

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE MOBILIZATION OF GENDER EQUALITY ACTORS AT A LOCAL LEVEL

This call is framed within the project "Strengthening the capacities of actors working for gender equality" led by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), in partnership with the Center of Arab Women for Research and Training (CAWTAR), the Fédération de la Ligue Démocratique des Droits des Femmes (FLDDF), the Forum Femmes Méditerranée (FFM), the Réseau Universitaire et Scientifique Euro-Méditerranéen sur le Genre et les Femmes (RUSEMEG) and the French State,.

The 3-year project is funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (MAEDI) in the framework of Axis 1 of the Priority Solidarity Fund's project "Women of the Future in the Mediterranean". It targets seven beneficiary countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

The objectives of the project are to foster partnerships between the gender equality actors at a local, national and Euro-Mediterranean level; strengthen the monitoring of public policies on gender equality, notably at a local level; and develop access to and production of knowledge on gender equality.

To achieve these objectives, capacity-building and networking activities and exchange of experiences and knowledge between the actors working for gender equality at a local level will be programmed every year.

The project is in keeping with the mission of the Euro-Mediterranean Women's Foundation (FFEM) of uniting all the actors in the Euro-Mediterranean region working for gender equality through a network of networks approach.

1. Objectives of the call

The call for applications aims to identify organizations capable of mobilizing the different gender equality actors in their territory and encourage networking and exchange of experiences according to a local and participatory approach. This approach is based on the reality and needs of each territory, defined by an administrative region or metropolitan area of a large city, alongside the national approaches that collect information at the level of each country.

Thus, the call is aimed at organizations that are determined to enhance the vision of the status of women based on the field and institutional experiences, both in their own territory and with actors from other beneficiary countries and at a Euro-Mediterranean level.

The organizations selected will constitute and coordinate a core of gender equality actors. This core will promote a pilot mobilization action of the different gender equality actors in their territory on a common theme, which will lead to a mutual strengthening of competences in the field of gender equality, a collective diagnosis of local needs and the definition of specific projects to meet the problems detected.

This pilot action will be the first stage of a participatory cooperation dynamics (associations, research or education institutions, local or regional authorities, enterprises, media) called *local cluster*: *local* in reference to the decentralized approach and to the emergence of projects rooted in the territory; and *cluster* because it brings together the gender equality actors and crystallizes their points of view on policies and initiatives for women.

2. Potential beneficiaries

The call for applications is aimed at the associations - one for each of the seven countries targeted by the project - which are resolutely involved in gender equality. The term association also refers to networks of associations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) or NGO federations.

3. Expected outcomes

- a) Seven core actors wishing to work in favour of gender equality will be constituted in seven southern Mediterranean countries at a decentralized level;
- b) Seven core actors will launch a dynamics of joint work and sharing of good practices in favour of gender equality in seven regions or metropolitan areas;
- c) A diagnosis of local public policies aimed at improving gender equality will be undertaken in seven regions or metropolitan areas in a participatory way and according to a multi-actor approach;
- d) Proposals for specific actions aimed at responding to the problems identified will be prepared in the form of innovative field projects in seven regions or metropolitan areas;
- e) Seven core actors will work in coordination at a local level and will share their work methods in the field of gender equality in each of the seven beneficiary countries of the project at a Euro-Mediterranean level;
- f) The outcomes of the local actors' mobilization will be widely publicized among policy-makers, financial backers, international cooperation agencies and other equality actors in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

4. Scheduled activities

- **Notification of the leaders selected:** mid-July 2015
- **Framework regional dialogue:** September 2015
The leaders will be invited to participate in a capacity-building and networking session to prepare the mission that will be entrusted to them in order to strengthen the synergies with the other leaders.
- **Pilot mobilization actions of the gender equality actors:** September – December 2015
Each leader will implement a pilot action to share experiences and monitor public policies in terms of gender equality in their territory.
- **Assessment of the mobilization of the local clusters:** early 2016
The leaders will reflect on the lessons learnt during their pilot mobilization actions through assessment questionnaires.
- **Conclusion regional dialogue:** 1st quarter 2016
The leaders will be invited to present the outcomes of the work developed in their territories and identify common trends on the challenges of gender equality in the southern Mediterranean;
- **Cooperation with the future local core actors** (mid-2016)
The leaders selected in 2015 will be involved in the new local core actors that will be constituted in 2016 to contribute advice in relation to their experience.

All the expenses linked to the activities described above (participation in framework and conclusion dialogues and implementation of the pilot mobilization actions) will be assumed by the project coordinators.

5. Profile of the potential beneficiaries

- Be an association (networks of associations, non-governmental organizations or NGO federations are also eligible),
- Located in one of the seven beneficiary countries of the project: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia;
- Work mainly in favour of gender equality;
- Be involved in field projects concerning gender equality;
- Have the capacity to mobilize different gender equality actors in their territory;
- Have the organizational and logistical capacity to implement a pilot mobilization action by the gender equality actors;
- Be motivated to exchange with other organizations in the Euro-Mediterranean region and be available to participate in all the activities (see point 4).

6. Submission of application

The organizations who are interested are invited to complete the application form available at www.euromedwomen.foundation in English, French or Arabic.

The fully completed application form must be sent by e-mail to euromedwomen@iemed.org before 8 July 2015.

7. Assessment of the applications

Only the organizations meeting the profile described in point 5 will be taken into account in the assessment of applications. The Steering Committee will assess the applications according to the criteria mentioned in Annex 2 of this call.

8. Notification of the leaders selected

All the organizations that have sent a proposal will be informed of the result of the selection process by e-mail. The organizations selected must confirm their commitment to the project in writing within the five days after the notification of their selection, otherwise they may be disqualified.

9. Logistical and technical means

Each leader will sign an agreement that will define the missions, deliverables and budget linked to the pilot mobilization action of local actors, which will be funded by the project coordinator to a maximum of €15,000. This amount will vary according to the budget proposed by the leader, which will be responsible for its implementation.

The project coordinator will provide the leaders with indications in order to facilitate preparation of the mobilization action and achieve the results expected.

In accordance with the agreement signed with the project coordinators, the leaders will commit to:

- Participate in the project's activities described in point 4;
- Mobilize the agenda equality actors in their territory (see Annex 1);
- Ensure the visibility of the outcomes of the pilot mobilization action;
- Complete the reports on the project's activity and assessment;
- Meet all the project coordinator's demands for information.

After signing the agreements, the list of organizations selected will be published at www.euromedwomen.foundation and widely disseminated.

10. Data protection

The data required on the application form is necessary for assessing the applications and will be only processed for that purpose by the project coordinators. The organizations that have sent an application can, upon request, obtain their personal data, review it or complete it.

ANNEX 1 DEFINITIONS

1. What is a local cluster?

A local cluster brings together gender equality actors that will work in a specific territory (administrative region or metropolitan area of a big city) in order to improve the status of women. It is structured around a leader that will constitute the core and be responsible for all its actions.

The core of a local cluster will be made up by a maximum of five actors working in favour of gender equality, which can be:

- associations;
- research or education institutions;
- local or regional authorities;
- enterprises;
- media (press, television, radio...).

To be efficient, the cluster's core must include the largest number of categories of actors possible among the five categories of actors mentioned above (i.e., one of each).

2. What does the local cluster's core do?

The core implements a pilot mobilization action of gender equality actors aimed at encouraging networking, monitoring of public policies and the participatory identification of field projects with the end of making equality progress in their territory. The leader coordinates the action of the core in partnership with the remaining members.

The pilot action must involve around 60 people: 30 representatives of associations and 30 representatives of other types of actors: research or education institutions, local or regional authorities, enterprises and media.

3. What are the objectives of the pilot mobilization actions?

- a) Identify the different actors working for gender equality in the target territory;
- b) Deal with a specific theme related to gender equality in the target territory;
- c) Facilitate dialogue with the local and/or regional authorities responsible for public gender equality policies in the target territory;
- d) Strengthen local powers by being inspired by gender equality good practices;
- e) Report on the challenges linked to gender equality in the target territory;
- f) Issue proposals for innovative field projects to meet the problems detected in the target territory.

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4. What are the work themes of the local clusters?

The pilot mobilization actions of the gender equality actors must address the three themes mentioned in the Union for the Mediterranean ministerial conferences, namely "Equal rights of women and men to participate in the political, economic, civil and social life."¹

5. What are the functions of the local clusters' leaders

- Propose the gender equality actors that will form part of the cluster's core and will be actively involved in the implementation of the pilot mobilization action;
- Identify, invite and promote the participation of the actors targeted by the pilot mobilization action: 30 representatives of associations and 30 representatives of other types of actors;
- Establish the core's work methodology and the pilot action programme;
- Prepare the deliverables corresponding to the objectives of the pilot action of the mobilization of the gender equality actors (see point 3 of Annex 1);
- Collect the graphic material linked to the pilot mobilization action;
- Draft a narrative and financial report of the pilot action;
- Disseminate the results of the pilot action;
- Get involved in the future core of local actors that will work in 2016 in another region of the country and share its experience with the leader that will be selected in this period.

¹ "Conclusions of the 3rd Ministerial Conference on Strengthening the Role of Women in Society, 2013", <http://ufmsecretariat.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/34-13-REV4-Draft-Ministerial-Conclusions-Women.pdf>

ANNEX 2 SELECTION CRITERIA

To assess the application, the Steering Committee will take into account the following criteria:

- Experience in gender equality, notably in field projects;
- Knowledge of the actors of the target territory and capacity for dialogue with them: the actors proposed to form part of the cluster work in the target territory and have the profile required (see point 2 of the Call);
- Capacity for budgetary and logistical management to coordinate the pilot mobilization action and be accountable to the project leader.

The following aspects are not compulsory but are considered useful:

- Representativeness (large number of members);
- Experience (at least 2 years of activity);
- High level in two of the work languages of the project "Strengthening the capacities of actors working for gender equality", which are French, English and Arabic;
- Capacity to mobilize youths.

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