

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
FOR THE MOBILIZATION OF GENDER EQUALITY ACTORS AT A LOCAL LEVEL
IN 2016
(LOCAL CLUSTERS OF GENDER EQUALITY ACTORS - CYCLE 2)**

1. Framework

This call is framed within the project *Strengthening the capacities of actors working for gender equality* 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 7 beneficiary countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

The 3-year project is led by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), in partnership with the Center of Arab Women for Research and Training (CAWTAR), the Federation of the democratic league of women's rights (FLDDF), the Forum Femmes Méditerranée (FFM), the Euro-Mediterranean Academic and Scientific Network on Women and Gender (RUSEMEG) and the French State. It 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, whose role has been officially acknowledged by the states of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) thanks to their labelling.

The objectives of the project are:

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

To achieve these objectives, networking and capacity-building activities and exchange of experiences between the actors working for gender equality are scheduled every year. A first call for applications for the mobilization of actors at a local level was launched in 2015 (Local Clusters of Gender Equality Actors - Cycle 1) and the present call corresponds to the action for the year 2016 (Local Clusters of Gender Equality Actors - Cycle 2).

2. Objective of the call for applications

This call for applications aims to **identify associations capable of mobilising the different gender equality actors in their territory and encourage networking and joint work according to a local and participatory approach**. This approach is based on the needs of each territory – a territory means an administrative division such as a region or province or a metropolitan area of a large city – alongside the approaches that collect information at the level of each country.

Thus, the call is aimed at associations that are determined to enhance the vision of the status of women in their own territory based on field experiences and the work developed by the institutions, in their countries and at a Euro-Mediterranean scale.

The associations selected will constitute and coordinate a local cluster of gender equality actors[©]. *Cluster* because the action brings together the gender equality actors and crystallizes their points of view on policies and initiatives in favour of women; and *local* in reference to the decentralized approach and to the emergence of projects rooted in the territory.

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A local cluster of gender equality actors© is coordinated by a leader association and it is made up of a maximum of 5 actors working for gender equality, which can be:

- . an association;
- . a research or education institution on women and gender;
- . a local or regional authority or a government service in charge of advocating for women's rights and making gender equality advance;
- . an enterprise or a trade union;
- . media (newspaper, television, radio...).

The leader association of the local cluster of gender equality actors© of the previous cycle will be linked to the local cluster of gender equality actors© of Cycle 2.

In a first phase, this local cluster of gender equality actors© will promote a **pilot mobilization action of the gender equality actors** in its territory around a specific theme of interest related to gender equality, which will take the form of exchange activities, data collection, consultations, reflexion and exchange of experiences. The pilot action will lead to a participatory cooperation dynamics between the different types of gender equality actors, to a mutual strengthening of competences in relation to the theme chosen and to the **production of a diagnosis of situation at a local level on the issue of interest linked to gender equality**. Moreover, based on the recommendations resulting from the pilot mobilization action, the local cluster of gender equality actors© will issue a field project proposal to overcome the obstacles identified throughout the diagnosis of situation conducted in a collective and participatory way.

In a second phase, once the field project proposal is validated by a Steering committee, the local cluster of gender equality actors© will implement the field project.

The outcomes obtained by the local cluster of gender equality actors© will be systematized, evaluated and widely disseminated both at a national and Euro-Mediterranean level with the aim of maximizing their regional scope and fostering their impact among policy-makers in the UfM countries.

3. Potential beneficiaries of the call for applications

The call for applications is aimed at the associations - one for each of the 7 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.

Please note that the associations based in the regions where the mobilization actions took place at a local level in 2015 are not eligible (**see point 6**).

4. Expected outcomes of the call for applications

- a. 7 local clusters of gender equality actors© wishing to work at a decentralized level in favour of gender equality will be constituted in 7 southern Mediterranean countries around a leader association;
- b. 7 local clusters of gender equality actors© will launch a dynamics of joint work and sharing of good practices in favour of gender equality in their territory **through organising a pilot mobilization action**;
- c. **A diagnosis of situation at a local level on the theme of interest linked to gender equality** will be prepared by each local cluster of gender equality actors© in a participatory way, which will be later included in a publication, produced by the project leader and its partners and widely disseminated in the Euro-Mediterranean region;

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- d. Proposals for specific actions aimed at solving the problems detected in each of the 7 territories will be prepared according to a multi-actor approach in the form of the identification of a **field project** (1 in each territory);
- e. 7 local clusters of gender equality actors© will work in coordination and share their work methods in the field of gender equality at a national level and at a Euro-Mediterranean scale;
- f. The outcomes of the local actors' mobilization at a local level will be widely disseminated among policy-makers, financial backers, international cooperation agencies and the main associations linked to gender equality in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

5. Scheduled activities

. **Notification of the leaders selected:** October 2016

. **Organization of the framework regional dialogue:** November 2016.

The representatives of the associations selected as leaders of the local clusters of gender equality actors (1 for each beneficiary country) will be invited to participate in a capacity-building session to prepare the mission that will be entrusted to them and to strengthen the synergies with the leaders of the other countries. They will be put into contact with the leaders of the local clusters of Cycle 1 in order to ensure the networking and exchange of lessons learnt in the previous cycles among the associations.

. **Holding of pilot mobilization actions of the gender equality actors:** December 2016 - April 2017.

Each leader will implement a pilot action (activities of consultation, research, debate and monitoring of public policies in terms of gender equality in their territory). This pilot action will be developed in partnership with the other members of the local cluster of gender equality actors©. It will lead to the production of a **diagnosis of situation at a local level** on a theme of interest linked to gender equality and to the **identification in a collectively and participatory way of a field project to overcome the obstacles identified throughout the diagnosis of situation at a local level.**

. **Preparation and implementation of field projects:** May - December 2017

On the basis of the recommendations and identifications made during the pilot mobilization action, the local cluster of gender equality actors© will complete the formulation of the field project proposal aimed at overcoming the blockages identified in the territory concerned in relation to the theme that will have been analysed in a collective and participatory way at a local level local. Once the field project proposal is validated by a Steering committee, an agreement will be signed between the cluster's leader and the project leader for its implementation. After they concluded, all the projects will be evaluated by the leaders of the local clusters.

. **Dissemination of the outcomes obtained:** January 2017 - March 2018

The diagnoses of situation prepared by the local clusters of gender equality actors will be systematized and homogenized in order to promote them in the form of a publication that will be coordinated by the project leader and its partners and widely disseminated on the Internet, the social networks and among institutions, international cooperation agencies and key actors working for gender equality at a Euro-Mediterranean level.

Moreover, the progress of the pilot mobilization actions and the outcomes of the field projects will be periodically notified to the project leader in order to ensure their dissemination and visibility in the region.

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6. Profile of the potential beneficiaries

- . Be an association (networks of associations, NGOs or NGO federations are also eligible);
- . Be based in one of the 7 beneficiary countries of the project: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia;
- . Work mainly in favour of 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 as well as a field project;
- . Be motivated to exchange with other associations in the Euro-Mediterranean region, including with the leader association of the local cluster of gender equality actors© of Cycle 1, and be available to participate in all the activities scheduled (see point 5);
- . Be based outside the territories concerned by the pilot mobilization actions and the field projects developed during Cycle 1, i.e., Marrakech-Safi region in Morocco, wilaya of Oran in Algeria, Sousse and Monastir Governorates in Tunisia, province of Irbid in Jordan, Giza Governorate in Egypt, Bethlehem and Hebron Governorates in West Bank, Mount Lebanon Governorate in Lebanon. Exceptionally, an association based in a non-eligible territory but targeting an eligible territory can be accepted.

7. Advantages for the call's beneficiaries

The project leader will organize the framework regional dialogue. Moreover, all the expenses linked to the activities described in point 5 (implementation of the pilot mobilization actions and development of the field project) will be covered. Each leader association of a local cluster will sign an agreement with the project leader that will define the missions, deliverables and budget linked to the pilot mobilization action of the local actors, which will be funded for a maximum amount of €10,000. This amount will vary according to the mobilization activities proposed by each leader association, which will be in charge of its implementation in partnership with the other members of the local cluster of gender equality actors©. The project leader will provide the leaders of the local clusters with indications in order to ease the preparation of the pilot mobilization action and the achievement of the expected outcomes.

By virtue of the agreement signed with the project leader, the leaders will commit to:

- . Participate in the project's activities described in point 5;
- . Mobilize the equality actors in their territory (**see Annex 1**);
- . Ensure the visibility of the outcomes of the pilot action;
- . Complete the activity and assessment reports of the pilot action;
- . Periodically inform the project leader about the implementation of the pilot mobilization action.

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

As for the field project proposals, once they are validated, each leader will sign another agreement with the project leader for the implementation of the field project, which will be funded for a maximum amount of €15,000.

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8. Submission of applications

The associations who are interested are invited to complete the application form available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/localcluster16> in English, French or Arabic **before 12 September 2016 at midnight (Barcelona time). Please take note that only one application form per association will be accepted.**

9. Assessment of the applications

Only the associations meeting the profile described in point 6 will be taken into account in the assessment of applications. A Steering committee will assess the applications according to the criteria mentioned in **Annex 2** of this call.

10. Notification of the applications selected

All the associations that have sent an application will be informed of the result of the selection process by e-mail. The associations selected must confirm their commitment to the project in writing within the 5 days after the notification of their selection, otherwise they may be disqualified.

11. Data protection

The responses to the application form are necessary for assessing the applications and will be only processed for that purpose by the project leader. The associations that have sent an application can, upon request, obtain their personal data, review or complete it.

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ANNEX 1 DEFINITIONS

1. What is a local cluster of gender equality actors©?

A local cluster of gender equality actors© brings together different types of gender equality actors working for gender equality in a specific territory (region or province or metropolitan area of a big city) who will jointly work to improve the status of women.

A local cluster of gender equality actors© is structured around a leader association, which will form a cluster made up of between 3 and 5 gender actors and coordinate its actions. The members of a local cluster of gender equality actors© can be:

- . an association;
- . a research or education institution on women and gender;
- . a local or regional authority or a government service in charge of advocating women's rights and making gender equality advance;
- . an enterprise or a trade union;
- . media (newspaper, television, radio...).

In order to ensure the success of the activities of the local cluster of gender equality actors©, it is important that the cluster's members have complementary profiles. This is why it is key that the local cluster of gender equality actors© involves different categories of possible actors among the 5 categories mentioned above (i.e., **ideally 1 of each and not fewer than 3 categories in each case**).

2. What does a local cluster of gender equality actors© do?

The leader association with the other members of the local cluster of gender equality actors© must organize a pilot mobilization action of the gender actors at a local level. To this end, it must specify the contents and structure of the pilot mobilization action in order to engage at least 60 representatives of the different categories of gender actors around a theme of interest linked to gender equality, analyse the situation at a local level in relation to this theme, and identify in a participatory way a field project to meet the needs detected during the analysis of the situation. The members of the local cluster of gender equality actors© must share the responsibilities in order to ensure the scope of the objectives set in terms of networking, production of a diagnosis of the gender situation and the field project proposal as well as the dissemination and visibility of all the activities jointly undertaken.

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

- a. Identify the different actors working for gender equality in the target territory;
- b. Encourage dialogue with the local and/or regional authorities responsible for public gender equality policies in the target territory;
- c. Strengthen local skills by being inspired by gender equality good practices;
- d. Report on the challenges linked to gender equality in the target territory;

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- e. Analyse a theme of interest linked to gender equality in the target territory in the form of a diagnosis of situation at a local level;
- f. Identify a field project proposal to meet the priority needs detected in the target territory.

4. What is a diagnosis of situation at a local level?

It is a diagnosis based on a research at a local level; in other words, at the level of the target territory, on a theme of interest linked to gender equality. It is produced in partnership with researchers or research centres.

This diagnosis has different objectives:

1. Establish a state of the issue in the target territory in relation to a theme of interest linked to gender equality (statistics, indicators, problems emerging, public actions or other solutions implemented by the local and regional authorities to meet the problems);
2. Contextualize this local state of the issue in relation to the situation at a national level and the international commitments made by the state on the theme at hand;
3. Identify the burdens to the improvement of the situation at a local level and the levers of change (recommendations) to improve one or several aspects of the state of the issue previously established.

This diagnosis will be later included in a publication produced by the project leader and its partners and widely disseminated in the Euro-Mediterranean region.

5. What is a field project?

A field project means a set of specific actions that must contribute to building gender equality, working for the emancipation, empowerment and strengthening of the roles of women in society.

The characteristics of the field project must be the following:

- a. It is jointly defined by at least 3 types of gender actors (association; research or education institution, local or regional authority or government service in charge of advocating women's rights and making gender equality advance; enterprise or trade union; media, engaged in the field in favour of gender equality);
- b. It targets a precise geographical area (region or province or metropolitan area of a large city);
- c. It deals with a pertinent issue in relation to the needs of the geographical area concerned, based on an analysis of the situation on a specific theme of gender equality in this area;
- d. It applies a methodology facilitating its future repetition in other frameworks in the Euro-Mediterranean area;
- e. It is a transformer because it expects to have a significant impact on the groups defined as project targets, which can be measured thanks to impact indicators;
- f. It is innovative because it contributes added value in relation to a need that exists in the context in which it is implemented;
- g. It is efficient because the length expected for the project's implementation is appropriate in relation to the objectives envisaged, the activities scheduled and the means mobilized;

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- h. It is sustainable because it encompasses measures to back the continuity of its effects in time;
- i. It does not foresee actions of religious proselytism or political propaganda (these are not eligible).

6. What are the work themes of the local clusters of gender equality actors©?

The pilot mobilization actions of the gender actors must address one of the three themes dealt with during the 3rd Ministerial Conference of the Union for the Mediterranean on the role of women in society, i.e.:

- . Equal right of participation in the political, economic, civil and social life for women and men;
- . Fight against all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls;
- . A change of attitude and behaviour to attain gender equality with a view to promote women's empowerment, not only in rights but also in reality.

7. What are the functions of the leaders of the local clusters of gender equality actors©?

- . Propose the members of the local cluster for gender equality© that will be actively involved in the implementation and dissemination of its activities;
- . Establish the methodology and the local cluster's work plan together with the local cluster's members;
- . Identify, invite and promote the participation of the actors of the target territory;
- . Prepare the deliverables corresponding to the expected objectives and outcomes of the call for applications (see points 4 and 5 of the Call);
- . Regularly inform the project leader of the progress of the pilot action (at least 1 e-mail per month);
- . Collect the graphic material linked to the pilot action;
- . Draft a narrative and financial report of the pilot action;
- . Disseminate the outcomes of the pilot action at a local and national level.

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ANNEX 2 SELECTION CRITERIA

To assess the applications, the Steering committee will take into account the following criteria:

1. Commitment in favour of gender equality;
2. Experience in the field;
3. Capacity for dialogue with the actors of the target territory: this criterion will be assessed based on the actors proposed to form part of the cluster (see point 2 of the Call);
4. Capacity for budgetary and logistical management to coordinate the pilot mobilization action, the future field project and be accountable to the project leader.

The following aspects are not compulsory but are a plus:

5. Representativeness (large number of members);
6. Experience (at least 2 years of activity);
7. Command of the work languages of the project "Strengthening the capacities of actors working for gender equality", which are French, English and Arabic;
8. Capacity to mobilize youths.

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