



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Local Climate Justice Activism in Central and Eastern Europe

Open Society Institute – Sofia Foundation (OSIS)

www.osis.bg

Eligible countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia

As the effects of the climate crisis are deepening, it is increasingly evident that the burden of adapting to and managing the unfolding climate emergency will disproportionately fall on the most vulnerable and marginalised communities. These include populations with precarious livelihoods, living in isolated locations remote from social services, or in substandard housing. These are also communities that often face difficulty in raising their voices and are less able to take advantage of the opportunities related to climate change mitigation. The transition towards a sustainable economy may aggravate such inequalities and further compound the situation for the most vulnerable parts of society.

In this context, there is a growing need for an inclusive discussion about a fair distribution of the burdens and benefits of climate adaptation. The debate belongs to everyone, not just the organisations specialised in climate protection or the affluent governments in the West. Communities across Europe must be included to devise solutions that ensure a fair transition. To date, citizens of Central and Eastern Europe have largely missed out on and risk being left behind in these conversations, despite being significantly affected by future decisions and policies.

Furthermore, the fallout of the Covid-19 crisis, with the economic and social shocks it creates, will be especially severe in the CEE region, bringing about unpredictable political consequences and likely creating tensions between job preservation and climate change policies. Yet, effective climate action



and a swift post-pandemic economic recovery can be mutually reinforcing. Existing EU-level initiatives such as the Just Transition Fund could be an integral part of the post-pandemic recovery, while also being strengthened by locally rooted interventions, responding to the needs of vulnerable communities.

The Open Society Institute – Sofia Foundation (OSIS) with the support of Open Society Foundations (OSFs) and in cooperation with the Open Society European Network (OSEN), consisting of civil society organizations in Central and Eastern Europe¹, launches a call for proposals by civil society organisations seeking to support the inclusion of so far marginalized and excluded groups and communities to address climate justice issues in the countries of Central Eastern Europe. The climate justice perspective links human rights, social justice, and general principles of equality with the transformation of our economies to ensure environmental sustainability.

SPECIFIC FUNDING PRIORITIES

- Projects engaging local stakeholders in the areas of climate action and environmental sustainability, which aim to address local problems related to climate justice and to advance climate justice at local and community levels.
- Projects mobilising and empowering vulnerable and underrepresented groups, potentially affected by climate change and related policies.
- Projects introducing innovative forms of citizen engagement, mobilizing public support or pursuing impact on decision-making with regards to climate justice at local or community levels.

We prioritize projects led by local, grassroots climate justice activists and local CSOs with activities taking place outside of capital cities, while not excluding capital-based organizations and groups.

The projects may include cooperation with other CSOs, municipal authorities, trade unions and workers' representatives, research and academic institutions, business organizations, media or other relevant stakeholders as partners to the lead applicant organization if this contributes in a meaningful way to climate justice goals. Political parties are not eligible as a lead applicant or as a partner.

¹ The OSEN members include the Open Society Institute – Sofia (Bulgaria), the Open Society Fund Prague (Czech Republic), the Open Estonia Foundation (Estonia); Foundation for an Open Society DOTS (Latvia); Open Lithuania Foundation (Lithuania); Stefan Batory Foundation (Poland); Open Society Foundation Bratislava (Slovakia); Mirovni Inštitut (Slovenia) and the Center for Policy Innovation (Romania).



WHO CAN APPLY?

The applicants should meet each of the conditions listed below:

- Registered civil society organisations or non-formal groups represented by a registered civil society organisation
- Not-for-profit organizations, driven by open society values such as democracy, equality and climate justice
- Non-partisan organizations
- Based in the eligible countries

Please, note that the supported projects within the Local Climate Justice Activism in Central and Eastern Europe cannot engage in the following definition of lobbying: “Communication with the general public that refers to and reflects a view on “specific legislation” or a specific legislative proposal and includes a call to action. A call to action in this context means encouraging the general public to contact a legislator.”

OSI- Sofia will not fund partisan political activities. Support for political parties or elected officials is not eligible. Political party–affiliated associations are likewise not eligible to apply.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The proposal, accompanied by a budget template, information about the application and team members, will need to respond to the following questions:

1. What priority/ies is the project targeting?

What aspect of climate justice does the project address? Describe the specific aspects the project aims to address, as well as the opportunities and risks associated with your approach.

2. Context and prior work

Outline what has been done about it already, any previous efforts (including research, advocacy or activism) by you or others to tackle the issue(s) at hand in the country, including specific successes or failures, and how your project builds on past lessons learned.



3. *What will you do about the issue(s) and how do you intend to go about it?*

Provide an overview of activities and outputs within the project, including a timeline, methodology and work-plan that maps your suggested proposal for promoting climate justice issues. Describe explicitly the link between your activities and the issue at hand. Include a table of planned activities with a timeline for implementation, expected results, necessary resources and responsible organization.

4. *Risk management*

Elaborate on the potential risks for your project, and your plans to address them.

5. *Composition of partnership and organisational introduction*

Explain why your organisation(s) or group is/are best positioned to carry out the proposed project. Explain how your efforts will contribute to local actions that effectively address climate justice concerns. Information about the project team members should be included as specified in the application template.

6. *Proposed budget and timeframe*

Include an estimated overall project budget and timeframe. The contribution from this call to each project will not exceed \$25,000 and the duration of projects should not be longer than 12 months. If you have already secured (or are negotiating) co-funding, please indicate the amount and source(s).

Grant amount and grant period

The contribution from this call to each project will not exceed \$25,000 and the duration of projects should not be longer than 12 months. Co-funding from other sources is not required. For additional information, please read the budget guidelines in the provided Excel template (PART C: BUDGET). The projects are expected to start in late 2020 or early 2021.



Submission deadline: 15 September 2020 COB

Submission guidelines:

Applicants should submit information about the organization and partners (if any), full project proposal, budget, timeframe and short bios of team members in English using the provided templates in the [Download Files section](#) of the Local Climate Justice Activism in CEE call at www.osis.bg. Please, do not send the completed document templates in pdf format, but only in either Word or Excel as provided. OSIS may contact you to provide further information if necessary upon reviewing your application documentation. You may be asked to resubmit corrected parts of the application with missing information or which do not follow the guidelines within a specified period. In case of serious omissions in the application process, the application may not be considered for further assessment. Applications are limited to one per organisation/informal group.

Please, send the documents to mlessenski@osi.bg until 15 September 2020 COB with the e-mail subject “climate justice proposal”. Please, also note that:

- The documents should be submitted in English.
- When sending the application, we advise you to use the email of the contact person for the proposal. This email will be used as the main channel for communicating with the applicant.
- Please, make sure that you receive from OSIS your application reference number, which will be used as a main identifier for your project proposal.

Q&A

For questions related to the call for proposals, please write to Mr. Marin Lessenski at mlessenski@osi.bg. Your questions will be answered within five working days. The review of questions will be stopped 10 working days before the submission deadline. OSIS reserves the right not to answer inquiries which are not directly related to this call for proposals as well as specific questions, which answers might be construed as a consultation on the substantial aspects of the proposal.

Application checklist of necessary documents:



PART A: INFORMATION ABOUT THE APPLICANT (Word template)

PART B: PROJECT PROPOSAL (Word template)

PART C: PROJECT BUDGET (Excel template)

PART D: PROJECT TIMEFRAME (Excel template)

PART E: SHORT BIOS PROJECT TEAM (Word template)

Selection Timeline

The results of the call for proposals will be announced no earlier than 24 October 2020. Incomplete (including those applications, which were not corrected in time) and late submissions, submission not in English as well as those outside of the thematic scope of the call for proposals will not be considered for further assessment. The assessment will be done by an international Selection Committee. Successful applicants will be contacted. OSIS will not send individualized letters to unsuccessful applicants and reserves the right not to announce the specific reasons for the assessment score.

Please note that proposals will not be judged based on their English-language proficiency, but based on their quality.

It is expected that an estimate of 20 project proposals in total will be financed within this call for proposals. As the proposals will be evaluated based on their quality and merits, the awarded grants will not necessarily cover each of the eligible countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia).

Information on Data Protection Policy

The applicants will voluntarily submit data necessary for the call for proposals and application process. The Open Society Institute – Sofia Foundation follows the necessary EU and national regulations on data protection. OSIS is a data controller within the meaning of the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) entered in the public Register of Data Controllers with ID No. 90260. For more information on the Data Protection Policy of OSIS, please see <https://osis.bg/?p=2521&lang=en>