

Eligibility

1) Can a non-established (non-registered) organisation/collective apply?

Yes, registration or being a formal entity is not required, ILGA-Europe funds non-formal groups as well. If you are a non-formal group, you will need a fiscal sponsor - another organisation that will receive the funds into their bank account and support you in managing them. Unfortunately, with a grant of this size, private individuals cannot be fiscal sponsors for non-formal groups.

2) Is it possible for two organizations to partner up and submit a joint proposal?

Two organizations can definitely submit a joint proposal. But you need to indicate in your application who will be the primary grantee partner (the one we will sign a contract with), and it should be clear from the application form and the budget who is responsible for what. It is also important to know that even if the project is submitted by two or more organizations, we are not able to increase the amount of money awarded or extend the duration of the grant.

3) Is the call for single organisations only, or are partnerships allowed? If not directly, can the proposal explain who the partners are we normally work with and would also work with on development of the strategic communications described in the proposal?

As it was explained in the answer to question 1, partnerships are eligible for this call. If you have established partnerships in the sphere of communications (and there are organizations and groups that are your partners, but not the co-applicants), you can mention that in the application form (the question 3.5 in the Application form provides space for that).

4) Is it OK to apply if we are several local organisations who want to unite for this call?

Partnerships are eligible for this call. We do not recommend establishing partnerships solely for the purpose of applying for this grant - partnerships will not receive "additional points" - but if there is a history of cooperation on communication work that is already done by a group of organizations, it can be beneficial to apply together.

5) As a federation of LGBTI organisations, can we apply for the grant on behalf of our member organisations and present invoices and expenses of different organisations?

Partnerships are eligible for this call. All organisations and groups whose costs will be covered through the grant should be mentioned in the application and budget, and you need to indicate who will be the primary grant recipient (the one ILGA-Europe will sign a contract with). It should also be clear from the application form and the budget who is responsible for what. All the financial reporting to ILGA-Europe will be done by the primary recipient in accordance with the budget approved.

6) Can partnerships for this project be regional, or multi-country (if the context is similar)?

Both national and multi-national partnerships can apply for this grant. What is important is to explain why the particular work is planned and what is the strategy behind this work.

7) Can the applicant be a non-LGBTI organisation that would connect and help several LGBTIQ organisations with their communications efforts?

This call is for organisations and groups that are LGBTI-led. ILGA-Europe values the leadership of LGBTI activists, and believes they should be at the forefront of designing and implementing the work that serves their communities. Non-LGBTI organisations may serve as support, context experts, or fiscal sponsors, but cannot be in charge of the project as a whole.

8) Can an organisation that never had multi-year grants apply?

Every LGBTI organization or group working in Europe or Central Asia is eligible to apply, and a history of multi-year funding is not a necessary requirement. But every applicant will need to demonstrate what kinds of governance, financial management and organizational management systems and practices are in place to secure a successful implementation of the project. While we will be offering support and capacity building during implementation, taking into account the level of commitment, the size and duration of this grant, we need to make sure that organizations or groups chosen will have sufficient administrative and other capacities.

9) Is it ok to apply even if the organisation is undergoing a change of board?

If there are significant changes within the organization right now, it is important to mention that in the application form and explain the risks that can influence implementation of the project (and how you are going to mitigate those risks). However, such changes as such do not affect your eligibility for this call.

10) Will you support only young organizations? Can organizations with a long history of work also apply?

There are no such limitations for this call, so the organizations of all “ages” are welcome to apply.

11) Can projects include testing of explicit “NOT-LGBTI-communication” if needed? (For example: “variations of sex characteristics” vs. “intersex/LGBTI”).

Can a videospot based on “social experiments” be the result of a strategic communication approach?

There are no limitations related to what types of activities, messages, methods or objectives can be included in the project. Grantee partners can decide themselves what kind of communications work is important for them and how they are going to proceed with this work. However, in your application you should demonstrate strategic thinking behind all the activities you propose. You shall explain why you are going to do the precise piece of work, how it was influenced by your experience and your previous learning and what are the implications and long-term goals.

12) We are communicators but we need support in the development of strategic communication based on positive narratives, plus support in dissemination of our messages. Is this call for us or should we wait for another call that you mentioned?

Our team has gained some good strategic communications experience over the years, but we want to do a workshop with a specialist to support the development of a long-term communications strategy. Could such a capacity building workshop be included for this call?

In order to apply, you do not need to be an organization or group that is already doing “perfect work” on strategic communications. This project implies a lot of joint learning and experience sharing in this area. However, it is important for us to see that you have an experience, some lessons learned from your experience and a vision on how to develop your communications in a more strategic way.

13) The call states that it “might not be for organisations that already have strong communications departments in place”. Could you please describe it a little bit more? Can we apply if we already work a lot in social media and so on?

This call for proposals was designed to support the work of the organizations that have already experience and knowledge in communications, but want to be more strategic with them. So, the big experience in communications, social networks or work with mass media shall not prevent you from applying. But you need to show what you want to do in a more strategic way, how you see that and why such changes are important.

14) Can a project describe an overall strategic overview and focus on some of the preliminary phases of implementation (strategy, audience analysis, testing...)?

Within this project, the first 6 months are reserved specifically for our grantee partners to think about the work they are going to do and the strategies they are going to use (this work can include such activities as research, analyses of the current situation, strategic sessions with specialists on communications, audience analysis, testing and so on). ILGA-Europe will work closely with our grantee partners to help to develop the strategy and define activities for the next two years. That is why, in the application, you are asked to submit the detailed description of activities for the first 6 months of the project and a more general description of activities for the rest two years (the same is with the budget). However, you still need to describe your vision and strategic thinking for the whole 2.5 years in your application.

Preparation and evaluation of applications

1) Will ILGA-Europe provide support to applicants to complete the proposal?

We do not provide support with the actual preparation of the application. However, we can answer all the questions you have about the process. If you have any questions, please contact **both** Svetlana (svetlana@ilga-europe.org) and Rim (rim@ilga-europe.org).

2) Do you have an evaluation criteria or grading system for the application?

All the evaluation criteria we are going to use are listed in the call for applications. For the detailed information see the parts Who is this call for? and How will we select organizations. All proposals will be assessed by at least 3 individuals separately, and then discussed and decided on together to ensure our resources are distributed to a diverse pool of grantees.

How will the work be organized within this project?

1) In the first six months are we going to plan our activities and create our work group for two years?/Should the first 6 months be designed for our internal decision-making and finding ideas for communication?

Within this project, the first 6 months are reserved specifically for grantee partners to think about the work they are going to do and the strategies they are going to use (this work can include such activities as research, analyses of the current situation, strategic sessions with specialists on communications and so on). ILGA-Europe will work closely with grantee partners to help to develop the strategy and define activities for the next two years. That is why, in the application, you are asked to submit the detailed description of activities for the first 6 months of the project and a more general description of activities for the rest two years (the same applies to the budget).

2) Since it's a long period grant: what if the situation of the organization changes completely - completely new goals, new orientation, etc? And half of the budget is spent on something, which can't be achieved?

We understand that the situation can change very much both internally and externally. If unexpected changes occur during implementation, ILGA-Europe will work with the grantee partner to re-align the project to new realities. Nonetheless, the one of the objectives of this funding is to engage grantees with whom we will promote successful communications culture in Europe and Central Asia and will work closely for a long time – participation in this project implies commitment and responsibility, and the applicants' capacity to commit and follow through, and to mitigate and manage risks, will be part of our assessment.

3) You talked about being “hubs for communication capacity building” also after the project - what does that mean in detail? would there e.g. be a contract that grantees “owe working hours” to ILGA afterwards?

This project does not imply any such contracts. But there is rather a commitment at this stage to become an anchor organization (or a hub for capacity building) and readiness to proceed with that kind of work after the project is over. To give an example of what has happened in previous programmes, participants have made presentations to conferences, had a short interview call to share their learnings, or joined a peer-learning session.

4) Is there already a preliminary schedule for the first 6 months meetings?

There is no clear schedule yet, just an outline of the activities we would like to implement together with our grantee partners. The decision about the specific work and the timeline will be made together with our grantees.

5) Would it be possible to start the project later e.g. in August/October/December... or is there a “latest starting point”?

With this project we can allow some flexibility, but we need to rely on the internal logic and the timeframe of the project that implies some collective work. The planned start of the project is Mid-July, but if there are some circumstances preventing you from starting in July, please include this information in your application. The project cannot finish later than December 2024 though.

Other questions

1) How many applications are you planning to fund?

Within this call, we will support 4-5 organizations or groups. Later this year, we plan to launch a call for smaller grants on specific communications activities.

2) Where the funds for this grant are coming from?

The strategic communications programme is financed by the Oak Foundation and the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund.