin America: Brazil and Colombia). The action seeks to strengthen CSOs, community-based organisations (CBOs), networks and coalitions – with a particular focus on youth-led or youth-focused actors – to actively, safely and meaningfully participate in the civic space and promote the rights to freedom of association and peaceful assembly at national, regional and global levels.

Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) is a core mechanism of the action. It channels grants to CSOs/CBOs and networks to amplify their advocacy and improve their transformative actions to protect human rights.

In addition, the grantees will have the opportunity to participate in peer exchanges, events, communication and networking initiatives promoted by the project, both regionally and internationally. In particular, the project includes a peer exchange and study visit in each region in 2026 and an international Youth Boot Camp in 2027.

Note: participation in the regional peer exchange/study visit organised by the project is a mandatory activity for grantees. The initiative will gather representatives of the CSOs and networks supported by the projects at country and regional levels for a one-week programme in the region of the Lot. Dates, locations and programs will be communicated to the selected organisations.

2. Objectives and expected results

Specific objective

To advocate for policy changes and accountability for violations of freedom of association and peaceful assembly at regional level.

Expected results

1. Amplified voice of national movements up to regional decision-making processes
2. Increased networking to connect with other allies and key stakeholders
3. Strengthened representation, out-reach and impact of regional networks

3. Eligibility

3.1 Eligible applicants

To be eligible, the applicant must satisfy all of the following conditions at the date of submission:

- Be a youth-led or youth focused regional network or coalition promoting freedom of association and/or peaceful assembly including through advocacy and collective action on thematic areas (e.g., human rights, equality, climate justice, labour rights, rule of law, digital rights, media freedom) that are instrumental to enabling, protecting, or expanding these freedoms.

Regional networks are defined as civil society organizations, platforms or coalitions, that operate within a specific geographic region.

Hold legal status appropriate to the modality:

- must hold legal registration or equivalent recognition in at least one country of the network's area of operation.
- operate in one of the regions covered by this lot.
- have not been excluded under EU rules (insolvency, fraud, corruption, terrorism, child labour, serious professional misconduct, etc.) and is able to sign the Declaration of Honour (Annex IV).

3.2 Co-applicants

One or more members of the network can act as implementing partners for some project's activities, if they meet the eligibility criteria of Section 3.1. In this case they act as co-applicants and can receive funds for the implementation of the activities under their responsibility. Applicant maintains the full liability on the contract.

3.3 Eligible activities

Activities are indicative.

- Awareness, lobbying and/or advocacy campaigns
- Support to the organisation and/or participation to conferences, seminars, workshops, youth exchanges, public events and digital platforms.
- Participation to regional and international decision-making processes for the development/revision/launch of policies, guidelines, financial or programmatic instruments

As input, we attach an indicative and not exhaustive overview of the main UN and regional Human Rights mechanisms to whom civil society organisations can engage in the period covered by this Call.

3.4 Eligible costs

Eligible costs are determined in accordance with the [General Conditions for European Union grants](#) applicable to this contract. As a general rule, costs are eligible if they are:

- Actually incurred by the grantee during the implementation period of the grant. This means that the costs shall relate to activities performed during the implementation period.
- Indicated in the approved budget annexed to the grant agreement.
- Necessary for the implementation of the action.
- The costs are identifiable, verifiable and recorded in the grantee's accounting records and determined according to the applicable accounting standards of the country
- Reasonable, justified and compliant with sound financial management principles, in particular value for money and cost-effectiveness.
- Compliant with applicable tax and social legislation.

Ineligible costs

The following costs are not eligible:

- Debts and debt-service charges; provisions for losses or potential future liabilities.
- Interest owed; doubtful debts.
- Investments.
- Fines, penalties
- Exchange-rate losses
- Costs already declared / financed under another EU grant or other source of funding (no double funding).
- Purchases of land or buildings.
- Recoverable VAT, where the grantee is entitled to recover it.
- Costs related to non-eligible activities
- Credits to third parties;
- Costs incurred by entities other than the lead applicant and any co-applicant;
- Any cost incurred outside the implementation period defined in Section 5.

3.5 Exclusions

Applicants currently subject to any exclusion situation under the EU Financial Regulation (insolvency, conviction for fraud / corruption / terrorist offences / money-laundering / participation in a criminal organisation, serious breach of contractual obligations, false declarations) are not eligible. Applicants will be required to confirm their status by signing the Declaration of Honour at the contracting stage (Annex IV).

4. Financial parameters

4.1 Co-financing

Co-financing is not a required nor a condition for selection. Applicants may declare additional resources (own funds, in-kind contributions from members, contributions from other donors) where these are mobilised. Such declarations are considered in the assessment of

the applicant's sustainability and capacity, but they are not weighted against applicants who do not co-finance.

4.2 Financing modality: Cost-Based

Reimbursement of actual eligible costs incurred by the grantee during implementation, supported by accounting documents.

Documentation required at reporting:

- Detailed financial report with budget-line breakdown of expenditures versus the approved budget.
- Original invoices, receipts and proof of payment (bank transfers, payment orders).
- Payroll records for staff costs.
- Procurement documentation (at least three quotes for purchases above EUR 2,500).
- Travel documentation (boarding passes, per-diem calculations, transport receipts).
- Bank statements covering the grant period.

Risk allocation: financial risk is borne primarily by the grantee, who must return any funds not supported by eligible documentation.

4.3 Disbursement schedule

#	Tranche	% of grant	Trigger / condition for release
1	Pre-financing	40%	Signature of the grant agreement and submission of bank certification.
2	Interim	50%	Approval of the interim narrative and financial report (cost-based).
3	Final balance	10%	Approval of the final report and supporting documentation; reimbursement of any unspent funds.

5. Duration

The grant covers **Min 6 to Max 10 months of activities, plus 1 month for final reporting**. The contract starts on the date of signature by both parties and runs for the period set in the grant agreement.

6. How to apply

6.1 Application documents

The following documents must be submitted at the application stage:

1. Annex I – Concept Note (includes implementation timeline / workplan) (use the OROF template).
2. Annex II – Budget (use the OROF template).

3. Copy of the legal representative's national ID.
4. Legal document of the organisation (statutes, registration certificate or equivalent)

OROF templates (English version) can be downloaded here: [Templates FSTP_English](#).

6.2 Submission method

Submission is by accessing the following link: [Applications FSTP3a](#) to fill a form and upload the application documents:

All documents must be submitted through the above link by:

- 1) Creating a folder named *FSTP3a_[Lot]_[ApplicantName]_[YYYYMMDD]* and
- 2) Save in the folder all documents, with name *FSTP3a_[Lot]_[ApplicantName]_[SpecificDocument]_[YYYYMMDD]*.

6.3 Submission language

Proposals must be submitted in **English, Spanish, French, or Portuguese**. Supporting documents originally produced in another language must be accompanied by a translation into the submission language for the parts directly relevant to the assessment.

6.4 Submission deadline

The deadline for submission is **03/07/2026 11:59 pm CET**. Late submissions — evidenced by the email server timestamp — will not be considered.

6.5 Questions and clarifications

Questions on this CfP may be submitted by email to info.lac@forumciv.org until **21/06/2026**. Answers will be consolidated into a Q&A document published on the OROF channels and shared with all invited applicants.

Two information sessions will be held on **16/06/2026 at 11:00 am CET** via [Zoom](#) (English/French), and **at 4:00 pm CET** via [Zoom](#) (Spanish/Portuguese). Attendance is recommended but not mandatory.

7. Evaluation and selection

7.1 Evaluation process

Evaluation is conducted in two phases:

1. Administrative compliance check — verifies that the application is complete, submitted on time and in the correct format. Non-compliant applications are not evaluated on the merits.

¹ Lot 1 – Latin America, Lot 2 – Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Lot 3 – Southeast Asia, Lot 4 - Sub-Saharan Africa

2. Technical and financial evaluation – substantively assesses the proposal against the evaluation grid (Annex – Evaluation criteria and score). Each award committee member scores the proposal independently; scores are then consolidated.

7.2 Evaluation criteria

Proposals are scored against the evaluation criteria and score annexed to this CfP, which covers:

- Relevance – alignment with the CfP objective, and the regional and global context.
- Quality of design – coherence between objective, results, activities, indicators and risks.
- Methodology – soundness of the implementation approach, including cross-cutting principles (do-no-harm, gender, youth leadership, inclusion of marginalised groups).
- Capacity – institutional, financial and operational capacity of the applicant to deliver.
- Sustainability and impact – likelihood that results will be sustained beyond the grant period.
- Budget – realistic, value-for-money and consistent with proposed activities.

7.3 Indicative timeline

Step	Indicative date
Launch of the CfP	03/06/2026
Information sessions	16/06/2026
Q&A submission deadline	21/06/2026
Q&A document published	25/06/2026
Submission deadline	03/07/2026 11 :59 pm CET
Administrative compliance check completed	10/07/2026
Technical / financial evaluation completed	17/07/2026
Notification of award	24/07/2026
Contracting completed	31/07/2026
Activities start	03/08/2026

7.4 Notification of results

All applicants will be notified of the outcome by email. Applicants whose proposals are selected will be invited to provide the contracting documents listed in Section 8.

8. Contracting

After selection and notification of results, sub-grant agreements will be signed between the Contracting Authority (COSPE, CCPR or ForumCiv) and the grantee organisation.

8.1 Documents required at contracting stage

Selected applicants must provide the following documents before signature of the grant agreement:

- Annex III – Declaration of Honour (signed by the legal representative).
- Annex IV – Bank Information and Legal Representative form (signed and stamped where applicable).
- Tax registration certificate, where applicable.

9. Implementation and reporting

9.1 Reporting cycle

The reporting cycle is defined in the grant agreement. As a default:

- An interim report (narrative + financial) is submitted at the mid-point of the implementation period, triggering release of the interim tranche.
- A final report (narrative + financial) is submitted within one month of the end of the activities, triggering release of the final balance.

9.2 Reporting documents

Reporting templates are provided as part of the grant agreement package and follow the modality of the grant:

- Annex V – Narrative Report Template (single template, used for both interim and final reports).
- Annex VI – Financial Report Template.

9.3 Amendments to the grant agreement

Substantial changes require a written amendment to the grant agreement signed by both parties. The following are considered substantial:

- Reallocation of budget funds exceeding 25% of any budget heading.
- Changes in activities.
- Changes in expected results.
- Extension requests, within the maximum implementation period defined in Section 5.

Other minor changes may be notified by email and require written approval from the Contracting Authority.

10. Communication and visibility

Grantees must comply with the EU visibility rules applicable to actions financed under the EU external action. As a minimum:

- Display the EU emblem and the standard “Co-funded by the European Union” acknowledgement on all visible communication products financed by the grant.
- Mention the OROF project and the Contracting Authority (COSPE, CCPR or ForumCiv as applicable per lot) in public communications.
- Apply a do-no-harm and risk-mitigation lens to visibility – in particular, do not expose activists, sources or beneficiaries to additional risk through identifiable visual or textual references. Where exposure is a risk, anonymisation or aggregation must be used.
- Submit communication products (or their drafts) to the Contracting Authority for review prior to public release where required by the grant agreement.
- Comply with the OROF visual identity guidelines provided as part of the contracting package.

11. Capacity building, technical assistance and monitoring

Throughout the grant period, OROF makes available on demand the following support, based on the needs identified by grantees:

- Collective mentoring sessions to support the preparation of applications (info-sessions, Q&A sessions).
- Collective mentoring sessions during implementation for peer sharing of the experiences, capitalisation of best practices and to address issues, doubts and problems related to FSTP implementation.

Monitoring is centralised under the OROF consortium. Each partner is responsible for monitoring activities in the countries and regions for which it is the contracting partner. Grantees must facilitate monitoring visits and provide reasonable access to documentation, sites and beneficiaries within the limits of confidentiality and do-no-harm considerations.

12. Data protection, ethics and safeguarding

Personal data collected in the framework of this CfP is processed in compliance with applicable EU and national data-protection legislation, in particular Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 and Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). Data is processed only for the purposes of evaluation, contracting, monitoring, reporting and audit, and is retained for the periods set in the EU contractual provisions. Applicants and grantees may exercise their rights of access, rectification and erasure by contacting the OROF data-protection focal point.

Grantees must adhere to the OROF safeguarding standards – regarding the protection of children and vulnerable groups, prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH), and confidentiality of sources. A breach of these standards constitutes grounds for termination of the grant agreement.

All activities are implemented under a Do-No-Harm approach. Where activities expose participants, sources or activists to risk, applicants must explain in their proposal the mitigation measures put in place.

13. Annexes referenced in this Call

The following templates and annexes form part of this Call for Proposals package:

#	Document	When required
I	Concept Note (includes workplan)	Application stage — all applicants.
II	Budget	Application stage — all applicants. Use the version matching the modality of this CfP.
III	Declaration of Honour	Contracting stage — all selected applicants.
IV	Bank Information and Legal Representative	Contracting stage — all selected applicants.
V	Narrative Report Template	Reporting stage — interim and final.
VI	Financial Report Template	Reporting stage — cost-based grants.
—	Evaluation criteria and score	For information only.

14. Contact

All correspondence regarding this CfP must be addressed to: info.lac@forumciv.org with the subject "OROF FSTP3a_[Lot]_[ApplicantName]_[YYYYMMDD]"