



## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### *Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) 2026*

#### 1. Basic information

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Technical details                     | Re-granting under the 2026 EWL Operating Grant   |
| Funds made available by               | DG Justice of the European Commission, managed by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency EACEA, under the CERV Programme (CERV 2025-OG-SGA) |
| Official name under the original call | Financial support to third parties   |
| Proposal stages                       | Single stage   |
| Contract type                         | Funding agreement  |
| Total budget available                | 100,000€   |

#### 2. Background and purpose of the call for proposals

The regranting scheme will enable the EWL members to carry out projects that provide arguments, good practices, and outreach to the EWL annual work programme and 2022-2026 Strategic Framework. Grantees can design and implement tailor-made capacity-building initiatives, skills-sharing activities, evidence-based research projects, collection of best practices, policy work, and advocacy campaigns adapted to their national, regional, and local realities.

Funding will be granted to candidates who show, in their proposals, the aim to respond to one or more of the following strategic objectives:

- 1. Increase the visibility of issues and changes in policies and laws regarding women and gender equality** (e.g., Directive on violence against women, Women on Boards directive, pay transparency, work-life balance, European Care Strategy, Istanbul Convention). This includes raising awareness about the impact of international treaties and gender equality legislation on everyday life.
- 2. Increased knowledge and understanding of the issues for the general public and relevant stakeholders** (e.g., representation of women in decision-making, combatting VAWG, sexual exploitation, SRHR, gender stereotyping, and strengthening diversity and inclusion). This



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involves simplifying language to make gender equality messages more accessible and engaging with various stakeholders.

- 3. Increase the field of knowledge and expertise of the organisation and/or external stakeholders on specific topics** (e.g., cross-cutting feminist digital policies, strengthening diversity and inclusion, combatting VAWG, sexual exploitation, SRHR, gender stereotyping in media).
- 4. More effective and empowered women's organisations at local, regional, and national levels.** This involves strengthening the capacity and influence of women's organizations to effectively advocate for gender equality and women's rights.
- 5. Foster collaboration between women's organisations on the ground.** It involves promoting cooperation and partnerships among women's organizations to work together on common goals and support each other.

In line with the EWL Membership Development Plan adopted in 2023, the EWL aims to reinforce the impact and visibility of its members' activities by enabling them to connect, exchange, and develop links with young feminists as well as increase their knowledge and engagement of the priorities listed below.

### 3. Priorities

The three priorities of the call are the following:

- 1. Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)**
- 2. Equal representation of women in decision-making and post EU elections activities**
- 3. Peer learning and exchange between the European Union EWL members on different subjects aligned with the EWL's 2026 Work Programme.**

Applicants should select only one of the above for each project and plan the activities accordingly.

### 4. What is the available budget?

The total budget for the call is 100,000€.

**The minimum amount per project is 10,000€. The maximum amount per project is 15,000€.** The grant covers 100% of the project costs. Thus, no co-funding is required from the members.

The eligible members can apply for **up to two projects** for a maximum funding support of a total of 30,000€. EWL members can apply for projects in a consortium with one or more of their members or with other EWL national coordinators based in EU countries. In this case, the project application form





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should be submitted only once by a single applicant member. The one submitting the application will be the sole responsible for the budget, taking care of the entire administrative and financial burden, and functioning as a contact point for communication with the EWL. This also applies for transnational projects.

The criteria for calculating the exact amount of financial support will depend on different factors, which articulate with EWL priorities:

- The nature, number, and scope of the proposed activity,
- The budget submitted by the candidate for its proposal and the relevance of this budget to carry out the activities,
- The number of members requesting support.

The total available budget will be allocated across the three priorities as indicative percentages: Priority 1 (40–45%), Priority 2 (40–45%), and Priority 3 (15–20%). These allocations are indicative and may be adjusted upward or downward depending on the number and quality of proposals received under each priority.

The EWL reserves the right not to award all available funds depending on the proposals received and the evaluation results. The EWL reserves the right to propose a lower budget to the applicant if the project proposal is assessed as financially inefficient.

The project budget should be calculated using the maximum budget amounts for each activity. The grant will be disbursed based on the real costs incurred during the project implementation upon submission of invoices and receipts from the grantee. A first payment of 80% will be made upon contract signature and 20% upon the final report's approval.

The EWL Secretariat reserves the right to request a reimbursement if the member fails to deliver on the expected deliverables and responsibilities or does not provide evidence for the incurred costs.

## 5. When can the projects start and what is the maximum project duration?

Projects can last between 3 to 6 months, starting from **01 May 2026** and ending at the latest on **31 October 2026**.

## 6. Which are the eligible activities and the assigned budget for those?

The following is an exhaustive list of activities eligible within the applicant's projects for this call.

- Research and/or development work (Category 1)





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Funding will be allocated to members researching issues related to the call priorities that advance evidence-based realities on the ground, public knowledge as well as advocacy and policy work. The category includes survey distribution, collection of good practices, and drafting of policy papers.

**Maximum budget amounts:** 6000€ at the national level / 4000€ at the regional level / 2000€ for the local level

• Advocacy and Communication campaigns (Category 2)

Funding will be allocated to members carrying out advocacy campaigns to raise awareness about issues related to women's rights and gender equality that transcend national boundaries. The advocacy campaigns could be held in specific periods of the year. The category includes public awareness campaigns, local campaigns, focus groups and the creation of webpages for citizens.

**Maximum budget amounts:** 4000€ at the national level / 2500€ at the regional level / 1500€ for the local level.

• Training opportunities (Category 3)

Funding will be allocated to members conducting training workshops and seminars to build the capacity of their members and develop their skills. If projects are focused on the first two priorities of the call, these activities should align with those. If projects are focused on capacity building (third priority), these activities can tackle a wider range of topics.

**Maximum budget amounts:** 5000€ at the national level / 4000€ at the regional level / 3000€ for the local level.

• Event organisation (Category 4)

Funding will be allocated to members organising events such as conferences, seminars, and workshops. These events should facilitate networking and exchange opportunities between member women organisations and stakeholders such as civil society organisations, policymakers, and the general public.

**Maximum budget amounts:** 3000€ at the national level / 2000€ at the regional level / 1000€ at the local level.

• Participation in events/capacity-building opportunities (Category 5)

Funding will be allocated to members participating in strategic events and capacity-building opportunities.

**Maximum budget amounts (per person/ per event):** 200€ for a national participant / 700€ for a European participant.





The proposed budgets will factor in costs for the project coordination, administration and promotion: the FSTP cannot cover grantees' operational costs.

## Who can apply?

Only applicants that satisfy the following criteria can apply:

- Applicants should be EWL National coordinations based in EU countries;
- Applicants must have legal registration as a non-commercial legal form (“registered non-profit organisation”);
- Applicants must demonstrate that none of the project activities proposed are supported by another funder;
- Applicants should be able to demonstrate an alignment with the EWL strategic objectives and values in accordance with the Strategic Framework 2022-2026 and full adherence to the EU values.

EWL members can also apply for projects in a consortium with one or more of their members or with other EWL national coordinators based in EU countries. In this case, the project application form should be submitted only once by a single applicant member. The one submitting the application will be the sole responsible for the budget, taking care of the entire administrative and financial burden, and functioning as a contact point for communication with the EWL. This also applies for transnational projects.

Project activities must take place in European Union Member States.

## 7. What are evaluation criteria for the project proposals?

|                                 |   |   |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Relevance</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which the proposal matches the priority of the call and attain its specific objectives.</li> <li>• Extent to which the proposal is in line with the EWL Strategic Framework and 2026 Work Plan</li> <li>• Extent to which the applicant cooperate with their members in the same country or with other EWL eligible members</li> </ul> | <p>40 points</p> <p><b>Minimum pass score: 25</b></p> |
| <b>Approach and methodology</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistency of the project</li> <li>• Methodology</li> <li>• Feasibility of the project within the proposed timeframe</li> <li>• Implementation capacities of the applicant</li> <li>• Financial efficiency</li> </ul>   | <p>40 points</p>                                      |





|                             |   |           |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------|
|                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demonstrating the commitment to address the identified needs of different groups of women during project implementation</li></ul>   |           |
| <b>Impact and necessity</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Impact at regional, national and local levels</li><li>• Innovation of the proposed results</li><li>• Complementarity with ongoing projects and activities</li><li>• Project's financial sustainability measures</li></ul> | 20 points |

## 8. How are projects reviewed and selected?

The selection procedure will consist of three phases:

1. In the first phase, the Secretariat will carry out the first screening of proposals to ensure eligibility criteria and admissibility according to the conditions stipulated in the Call.
2. In the second phase, an independent external evaluator will evaluate the proposals on the basis of the criteria established in the Call, clear guidelines on the nature and process of the re-granting scheme, and the 2026 EWL work programme adopted by the EWL membership.
3. In the third phase, the Selection Committee will assess the ranking provided by the external evaluator and confirm which applications will receive funding support. The Selection Committee is composed of a guarantor, four members of the EWL Secretariat (the EWL Secretary General, one from the Policy and Campaigns Hub, one from the EWL Programme Hub, and one from the EWL Finance and Administration Hub), and four members of the EWL Executive Committee (ideally members of the Finance and Funding or Membership Committees).

The guarantor is chosen among former EWL Presidents/Treasurers or other previously elected members (Vice-President, Board members, etc.). Current ExCo, Board, or GA members of the EWL are not eligible for this position in order to ensure that the guarantor does not have a vested interest in the process<sup>1</sup>. She chairs the Selection Committee, assesses the objectiveness of the evaluation procedure, and serves as a contact person in case of complaints. She also provides factual and impartial input on the applicants' selection and is in charge of initiating the due diligence process, which will include a thorough assessment of the organisation's ethical standards (using online and offline material available to the public or provided by the member). Towards the end of the year, the

<sup>1</sup> Should you have recommendations on the right person for this role, please send those to [Programme@womenlobby.org](mailto:Programme@womenlobby.org)



guarantor performs a comprehensive SWOT analysis about the Re-granting Scheme process to provide strategic recommendations to the EWL governing bodies for their consideration and decision-making.

System addressing suspected or actual cases of irregularities, frauds, and reputational risks linked to the non-respect of EU values

The Financial and Administration Hub, alongside an independent auditor, will conduct internal controls and monitoring to identify irregularities, and train the staff on fraud awareness. The Programme Hub closely monitors project implementation and manages the reporting of potential irregularities. Any suspected fraud or serious misconduct triggers immediate review and may result in suspension of the relevant contract pending evaluation. Confirmed fraud will immediately result in contract termination and fund reimbursement, with legal and technical consequences outlined in the contract. Additionally, beneficiaries will be requested to sign a Declaration of Honour confirming adherence to EU values. Breaching this declaration can lead to exclusion, administrative sanctions, or funding cancellation.

### 9. What is the Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) timeline?

|                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Call Opening</b>            | 23 February 2026                 |
| <b>Deadline for submission</b> | 31 March 2026                    |
| <b>Results publication</b>     | 27 April 2026                    |
| <b>Contract signature</b>      | By 30 April 2026                 |
| <b>Start of projects</b>       | 01 May 2026                      |
| <b>End of projects</b>         | At the latest by 31 October 2026 |
| <b>Final report due date</b>   | 1st Novembre 2026                |

### 10. How can I apply?

To apply, please fill in the application form available at this link ([GForm](#)) **by the 31 of March 2026**.



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For questions and clarifications, contact the EWL Secretariat at [Programme@womenlobby.org](mailto:Programme@womenlobby.org). The EWL Secretariat will publish a FAQ document with all the questions received in order to ensure information and transparency among applicants.

## 11. Key documents

The following key documents are available in the dedicated webpage and in the EWL Living Room:

1. 2026 Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) - Call for applications
2. 2026 Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) - Application form template (i.e the [GForm](#))
3. 2026 Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) – Frequently Asked Questions
4. EWL 2026 Work Programme
5. EWL Strategic Framework 2022-2026

