

# **Human Rights Democracy and CSO Support to Sri Lanka and the Maldives**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**  
**EuropeAid/186264/DD/ACT/Multi**  
**Information session**  
**30/04/2026**  
**Colombo, Sri Lanka**

# AGENDA

Introduction by the EU Head of Cooperation

- 1) This Call: what is it about?
- 2) How to apply? Rules & procedures

## What NOT to expect from THIS PART OF THE PRESENTATION

- A prior opinion on the eligibility of lead applicants, co-applicants, affiliated entity(ies), an action or specific activities.
- Replies to individual questions during the presentation.
- Questions should be sent to the DELEGATION-SRI-LANKA-EIDHR@eeas.europa.eu by 04th May 2026, 1 p.m (Brussels Time)

# 1

**This Call:  
What is it  
about?**

## **Background**

- **LOT 1 : Human Rights and Democracy**
- Action Document “Promoting and protecting human rights and democracy at country level” from the Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme (2025-2027)
- **LOT 2 : Civil Society Support**
- Action Document: “Support CSOs as actors of good governance and development in partner countries” thematic programme CSO (2025-2027)

# Objectives of this Call

## Lot 1 : Human Rights and Democracy:

**Global Objective:** To increase protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law worldwide

**Specific Objective:** Safeguarding fundamental freedoms, including harnessing the opportunities and addressing challenges of digital and new technologies in the context of Global Gateway on sustainable, green and resilient connectivity. (Output 4 and 1 of the Action Document)

## Objectives of this Call

### Lot 2 : Civil Society Support:

**Global Objective:** To strengthen CSOs as independent actors of good governance and development in their own right

**Specific Objective:** Focus on strengthening capacity of local CSOs to engage in policy dialogue at national level, in climate action (adaptation and mitigation) including environmental protection and the green transition (Output 4 and 1 of the Action Document)

# Priority Areas of this Call

## Lot 1: Human Rights and Democracy

- To address **how digitalisation, data and emerging technologies** can both support and endanger human rights, and how they can be steered to contribute **to inclusive, low-carbon and climate-resilient development**.
- Civil society and human-rights actors are expected **to act as constructive partners, helping public authorities, communities and private actors to understand and apply human-centric and rights-based approaches to digitalisation and green recovery**, including where these are supported by public and private investments.

## **Priority Areas of this Call**

### **Lot 2: Civil Society Organisations support**

- To play a constructive and complementary role **in promoting inclusive, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable development pathways, including green recovery and just green transition processes in line with Global Gateway priority on sustainable green and resilient connectivity.**
- To act as partners to public institutions, private sector and communities, **contributing with evidence, innovation, outreach and digital solutions to the design and implementation of relevant policies, strategies and investment programmes.**

## Location

This call covers both **Sri Lanka and  
Maldives**

Proposals which cover both countries are encouraged, but not compulsory

# Timeline

	DATE	TIME
1. Information sessions	30 April 2026 (online)	10 AM (Brussels time)
2. Deadline for requesting any clarifications from the contracting authority	04 May 2026	1 PM (Brussels time)
3. Last date on which clarifications are issued by the contracting authority	14 May 2026	-
4. Deadline for submission of the concept notes	25 May 2026	1 PM (Brussels time)
5. Deadline for submission of the concept notes of Full Applications	14 August 2026 (TBC)	-
6. Notification of award	28 September 2026 (TBC)	-
7. Contract Signature	27 November 2026 (TBC)	-

# Financial Allocation for this call

## Lot 1

<b>Minimum amount</b>	<b>EUR 1,000,000</b>
<b>Maximum amount</b>	<b>EUR 1,260,000</b>
Minimum percentage	70%
Maximum percentage	95%
The balance to be funded from sources other than EU Budget/EDF	

# Financial Allocation for this call

## Lot 2

<b>Minimum amount</b>	<b>EUR 1,000,000</b>
<b>Maximum amount</b>	<b>EUR 1,500,000</b>
Minimum percentage	70%
Maximum percentage	95%
The balance to be funded from sources other than EU Budget/EDF	

# 2

**How to apply?**

**RULES &  
PROCEDURES**

# SELECTION MECHANISM – Restricted Call

European  
Commission

## 1st stage – Concept note

Opening Session + 1st  
Administrative Check

Not Accepted

Accepted

Evaluation of the  
Concept Notes

Not Accepted

Accepted

Opening of full proposal

## 2nd stage – Full proposal

Evaluation of the Full Proposals

Not Accepted

Accepted

Eligibility Check

Not Accepted

Accepted

Signature of the Grant Contracts

Estimated duration of the entire process: 8 to 12 months

# Rules for this call

## LOT 1

### > Eligibility of applicants – who can apply?

	* Legal person
	* Non-profit making
	* Non-governmental organisation
	* Being directly responsible for preparation and management of the action (no intermediary)
	* No restrictions on nationality
	* Non Maldivian/Sri Lankan applicant must have at least 1 Maldivian/Sri Lankan co-applicant

# Rules for this call

## LOT 2

### > Eligibility of applicants – who can apply?

	* Legal person
	* Non-profit making
	* Non-governmental organisation
	* Being directly responsible for preparation and management of the action (no intermediary)
	* Nationality: Be effectively established in an EU MS or in Sri Lanka, or in the Maldives or in an eligible country for funding under the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation (art.28)
	* Non Maldivian/Sri Lankan applicant must have at least 1 Maldivian/Sri Lankan co-applicant

## Rules for this call

### > Eligibility of action – what is eligible?

- \* The duration of an action may not be less than **24 months** nor exceed **36 months**
- \* Location: Sri Lanka and/or Maldives
- \* Sectors: see above (objectives and priority areas of the call)
- \* Types of action: project (set of activities to achieve results and objectives in a limited time frame)
- \* Subgranting = financial support to third parties is allowed
- \* Applicants and co-applicants cannot be in state of exclusion or early detection (bankruptcy, fraud, ...) > sign declaration of honour annex H !

## How to apply?

The Call will be managed through 2 on-line tools:

**PADOR:** Applicant Data On-Line Registration (OBLIGATORY)

- contains the legal and financial data of applicants
- tool for evaluating the operational and financial capacity
- tool for checking the eligibility of the organisations that participate in the Call
- Organisations get a unique ID (EuropeAid ID) to be mentioned in PROSPECT

Don't forget to update regularly! + SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

**PROSPECT:** e-system for submission of applications (concept notes and full proposals)

All technical questions related the use of these tools should be addressed to the IT helpdesk via the online support form in PROSPECT. Do not contact the Delegation.

## CONCEPT NOTE

- Provide full information: evaluation will be based solely on the information provided in the concept notes
- Read and apply the instructions for drafting the concept note (Annex A.1).
- Lead applicants should keep strictly to the format of the concept note and fill in the paragraphs and pages in order – possible rejection
- Pay attention to the Evaluation Grid of the Concept note (page 21 of the guidelines)
- No detailed budget: only estimate of the requested EU contribution as well as an indicative percentage of that contribution – the minimum and maximum amounts and % of EU contribution must be in line with the instructions of the guidelines.

A detailed budget is to be submitted only by the lead applicants invited to submit a full application in the second phase.

- the EU contribution may not vary from the initial estimate at the concept note stage by more than 20 % (2.2.5 of the guidelines for grant applicants) in the full application.

## BUDGET FOR THE ACTION (FULL PROPOSAL)

### Budget:

- budget is both a cost estimate and an overall ceiling for “eligible costs”.
- it is in the applicants' interest to provide a realistic and cost-effective budget.

### Contingency reserve:

- may be included in the budget not exceeding 5 % of the Subtotal of direct eligible costs of the actions.
- It can only be used with the prior written authorisation of the contracting authority and should not be included in the forecast for the first year of the action.

### Contributions in kind:

may not be treated as co-financing (important for the worksheet 3. Expected sources of funding of the budget template).

- not eligible cost, not considered as actual expenditure.

However, if the description of the action as proposed includes contributions in kind, the contributions have to be made.

## Budget for the Action (Full Proposal)

Eligible indirect costs:

- flat-rate fixed at max 7 % of the estimated total eligible direct costs (except volunteer costs and project office costs) –different to the previous versions of the PRAG.
- directly linked to the implementation of the project, but not (easily) justifiable.
- eligible, provided that assigned to another budget heading.
- the lead applicant may be asked to justify the % before the contract is signed.
- once fixed in the contract, no supporting documents are needed.

Important:

- use the template published in the call for proposals
- pay attention to the footnotes of the budget template, they are very important.
- complete all three parts of the budget template.
- provide detailed “Clarification of the budget items” and “Justification of the estimated costs” in the worksheet 2. Justification of the budget

## Eligibility of costs

- only 'eligible costs' can be covered by a grant
- budget is both a cost estimate and an overall ceiling for "eligible costs", however the eligible costs are reimbursed as actual costs incurred by the beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies).

The eligibility conditions and eligibility criteria are explained in the Art 14 of the General Conditions.

For non-eligible cost please consult the Art 14.9 of the General Conditions

The eligibility of costs is also determined by compliance with the provisions set out in the Annex IV: Procurement rules for beneficiaries. If rules of Annex IV are not followed, the EU may reduce the final amount of the grant accordingly.

### **Tax regime (Annex J):**

Taxes, including VAT are eligible provided the beneficiary(ies) (or, where applicable, its affiliated entity(ies)) can show they cannot reclaim them (3.Exceptions to the proof obligation)

There is no agreement between the European Commission and Sri Lanka and the Maldives by which taxes are partially or fully exonerated

## Financial support to third parties (Full application)

Applicants may propose financial support to third parties for Lot 1 and for Lot 2.

The maximum amount of financial support per third party is EUR 60 000 except where achieving the objectives of the actions would otherwise be impossible or overly difficult, in which case this threshold can be exceeded. A threshold below EUR 60 000 can be set if appropriate.

The lead applicant should define mandatorily in Section 2.1.1 of Annex a.2 (Grant application form – Full application):

- (i) the overall objectives, the specific objective(s) and the outputs (i.e. the results) to be achieved with the financial support;
- (ii) the different types of activities eligible for financial support, on the basis of a fixed list;
- (iii) the types of persons or categories of persons which may receive financial support;
- (iv) the criteria for selecting these entities and giving the financial support;
- (v) the criteria for determining the exact amount of financial support for each third entity; and
- (vi) the maximum amount which may be given.

In all events, the mandatory conditions set above for giving financial support (points (i) to (vi)) have to be strictly defined in the grant contract as to avoid any exercise of discretion.

## Recommendations

1. Consider both technical proposal and formal requirements/budget as equally important. Most rejections or complaints concern formal requirements!
2. Read the guidelines (and annexes) carefully
3. Fill in the checklist carefully
4. Register/update in PADOR asap
5. Check regularly the prospect website for updates
6. Submission deadlines! Prospect will automatically block your submission if you send your proposal after the deadline.
7. Submission of the concept notes and full application must be submitted via PROSPECT. The lead applicant is strongly advised not to wait until the last day to submit its concept note.
8. Please note that incomplete applications may be rejected by the evaluation committee.

## Most Common Problems

- Signatures missing
- Requested amount from EU is more than the allowed % or total
- Last minute submissions
- Proposals arriving after the deadline
- Counterpart contribution not secured
- Non-realistic budget, not aligned with the activities in the description of the action
- Proposed project duration not compliant with requirements
- Not following instructions on completion of forms

**Do you have more questions?**

[DELEGATION-SRI-LANKA-EIDHR@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:DELEGATION-SRI-LANKA-EIDHR@eeas.europa.eu)

**Deadline for Questions: Not later than 04/05/2026**

**Questions together with the answers published on the websites as indicated in paragraph 2.2.4 of the guidelines.**

**GOOD LUCK**

**&**

**THANK YOU !**