

PUBLIC CALL FOR IMPLEMENTING PARTNER ENGAGEMENT IN SUPPORTING
PLATFORMS FOR DIALOGUE FACILITATION ON YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION IN
SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

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Ref#: **IP-C/SEC/01/2023** - OSCE extra-budgetary project entitled “Enhancing youth crime and drug use prevention through education on legality and awareness campaigns addressing threats of organized crime and corruption”

1. SUMMARY

The OSCE Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) youth crime prevention project aims to provide OSCE participating States with comprehensive assistance in the field of youth crime (organized crime, corruption, cybercrime) and drug use prevention entailing capacity building for educators and juvenile affairs officers, youth social media awareness campaigns on organized crime and corruption and the strengthening of platforms for youth peer engagement on crime prevention.

The OSCE seeks to engage an Implementing Partner in South-Eastern Europe to support the establishment of platforms for youth, state institutions, civil society organizations and academia to facilitate dialogue and engagement on crime and corruption prevention in the region. Specifically, the selected Implementing Partner will provide support in:

- i) selecting and mentoring national partners (civil society organizations, academia and state institutions) in each beneficiary state in South-Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia) to host grass-root and un-conventional educational events (NB: un-conventional in this context means events which are organized outside of the standard school teaching curriculum) for youth on legality (at least one per beneficiary country);
- ii) conducting a regional event for state institutions, civil society organizations and academia to foster dialogue and exchange of best practices on youth crime prevention;
- iii) holding a regional dialogue forum for youth on rule of law, integrity and crime prevention to strengthen their critical and policy design thinking abilities in order to develop policy solution ideas and concepts on how to enhance the rule of law, integrity and crime prevention among their communities.

The costs to conduct the mentioned activities will be covered from the budget of the mentioned OSCE project and will be transferred to the selected Implementing Partner under conditions stipulated in the Implementing Partner agreement and in line with the criteria described in the present Call.

The OSCE reserves the right to reject any or all applications received in response to this Public Call and to negotiate with any of the applicants in any manner deemed to be in the best interest of the OSCE.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

OSCE Ministerial Council Declarations on youth, adopted in 2014, 2015 and 2018, the Framework for Strengthening OSCE Efforts on Youth and Security and a large number of ministerial and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly outcomes and declarations recognize that the specific needs, concerns and interests of young people should be addressed in a comprehensive manner. In the current global context, the needs of young people are becoming more evident than ever. The COVID-19 pandemic globally decreased youth employment by 8.7 per cent, while the effect of the current war against Ukraine and deterioration in the political and security situation in Afghanistan is further exacerbating socio-economic vulnerabilities. This intensifies the risk of youth involvement in criminal and corrupt activities, as well as increased drug demand among young people.

As can be seen by the socio-economic circumstances in the OSCE region, although youth unemployment has declined within recent years, rates in South-Eastern Europe remain high by international standards, at over 26 percent in 2020. According to UNODC, these high levels of unemployment may significantly contribute to criminal activity among youth. Young men, in particular, who see no legal prospects for themselves to become independent or to acquire the status symbols so important to youth, may find criminal activity to be relatively attractive. Experts acknowledge that youth, especially those aged 15-25, are particularly vulnerable to joining organized crime groups. This vulnerability might be further exacerbated by the negative economic implications linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the war against Ukraine.

Within its OSCE-wide project on youth crime prevention, the TNTD/OCEEA aim to foster youth's understanding and awareness on the dangers of organized crime, corruption, drug use and cybercrime, with a focus on South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia, to ensure a holistic and sustainable intervention through fostering legality and a culture of lawfulness among youth. In this effort, the OSCE aims to:

- 1) enhance the capacity of educational institutions (schools and universities), civil society organizations, law enforcement and other relevant authorities to educate youth on legality;
- 2) conduct large-scale public awareness campaigns centered on the importance of legality, the socio-economic risks caused by organized crime and corruption, the relevance of youth crime, drug use and cybercrime prevention, and good governance;
- 3) facilitate educational and networking events for youth in secondary and tertiary education to receive a comprehensive understanding about organized crime, corruption, drug use and its enablers, as well as cybercrime.

Within this call for applications, the OSCE seeks to engage an Implementing Partner covering South-Eastern Europe to contribute to the TNTD/OCEEA's implementation of the **third project component** mentioned above (*Activities 3.1 and 3.2 within Result 3 of the Project Proposal*). The selected Implementing Partner will assist implementing the project in South-Eastern Europe by supporting the following activities:

- 3.1. Selecting and mentoring national partners (civil society organizations, academia and state institutions) in each beneficiary state in South-Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia) to host grass-root and un-conventional (NB: un-conventional in this context means events which are organized outside of the standard school teaching curriculum) educational events for youth on legality.
- 3.2 a. Organizing and holding a regional event in South-Eastern Europe to bring state institutions, civil society organizations and academia together to foster co-operation and formalized dialogue, as well as exchange best practices on youth crime prevention.
 - b. Holding a regional youth dialogue forum in South-Eastern Europe on rule of law, integrity and crime prevention.

3. Tasks and deliverables of the Implementing Partner

Specific tasks of the Implementing Partner shall include the following:

- **Select and mentor national partners (civil society organizations for grants and mentoring; academia and state institutions for mentoring) in each beneficiary state in South-Eastern**

Europe to host grass-root and un-conventional educational events for youth on legality (at least one per beneficiary country). The IP will closely work with the TNTD/OCEEA and OSCE field operations in South-Eastern Europe (who have expertise, knowledge and experience in working with relevant stakeholders in the area of youth crime prevention on the ground) to identify civil society organizations in the region to be supported with grants for their activities in the field of youth, legality and integrity. The grants will be given to civil society organizations in the respective beneficiary countries in South-Eastern Europe, where youth is especially vulnerable towards organized crime. Within the selection process, a special emphasis will be placed on whether the civil society organizations have a strategy to sustain and further scale their initiatives also after the termination of this project to guarantee sustainability. Besides the grants, the identified civil society organizations in South-Eastern Europe will also be supported with mentors, who can guide them, sharing lessons learnt and proven practices. To achieve this task, the Implementing Partner will:

- **create a methodology/framework for identification and selection of civil society organizations** (in co-operation with the TNTD/OCEEA) to be supported with grants for the activities in the field of youth, legality and integrity, including, *inter alia*:
 - i) key eligibility requirements for the potential civil society organizations,
 - ii) rationale/outline of the selection process and its main timeframes,
 - iii) description of the main tasks/activities/events and scope of work to be accomplished,
 - iv) key performance indicators to be achieved and monitoring and evaluation methodology to be utilized,
 - v) main target stakeholders to be involved,
 - vi) reporting mechanism to be established.
- **Administer the identification/selection process and maintain adequate documentation on the selection results;**
- **Administer grants disbursement and ensure adequate monitoring as per the established methodology;**
- **Provide mentorship (including with the support of TNTD/OCEEA-identified mentors)** to the selected civil society organizations who can guide them, sharing lessons learnt and proven practices on how to effectively work with youth, in particular youth vulnerable to being recruited by criminal groups and involved in illicit activities, on issues of crime prevention, rule of law and integrity;
- In co-operation with the TNTD/OCEEA, **create adequate media coverage (preparation of social media (Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn) posts with photos and videos) of the events/activities conducted by the supported civil society organizations;**
- **Ensure adequate financial and narrative reporting by the selected civil society organizations and follow OSCE-established reporting requirements mentioned within this call further below.**
- **Organize and hold a regional event in South-Eastern Europe to bring state institutions, civil society organizations and academia together to foster co-operation and formalized dialogue, as well as exchange best practices on youth crime prevention.** The event will bring together stakeholders from Ministries of Internal Affairs, Ministries of Justice, Ministries of Education, Anti-Corruption Agencies, academia, municipalities and civil society working on youth crime prevention from all beneficiaries in South-Eastern Europe. During the regional event, practitioners will discuss youth crime trends, challenges and best practices across the region. Moreover, best practices on youth crime prevention from other OSCE pS will be shared from law enforcement, civic youth education institutions and civil society.
- **Organize and hold a regional youth dialogue forum in South-Eastern Europe on rule of law, integrity and crime prevention.** The Implementing Partner will support the TNTD/OCEEA in establishing a platform for dialogue for youth to strengthen their critical and design thinking abilities, in order to effectively contribute to decision-making processes. During this forum, youth will design and develop policy solution ideas and concepts on how to enhance

the rule of law, integrity and crime prevention among their communities. They will share and discuss these among peers to further improve them.

Specific deliverables of the Implementing Partner shall include the following:

- **Selected and mentored national partners** (civil society organizations, academia and state institutions) in each beneficiary state in South-Eastern Europe to host grass-root and unconventional educational events for youth on legality (at least one per beneficiary country); to this end:
 - created a methodology/framework for identification and selection of civil society organizations to be supported with grants
 - administered the identification/selection process and maintained adequate documentation on the selection results;
 - administered grants disbursement and ensured adequate monitoring as per the established methodology;
 - provided guidance and mentorship to the selected civil society organizations;
 - supported adequate media coverage of the events/activities conducted by the supported civil society organizations;
 - ensured adequate financial and narrative reporting by the selected civil society organizations.
- **Organized and held a regional event in South-Eastern Europe for state institutions, civil society organizations and academia** to foster co-operation and formalized dialogue, as well as exchange best practices on youth crime prevention.
- **Organized and held a regional youth dialogue forum in South-Eastern Europe** on rule of law, integrity and crime prevention.

i) Reporting

The selected IP will provide the OSCE with:

- i. Interim narrative and financial report not later than three (3) weeks after the completion of the civil society selection and funds disbursement process,
- ii.
- iii. Final narrative and financial reports related to the implementation of the abovementioned tasks (electronically in English) no later than 24 November 2023.

The IP reports shall provide monitoring data including data on the results and activities as listed in the section above, while specific targets and deliverable dates will be reflected in the annexes to the Implementing Partner Agreement to be signed with the selected candidate/applicant as per the submitted technical proposal.

ii) Qualifications of the Implementing Partner (mandatory requirements):

Each applicant:

1. Shall be a non-profit organization, demonstrating a minimum of five years of professional work in the area of youth crime prevention;
2. Shall have operations covering at least three countries in South-Eastern Europe;
3. Shall provide electronically in English a brief description (within the technical proposal package outlined below) on the approach to the delivery of the above-mentioned tasks. The description should also include a timeline of the delivery of each task and a presentation of individuals together with roles and areas of expertise involved in the implementation of the mentioned tasks. A budget estimate to complete the tasks – not exceeding EUR 215,000 (two hundred fifteen thousand euros) – shall be presented in a separate financial proposal mentioned further below.

4. Shall describe / demonstrate a multicultural ecosystem how diversity, mutual respect, peer support, gender-sensitivity are appreciated and encouraged;
5. Shall ensure the use of the English language of key personnel involved;
6. Shall ensure professionalism, transparency and accountability in managing funds.

iii) Evaluation of Applicants

Applicants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Quality of the technical proposal to complete required tasks under the present Call
- 40 out of 100 points
2. Experience in working with relevant stakeholders, namely youth, civil society, institutional actors and academia and conducting regional multi-stakeholder events related to crime prevention with the focus on youth;
– 30 out of 100 points
2. Records of relevant youth-related projects and partnerships envisaging management of funds provided by external entities, preferably covering South-Eastern Europe;
- 30 out of 100 points

iv) Proposal

The project proposal should provide:

Technical Proposal (no prices should be included in the Technical Proposal):

- a) A brief description on the approach to the delivery of the above-mentioned tasks, including the proposed implementation and the respective timeframe.
- b) Supporting documentation, as requested below.

Financial Proposal:

a) The Financial Proposal shall cover all direct expenses to be incurred for performing the services as specified including, but not limited to the cost of the remuneration of the IP's personnel and all other compensations as well as other direct costs such as travel costs – if any – incurred by the IP for the purpose of performing the services as well as the costs for the concluding event; and shall show a detailed cost breakdown per price categories. Please note that overhead expenses (such as day-to-day operational expenses, including rent, utilities, insurance, interest payments, non-cash items, fines, penalties, etc.) will not be covered by the OSCE.

b) payment(s) based on the following: first instalment upon signature of the IP agreement, equivalent to 50% (fifty percent) of the budget of the Project; second instalment equivalent to 40% (forty percent) of the budget of the Project upon the delivery of the interim narrative and financial report; final instalment equal to the actual cumulative amounts spent as shown in the Final Financial Report, less the first instalment, upon approval of the final narrative and financial report.

As the OSCE is always interested in delivering products of the highest quality, the applicants are welcome to present any suggestions or comments on how to improve the delivery of the mentioned tasks.

v) Entities eligible to apply:

- Non-profit organizations working on addressing youth-related issues, including the area of youth crime prevention, who:
 - Have a minimum of three years of extensive record of work in South-Eastern Europe;

- Have a minimum of three years of experience in working with various stakeholders, namely youth, civil society, institutional actors and academia in the area of crime prevention with the focus on youth across South-Eastern Europe;
- Have experience in producing regional events, including in South-Eastern Europe, preferably in the area of working with and for youth (including the area of youth crime prevention);
- Are able to operate and produce documents in English;
- Have experience in managing externally funded activities.

vi) Supporting documentation:

Applicants shall provide information on their operational capacities as follows:

- Registration certificate (accreditation)
- Statute (in English) demonstrating the non-profit nature of the entity
- Documentation proving experience in addressing youth-related issues, including the area of youth crime prevention;
- Documentation proving experience in implementing projects/events with youth, civil society, institutional actors and academia in the area of crime prevention;
- A list of key personnel who will be involved in the project with CVs;
- CV of the administrator of funds;
- Short description of projects/products at national and transnational level carried out in collaboration with external entities in the field of expertise, including the information on the financial resources received and managed;
- Copies of the most recent financial statements;
- Evidence of a legally registered bank account.

vii) How to apply and the procedures to follow:

The Public Call documents are available on request by e-mail to: ipcalls-at@osce.org.

The Public Call documents include:

- This document;
- Acknowledgement letter - ANNEX A. Upon receipt of this EOI, you are kindly requested to return the attached Acknowledgement Letter (Annex A) not later than **08 February 2023, 17:00 CET (Vienna time)** ipcalls-at@osce.org.

Applicants must apply in English. Hand-written applications will not be accepted.

Applications (Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal) must be delivered in *separate, password protected PDF files* to ipcalls-at@osce.org on or before **14 February 2023 – (17:00 CET)**.

Any application submitted after the deadline at **17:00 CET on 14 February 2023** will be automatically rejected.

Please address all your queries or questions in writing to ipcalls-at@osce.org up to 5 days before the submission deadline and kindly refrain from any telephone calls or personal visits.