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THINK TANKS FOR THE FUTURE OF EU ENLARGEMENT

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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■ THE NEXT MILE OF EU ENLARGEMENT

There is currently a renewed momentum in the EU enlargement policy with a fresh commitment to the Western Balkans countries and the granting of candidate status to Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia. This comes 20 years after the 2003 Thessaloniki Summit and the promise of an EU membership perspective to the Western Balkans, but it did not live up to the hopes invested in it. In this period of lost time and opportunities, the accession has stagnated. EU model and narrative have been seriously challenged by competing geopolitical rivals and regional security risks remained high. The EU has its share of responsibility, but the slow reform pace, state capture, democratic backsliding - and sometimes lack of genuine will to accede - in the candidate countries did not help the cause. But there is a genuine chance as the renewed EU enlargement now encompasses a region from Skopje and Tirana to Kyiv and Kishinev. For many, the current drive has been primarily a geopolitically driven response to the Russian war against Ukraine. Indeed, the war has been a wake-up call for the EU, but rejuvenating EU enlargement can also address the broader set of challenges and opportunities for the EU on a regional and global scale. This historical window of opportunity should not be wasted and the next few years are essential in keeping the momentum of EU enlargement on track.

In this challenging geopolitical context, there is a need to keep alive and further fine-tune the process of EU enlargement towards the Western Balkans, Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia, for the sake of the preservation of peace, security, and democratic order of the EU, its member states, and the European continent. There is a need to incorporate the perspective of think tanks from the EU candidate countries on the EU accession process as well as allow them to contribute as sources of information and partners for leading think tanks in EU capitals working on these issues. Such an approach would contribute to tackling the complexity, interplay, and strategic benefits of an enlarged EU for the continent's security and economic prosperity. This will ultimately result in developing deep expertise and reinvigorating the public debates on the future of the EU enlargement with new authority, competence, and fresh ideas on behalf of the think tank community in the EU, the EU candidate countries, and beyond.

The **Open Society Institute – Sofia Foundation (OSIS)** with the support of the **Open Society Foundations (OSFs)**¹ launched the **Think Tanks for the Future of EU Enlargement Program (TFEP)** to support initiatives of think tanks in the EU candidate and potential candidate countries seeking to contribute to the EU enlargement process. The Program partners closely with key think tanks involved in the EU enlargement policy, including [DGAP](#) in Germany, [Jacques Delors Institute](#) in France, [Clingendael Institute](#) in the Netherlands, and [Carnegie Europe](#). The overarching goal of TFEP is to support initiatives of think tanks in the EU candidate countries contributing to keeping alive and further fine-tuning the process of EU enlargement through pursuing impact on decision-making and/or mobilizing public support within the EU member states.

■ WHO CAN APPLY?

The applicants should meet each of the conditions listed below:

- Think tanks;
- Not-for-profit organizations, driven by open society values;
- Non-partisan organizations;
- Based in the eligible countries.

OSIS will not fund partisan political activities. Support for political parties or elected officials is not eligible. For further restrictions, please see the end of this document.

■ ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES AND PRIORITY REGIONS

The Program covers the EU candidate countries of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine, and the potential EU candidate of Kosovo². Applicants from the Western Balkans will be given priority to stimulate the accession process in the region, which has stagnated in the past 20 years. Support to applicants from the other EU candidate countries will be provided in special circumstances.

For eligibility exemptions in extraordinary cases, please enquire OSIS.

■ FUNDING PRIORITIES

- The projects should follow the overarching goal of contributing to keeping alive and further fine-tuning the process of EU enlargement towards the Western Balkans, Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia through pursuing impact on decision-making and/or mobilizing public support within the EU member states.
- Projects that ensure high-quality expert input for improving and deepening the expertise on EU enlargement in the new context. Projects that address current or upcoming concerns and issues of EU or national policy-makers and public opinion concerning the EU enlargement policy.

² Applicants from Kosovo, who meet the conditions, are eligible to apply under all Funding Priorities, Specific Issues, Supported Types of Activities, and types of grants, listed in this Call for Proposals, pertinent to the EU candidate countries.

- The Program prioritizes projects that involve cooperation with any of the think tanks that are partners of this Program ([DGAP](#), Notre Europe - [Jacques Delors Institute](#), the [Clingendael Institute](#), [Carnegie Europe](#)) or other prominent think tanks in the EU, involved in the EU enlargement agenda.
- The projects' main target groups are expected to be major stakeholders, decision-makers, public opinion and other relevant groups within the EU, especially in countries considered to play major role in the process - Germany, France, and the Netherlands, among others. In addition to the pro-EU and pro-enlargement target groups, these may include other important groups such as Euro-sceptic stakeholders as well as generally pro-EU groups, but which are sceptical about enlargement.
- The proposals may focus on one or more EU candidate countries, one or more EU member states, or the EU as a whole.
- The proposed projects are expected to include innovative forms of presenting and/or communicating the project goals and findings to keep enlargement in the focus of the main stakeholders in the EU and on the positive policy and public debates agenda in the EU.

■ SPECIFIC ISSUES

Currently, there are four specific issues identified as important for funding:

1. ADDRESSING THE CONCERNS OF DECISION-MAKERS, POLITICIANS AND THE PUBLIC OPINION WITHIN THE EU.

Proposals within this area should focus on how the Western Balkans candidate countries, or other accession countries can contribute to addressing a number of topical concerns with a focus on Germany, France, the Netherlands, Brussels, and other key stakeholders and audiences in the EU.

These include, but are not limited to the following topics:

- **THIRD-COUNTRY IMMIGRATION** – how enlargement towards Western Balkans and the other accession countries could contribute to the EU addressing immigration from third countries (i.e. immigrants and asylum seekers from countries outside the EU and the EU candidate countries).
- **ENERGY SECURITY OF THE EU** – how the EU candidate countries could contribute to the energy security policy of the EU.
- **ECONOMIC SECURITY OF THE EU** – how the EU candidate countries could contribute to securing supply chains and production (reshoring, friend-shoring), critical raw materials, etc.
- **CLIMATE ACTION OF THE EU** - how enlargement towards the Western Balkans and the other accession countries could contribute to achieving the climate action goals of the EU, energy transition, etc.
- **GEOPOLITICS AND THIRD-COUNTRY INFLUENCE** - how enlargement towards the Western Balkans and the other accession countries could contribute to achieving the foreign and security policy goals of the EU, and fend off third-country influence by EU's strategic competitors and security challenges.
- **THE EU DIGITALIZATION AGENDA** – how the EU candidate countries can contribute to the EU digitalization agenda (e.g. digital societies, advanced digital technologies, digital economy, etc.).

2. THE COST OF NON-ENLARGEMENT.

Proposals under this category should address the “what if” question about what costs - economic, political, geopolitical or other - the EU would incur if the enlargement is substantially delayed or effectively stopped.

3. INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO RESOLVING BILATERAL ISSUES OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES AS IMPEDIMENTS TO THE EU ACCESSION PROCESS AND EU MEMBERSHIP.

Proposals within this category may address issues among EU candidate countries and EU member states, between EU candidate countries, or between EU candidates and EU potential candidates, or involve third countries, with a priority on cases such as between Bulgaria and North Macedonia, Greece and Albania, Kosovo and Serbia.

In addition, proposals planned for 2024 may take into account the upcoming EU political cycle concerning the European Parliament elections on 6-9 June 2024 and the setting up of the new European Parliament and European Commission in the summer and autumn of 2024.

4. THE EU AND THE EU ENLARGEMENT POLICY DEBATES

The EU can be very different when the next accessions start taking place. There is the beginning of debates on how the EU needs to reform to prepare for enlargement or if and how EU enlargement policy could change in the future to address the challenges. Proposals under this topic should involve issues such as:

- How to address the concerns of implementing the **EU enlargement policy the wrong way**, e.g. including by admitting countries that are not sufficiently prepared and ready?
- How can the EU candidate countries contribute to the debate of the **EU institutional reform** in which an EU composed of more than 30 Member States would operate (considering issues such as budget, decision-making, institutional dynamics, cohesion policies, CAP, etc.)?
- What would broader cooperation of EU candidate countries with the EU in other formats and other issues entail for the enlargement policy and how to prevent another period of “enlargement fatigue”?

SUPPORTED TYPES OF ACTIVITIES

The supported types of activities of the project, include but are not limited to:

- Policy research with preparing reports, policy briefs, visualizations, etc.;
- Communication of findings and recommendations;
- Events, public debates or short-term visits;
- Partnership projects involving think tanks from two or more EU candidate countries or EU candidate countries and EU member states (please, note that as a rule only the activities of applicants from an EU candidate country covered by this Program are eligible for financial support).
- Other relevant activities.

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR PROJECT GRANTS

The Think Tanks for the Future of EU Enlargement Program (TFEP) includes two types of grants – **project grants and short-term travel grants**. Proposals submitted for support under any of these two types of grants should correspond to the Program's overall goals, priorities, specific issues, and eligibility requirements to be considered for funding.

This section concerns **project grants** and you can find an explanation about short-term travel grants below.

The applicants for project grants should submit a project proposal, accompanied by a detailed budget and information about the applicants, answering the following questions, included in the application forms:

1. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

Please, describe the context of the proposed activities and why is it necessary to carry out the project.

2. PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Please, describe the main goal of the proposal and its objectives and how they relate to the funding priorities of the call for proposals.

3. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Please, list and describe briefly the main planned activities in the project that correspond to the goal and objectives, how they will be carried out, their sequence, and duration. If applicant organizations have partners in this project, please describe their role and involvement.

4. TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

What are the potential risks and risk mitigation plans?

6. SUSTAINABILITY PLANS

How the project results will be sustained after the end of the project?

7. WHY IS THE APPLICANT BEST POSITIONED TO UNDERTAKE THE PROJECT ACTIVITIES?

Please, describe briefly the organization, including the date established, the number of employees, main areas of activity, main achievements, and why is it best positioned to undertake the project activities, including up to 3 projects among those implemented in the last three years demonstrating the organization's capacity to carry out the proposed activities. In the case of new organizations, the capacity of participating staff should be highlighted, following the guidelines for organizations.

8. PARTNERSHIP WITH EU-BASED THINK TANKS

If applicants have a partnership or are planning to establish a partnership with a think tank, based in an EU member state, please describe the nature of this partnership, the role of the partner, and the main contact person of the partner organization. Please, note that such partners are generally not eligible to receive funding under this Program.

9. PROJECT TEAM

Please, list the main project teams and submit their short bios (short biographical profiles relevant to the project).

Project budget

This call for proposal uses lump sum funding that removes actual cost reporting to reduce the administrative burden for the contracted organizations. The project proposal must be submitted with a detailed budget in USD, using the provided Excel form. For more information, please see the Detailed Budget Application section below.

■ DETAILED BUDGET APPLICATION FOR PROJECT GRANTS

Applicants should justify the amount of financial support requested by completing the detailed Project Budget application form, in which funds are allocated to the activities for the implementation of the initiative. On this basis, the amount of financial support for the implementation of the activities is determined in the form of a lump sum grant: fixed amount of financial support for the project activities.

The budget form as an Excel file (Part B: Project Budget) is available on the Program's website thenextmile.eu and should be completed in English according to these guidelines. The completed budget should accompany the project proposal form. The budget should be in US dollars.

The total amount of financial support requested, calculated in the budget, should match the amount indicated in the application form. If the amounts entered in the application form differ from those in the attached budget, the amount indicated in the attached budget will be considered valid.

The budget should be completed following the activities identified in the project proposal. Project management and reporting should not be shown as a separate activity.

Direct costs

The budget can cover direct costs directly linked to the implementation of the activities concerned and their reporting, within the timeframe of the initiative, covering the following cost categories:

- Wages and salaries under employment contracts: the proportionate share of the costs of wages and salaries, social and health contributions and other costs for the staff involved in the implementation of the activities, corresponding to the time planned for the implementation of the activities concerned (months/days/hours), including the management of the activities concerned. The unit cost (monthly, daily or hourly rate) should be in accordance with the terms of the employment contract and the employer's usual practice.
- Remuneration of individuals under part-time employment contracts or service contracts for the performance of activities in accordance with the organisation's usual practice.
- Costs for the delivery of services and materials necessary to carry out the specific activities;
- Travel expenses for team members and event participants.

Indirect costs

To cover the applicant's indirect and administrative costs, including office rent, communication and stationery costs, accounting and administrative management, indirect costs to the share of 10% of the direct costs can be calculated in the budget. Indirect costs should be charged to the relevant activities.

Applicants are not required to have their own contribution, including in-kind contributions in the form of voluntary work. The financial support will be granted to the applicant, who will be solely responsible for its use and for achieving the objectives of the project.

Ineligible costs

The following types of expenditure should not be included when completing the detailed budget:

- Costs for activities that are covered by another source of funding.
- Costs for periods outside the planned implementation period of the project: before the start of the implementation of the project, including proposal preparation, and after the completion of the implementation of the project
- Voluntary labour and other forms of use of non-financial contributions provided by third parties;
- Reimbursement of costs incurred by organizations which are not partners in the implementation of the project and which are not eligible to receive funding under this Program;
- Provision of aid to third parties;
- Exchange rate differences and bank charges.

For each project activity, the required number of budget lines should be entered, describing the specific costs within the specific activity (e.g. event organization, product development, etc.).

As part of the evaluation of the proposals received, a review of the budget will be carried out, including a technical check, an assessment of the degree of feasibility and cost-effectiveness, the breakdown by activity/sections, phases. The cost estimates should be reasonable and non-excessive. As a result of this review, OSIS may recommend to the applicant a budget reduction and/or reallocation of the budget between activities and/or between distinct implementation phases.

Lump sum grant: Fixed amount of financial support for the implementation of the activities of the project in accordance with the agreement for financial support.

OSIS approves a budget by activities and determines a fixed amount for the agreed implementation for each activity.

The final amount of financial support will be determined on the basis of the fixed amounts for the implemented project activities.

The amount of financial support will be reduced:

- In case of incomplete or inadequate implementation of activities compared to the approved project proposal. In these cases, OSIS will set a value corresponding to the actual implementation;
- In case of double financing of the project from different funding sources.

The scheme for reporting on the implementation of activities

Depending on the possibilities for interim reporting on completed activities, in accordance with their implementation timeline and the amount of funding, the review and negotiation process will determine whether the beneficiary is required to submit an interim implementation report or whether the beneficiary will report on the implementation of the activities after the completion of the project.

The payment scheme to beneficiaries

REPORTING SCHEME	ADVANCE PAYMENT	INTERIM PAYMENT	FINAL PAYMENT
With an interim report	Up to 40 % of the budget	The total amount of the advance and interim payment may not exceed 80 % of the budget.	The remaining funds are defined as the difference between the total amount to finance the approved project activities and the advance payment plus the transferred interim payment.
No interim report	Up to 70 % of the budget	Not applicable.	The remaining funds are defined as the difference between the total amount to finance the approved project activities and the transferred advance payment.

In the event of identified problems, which are related to the implementation and reporting of activities, OSIS may decide that no interim payment will be made. In this case, the funds covering the cost of implemented activities will be transferred to the beneficiary after the approval of the final report on the implementation of the activities.

Reporting

The beneficiary is obliged to keep records demonstrating the implementation of activities.

The beneficiary is obliged to prepare narrative (technical) reports - an interim report in cases when this is specified in the agreement, and a final report - on the activities carried out following the form provided by OSIS.

The period covered by the report(s) and the deadline(s) for their submission will be agreed with the beneficiary.

The volume of financing of activities is determined with the approval of their implementation. The beneficiary is not required to submit to the OSIS a separate financial report on the amount of expenditure actually incurred.

OSIS will inform the beneficiary about: the total amount of approved financial support after the approval of the interim and final narrative (technical) reports; reasons for not approving activities as completed or approved as only partially implemented; the amount of financial corrections for incomplete/inadequate implementation.

In case certain activities have not been accepted by OSIS as implemented, or accepted with corrections in the amount of funding due to incomplete or inadequate implementation, the beneficiary has the right to provide additional information justifying their implementation within 15 working days.

■ SHORT TERM-TRAVEL GRANTS

The Program may also provide short-term travel grants in select cases only for representatives from think tanks from the eligible countries, who will be keynote speakers, presenters at panels at notable public events, guest lecturers, research partners, or similar activities, which correspond to the overall goals, priorities, requirements, and restrictions of the Think Tanks for the Future of EU Enlargement program as announced in the call for proposals.

The travel grants will be based on average unit costs per travel:

- Airfare (or other long-distance travel) cost per 1 traveller: 400 USD; other local travel costs per 1 traveller: 50 USD.
- Accommodation per night: 150 USD.
- Per diems for 1 day: 100 USD.

Sample travel cost calculation for 1 travel covering airfare and other travel cost, accommodation 2 nights and per diem 3 days: 1050 USD, which includes travel costs 450 USD; accommodation 300 USD; per diem 300 USD.

The beneficiary should submit documentary proof of the trip (boarding pass) and for participation in the event (agenda, photos), there is no required submission of documents indicating the actual cost (invoices).

Please, note that if an organization has applied with another proposal to the Program or its project has been supported under the Program, it generally cannot apply for a separate short-term travel grant. In such cases, the planned travel should be included in the project proposal in question as an integral part of the activities.

For short-term travel grants, there is a separate application form with additional information, which is available at the website thenextmile.eu, Support to Think Tanks, Application Forms.

The short-term travel grants are subject to the Program's overall goals, priorities, specific issues and eligibility requirements and restrictions, the same as those for project grants.

As a rule, supported short-term travel grants will be reimbursed within a month after the travel report has been received and approved by OSIS.

■ GRANT AMOUNTS AND GRANT PERIODS

The grant amounts and the grant periods are not strictly predefined and depend on the project's goal and activities. However, please keep in mind the following considerations:

- The total indicative budget of the Program available for providing financial support to projects is 520,000 USD (this does not include short-term travel grants, please see below), of which for projects approved in 2024 up to 300,000 USD, and the unspent budget will be allocated to fund projects in 2025.
- The indicative amount for financial support per project grant is between 10,000 and 40,000 USD, and the indicative number of 10-15 projects are expected to be supported in 2024.
- The indicative budget of the program for supporting short-term travel grants is about 22,000, of which about 11,000 USD for 2024.
- This means support may no longer be provided within the calendar year when the project grants and short-term travel grants limits are reached and will commence in the next calendar year.
- Please, note that the cut-off date for activities of supported projects is 31 March 2026, and as a rule, no new proposals will be accepted after 20 December 2025 (OSIS reserves the right to change this policy, please check the website thenextmile.eu for updates).
- Co-funding from other sources is not required.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND SELECTION PROCESS

Proposals can be submitted at any time until 20 December 2025 and will be evaluated on a rolling basis (OSIS reserves the right to change this policy, please check the website thenextmile.eu for updates). Upon submission of the proposal, applicants will be notified about the duration of the review of the submitted proposal, which is expected to be about 2 months, and when to expect the results. Applicants may be asked to resubmit revised parts of the application with missing information or which do not follow the guidelines within a specified period.

The project grants and short-term travel grants have different application forms. However, proposals submitted for support under both of these two types of grants should correspond to the program's overall goals, priorities, specific issues and eligibility requirements to be considered for funding.

Incomplete applications, including those that were not corrected in time, submissions 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 proposals will be evaluated based on their quality and merits, following the criteria described below. Proposals with a budget up to or equal to 10,000 USD will be evaluated by OSIS and approved by the OSIS executive director. Proposals with a budget over 10,000 USD will be evaluated by a specially convened international Grant Selection Committee and recommended to OSIS for funding.

The assessment will be done along the following criteria: relevance, feasibility, impact, and cost-effectiveness:

RELEVANCE:

- Relevance to the overarching goal of the Think Tanks for the Future of EU Enlargement Program;
- Relevance to the funding priorities of the call for proposals;
- Relevance to the identified specific issues;
- Clear understanding of the context and the issues at hand;
- Relevance to the identified target groups.

FEASIBILITY:

- Clear link between the proposed goals, objectives, and activities;
- Realistic work program and timeframe;
- Capacity of the applicant, including input of the partners (if any);
- The extent to which the project includes innovative forms of presenting and/or communicating the project goals and findings;
- Risk management.

IMPACT:

- Demonstrated ambition and expected impact on public debates or policy-making processes;
- Level of engagement of target groups and other stakeholders;
- Sustainability of results.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS:

- The efficiency with which resources will be utilized to achieve the project's objectives and deliverables;
- The project budget estimates are reasonable and non-excessive;
- The project does not duplicate previous or existing activities in the thematic area;
- Cost-effectiveness relative to the resources of the TFEP

OSIS may require from selected applicants, considered for funding, changes in the proposals and the budgets if this is deemed necessary for improving the proposals.

The proposals will be evaluated according to the program's procedures, noted above, and applicants will be notified of the result. OSIS reserves the right not to announce the specific reasons for the rejection or the assessment result to unsuccessful applicants.

The **application forms** are available at thenextmile.eu, Support to Think Tanks, Application Forms. Please, send the documents in Word and Excel as per the provided forms, and also sign and send the completed proposal and budget in PDF formats (using either an electronic signature or a scanned document in PDF).

When sending the application, we advise applicants 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.

The prepared application package for **project proposals**, consisting of information about the applicant and description of the proposal (Part A in Word) and proposed budget (Part B in Excel), with signed Part A (proposal) and Part B (budget) in PDF format **should be sent to the OSIS contact e-mail at mlessenski@osi.bg with the e-mail subject "TFEP proposal"**.

For **short-term travel grants**, there is only one form - Short-Term Travel Form (Word), which should be sent in Word and as a signed PDF format to the OSIS contact e-mail at mlessenski@osi.bg with the e-mail subject "TFEP proposal".

■ APPLICATION FORMS

The application forms are available online at thenextmile.eu, Support to Think Tanks, Application Forms.

For project proposals **for project grants**, there are two application forms:

- PART A: PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM (WORD)
- PART B: PROJECT BUDGET FORM (EXCEL)

For short-term travel grants, the application form is:

- SHORT-TERM TRAVEL GRANT APPLICATION FORM (WORD)

■ REPORTING AND LUMP SUM BUDGETING FORMS

The reporting and lump sum budgeting forms are for supported projects only and **should not be filled in by applicants** at the time of application. They are available online at thenextmile.eu, Support to Think Tanks, Reporting Documents:

- INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT FORM (WORD)
- FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT FORM (WORD)
- SHORT-TERM TRAVEL GRANT REPORT FORM (WORD)
- LUMP SUM BUDGETING FORM (EXCEL)

■ Q&A

For questions related to the call for proposals, please write to Mr. Marin Lessenski at mlessenski@osi.bg. Questions will be answered within five working days. OSIS reserves the right not to answer inquiries which are not directly related to this call for proposals.

■ 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 [here](#).

■ RESTRICTIONS FOR FUNDING

The following restrictions, among others, apply for the funding under the current Think Tanks for the Future of EU Enlargement Program (TFEP):

- The support provided may not be used for any attempt to engage in partisan political activity, to influence the outcome of any specific public election, or to carry on directly or indirectly, any voter registration drive;
- The support provided may not be used for engagement 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.”;
- The support provided may not be used for, directly or indirectly, in support of activities:
 - prohibited by U.S. laws related to combatting terrorism or money laundering.
 - involving persons identified on the List of Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) (treasury.gov/sdn), or entities owned or controlled by such persons;
 - involving persons or entities operating, organized, or resident in, a country or territory against which the United States maintains comprehensive sanctions (currently, Cuba, Iran, Syria, North Korea, Venezuela, the Crimea Region of Ukraine, and the so-called Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) and Luhansk People’s Republic (LPR) regions of Ukraine), including by providing services or support to persons, resident in such countries or territories;
 - or that would otherwise violate, or cause OSIS to violate, economic or financial sanctions, export controls, or trade embargoes imposed by the EU and/or the U.S. government.



The **Think Tanks for the Future of EU Enlargement Program** (TFEP) is a program of the Open Society Institute – Sofia Foundation (OSIS), which is supported by the Open Society Foundations (OSFs).

The Program seeks to contribute to the EU enlargement process with a twofold approach – providing support to think tanks in the EU candidate and potential candidate countries and closely partnering with key think tanks involved in the EU enlargement policy, including [DGAP](#) in Germany, [Jacques Delors Institute](#) in France, [Clingendael Institute](#) in the Netherlands, and [Carnegie Europe](#).

For more information about the **Open Society Institute – Sofia Foundation (OSIS)**, please visit [osis.bg](#).

The website [thenextmile.eu](#) is the main platform providing information about the Think Tanks for the Future of EU Enlargement Program (TFEP) regarding support to think tanks in the eligible EU candidate and potential candidate countries, as well as for highlighting policy reports, opinions, and pertinent information from think tanks and institutions concerning the EU enlargement process with a focus on its partner think tanks.

Please, check TFEP's website at [thenextmile.eu](#) regularly for new insights and analyses on the EU enlargement process as well as about support to think tanks in the eligible EU candidate and potential candidate countries.

Contact TEFP:

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