Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)

Call for proposals

Call for proposals to promote equality and to fight against racism, xenophobia and all other forms of discrimination

CERV-2025-EQUAL

Version 1.0
26 June 2025

Call: CERV-2025-EQUAL — Call for proposals to promote equality and to fight against racism, xenophobia and all other forms of discrimination

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HISTORY OF CHANGES			
Version	**Publication Date**	**Change**	**Page**
1.0	26.06.2025	▪ Initial version (new MFF).	
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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers

JUST.H.3 – Budget, Programmes and Financial Management

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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0. Introduction

This is a call for proposals for EU **action grants** to promote **equality and to fight against racism, xenophobia and all other forms of discrimination** under the **Citizens, Equality, Rights and Value Programme (CERV)**. The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- Regulation 2024/2509 (EU Financial Regulation)[1]
- the basic act (CERV Regulation 2021/692[2]).

The call is launched in accordance with the 2023-2025 Work Programme[3] and will be managed by

- the **European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST**) for priorities 1, 4, 5 and 6;
- the **European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)** ('Agency') for priorities 2 and 3.

The call covers the following **topics**:

Priority	Topic	Priorities	Open / Restricted
1	CERV-2025-EQUAL-RACI-DISC	Fighting against discrimination and racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, including antigypsyism, anti-Black and anti-Asian racism [discrimination and racism]	Open call
2	CERV-2025-EQUAL-ANTISEMITISM	Fighting against antisemitism [fighting antisemitism]	open call and restricted in support of public authorities
3	CERV-2025-EQUAL-ANTIMUSLIM	Fighting against anti-Muslim hatred [fighting anti-Muslim hatred]	open call and restricted in support of public authorities
4	CERV-2025-EQUAL-DIVERSITYMGT	Promoting diversity management and inclusion at the workplace, both in the public and private sector [diversity management]	Open call
5	CERV-2025-EQUAL-LGBTIQ	Fighting discrimination against LGBTIQ people and LGBTIQ-phobia,	Open call

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1. Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) ('EU Financial Regulation') (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024).
2. Regulation (EU) 2021/692 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (OJ L 156, 5.5.2021, p. 1).
3. Commission Implementing Decision C(2024) 4922 final of 18.07.2024 concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2023-2025, amending Commission Decision C(2022)8588 final and the financing decision for the implementation of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme.

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		and promoting LGBTIQ equality [LGBTIQ]	
6	CERV-2025-EQUAL-RESTRICTED	Support to public authorities to combat racism, xenophobia, antigypsyism, LGBTIQ-phobia and all other forms of intolerance, including intersectional discrimination [public authorities]	Open call

Each project application under the call must address only one of these topics. Furthermore, the same application can only be submitted to one call and one topic. Applicants cannot submit more than one proposal as coordinator under this call.

We invite you to read the **call documentation** carefully, and in particular this Call Document, the Model Grant Agreement, the EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual and the EU Grants AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement.

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

- the Call document outlines the:

    - background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results (sections 1 and 2)

    - timetable and available budget (sections 3 and 4)

    - admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents; sections 5 and 6)

    - criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (section 7)

    - evaluation and award procedure (section 8)

    - award criteria (section 9)

    - legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements (section 10)

    - how to submit an application (section 11)

- the Online Manual outlines the:

    - procedures to register and submit proposals online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal (the 'Portal')

    - recommendations for the preparation of the application

- the AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement contains:

    - detailed annotations on all the provisions in the Grant Agreement you will have to sign in order to obtain the grant *(including cost eligibility, payment schedule, accessory obligations, etc)*.

You are also encouraged to visit the CERV Programme Project Results webpage, the Europe for Citizens Programme Project Results website, the REC Programme results webpage and the Daphne Toolkit to consult the list of projects funded previously.

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1. Background

The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme provides funding for citizens' engagement, equality for all and the implementation of rights and EU values. The programme's main objective is to promote and protect rights and values as enshrined in the EU treaties, particularly by supporting civil society organisations, public authorities, and other stakeholders in their efforts to uphold these principles. The programme aims to strengthen democratic participation, promote gender equality and non-discrimination, tackle racism and xenophobia, and protect the rights of children and other vulnerable groups. The European Commission is committed to promoting inclusion and equality for all in all its forms. To tackle discrimination and to promote diversity, the European Commission has adopted several key policy initiatives for equality in Europe. This call for proposals is one of the ways in which the Commission is supporting these initiatives.

Calls such as this one are competitive and require applicants to demonstrate how their projects will effectively address the key challenges and priorities described below.

Projects funded through the CERV programme are closely monitored to ensure they deliver tangible results and contribute to the broader aims of equality, rights, and values in the EU. Successful projects often involve cross-border collaboration, fostering innovative solutions, and sharing best practices among stakeholders across different EU Member States and participating third countries.

Overall, the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme is a crucial instrument in the EU's strategy to promote an inclusive and equitable society, supporting initiatives that safeguard fundamental rights and foster a sense of shared European citizenship. This call plays an important role in that.

2. Objectives — Themes and priorities — Activities that can be funded — Expected impact

Objectives

The objectives of the call are:

- Promoting equality and preventing and combating inequalities and discrimination on the grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and respecting the principle of non-discrimination on the grounds provided for in Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
- Supporting, advancing and implementing comprehensive policies and an intersectional approach to combat racism, xenophobia, antigypsyism, LGBTIQ-phobia, antisemitism, anti-Muslim hatred and all forms of discrimination and intolerance, both online and offline[4].

Policy initiatives supported:

- the EU Anti-racism action plan (2020-2025)
- the EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation (2020-2030)
- the EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life (2021 – 2030)

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[4] Taking into account also other relevant instruments such as the European Convention on Human Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

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- the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy (2020-2025)
- the EU Strategy on victims' rights (2020-2025)
- the Gender Equality Strategy (2020-2025)

It is important to bear in mind that the policy initiatives listed above will be followed up by new strategies and action plans, as outlined in the mission letter of the Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management, Hadja Lahbib, in the mission letter of the Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection, Michael McGrath, and in the Commission work programme 2025. This therefore needs to be taken into account when preparing proposals and for the lifetime of projects.

Themes and priorities (scope)

In view of the overall objectives stipulated above, the call will support the following priorities:

Priority 1 - Fighting against discrimination and racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, including antigypsyism, anti-Black and anti-Asian racism [P1-discrimination and racism]

This priority supports holistic and intersectional responses[5] to discrimination and intolerance - in particular on grounds of racial or ethnic origin, colour and religion - as well as to racism and xenophobia, antigypsyism intolerance, including their manifestations on the ground. Such responses should aim to build trust between individuals, communities and national authorities.

The priority will support projects that help to effectively implement:

- the **EU Anti-racism action plan**, which aims to combat structural forms of racism faced in particular by people of colour and people of African descent, Muslims or people perceived as such, Roma as well as people of Asian descent.
- the **Racial Equality Directive** (Council Directive 2000/43/EC), which aims to lay down a framework for combating discrimination on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin, with a view to putting into effect in the Member States the principle of equal treatment.
- the **EU Roma strategic framework**, which aims to promote effective equality, socio-economic inclusion and meaningful participation of Roma, and
- the **Council Recommendation on Roma equality, inclusion and participation**, which aims to have Member States adopt national Roma strategic frameworks; adopt and implement measures to promote equality and effectively prevent and combat discrimination, antigypsyism, social and economic exclusion, the extremely high at-risk-of-poverty rate and material and social deprivation among the Roma population; and step up meaningful participation by and consultation of Roma people.

We are looking for projects that focus on:

- multisectoral cooperation between civil society organisations, public and private organisations and local authorities to address systemic and structural racism in areas related to access to quality housing, employment (i.a. skills, vocational training.) and social inclusion (fight against poverty, etc.).

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[5] If an applicant's proposal is intersectional and covers more than one priority, the applicant must apply under the priority which their proposal most addresses.

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- the reporting, rights-awareness, protection, advocacy and interest representation of victims.
- the diversity of Roma, with a specific focus on the political participation of Roma youth, the health of Roma women, the early childhood development and care of Roma children and environmental justice.

The priority **does not** support research projects.

Projects can be either national or transnational. Transnational projects are particularly encouraged. For projects concerning Roma inclusion and participation, national consortia are encouraged.

Priority 2 – Fighting against antisemitism [P2-antisemitism]

European Jews have been contributing to the social, political, economic and cultural development of Europe and are an inextricable part of Europe's identity. Following the 7 October terrorist attacks by Hamas on Israeli society and the war that ensued, antisemitism has risen across Europe and around the world. This escalation has created a climate of everyday "ambient antisemitism", characterised by growing insecurity, isolation and the erosion of trust within Jewish communities. Today, we are witnessing a troubling rise in Holocaust distortion and the worrying conflation of the Shoah with ongoing conflicts in the Middle East. This distortion has a corrosive impact on the resilience of our society and democracy. Antisemitism and polarization pose a threat not only to the Jewish communities but also to the broader European society and undermine democratic values

This priority aims at supporting civil society organisations to prevent and combat all forms and manifestations of antisemitism, offline and online, in line with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism, and at supporting civil society organisations to foster Jewish life.

Priority 2 is split into an open sub-priority and a restricted sub-priority in support of public authorities.

Sub-priority 2.1 – open call:

This open sub-priority will support projects that help to implement the **EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life (2021-2030)**.

We are looking for projects that focus on:

- raising awareness on contemporary antisemitism and its impact on society in general, and on specific target groups such as multipliers (educators, journalists, policy makers) and raising awareness about Jewish life to counter antisemitism;
- improving the monitoring of antisemitic incidents, encouraging reporting and strengthening cooperation with the police at local level;
- strengthening leadership capacities within Jewish communities to counter antisemitism, especially by developing professional networks, thus contributing to fostering Jewish life;
- building bridges between Jewish and other minority groups in the common fight against intolerance and discrimination.

This sub-priority **does not** support research projects.

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Projects can be either national or transnational. Transnational projects are particularly encouraged. We particularly encourage projects to have at least one Jewish civil society organisation, or an organisation specialised in fighting antisemitism, as one of the main partners. Projects led by Jewish civil society organisations are also strongly encouraged. Projects that promote partnerships based on the diversity of and tolerance among different groups and communities are also encouraged.

Sub-priority 2.2 – restricted call in support of public authorities:

This sub-priority aims at supporting public authorities to develop and implement their action plans on combating antisemitism.

We are looking for projects that focus on:

- developing and/or implementing national action plans or strategies on combating antisemitism;
- improving the recording and reporting of antisemitic incidents and harmonising data collection in line with the Vienna Declaration;
- preventing and countering antisemitism, thus fostering Jewish life.

This sub-priority **does not** support research projects.

Projects can be either national or transnational. We encourage projects to have at least one Jewish civil society organisation, or an organisation specialised in fighting antisemitism, as one of the main partners.

Priority 3 - Fighting against anti-Muslim hatred
[P3-anti-Muslim hatred]

This priority will support the fight against **anti-Muslim hatred/racism and discrimination**, and therefore support actions to raise awareness, foster reporting by victims and address negative stereotypes and intolerance against Muslims and persons perceived as such. Muslims form an integral part of European societies. Anti-Muslim racism is increasing throughout Europe and the world and affects the lives of a significant number of EU citizens. It also undermines the trust of many in the institutions and in the values of the European Union.

Priority 3 is split into an open sub-priority and a restricted sub-priority in support of public authorities.

Sub-priority 3.1 – open call:

This open sub-priority will specifically help civil society organisations to combat all forms of anti-Muslim racism, to support victims of anti-Muslim racism and to raise awareness throughout the European Union. The call will also support the improvement of data collection on anti-Muslim racism, which is essential to combat racism and discrimination effectively, and to strengthen resilience among the Muslim communities against any form of racism and discrimination.

We are looking for projects that focus on:

- raising awareness about anti-Muslim hatred/racism and discrimination, its impact on society in general, and on specific target groups such as multipliers (educators, journalists, policy makers ...) and combatting stereotypes, conspiracy theories and hate speech against Muslims and people perceived as such;
- providing support and accompanying measures to victims of anti-Muslim discrimination, thus contributing to the resilience of Muslim communities.

- improving the monitoring of anti-Muslim hatred/racism, encouraging reporting and strengthening cooperation with the police at local level and authorities.

Projects should take into account:

- The [2023 special Eurobarometer on discrimination in the EU](#)
- The report [The legal framework to combat anti-Muslim hate in the European Union](#)
- The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights report "[Being Muslim in the EU](#)" of October 2024

This sub-priority **does not** support research projects.

Projects can be either national or transnational. Transnational projects are particularly encouraged.

Sub-priority 3.2 – restricted call in support of public authorities:

This sub-priority aims at supporting public authorities in the fight against anti-Muslim hatred/racism.

We are looking for projects that focus on supporting public authorities to:

- develop and/or implement national action plans or strategies on combatting anti-Muslim hatred/racism.
- improve the recording and reporting of anti-Muslim hatred/racism and discrimination and harmonise data collection of anti-Muslim hatred/racism and discrimination
- prevent and counter anti-Muslim hatred/racism through education and training, especially for educators, teachers, the judiciary and media.

This sub-priority **does not** support research projects.

Projects can be either national or transnational. Transnational projects are particularly encouraged.

Priority 4 - Promoting diversity management and inclusion at the workplace, both in the public and private sector
[P4-Diversity management]

We are looking for projects that focus on:

— strengthening the Diversity Charters network, supporting the implementation and further development of existing Diversity Charters in the EU and increasing the number of their signatories[6].

Projects should promote diversity and inclusion at the workplace via an intersectional approach. Projects concerning one ground of discrimination are not the focus of this priority.

The priority **does not** support research projects or projects on skills development.

Projects can be either national or transnational. Transnational projects are particularly

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[6] The Diversity Charters help public and private sector organisations across the EU design and implement effective diversity and inclusion policies. By signing the Charter, organisations make a public commitment to promote diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Charters are organised at national level, with a Charter per country. Together they have over 17.000 signatories (private and public organisations, NGOs, trade unions), covering more than 17 million employees.

encouraged. Applications from consortia bringing together different types of organisations are particularly encouraged.

Priority 5 - Fighting discrimination against LGBTIQ people and promoting LGBTIQ equality
[P5-LGBTIQ]

This priority supports key policy objectives set out in the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and will support projects that help to effectively implement it. The strategy includes initiatives to address intersectional discrimination and inequality experienced on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics in employment, education, health and other areas of life.

We are looking for projects that focus on one or more of the following:

— addressing the challenges LGBTIQ people face in areas where they are particularly disadvantaged (e.g. education, health care, housing);
— LGBTIQ people in the most vulnerable situations, such as transgender and intersex people and those experiencing intersectional discrimination; and rainbow families.

Projects should take into account the:

– Report on the Implementation of the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025
– The 3rd LGBTIQ survey of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights
– 2023 special Eurobarometer on discrimination in the EU

The priority **does not** support research projects.

Projects can be either national or transnational. Transnational projects are particularly encouraged. We particularly encourage projects to have at least one LGBTIQ specific civil society organisation as one of the main partners. Projects led by LGBTIQ organisations are also encouraged.

Priority 6 – Support to public authorities to combat racism, xenophobia, LGBTIQ-phobia and all other forms of intolerance, including intersectional discrimination
[P6-public authorities]

This priority is restricted to public authorities and bodies at national, regional and local level as lead applicant (consortium coordinator).

The objective of this priority is to help Member States to:

— improve the implementation of the Racial Equality Directive and the Framework Decision on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia, as well as the EU Directives on Standards for Equality Bodies,
— develop and implement national action plans or strategies to combat racism, xenophobia, LGBTIQ-phobia and all other forms of intolerance.
— improve the collection and use of equality data.

This priority **does not** support research projects.

Projects can be either national or transnational. Transnational projects are particularly encouraged.

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Activities that can be funded (scope)

Priority 1 (discrimination and racism), sub-priorities 2.1 (antisemitism – open call) and 3.1 (anti-Muslim hatred – open call), priorities 4 (diversity management) and 5 (LGBTIQ)

Activities that can be funded under **priority 1, sub-priorities 2.1 and 3.1, priorities 4 and 5** include:

- Coalition building, capacity building and training for professionals and victims of (intersectional) discrimination;

- Mutual learning, exchange of good practices, cooperation, including identifying best practices which may be transferable to other participating countries;

- Dissemination of information and awareness-raising, including via social media, press campaigns and through engaging with media industry;

- Data recording, data collection, surveys, monitoring and reporting of incidents of discrimination;

- Gender- and age-sensitive victim empowerment and support;

- Contributing to designing and implementing strategies or action plans.

Priority will be given to practical projects that develop and implement specific measures and involve the target group.

Subpriorities 2.2 (antisemitism – restricted call) and 3.2 (anti-Muslim hatred – restricted call) and priority 6 (public authorities)

Activities that can be funded under **sub-priorities 2.2 and 3.2 and priority 6** include:

- Drafting, updating or implementing national action plans or strategies;

- Training law enforcement officials and/or authorities at national, regional or local level;

- Improving the collecting and processing of equality data in Member States, in particular building on the work of the [Subgroup on equality data](#) and the work of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights on equality data;

- Improving victim-sensitive support for victims of (intersectional) discrimination, in particular on the basis of racial or ethnic origin, religion or colour, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics, at national, regional or local level;

- Addressing underreporting;

- Building trust between communities and public authorities.

For all call priorities:

All consortia are encouraged to produce English translations of the main project's outputs to increase the possibility of best practice exchange and dissemination of the results across the EU.

Activities that support specific political parties will <u>not</u> be funded, regardless of their grounds for applying or objectives.

All activities should, both at design and implementation stage, incorporate a gender

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equality perspective. Thus, applicants are expected to conduct and include in their proposal a <u>gender analysis (including non-binary people where applicable)</u>, which maps the potential different impact of the project and its activities on people in all their diversity. Applicants should demonstrate that they reflected on the equality dimension of their proposal and address it in a way that is proportionate to their project. Thereby, unintended negative effects of the intervention on any gender should be avoided (do-no-harm approach). Applicants are encouraged to consult the key questions listed on the website of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) when conducting their gender analysis. A gender-sensitive approach should include identification of best practices, data collection, including <u>disaggregated statistics</u>, information dissemination and monitoring and evaluation approaches

All activities must avoid discrimination, victimisation and stereotyping. All applicants who need further guidance are advised to consult the EIGE's materials on gender analysis and <u>DG JUST's online workshop on gender mainstreaming projects</u>.

Where applicable, applicants are advised to complement their gender analysis with an analysis of other <u>grounds of discrimination</u> that can have an impact on project implementation. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate a good understanding of intersectional discrimination when framing target group needs and reflect this in their proposal. Reflections should be proportionate to the project's scope and context.

Expected impact

Priority 1 - Fighting against discrimination and racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, including antigypsyism, anti-black and anti-Asian racism:

- Increased knowledge of EU and national non-discrimination legislation;

- Increased knowledge and application of administrative practices in the non-discrimination field, including practices and policies covering multiple discrimination;

- Increased rights-awareness as well as awareness of biases and stereotypes;

- More effective implementation and enforcement of the legislation on non-discrimination, as well as improved independent monitoring and reporting;

- improved understanding of racism and its different forms, including structural racism as well as increased knowledge on EU policies and legislation;

- Empowered and increased protection for groups, communities and individuals affected by manifestations of intolerance and racism, with a particular focus on antigypsyism, as well as on anti-black and anti-Asian racism;

- Improved knowledge and awareness of and capacity to react to all forms of racism among the population in general and key groups in particular such as decision-makers, law enforcement and the judiciary, and young people.

- Increased knowledge on the recording and the collection of data on incidents, with a view to harmonising the methodologies across the EU.

Priority 2 - Fighting against antisemitism:

- Increased knowledge of EU and national non-discrimination legislation;

- Improved knowledge and application of administrative practices in the non-discrimination field, including practices and policies covering antisemitism;

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- Empowered and increased protection for groups, communities and individuals affected by manifestations of antisemitism;

- Improved knowledge and awareness of and capacity to react to all forms of antisemitism among the population in general and key groups in particular such as decision-makers, law enforcement and the judiciary, and young people;

- Increased knowledge on the recording and the collection of data on incidents, with a view of harmonising the methodologies across the EU.

- More effective implementation and enforcement of the legislation on non-discrimination, as well as improved independent monitoring and reporting;

Priority 3 - Fighting against anti-Muslim hatred:

- Increased knowledge of EU and national non-discrimination legislation;

- Improved knowledge and application of administrative practices in the non-discrimination field, including practices and policies covering multiple discrimination;

- Empowered and increased protection for groups, communities and individuals affected by manifestations of anti-Muslim hatred;

- Increased knowledge on the recording and the collection of data on incidents, with a view to harmonising the methodologies across the EU;

- Improved knowledge and awareness of and capacity to react to all forms of anti-Muslim hatred among the population in general and key groups in particular such as decision-makers, law enforcement and the judiciary, and young people;

- More effective implementation and enforcement of the legislation on non-discrimination, as well as improved independent monitoring and reporting.

Priority 4 - Promoting diversity management and inclusion at the workplace, both in the public and private sector:

- Increased number of organisations affiliated to a Diversity Charter;

- Increased knowledge and awareness on the benefits of diversity and inclusion at the workplace;

- Increased diversity at the workplace, supported by stronger links between the academic and research community and the business world;

- More inclusive workplaces and societies;

- Increased and improved Europe-wide guidance and tools to build inclusive workplaces and to measure diversity and inclusion at the workplace.

Priority 5 - Fighting discrimination against LGBTIQ people and promoting LGBTIQ equality:

- Improved knowledge and awareness of the intersectional discrimination and inequality experienced by LGBTIQ people, in particular by transgender and intersex people, in employment, education and health, as well as solutions on how to tackle this;

- Increased awareness and improvement of skills of relevant professionals, including in the health sector and educational sector, media and business professionals, to counter stereotyping, stigmatisation, pathologisation, discrimination, harassment and bullying affecting LGBTIQ people;

- Increased support for LGBTIQ people and their families, including through information campaigns, support groups, counselling and other means, and improved knowledge and awareness of the challenges they face;

- Better guidance for national authorities and education providers on how to i. prevent and combat school violence and bullying against LGBTIQ students, ii. include positive representations of LGBTIQ diversity in education, iii. tackle gender and sexuality stereotypes in education and iv. accommodate the needs of transgender, intersex and non-binary children in educational settings.

- Improved data collection methods to better understand the needs and experiences of LGBTIQ people, informing evidence-based policies and interventions.

Priority 6 - Support to public authorities to combat racism, xenophobia, LGBTIQ-phobia and all other forms of intolerance, including intersectional discrimination:

- Improved skills of public authorities to effectively investigate, prosecute and adequately sentence incidents of discrimination;

- Stronger cooperation between public authorities and civil society organisations that collect data on incidents of discrimination;

- Improved support to victims, better public awareness of rights and increased number of reported incidents;

- Improved cooperation and exchange of information among public authorities (in particular municipal and regional administrations), as well as between public authorities and other actors such as civil society organisations and community representatives, to improve responses to discrimination, racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance;

- Improved knowledge and awareness among public and law enforcement authorities of the impact of discrimination, racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance and current trends, and better understanding of the various forms of intolerance and of the legal framework;

- Improved system of recording discrimination and collecting data, an improved methodological approach and better inter-institutional cooperation on data collection;

- Effective development and implementation of comprehensive frameworks, strategies or plans of action to prevent and combat, racism, xenophobia, LGBTIQ phobia and other forms of intolerance**.**

3. Available budget

The estimated available call budget is **EUR 20 000 000**.

Specific budget information can be found in the table below:

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Priority	Indicative priority budget (in M EUR)
P1 — discrimination and racism	13.2
P4 – diversity management	
P5 – LGBTIQ	
P6 – public authorities	
P2 — antisemitism	6.8
P3 – anti-Muslim hatred	

We reserve the right not to award all available funds or to redistribute them between the call priorities, depending on the proposals received and the results of the evaluation.

4. Timetable and deadlines

Timetable and deadlines (indicative)	
Call opening:	15 July 2025
Deadline for submission:	23 October 2025 – 17:00:00 CET (Brussels)
Evaluation:	October 2025- March 2026
Information on evaluation results:	March – April 2026
GA signature:	April – July 2026

5. Admissibility and documents

Proposals must be submitted before the **call deadline** *(see timetable section 4)*.

Proposals must be submitted **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the Topic page in the Calls for proposals section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided *inside* the Submission System (⚠ NOT the documents available on the Topic page — they are only for information).

Proposals must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents:

- Application Form Part A — contains administrative information about the participants (future coordinator, beneficiaries and affiliated entities) and the summarised budget for the project *(to be filled in directly online)*

- Application Form Part B — contains the technical description of the project *(template to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded)*

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- – KPI tool — contains additional project data regarding the project's contribution to EU programme key performance indicators *(to be filled in directly online, all sections to be completed)*

- – **mandatory annexes and supporting documents** *(templates to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded)*:

    - – detailed budget table (*template available in the Portal Submission System – to be re-uploaded filled out in the format .xlsx*) **(mandatory)**

    - – CVs (standard) of core project team **(mandatory)**

    - – activity report of the coordinator (activity report of last year) (**mandatory** - public bodies are exempted)

    - – list of previous projects of the coordinator (key projects for the last 4 years) (**mandatory -** *template available in Part B)*

    - – for participants with activities involving children (below the age of 18): child protection policy covering the four areas described in the Keeping Children Safe Child Safeguarding Standards (for private bodies: copy of their policy; for public bodies: child protection policy declaration).

⚠ Please note that an annual activity report is NOT a financial audit report or balance sheet, but a report highlighting the activities and projects of your organisation.

Please be aware that since the detailed budget table serves as the basis for fixing the lump sums for the grants (and since lump sums must be reliable proxies for the actual costs of a project[7]), the costs you include MUST comply with the basic eligibility conditions for EU actual cost grants *(see AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement, art 6)*. This is particularly important for purchases and subcontracting, which must comply with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and be free of any conflict of interests. If the budget table contains ineligible costs, the grant may be reduced (even later on during the project implementation or after their end).

At proposal submission, you will have to confirm that you have the **mandate to act** for all applicants. Moreover, you will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that all participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (especially eligibility, financial and operational capacity, exclusion, etc). Before signing the grant, each beneficiary and affiliated entity will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour (DoH). Proposals without full support will be rejected.

Your application must be **readable**, **accessible and printable** (please check carefully the layout of the documents uploaded).

Proposals are limited to maximum **45 pages** (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

You may be asked at a later stage for additional documents *(for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc)*.

ℹ For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the Online Manual.

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[7] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon/lump-sum/guidance

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6. Eligibility

Eligibility criteria for EQUAL 2025					
Priority	Budget / proposal in M EUR	Duration in months	Scope	Consortium	Coordinator must be
P1 – discrimination and racism	0.15 to 0.75	12-24	National/ transnational	Min. 2 applicants	Non-profit
P2.1 – antisemitism	0.1 to 0.5	12-24	National/ transnational	Min. 2 applicants	Non-profit
P2.2 – antisemitism	0.1 to 0.5	12-24	National/ transnational	Min. 2 applicants	Public authority
P3.1 – anti-Muslim hatred	0.1 to 0.5	12-24	National/ transnational	Min. 2 applicants	Non-profit
P3.2 – anti-Muslim hatred	0.1 to 0.5	12-24	National/ transnational	Min. 2 applicants	Public authority
P4 – diversity management	0.15 to 0.75	12-36	National/ transnational	Min. 2 applicants	Profit/non-profit
P5 – LGBTIQ	0.15 to 0.5	12-36	National/ transnational	Min. 2 applicants	Non-profit
P6 – public authorities	Min. 0.1	12-24	National/ transnational	Min. 2 applicants	Public authority

Eligible participants (eligible countries)

In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies).
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
    - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
    - non-EU countries:
        - countries associated to the CERV Programme or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature (list of participating countries).
        - ⚠ Please check the list regularly, to get the latest status on countries in the process of association.

Beneficiaries and affiliated entities must register in the Participant Register — before submitting the proposal — and will have to be validated by the Central Validation Service (REA Validation). For the validation, they will be requested to upload documents showing legal status and origin.

Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc *(see section 13)*.

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Specific cases and definitions

Natural persons — Natural persons are NOT eligible (with the exception of self-employed persons, i.e. sole traders, where the company does not have legal personality separate from that of the natural person).

International organisations — International organisations are eligible. The rules on eligible countries do not apply to them.

Entities without legal personality — Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf, and offer guarantees for the protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons[8].

EU bodies — EU bodies (with the exception of the European Commission Joint Research Centre) can NOT be part of the consortium.

Programme Contact Points — Are eligible as coordinator or beneficiary in this call, if they have procedures to segregate the project management and the information provision functions and if they are able to demonstrate cost separation (i.e. that their project grants do not cover any costs which are covered by their other grant). This requires the following:

  – use of analytical accounting which allows for a cost accounting management with cost allocation keys and cost accounting codes AND application of these keys and codes to identify and separate the costs (i.e. to allocate them to either one of the two grants)
  – recording of all real costs incurred for the activities that are covered by the two grants (including the indirect costs)
  – allocation of the costs in a way that leads to a fair, objective and realistic result.

Associations and interest groupings — Entities composed of members may participate as 'sole beneficiaries' or 'beneficiaries without legal personality'[9]. ⚠️ Please note that if the action will be implemented by the members, they should also participate (either as beneficiaries or as affiliated entities, otherwise their costs will NOT be eligible).

Countries currently negotiating association agreements — Beneficiaries from countries with ongoing negotiations for participation in the programme *(see list of participating countries above)* may participate in the call and can sign grants if the negotiations are concluded before grant signature and if the association covers the call (i.e. is retroactive and covers both the part of the programme and the year when the call was launched).

EU restrictive measures — Special rules apply for entities subject to EU restrictive measures under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)[10]. Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

ℹ️ For more information, *see Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment*.

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8   See Article 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.
9   For the definitions, see Articles 190(2) and 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.
10   Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the EU Sanctions Map.

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Consortium composition

For all call priorities, proposals must be submitted by a consortium of at **least two applicants** (beneficiaries, not affiliated entities): i.e. one **coordinator** and at least one **partner.**

Consortium coordinator and partners can be either based in the same eligible country (national project) or come from different eligible countries (transnational project).

Additional specific criteria related to the individual call priorities:

To be eligible under **priority 1 (discrimination and racism)**:

a) Coordinators must be non-profit making.
b) Organisations which are profit-oriented must apply as partners in partnership with public entities or private non-profit organisations.
c) For projects concerning Roma inclusion and participation, national consortia are encouraged

To be eligible under **sub-priorities 2.1 (antisemitism – open call) and 3.1 (anti-Muslim hatred – open call)**:

a) Coordinators must be non-profit making.
b) Organisations which are profit-oriented must apply as partners in partnership with public entities or private non-profit organisations.

To be eligible under **sub-priorities 2.2 (antisemitism – restricted call) and 3.2 (anti-Muslim hatred – restricted call)**:

a) Coordinators must be public authorities.
b) Organisations which are profit-oriented must apply as partners in partnership with public entities.

To be eligible under **priority 4 (diversity management):**

a) Coordinators can be profit making or non-profit making.
b) Organisations which are profit-oriented must apply as partners in partnership with public entities or private non-profit organisations.

To be eligible under **priority 5 (LGBTIQ)**:

a) Coordinators must be non-profit making.
b) Organisations which are profit-oriented must apply as partners in partnership with public entities or private non-profit organisations.

To be eligible under **priority 6 (public authorities)**:

a) Coordinators must be public authorities.
b) Organisations which are profit-oriented must apply as partners in partnership with public entities.

NB: Consortia that consist of a coordinator and (i) one or more affiliated entities or (ii) one or more associated partners are **ineligible**. Please be careful when filling part A of the application form and make sure you add a partner to your consortium.

Eligible activities

Applications will only be considered eligible if their content corresponds wholly (or at least in part) to the topic description for which they are submitted.

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Eligible activities are the ones set out in section 2 above.

Projects should take into account the results of projects supported by other EU funding programmes. The complementarities must be described in the project proposals (Part B of the Application Form).

Projects must comply with EU policy interests and priorities *(such as environment, social, security, industrial and trade policy, etc)*. Projects must also respect EU values and European Commission policy regarding reputational matters (*e.g. activities involving capacity building, policy support, awareness raising, communication, dissemination, etc*) [11].

Financial support to third parties is not allowed.

Geographic location (target countries)

Proposals must relate to activities taking place in the eligible countries *(see above)*.

Duration

Priorities 1 (discrimination and racism), 2 (antisemitism), 3 (anti-Muslim hatred) and 6 (public authorities)

Projects must range between 12 and 24 months.

Priorities 4 (Diversity management) and 5 (LGBTIQ)

Projects must range between 12 and 36 months.

For all priorities extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment.

Project budget

Priorities 1 (discrimination and racism), and 4 (Diversity management)

Project budgets (requested grant amount) are expected to range between EUR 150 000 and EUR 750 000.

Priorities 2 (antisemitism) and 3 (anti-Muslim hatred)

Project budgets (requested grant amount) are expected to range between EUR 100 000 and EUR 500 000.

Priority 5 (LGBTIQ)

Project budgets (requested grant amount) are expected to range between EUR 150 000 and EUR 500 000.

Priority 6 (public authorities)

Project budgets (requested grant amount) cannot be lower than EUR 100 000. There is no upper limit.

For all call priorities the grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

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[11] See, for instance, Guidance on funding for activities related to the development, implementation, monitoring and enforcement of Union legislation and policy.

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Ethics and EU values

Projects must comply with:

– highest ethical standards and

– EU values based on Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union and Article 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and

– other applicable EU, international and national law (including the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679).

Projects must seek to promote gender equality and non-discrimination mainstreaming in accordance with the Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit. Project activities should contribute to the equal empowerment of women and men in all their diversity, ensuring that they achieve their full potential and enjoy the same rights. They should also seek to reduce levels of discrimination suffered by particular groups (as well as those at risk of multiple discrimination) and to improve equality outcomes for individuals. Proposals should integrate gender and non-discrimination considerations in proposals and target a gender-balanced representation in project teams and activities. It is also important that individual data collected by the beneficiaries are broken down by sex *(sex-disaggregated data)*, disability or age whenever possible.

Applicants must show in their application that they respect ethical principles and EU values based on Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union and Article 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Participants with activities involving children must moreover have a child protection policy covering the four areas described in the Keeping Children Safe Child Safeguarding Standards. This policy must be available online and transparent to everyone who comes in contact with the organisation. It must include clear information about the recruitment of staff (including trainees and volunteers) and include background checks (vetting). It must also include clear procedures and rules to staff, including reporting rules, and continuous training.

7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

Financial capacity

Applicants must have **stable and sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all projects.

The financial capacity check will be carried out on the basis of the documents you will be requested to upload in the Participant Register during grant preparation *(e.g. profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc)*. The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but will also take into account other aspects, such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years.

The check will normally be done for coordinators, except:

– public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations

– if the project requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000.

If needed, it may also be done for affiliated entities.

If we consider that your financial capacity is not satisfactory, we may require:

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- further information

- an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e., joint and several responsibility for all beneficiaries or joint and several liability of affiliated entities *(see below, section 10)*

- prefinancing paid in instalments

- (one or more) prefinancing guarantees *(see below, section 10)*

or

- propose no prefinancing

- request that you are replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

For more information, *see Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment*.

Operational capacity

Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications** and **resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature).

This capacity will be assessed together with the 'Quality' award criterion, on the basis of the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain it by the time the task implementation starts.

If the evaluation of the award criterion is positive, the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity.

Applicants will have to show their capacity via the following information:

- general profiles (qualifications and experiences) of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project

- description of the consortium participants

- activity report of last year of the coordinator

- list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years) *(template available in Part B)*.

Additional supporting documents may be requested, if needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

Public bodies, Member State organisations and international organisations are exempted from the operational capacity check.

Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate[12]:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)

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[12] See Articles 138 and 143 of EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

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- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)

- guilty of grave professional misconduct[13] (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)

- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)

- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)

- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95 (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)

- created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).

- intentionally and without proper justification resisted[14] an investigation, check or audit carried out by an EU authorising officer (or their representative or auditor), OLAF, the EPPO, or the European Court of Auditors.

Applicants will also be rejected if it turns out that[15]:

- during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information

- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

8. Evaluation and award procedure

The proposals will have to follow the **standard submission and evaluation procedure** (one-stage submission + one-step evaluation)

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[13] 'Professional misconduct' includes, in particular, the following: violation of ethical standards of the profession; wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility; breach of generally accepted professional ethical standards; false declarations/misrepresentation of information; participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition; violation of IPR; attempting to influence decision-making processes by taking advantage, through misrepresentation, of a conflict of interests, or to obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain an advantage; incitement to discrimination, hatred or violence or similar activities contrary to the EU values where negatively affecting or risking to affect the performance of a legal commitment.

[14] 'Resisting an investigation, check or audit' means carrying out actions with the goal or effect of preventing, hindering or delaying the conduct of any of the activities needed to perform the investigation, check or audit, such as refusing to grant the necessary access to its premises or any other areas used for business purposes, concealing or refusing to disclose information or providing false information.

[15] See Article 143 EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

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An **evaluation committee** (assisted by independent outside experts) will assess all applications. Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements (admissibility, and eligibility, *see sections 5 and 6*). Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated (for each topic) against the operational capacity and award criteria *(see sections 7 and 9)* and then ranked according to their scores.

For proposals with the same score (within a topic or budget envelope) a **priority order** will be determined according to the following approach:

Successively for every group of *ex aequo* proposals, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order: the ex aequo proposals within the same topic will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the award criterion 'Relevance'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Quality'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Impact'.

All proposals will be informed about the evaluation result (**evaluation result letter**). Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation; the other ones will be put on the reserve list or rejected.

⚠️ No commitment for funding — Invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding. We will still need to make various legal checks before grant award: *legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check, etc*.

Grant preparation will involve a dialogue in order to fine-tune technical or financial aspects of the project and may require extra information from your side. It may also include adjustments to the proposal to address recommendations of the evaluation committee or other concerns. Full compliance will be a pre-condition for signing the grant.

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter). Please note that notifications which have not been opened within 10 days after sending are considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from opening/access *(see also Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions)*. Please also be aware that for complaints submitted electronically, there may be character limitations.

9. Award criteria

The **award criteria** for this call are as follows:

- **Relevance:** extent to which the proposal matches the priorities and objectives of the call; clearly defined needs and robust needs assessment; clearly defined target group, with gender perspective being appropriately taken into account; contribution to the EU strategic and legislative context; European/trans-national dimension; impact/interest for a number of countries (EU or eligible non-EU countries); possibility to use the results in other countries (potential for transfer of good practices); potential to develop mutual trust/cross-border cooperation, building synergies and avoiding duplication with previous projects (40 points)

- **Quality:** clarity and consistency of project; logical links between the identified problems, needs and solutions proposed (logical frame concept); methodology for implementing the project with gender perspective being appropriately taken into account (organisation of work, timetable, allocation of resources and distribution of tasks between partners, risks & risk management, monitoring and evaluation); ethical issues and measures/policies to guarantee compliance with EU values are addressed; feasibility of the project within the proposed time

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frame; financial feasibility (sufficient/appropriate budget for proper implementation; cost-effectiveness (best value for money (40 points)

- **Impact:** ambition and expected long-term impact of results on target groups/general public; appropriate dissemination strategy for ensuring sustainability and long-term impact; potential for a positive multiplier effect; sustainability of results after EU funding ends (20 points)

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Relevance	25	40
Quality — Project design and implementation	n/a	40
Impact	n/a	20
Overall (pass) scores	**70**	**100**

Maximum points: 100 points.

Individual threshold for the criterion 'Relevance': 25/40 points.

Overall threshold: 70 points.

Proposals that pass the individual threshold for the criterion 'Relevance' AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding — within the limits of the available call budget (i.e. up to the budget ceiling). Other proposals will be rejected.

10. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements

If you pass evaluation, your project will be invited for grant preparation, where you will be asked to prepare the Grant Agreement together with the EU Project Officer.

This Grant Agreement will set the framework for your grant and its terms and conditions, in particular concerning deliverables, reporting and payments.

The Model Grant Agreement that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents) can be found on Portal Reference Documents.

Starting date and project duration

The project starting date and duration will be fixed in the Grant Agreement *(Data Sheet, point 1)*. The starting date should be after grant signature (normally within 6 months). A retroactive starting date can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons but never earlier than the proposal submission date.

Project duration: *see section 6 above*.

Milestones and deliverables

Activities must be grouped into work packages which are major sub-divisions of the project *(e.g. Project Management and Coordination, Communication and Dissemination, etc.)*. The coordination and management costs of WP1 should not be higher than 10% of the total cost of the proposal.

For each work package, an objective and lists of tasks/activities, milestones and deliverables must be defined. The deliverables and milestones must be quantifiable and

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measurable. Their structure should be logical and guided by identifiable outputs with clear indicators.

The milestones and deliverables for each project will be managed through the Portal Grant Management System and will be reflected in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement.

Beneficiaries will have to ask attendees in events to participate in the EU Survey on Justice, Rights and Values. This survey allows the granting authority to closely monitor training, mutual learning and awareness-raising events. The beneficiaries will receive a weblink to the survey, to be forwarded to the attendees. They will have access to the survey results for their project and can use it for their project evaluation. The granting authority will aggregate the results of all the projects financed under the CERV programme.

Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount

The grant parameters *(maximum grant amount, funding rate, total eligible costs, etc)* will be fixed in the Grant Agreement *(Data Sheet, point 3 and art 5)*.

Project budget (requested grant amount): see section 6 above.

The grant will be a lump sum grant. This means that it will reimburse a fixed amount, based on a lump sum or financing not linked to costs. The amount will be fixed by the granting authority on the basis of the estimated project budget and a funding rate of 90%.

Budget categories and cost eligibility rules

The budget categories and cost eligibility rules are fixed in the Grant Agreement *(Data Sheet, point 3, art 6 and Annex 2)*.

Budget categories for this call:

  − Lump sum contributions[16]

Specific cost eligibility rules for this call:

  − the lump sum amount must be calculated in accordance with the methodology set out in the lump sum decision and using the detailed budget table provided (if any)

  − the lump sum calculation should respect the following conditions:

    − for lump sums based on estimated project budgets: the estimated budget must comply with the basic eligibility conditions for EU actual cost grants *(see AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement, art 6)*

    − for lump sums based on estimated project budgets: costs for financial support to third parties are not allowed

    − project websites: communication costs for presenting the project on the participants' websites or social media accounts are eligible; costs for separate project websites are not eligible

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[16] Decision of 30 September 2022 authorising the use of lump sums for actions under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (2021-2027).

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– personnel costs:

o volunteers' unit costs[17] are allowed (without indirect costs).

The details and the breakdown of the 'Other cost' items from headings A.1 and C.3 should be provided in the 'any comments' sheet of the detailed budget table.

Reporting and payment arrangements

The reporting and payment arrangements are fixed in the Grant Agreement *(Data Sheet, point 4 and art 21 and 22)*.

After grant signature, you will normally receive a **prefinancing** to start working on the project (float of normally **80%** of the maximum grant amount; exceptionally less or no prefinancing). The prefinancing will be paid 30 days from entry into force/financial guarantee (if required) — whichever is the latest*.*

In addition, you will be expected to submit one or more progress reports not linked to payments.

Payment of the balance: At the end of the project, we will calculate your final grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, we will ask you (your coordinator) to pay back the difference (recovery).

All payments will be made to the coordinator.

⚠ Please be aware that payments will be automatically lowered if you or one of your consortium members has outstanding debts towards the EU (granting authority or other EU bodies). Such debts will be offset by us — in line with the conditions set out in the Grant Agreement *(see art 22)*.

⚠ Please also note that you are responsible for keeping records on all the work done.

Prefinancing guarantees

If a prefinancing guarantee is required, it will be fixed in the Grant Agreement *(Data Sheet, point 4)*. The amount will be set during grant preparation and it will normally be equal or lower than the prefinancing for your grant.

The guarantee should be in euro and issued by an approved bank/financial institution established in an EU Member State. If you are established in a non-EU country and would like to provide a guarantee from a bank/financial institution in your country, please contact us (this may be exceptionally accepted, if it offers equivalent security).

Amounts blocked in bank accounts will NOT be accepted as financial guarantees.

Prefinancing guarantees are normally requested from the coordinator, for the consortium. They must be provided during grant preparation, in time to make the prefinancing (scanned copy via Portal AND original by post).

If agreed with us, the bank guarantee may be replaced by a guarantee from a third party.

The guarantee will be released at the end of the grant, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Grant Agreement *(art 23)*.

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[17] Commission Decision of 10 April 2019 authorising the use of unit costs for declaring personnel costs for the work carried out by volunteers under an action or a work programme (C(2019)2646)

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Certificates

Depending on the type of action, size of grant amount and type of beneficiaries, you may be requested to submit different certificates. The types, schedules and thresholds for each certificate are fixed in the Grant Agreement *(Data Sheet, point 4 and art 24)*.

Liability regime for recoveries

The liability regime for recoveries will be fixed in the Grant Agreement *(Data Sheet, point 4.4 and art 22).*

For beneficiaries, it is one of the following:

- limited joint and several liability with individual ceilings — *each beneficiary up to their maximum grant amount*

- unconditional joint and several liability — *each beneficiary up to the maximum grant amount for the action*

  or

- individual financial responsibility — *each beneficiary only for their own debts*.

In addition, the granting authority may require joint and several liability of affiliated entities (with their beneficiary).

Provisions concerning the project implementation

IPR rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 16 and Annex 5):*

- rights of use on results: Yes

Communication, dissemination and visibility of funding: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 17 and Annex 5):*

- additional communication and dissemination activities: Yes

Other specificities

Consortium agreement: Yes

Non-compliance and breach of contract

The Grant Agreement (chapter 5) provides for the measures we may take in case of breach of contract (and other non-compliance issues).

For more information, *see AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement*.

11. How to submit an application

All proposals must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

Submission is a **2-step process**:

a) **create a user account and register your organisation**

To use the Submission System (the only way to apply), all participants need to create an EU Login user account.

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Once you have an EULogin account, you can [register your organisation](#) in the Participant Register. When your registration is finalised, you will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

b) **submit the proposal**

Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the [Calls for proposals](#) section (or, for calls sent by invitation to submit a proposal, through the link provided in the invitation letter), open your desired call and start submission.

Submit your proposal in 4 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator, beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners[18]) and the summarised budget for the proposal. Fill it in directly online

- Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the proposal. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file

- KPI tool containing additional project data. To be filled in directly online, all sections to be completed.

- Annexes (*see section 5*). Upload them as PDF file (single or multiple depending on the slots). Excel upload is sometimes possible, depending on the file type.

The proposal must keep to the **page limits** *(see section 5)*; excess pages will be disregarded.

Documents must be uploaded to the **right category** in the Submission System, otherwise the proposal may be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The proposal must be submitted **before the call deadline** (*see section 4*). After this deadline, the system is closed and proposals can no longer be submitted.

Once the proposal is submitted, you will receive a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the [IT Helpdesk webform](#), explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on processes and procedures are described in the [Online Manual](#). The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

12. Help

As far as possible, ***please try to find the answers you need yourself***, in this and the other documentation (we have limited resources for handling direct enquiries):

- [Online Manual](#)

- Topic Q&A on the Topic page (for call-specific questions in open calls; not applicable for actions by invitation)

- [Portal FAQ](#) (for general questions).

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[18] See section 13 for more information on consortium roles and the roles of coordinator, affiliated entities and associated partners.

Please also consult the Call and Topic pages regularly, since we will use them to publish call updates, including an invitation to the info session for applicants (if any) after the opening of the call. (For invitations, we will contact you directly in case of a call update).

Contact

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the IT Helpdesk.

Non-IT related questions should be sent to one of the following email address:

- the CERV Contact Point of your country (if established);

  Otherwise, you may contact

  - o For priorities 1 (discrimination and racism), 4 (diversity management), 5 (LGBTIQ) and 6 (public authorities): EC-CERV-CALLS@ec.europa.eu;
  - o For priorities 2 (antisemitism) and 3 (anti-Muslim hatred): EACEA-CERV@ec.europa.eu.

Please indicate clearly the reference of the call and topic to which your question relates *(see cover page)*.

Call: CERV-2025-EQUAL — Call for proposals to promote equality and to fight against racism, xenophobia and all other forms of discrimination

EU Grants: Call document (CERV): V1.0 – 26.06.2025

13. Important

⚠️ **IMPORTANT**

- **Don't wait until the end —** Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last minute submissions *(e.g., congestion, etc)* will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.

- **Consult** the Portal Call and Topic pages regularly. We will use them to publish updates and additional information on the call (call and topic updates).

- **Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System —** By submitting the application, all participants **accept** to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the Portal Terms & Conditions.

- **Registration —** Before submitting the application, all beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners must be registered in the Participant Register. The participant identification code (PIC) (one per participant) is mandatory for the Application Form.

- **Consortium roles —** When setting up your consortium, you should think of organisations that help you reach objectives and solve problems.

  The roles should be attributed according to the level of participation in the project. Main participants should participate as **beneficiaries** or **affiliated entities**; other entities can participate as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions. **Associated partners** and third parties giving in-kind contributions should bear their own costs (they will not become formal recipients of EU funding). **Subcontracting** should normally constitute a limited part and must be performed by third parties (not by one of the beneficiaries/affiliated entities). Subcontracting going beyond 30% of the total eligible costs must be justified in the application.

- **Coordinator —** In multi-beneficiary grants, the beneficiaries participate as consortium (group of beneficiaries). They will have to choose a coordinator, who will take care of the project management and coordination and will represent the consortium towards the granting authority. In mono-beneficiary grants, the single beneficiary will automatically be coordinator.

- **Affiliated entities** — Applicants may participate with affiliated entities (i.e. entities linked to a beneficiary which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries, but do not sign the grant and therefore do not become beneficiaries themselves). They will get a part of the grant money and must therefore comply with all the call conditions and be validated (just like beneficiaries); but they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition (if any). If affiliated entities participate in your project, please do not forget to provide documents demonstrating their affiliation link to your organisation as part of your application.

- **Associated partners** — Applicants may participate with associated partners (i.e. partner organisations which participate in the action but without the right to get grant money). They participate without funding and therefore do not need to be validated.

Call: CERV-2025-EQUAL — Call for proposals to promote equality and to fight against racism, xenophobia and all other forms of discrimination

EU Grants: Call document (CERV): V1.0 – 26.06.2025

- **Consortium agreement** — For practical and legal reasons it is recommended to set up internal arrangements that allow you to deal with exceptional or unforeseen circumstances (in all cases, even if not mandatory under the Grant Agreement). The consortium agreement also gives you the possibility to redistribute the grant money according to your own consortium-internal principles and parameters (for instance, one beneficiary can reattribute its grant money to another beneficiary). The consortium agreement thus allows you to customise the EU grant to the needs inside your consortium and can also help to protect you in case of disputes.

- **Balanced project budget —** Grant applications must ensure a balanced project budget and sufficient other resources to implement the project successfully *(e.g., own contributions, income generated by the action, financial contributions from third parties, etc)*. You may be requested to lower your estimated costs, if they are ineligible (including excessive).

- **Completed/ongoing projects —** Proposals for projects that have already been completed will be rejected; proposals for projects that have already started will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (in this case, no costs can be reimbursed for activities that took place before the project starting date/proposal submission).

- **No-profit rule —** Grants may NOT give a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). This will be checked by us at the end of the project.

- **No cumulation of funding/no double funding —** It is strictly prohibited to cumulate funding from the EU budget (except under 'EU Synergies actions'). Outside such Synergies actions, any given action may receive only ONE grant from the EU budget and cost items may under NO circumstances be declared under two EU grants; projects must be designed as different actions, clearly delineated and separated for each grant (without overlaps).

- **Combination with EU operating grants —** Combination with EU operating grants is possible, if the project remains outside the operating grant work programme and you make sure that cost items are clearly separated in your accounting and NOT declared twice *(see [AGA — Annotated Model Grant Agreement, art 6.2.E](#))*.

- **Multiple proposals —** Applicants cannot submit more than one proposal as coordinator under this call. Multiple proposals will be rejected.

- **Resubmission —** Proposals may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission.

- **Rejection —** By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in this this Call document (and the documents it refers to). Proposals that do not comply with all the call conditions will be **rejected**. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, they must be replaced or the entire proposal will be rejected.

- **Cancellation —** There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call. In this case, you will be informed via a call or topic update. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.

- **Language —** You can submit your proposal in any official EU language (project abstract/summary should however always be in English). For reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English for the entire application. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call publication (for the contact information, *see section 12*).

- **Transparency —** In accordance with Article 38 of the EU Financial Regulation, information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the Europa website.

  This includes:
  - beneficiary names
  - beneficiary addresses
  - the purpose for which the grant was awarded
  - the maximum amount awarded.

  The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise your rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm your commercial interests.

- **Data protection —** The submission of a proposal under this call involves the collection, use and processing of personal data. This data will be processed in accordance with Regulation 2018/1725. It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your proposal, subsequent management of your grant and, if needed, programme monitoring, evaluation and communication. Details are explained in the Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement.