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საქართველოს საზოგადოების განვითარებისა და მოქალაქეების ჩართულობის პროექტი
ADVANCING CSO CAPACITIES AND ENGAGING SOCIETY FOR SUSTAINABILITY (ACCESS)

Request for Applications (RfA)
Public Policy and Accountability Grants (PPAG) Program for
**Strengthening Community-based Resilience
and Cohesion in Georgia**

The East-West Management Institute (EWMI) Advancing CSO Capacities and Engaging Society for Sustainability (ACCESS) project is pleased to announce the Public Policy and Accountability Grants (PPAG) program.

Under this Request for Applications (RfA), the PPAG program will support initiatives that aim at countering radicalization and violent extremism in Georgia through strengthening community-based resilience and cohesion.

In recent years, Georgia, much like other countries in Europe and elsewhere, has been impacted by the rise of religious and nationalist radicalization and violent extremism. The problem has drawn broader attention following the numerous reports about the Georgian citizens joining the Islamic State. According to the United States Department of State, around 100-200 Georgian citizens left Georgia to fight in Syria and Iraq between 2012 and 2016[1]. Approximately 30 Georgian citizens still remain there[2].

While residents of Pankisi have most contributed to the outflow of Georgian terrorist fighters to Syria and Iraq, it is clear that the problem is not particular to this region. Georgians from Adjara, Guria, Kvemo Kartli, and Kakheti have also been reported to have joined ISIS and its affiliates.

Over the past two years, the loss of Islamic State-controlled territory in the Middle East and the significant reduction in manpower changed the dynamics of foreign terrorist fighter (FTF) recruitment from Georgia. Although the outflow of locals to the ranks of ISIS has halted, in the absence of concerted efforts by the Georgian state to remove the key drivers of radicalization and violent extremism, the underlying causes for and risks of extremism remain.

In spring 2018, United States Agency for International Development Georgia (USAID/Georgia) conducted Georgia's first Violent Extremism Risk Analysis. According to this analysis, some of the key perceived drivers of violent extremism among the Muslim populations in Georgia include: (a) societal discrimination and frustrated expectations, (b) denial of political rights and civil liberties, (c) threat to culture and values, and (d) isolation and animosity[3].

A number of development challenges that are pervasive in Georgian society at large are particularly problematic in ethnic and religious minority areas. These include insufficient opportunities for self-fulfillment, low levels of minority inclusion and representation, low levels of civic activity, disconnected or distant governance, and low level of political participation that lead to feelings of alienation and distrust.

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[1] "Country Reports on Terrorism 2016", U.S. Department of State (2016)
[2] "2017 Report of the Georgian State Security Service", Georgian State Security Service (April 2018)
[3] "Georgia Violent Extremism Risk Analysis", USAID/Georgia (July 2018)

These problems, coupled with the emergence of separate ultranationalist groups spreading anti-Islamic and anti-minority rhetoric; radical interpretations of Islam in the affected communities, and soft power engagement from a foreign power to provoke tensions in Georgia on ethnic and religious grounds, are potentially sowing new seeds of extremism and "mutual radicalization"[4].

Against this background, it is important to deploy a range of counter-radicalization and violent extremism instruments that address the key drivers of these problems and focus on prevention and community-based approaches. To this end, the PPAG program calls Georgian CSOs or CSO coalitions to submit project proposals that target one or more areas affected by violent extremism and aim to achieve one or several of the following objectives:

- **Promote social dialogue and trust-building** in the affected communities to build positive relationships and increase trust and feeling of fairness among various social, ethnic, and religious groups (including the conservative religious groups);
- **Improve government responsiveness** and commitment to the affected communities and the problem of violent extremism;
- **Increase resilience of local communities** against violent extremism through strengthening critical thinking skills of young people, promoting positive youth development principles, and engaging youth more broadly;
- **Propose other positive interventions** that address the key drivers of radicalization and violent extremism and form the foundations to address longer-term concerns of social unity.

The project designs must consider and strictly adhere to the Do No Harm principle. In particular, the proposed interventions must strive to minimize the harm they may unintentionally cause, such as, add to tensions in the affected communities, put those living in these communities at greater risk, further stigmatize a specific region or specific ethnic/religious groups, etc.

GRANT AWARDS

EWMI ACCESS will award up to two grants of up to $30,000 USD each under this RfA. Grant funds may be used only for the activities directly related to the implementation of the project, except for any proposed institutional development activities (see "Institutional Support" section below). The duration of project activities should not exceed 10 months. EWMI ACCESS reserves the right to fund none of the applications submitted.

ELIGIBILITY

Think tanks, watchdog and other types of CSOs and CSO coalitions registered in Georgia are eligible to submit proposals for the PPAG program. Applicants should meet the following criteria:
- Have at least two years of operational experience. As a rule, EWMI ACCESS will not provide "start-up" funding, although EWMI ACCESS may make an exception if sufficient

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[4] According to the 2017 report of the Georgian Security Service published in April 2018, foreign Special Forces are attempting to create hotspots of destabilization on ethnic and religious grounds in Georgia, including through engaging destructive political forces and populist public movements.

evidence is presented to show that the organization's directors and experts have adequate prior experience and the organization is filling a niche that has been underserved in the past.

- Have a governance structure that ensures proper rotation of leadership and delegation of power, including at least a Board of Directors, a Chairperson, and an Executive Director. The same individual should not hold the position of the Board Chairperson and the Executive Director, unless the size of the organization precludes this separation. If the above criteria are not met, the applicant must submit a proposed reform process that will work towards meeting these standards.

- Have a transparent system of bookkeeping that is in compliance with Georgian legislation and International Accounting Standards (IAS). If such a system is not in place, the grantee must work closely with EWMI ACCESS to ensure that accurate expense reports are prepared and a transparent bookkeeping system is put in place.

- Must not be a debtor, must have cancelled any debt to the state, or have arranged for debt collection prior to receiving the first disbursement of EWMI ACCESS grant funds.

- Must operate as an independent, non-politically affiliated organization.

- Must have a DUNS Number.

Civil servants, political appointees, members of the current parliament, staff of public broadcasting companies, and/or leaders of political parties cannot participate in a grant project as a director. In most cases, these individuals are also excluded from being grant-remunerated participants in projects.

EWMI ACCESS will not fund the projects that propose any of the following:
- Support for or lobbying on behalf of a particular political party;
- Religious activities. However, EWMI ACCESS may support a religious organization for non-religious aims if its proposal corresponds to PPAG objectives;
- Humanitarian activities;
- Theoretical research; or
- Individual and/or group travel as a primary project activity.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

EWMI ACCESS will offer PPAGs the opportunity to benefit from the targeted technical assistance through workshops, designated courses, and/or mentorship on project-related topics identified by the grantee in partnership with EWMI ACCESS.

Training
PPAG grantees will be eligible to apply for a Non-profit Management Program (NMP) and/or Organizational and Advocacy Capacity Assessment (OACA) offered by EWMI ACCESS implementing partner the Centre for Training and Consultancy (CTC). For more information about these programs, please visit EWMI ACCESS website.

Mentoring
EWMI ACCESS may also offer local and international mentors for PPAG recipients in areas of need. EWMI ACCESS and PPAG recipients will work together to identify potential mentors as needed shortly following the grant award. Mentors will provide on-site consultations and/or long-distance advice and information on a variety of organizational or project-based issues.

Institutional Support

PPAG applicants can include institutional development activities as part of their proposals. The purpose of this **optional** support is to enable organizations to implement self-initiated organizational strengthening initiatives that will contribute to their effectiveness and sustainability. PPAG applicants can allot up to $5,000 of the total grant amount to implement measurable organizational development activities. Examples of such activities include, but are not limited to: purchasing computer software to assist in accounting or management; local or long-distance professional development training courses for staff; conducting an audit; developing a strategic plan through participatory processes; preparing a fundraising plan; and developing and implementing specific policies and procedures that improve organizational management and/or financial sustainability. Applicants should detail any institutional support activities in their applications and budgets. EMWI ACCESS will require all PPAG recipients requesting funding for this purpose to provide specific deliverables (e.g., records to prove the policies and descriptions of the procedures have been developed and implemented).

APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

PPAG applications must be submitted in English. Applications should be e-mailed to the EWMI ACCESS office in Tbilisi.

Applicants must submit a **brief proposal (max. 5,000 words) and proposal cover page (in English), based on the PPAG Application Form (attached).**

Once the winner is selected, the applicant will be asked to provide a more detailed activity description and budget.

Before making the final decision, EWMI ACCESS may request additional documentation such as:

- A copy of the organization's most recent Public Registry Record printed out from www.reestri.gov.ge;
- A copy of the organization's most recent Act of Comparison printed out from www.rs.ge;
- An auditor's report;
- Financial Statements (balance sheet showing profit and loss and cash flow);
- Organizational policies.

Proposals must be the original and sole work of the applicant organization. Plagiarism will result in disqualification from the grant competition.

EWMI ACCESS will retain all materials and documents submitted by applicants. EWMI ACCESS will not use this information for purposes other than proposal review and will not share it with other persons or institutions, except when required by Georgian law or requested by USAID. Please note that in order to avoid a duplication of efforts, EWMI ACCESS will share a list of received applications with other donors supporting CSOs in Georgia.

EVALUATION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

A Grants Review Committee (GRC) established by EWMI ACCESS will review all proposals and select the awardee. The GRC will be composed of EWMI ACCESS staff and independent experts. Short-listed applicants may be asked to provide additional information.

EWMI ACCESS will assess proposals based on the following main criteria:
- Technical approach, including:
  - Overall compliance with the PPAG program objectives and criteria;
  - Nuanced understanding of the targeted problem and community/group;
  - Overall effectiveness of the proposed strategies and activities to achieve the set objectives;
  - Adherence to the Do No Harm principle;
- Organizational capacity and management, including:
  - Adequacy of the proposed project implementation team;
  - Applicants' past performance in similar projects/field, as applicable.
- Budget proposal, including:
  - Cost of the proposed project;
  - Proposed co-funding, especially from local business, other donors, and/or government, as well as media and other partner organizations and/or volunteers.

Applicants should respond to all of the requirements of the grant application form.

TIMELINE

RfA launch date	August 6, 2018
Deadline for submitting clarification requests to EWMI ACCESS	August 20, 2018
Date when EWMI ACCESS will issue clarifications	August 23 2018
DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS	**16:30, September 14, 2018**
Evaluation of proposals	September 21, 2018
Grant award notification to successful applicant	September 28, 2018
Grant agreement signing	October 5, 2018
Please note that evaluation and award dates are subject to change	

CONTACT INFORMATION

Application Form: To download the application form, please visit the EWMI ACCESS website www.ewmi-access.org or see the PPAG announcement on www.jobs.ge.

Clarifications: Requests for clarification should be sent to EWMI ACCESS Public Policy and Accountability Advisor (PPAA) Nodar Tangiashvili at ntangiashvili@ewmi.org by the deadline listed above. EWMI ACCESS will issue clarifications to all interested organizations via e-mail.

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Proposals: Applicants should submit their proposal via e-mail to grants@ewmi.org. E-mails must have "**PPAG PROGRAM"** in the subject line. EWMI ACCESS will notify the applicant once it has received the application.