

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS FOR CSOs IN THE BLACK SEA REGION

INTRODUCTION

This factsheet presents briefly 16 European and international financial instruments available for civil society organisations (CSOs) in the Black Sea Region, highlighting the specific characteristics of each instrument and providing links where interested organisations can find information about calls for proposals and application procedures.

DONORS & FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

PUBLIC FUNDS

EU Funds

European Commission

European Neighbourhood Instrument 2014-2020 – Civil Society Facility

The new ENI has an important component dedicated to the support of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Eastern Neighbourhood. As civil society plays an essential role in this matter, there is a need for strong, pro-active and independent CSOs in the region. To this end, the allocated budget for the new [European Neighbourhood Instrument \(ENI\)](#) is over € 15 billion for period 2014 – 2020.

Why apply?

- ❖ The ENI, through its Civil Society Facility, is one of the biggest financial instruments available to CSOs.
- ❖ It focuses on a broad range of priorities: encouraging small businesses, civil society engagement, climate change action, people-to-people contacts, gender equality promotion, youth & employment, energy etc.
- ❖ As opposed to the ENPI 2007-2013, the new ENI 2014-2020 will be faster, more flexible and have a more strategic approach (follow a more-for-more approach, be increasingly policy-driven and aim for mutual accountability).

Where to check for calls for proposals: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome>

EU Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights - EIDHR

[The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights \(EIDHR\)](#) is complementary to other EU external assistance instruments and has two main key objectives: supporting, developing and consolidating democracy in non-EU countries and enhancing respect and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Its budget is EUR 1,332,752,000 for 2014-2020 and is mainly channeled through CSOs.

Why apply?

- ❖ It is the most important financial instrument dedicated exclusively to human rights and democratisation;

- ❖ It represents an added value due to its flexibility, its ability to provide assistance independently of the consent of the governments of the recipient countries and its focus on both advocacy activities and field operations;
- ❖ The new EIDHR 2014-2020 will focus more on the role of civil society and put a stronger emphasis on vulnerable groups, economic and social rights. Geographically, the new EIDHR will have a stronger focus on the most difficult countries and emergency situations.

Where to check for calls for proposals: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome> or on EU delegations websites.

The Black Sea Joint Operational Programme

The Black Sea Basin Programme is part of European Union's Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) under its European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI).

[The new Black Sea Basin ENI CBC Programme](#), designed for the period 2014-2020 aims to improve the welfare of the people in the Black Sea Basin regions through sustainable development growth and joint environmental protection. The programmes' specific objectives refer to: promoting business and entrepreneurship (€ 25.34 billion) and promoting coordination of environmental protection and joint reduction of marine litter (€ 18.80 billion).

Why apply?

- ❖ Supports cross-border cooperation in the field of business, entrepreneurship and environmental protection.
- ❖ Involves EU & non-EU countries from the Black Sea Region.

Where to check for calls for proposals: <http://blacksea-cbc.net/black-sea-basin-2014-2020/calls-for-proposals/>

European Maritime Fisheries Fund

[European Maritime Fisheries Fund \(2014-2020\)](#) is one of the European Structural and Investment (ESI) Funds. It aims to promote sustainable fishing, support coastal communities diversify their economies and finance projects to create new jobs in the blue economy sector, improve maritime cooperation. In total the fund has a budget of € 6400 million.

The role of civil society has become more and more important in this sector by: providing input to related policies, support & monitor the implementation of these policies, craft partnerships at local level (e.g. community-led local action groups – FLAGs) and drive social change.

Why apply?

- ❖ Focus on sustainable development, environmental protection in the maritime region.
- ❖ Encourages public-private partnerships (PPPs).

Where to check for calls for proposals: <https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/funding-opportunities>

Danube Transnational Programme

[The Danube Transnational Programme](#) is a financing instrument of the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC), better known as Interreg. The Danube Transnational Programme (DTP) promotes economic, social and territorial cohesion in the Danube Region through policy integration in selected fields. The total programme budget is 262 989 839 million euros, including the EU support (over € 221 million) and the national counterpart (over € 41).

While it is an instrument dedicated to achieving cohesion among different EU Member States, it includes also regions from non-EU Black Sea countries such as Moldova or Ukraine (Chernivetska Oblast, Ivano-Frankiviska Oblast, Zakarpatska Oblast and Odessa Oblast).

Why apply?

- ❖ Aims to strengthen on economic, social and territorial integration in the Danube Region.
- ❖ Is a pioneer instrument that contributes to the implementation of the European Regional Development Policy, and more specifically, of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

Where to check for calls for proposals: <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/calls/calls-for-proposals>

Europe for Citizens Programme

[Europe for Citizens](#) is a funding initiative under the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency which aims to strengthen remembrance, common history, values and aim of the EU and to enhance civic participation at EU level. The programme is open to public bodies and non-profit organisations with legal personality from the 28 EU member states, but also from Accession countries, candidate countries and potential candidates (provided they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commission).

Why apply?

- ❖ It focuses on strengthening civic participation and raising awareness on the European history, culture and values.
- ❖ It does not provide only action grants, but also operational grants (for regular and usual activities of an organisation).

Where to check for calls for proposals: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens/funding_en

Erasmus +

[Erasmus +](#) is the EU programme for education, training, youth and sports for the period 2014 – 2020 that brings together in an integrated manner seven EU dedicated programmes. Erasmus + aims to support transnational partnerships among education, training, and youth institutions and organisations to foster cooperation and in order to tackle the skills gaps Europe is facing. The seven year programme will have a budget of €14.7 billion.

While the program is targeted towards EU member states, countries neighbouring the EU can take part in certain Actions of the Programme as partner countries.

Why apply?

- ❖ It is the most important financial instrument dedicated to education, both formal and non-formal;
- ❖ It encourages mobility within in the EU and partner countries.

Where to check for calls for proposals: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/calls/index_en.htm

Other European donors

European Endowment for Democracy

European Endowment for Democracy is a donor organisation that fosters and encourages democratisation and sustainable democracy in countries undergoing a transition process or struggling for democracy. The geographical priority areas are: Eastern Partnership and Russia; and Northern Africa and the Middle East.

Why apply?

- ❖ It supports grassroots organisations, individuals, as well as non-registered groups.
- ❖ It offers emergency, core-funding and bridge funding – between two other funded project periods.
- ❖ It has a flexible and simple application procedure – awarding grants is demand driven and applications are received in an ongoing manner.

Where to find information about the application procedure:

<https://www.democracyendowment.eu/support/>

International donors

United Nations Development Programme

[UNDP – Regional Centre for Europe and Central Asia](#) is on the ground in 22 countries and territories in Europe and the CIS, working with national partners, connecting people to knowledge and addressing their development challenges.

UNDP aims to foster the inclusion of marginalized people into economic, social and political life, empower people by promoting democratic governance and human rights and promote biodiversity and alternative energies.

All information regarding UNDP's activity and funding in the region is available at: <http://open.undp.org/#2016>, a new portal comprising comprehensive programmatic information, as part of the implementation of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).

Why apply?

- ❖ UNDP is the biggest programme (present in 70 countries and territories) dedicated to achieving the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion.
- ❖ UNDP contributes to the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a universal global agenda adopted by all 193 United Nations states in September 2015.

Where to check for calls for proposals:

http://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/about_us/partners.html

United States Development Agency - USAID

[USAID's Bureau for Europe and Eurasia \(E&E\)](#) aims to promote resilient and democratic societies, strengthen economic growth and energy security, and support European-Atlantic integration to realize a region that is whole, free, and at peace.

USAID has Missions, offices, or programs in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Georgia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Russia, Serbia, and Ukraine. USAID total assistance budget to the region amounted to \$300.89 million in 2014.

Each country has a specific funding priorities and calls for proposals are published on the website of USAID's country mission (usually the American Embassy website of the respective country).

Why apply?

- ❖ USAID is one of the most important donors, together with the EU, that supports democratic transition, including civil society development, in formerly communist countries.

Where to check for calls for proposals: American Embassies in the respective countries.

PRIVATE FUNDS

Private American donors

Open Society Foundations - Eurasia Program

[The OSF Eurasia Program](#) works to deepen civil society, uphold human rights, and maintain space for independent debate and discussion in Eastern Europe (Moldova, Ukraine), the South Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) and Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan).

The program offers project grants, but also supports advocacy, research and regional initiatives.

Why apply?

- ❖ Eurasia Programme supports advocacy efforts of CSOs to promote accountability, transparency, good governance, human rights, anti-corruption, access to justice and independent media in the region;
- ❖ Eurasia Program also includes support to research and encourages partnerships between academia and civil society.

Where to check for calls for proposals: <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants>

Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation

[Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation \(BST\)](#) is a private donor organisation that promotes regional cooperation and good governance in the Wider Black Sea region, comprising the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine.

BST aims to strengthen civil society, promote peace and security, bridge divided communities, promote dialog in the society and promote cooperation within the Black Sea region and beyond. To this end, BST has 4 programmatic areas: civic participation; cross-border initiatives; Eastern links; confidence building.

Why apply?

- ❖ BST's programmes are dedicated specifically to regional cooperation.
- ❖ BST supports partnerships and innovative project ideas.
- ❖ The application procedure and implementation of grants is flexible.

Where to check for calls for proposals: <http://www.gmfus.org/initiatives/request-proposals>

IREX

[IREX](#) is an international non-profit organisation providing thought leadership and innovative programs to promote positive lasting change globally.

IREX's mission is to enable local individuals and institutions to build key elements of a vibrant society: quality education, a strong civil society, independent media, and strong communities. To strengthen these sectors, IREX program activities also include conflict resolution, technology for development, gender, and youth.

Why apply?

- ❖ Supports grassroots organisations and community development.
- ❖ Encourages quality education and builds local leadership.
- ❖ Supports innovative technology for advancing development goals.
- ❖ Supports the advancement of gender equality and female empowerment.
- ❖ Has independent media development programmes.

Where to check for calls for proposals: <https://www.irex.org/apply>

Eurasia Partnership Foundation

[Eurasia Partnership Foundation's \(EPF\)](#) mission is to empower people to effect change for social justice and economic prosperity through hands-on programs, helping them to improve their communities and their own lives. Local foundations registered in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia aim to support emerging civil society organisations.

EPF is both a grant-maker and a program implementer and is guided by five program mandates and approaches: Creating Opportunities for Civic and Economic Participation; Building Capacity for Evidence-Based Research to Improve Policy-Making; Fostering a Culture of Corporate and Community Philanthropy; Cross-Border Cooperation; and Open Door Grant Making.

Why apply?

- ❖ Encourages direct citizen involvement in CSO projects.
- ❖ Encourages public-private partnerships, especially involving small and medium sized businesses.
- ❖ Supports capacity building for research to improve policy-making, through trainings on research methods, fellowships and advocacy.
- ❖ It also has a regional dimension, aiming to contribute to security and stability by building links among civil society groups in different countries with similar problems and common goals.
- ❖ It has an Open Door Grant Mechanism - a tool to support innovative pilot projects in order to test new ideas on a small scale, with the possibility if successful to be development into larger scale projects.

Where to check for calls for proposals: <http://www.epfound.org/about-us/mission-and-approach.html>

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

[Charles Mott Foundation's Central and Eastern Europe Programme](#) seeks to strengthen philanthropy and the non-profit sector as vital vehicles for increasing civic engagement and improving communities and societies. Grant-making is focused on two objectives, one related to active civic participation and the other to philanthropy development.

The program is active in two sub-regions: Southeast Europe (SEE), which includes Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey; and the Western Former Soviet Union (WFSU), which includes Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.

Why apply?

- ❖ Supports intermediary organisations that build the capacity of non-profits and civic leaders at community level to strengthen participatory approaches towards advocacy and rights protection.
- ❖ Supports networks and non-profits that mobilise grassroots civic initiatives and individuals in order to strengthen democratic values and practices.
- ❖ Supports philanthropy development by offering grants to philanthropy support organisations and key grant-making foundations to strengthen their philanthropic programmes.

Where to check for calls for proposals: <http://www.mott.org/grantsandguidelines/ExploreGrants>

Oak Foundation

[Oak Foundation](#) is a group of philanthropic organisations having the mission to address issues of global, social and environmental concern, particularly those that have a major impact on the lives of the disadvantaged.

Oak Foundations' programmes support child protection, environmental initiatives, preventing homelessness, promoting international human rights, countering violence target at women, promoting inclusive education for students with learning differences.

Why apply?

- ❖ Oak Foundations' programmes have a strong focus on supporting vulnerable and marginalised groups (children, women, people leaving in poverty, people with disabilities etc);
- ❖ It also supports organisational development and capacity building for CSOs that are active in the priority areas of the Foundation.
- ❖ It has a flexible approach towards grant-making, accepting also unsolicited requests for funding. Moreover, in order to support innovative projects, it has a Special Interest Programme that funds activities and projects irrespective of country or region.

Where to check for calls for proposals: <http://oakfnd.org/content/8237>

USEFUL RESOURCES

<http://www.enpi-info.eu/ENI>

<http://www.eidhr.eu/funding>

<http://blacksea-cbc.net/black-sea-basin-2014-2020/>

http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/index_en.htm

<http://www.interreg-danube.eu/>

<https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens/>

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/discover/index_en.htm

<https://democracyendowment.eu/>

<http://www.eurasia.undp.org/>

<https://www.usaid.gov/where-we-work/europe-and-eurasia>

<https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/about/programs/eurasia-program>

<http://www.gmfus.org/bst-grantmaking>

<https://www.irex.org/region/eurasia>

<http://www.epfound.org/>

<http://www.mott.org/FundingInterests/programs/civilsociety/europe>

<http://oakfnd.org/>