***MEDIA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAMME***

*Contributing to a stronger and more consistent work on the protection and promotion of human rights in Kosovar media and improving the knowledge base and skills of media professionals*

*Deadline for submission of applications:*

*14.04.2020*

*Applications must be submitted at:*

*eumediagrants@ktwopointzero.com*

1. **About this Programme**

*Media for human rights programme is a component of the three-years EU funded project K2.0 is implementing in partnership with Kosovar Center for Gender Studies and the Center for Liberty and Equality in Kosovo.*

*This project has commenced in 2018 with a Human Rights Journalism Fellowship Program that engages and empowers young journalists to serve the interest of the silent, the marginalized, the divided and the excluded. The component that we are launching now is an effort to initiate partnerships among media organizations, and non-profit organizations working in the area of human rights with the potential of being a catalyst leading to a deeper understanding of the societal challenges pertaining to human rights in Kosovo.*

*Cooperation between human rights activists and organizations and journalists, is rather minimal and generally limited to mere coverage of publications of reports, public conferences, and events without any proper follow up or meaningful analysis and synthesis of the information published.*

*To address this issue, we are seeking to empower, and encourage journalists to go beyond the aforementioned practices, and to explore the causes or consequences to the issues addressed by the civil society in Kosovo through partnerships, and joint projects. The majority of media do not have a human rights perspective in their editorial approach, and their media production is traditionally driven by ongoing political agendas and ongoing political events. Journalism at the more local levels is an important, powerful tool to engage communities and citizens around issues that do not get covered at the national level. Normally, nationwide media are mostly based in Pristina, with journalists based in Pristina too, therefore having limited access, knowledge and presence in other regions of Kosovo, where human rights violations occur without receiving the necessary attention. Moreover, often such issues lack the necessary media attention because they are deemed part of the culture and as such have become ‘normalized’.*

*Therefore, this component ultimately seeks to enhance a more structured, and comprehensive cooperation between media organizations, and human rights non-profit NGOs in Kosovo through merging the knowledge, experience, and capacities of CSOs and media organizations.*

*Herewith, in order to foster a greater presence of human rights, focusing on gender equality, LGBTIQ+ persons, non-majority communities, people with disabilities - in the Kosovar media, we deem it crucial that formal partnerships between media entities and CSOs are established, that practices are shared, and that the efforts to promote human rights are joint.*

*We invite local media organizations and enterprises to pair up with non-profit organizations working on human rights, and to express their interest on this call for applications. One partnership between media outlets (print based, television and/or radio stations), and non-profit organizations working in the area of human rights will receive a grant through this open call for applications to strengthen, and improve their capacities to produce, human rights sensitive journalism.*

 **2. Objective of this call for proposal**

To a stronger and more consistent work for the protection and promotion of human rights in Kosovar media, as well as improving the knowledge base and skills of media professionals, Kosovo 2.0, KCGS, and CEL invite entities working on/around media, and non-governmental organizations working on human rights to join their forces, and apply for this call for proposals.

**2.1 Duration of projects;**

* All projects must be implemented within the period of six to seven months. Proposals that present projects shorter than (six) 6 months, or longer than seven (7) months will not be accepted nor considered for granting.
* All projects must commence *indicatively* on the 1st of May, and must be finalized on the 30th of November 2020 the latest.

**2.2 Size of grants**

* All proposals must present a budget of **25,000** Euros for their projects;
* Should all the requirements be met by applicants, and should the applications be qualitative and realistically promising a successful, and impactful initiative, one partnership/proposal will be awarded the grant within this scheme.

**3. Eligibility**

3.1 Eligible applicants/proposals:

Eligible applicants for this Call for Proposals are:

* Lead applicant must be a media organization/entity registered not later than two years;
* Partners must be non-profit organizations (NGOs, Foundations) operating for at least two years, with a clear status explicitly presenting their involvement and focus on human rights; (please see the application package requirements);
* Non-profit media organizations registered and established in Kosovo and operating for at least two years; or private media businesses registered and operating in Kosovo and operating for at least two years, including, but not limited to: radio stations, TV stations, online media and printed publications.
* Applicants with projects implemented in partnership with civil society organizations working in the field of human rights - newly established partnerships through these project proposals are allowed.
* Applicants must sign and present within the application package a Memorandum of Understanding specifying the purpose and role in the partnership between the two entities. The involvement of partner organizations may include but is not limited to: support with research and expertise in the specific field, support providing contacts and network, assisting in developing internal capacities to approach human rights related issues, assisting in capacity building of the staff, and more;
* Non-profit media organizations and private media businesses (websites, print and/or program credits) that are transparent with regards to the ownership and newsroom staff, and provide an Impressum that lists address and contact information of media, names of owners, and listing of editors, journalists and other professional staff working at the medium.

3.2 Eligible actions are, among others:

* Journalistic production, including production of long form journalism with a focus on human rights, i.e. gender equality, LGBTIQ+ persons’ rights, persons with disabilities, non-majority communities’ rights, features, TV, and radio formats, multimedia production, and other innovative media formats)
* Talks, events, and or campaigns organized to increase knowledge, and awareness around the importance of a human rights journalism; and seeking to encourage journalists at applying a stronger human rights perspective in their production;
* Online campaigns on a national-scale that present a comprehensive plan and/or a series of actions aimed at promoting human rights;
* Organizing trainings for editors and journalists on human rights-sensitive reporting, representation of groups at risk, minorities; gender equality; LGBTIQ+ persons’ rights, etc.
* Production of creative advocacy journalism and media formats aiming at changing traditional norms that promote non-discrimination and advocate against inequality; and vocally condemn all forms of discrimination;
* Developing internal ethical codes, guidelines and regulations that explicitly focus on a stronger human-rights editorial production;
* Capacity building in investigative journalism; human rights based journalism;

3.3 Non-eligible actions/applicants:

 -Applicants with projects that do not establish formal partnerships with organizations working in the field of human rights;

- Applicants registered, and operating for less than two years from the deadline for submission of these applications;

- Actions linked to political parties’ and applicants affiliated with political parties;

- Projects shorter than 6 months and longer than 7 months;

- Actions that are mainly related to individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences and congresses;

- Actions pertaining to political parties’ and/or political campaigning;

- Applicants that are currently implementing a project within this scheme;

**4. Eligibility of costs**

Applicants must present budgets that are directly, and exclusively linked with the successful implementation of the proposed activities. Henceforth, all costs must be realistic, and must be in compliance with market prices for the proposed activities, services, and staff salaries. It is imperative that the budget is logically distributed, and that it is agreed upon by both parties applying in this call. Below, you may find a list of eligible, and non-eligible costs. Kosovo Glocal has the right to require budget modifications, should there be a need to.

**4.1 Eligible costs:**

All costs must be clearly indicated in the initial budget form, and must all occur during the implementation phase of the project’s activities;

* Cost of covering the staff members; including fees for experts, and individuals directly involved in the implementation of the activity;
* Travel and subsistence costs for those involved in the project, and for the purpose of implementing activities as foreseen in the application form;
* purchase costs for equipment and supplies exclusively linked to the Activities proposed; provided that ownership is transferred at the end of the Activity;
* costs of consumables, and supplies;
* bank charges costs pertaining to the activities enlisted in the application form;
* costs entailed by contracts awarded by the Beneficiary(ies) for the purposes of the Activity;
* costs deriving directly from the requirements of the Contract (dissemination of information, evaluation specific to the Activity, accounting, audits, translation, reproduction, insurance, etc.)

**4.2 The following costs are not eligible**:

- debts and debt service charges (interest);

- Costs occurring prior to this action’s implementation phase, and/or upon the finalization of its duration;

- provisions for losses or potential future liabilities;

- costs declared by the beneficiary(ies) and financed by another action or work programme receiving a European Union grant;

- purchases of land or buildings;

- VAT, taxes, duties and charges;

- credit to third parties.

**5. Application Package**

Each applicant must present:

1. A completed application form as per the format provided;
2. A completed budget form, representing a realistic budget;
3. Certificate of registration for both the Lead applicant, and project partner;
4. For lead organizations, i.e. private media companies - an Impressum that lists addresses and contact information of media, names of owners, and listing of editors, journalists and other professional staff working at the medium.
5. Memorandum of Understanding signed between the lead applicant, and partner applicant; (electronic signatures are accepted)
6. Tax Verification;

**5.1 Questions:** All questions related to this call for proposal must be submitted to: eumediagrants@ktwopointzero.com, no later than: 06.04.2020

Please note that K2.0 is open to assist you should you have any difficulties completing the documents coming as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

All applications must be sent at: eumediagrants@ktwopointzero.com no later than on 14.04.2020, 23:59

**6. Selection Criteria:**

**6.1 All applications will be selected based on the criteria below:**

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| Relevance of the proposed project: | This aspect assesses the extent to which the proposed project is relevant to this call for proposals, as per the main objective enlisted in this guideline; | 30 |
| Expertise of the lead applicant, and partner applicant | This aspect evaluates the expertise, previous experience of both the lead applicant, and the partner applicant. Given that for this call, it is essential that partnerships are established between media enterprises, and CSOs - both applicants will be thoroughly assessed; | 20 |
| Creative strength of the activities; and partnership; | This aspect evaluates these components:1. The partnership; whether there is a logical connection between the activities; and whether both applicants’ roles are comprehensively involved in the implementation of the project;
2. The project justifies the activities, provides a thorough background; and a logical list of activities that have the potential of improving the given context;
 | 30 |
| Quality of the Financial Offer: | This aspect evaluates the extent to which the proposed budget contributes directly to the implementation of the enlisted activities. Furthermore, the applicants’ proposed budget will be assessed whether they have distributed the budget as such, that it is realistic to the market prices in Kosovo; | 20 |
| Total: |  | 100 |