



LEAVE
NO ONE
BEHIND



International
Civil Society Centre

Leave No One Behind Partnership

Making Voices Heard and Count

Call for Proposals – Consultancy for the Identification of EU Funding Opportunities for the LNOB Partnership

To	Offerors
From	International Civil Society Centre (“Centre”)
Objective	Identification of EU funding opportunities for LNOB Partnership and its Making Voices Heard and Count project
Issue Date	30 July
Application deadline	25 August
Performance Period	Third/fourth quarter of the year. Flexible, on advice of the consultant

Summary

The Centre is looking for an experienced consultant with expertise in EU funding to identify concrete opportunities among the portfolio of EU funding mechanisms to support the Leave No One Behind Partnership and its [Making Voices Heard and Count](#) project. This consultancy includes two components - firstly we seek to identify concrete mechanisms, instruments and/or calls for proposals issued by the different funding entities of the European Union, which match the specific model of the Leave No One Behind Partnership and objectives of the Making Voices Heard and Count project. Secondly, once funding has been identified we seek further support with the application process. This second step will be dependent on a decision by the members of the partnership whether to go forward with a specific identified funding opportunity. Consultants are welcome to apply with an offer for both components or just for the first, depending on capacities and qualifications.

About Making Voices Heard and Count

[Making Voices Heard and Count](#) (MVHC) is a unique collaborative project of the [Leave No One Behind](#) (LNOB) partnership, which is hosted by the [International Civil Society Centre](#). The partnership was launched in late 2017 by 12 international civil society organisations. It brings together international and national civil society organisations (CSOs), civic networks and platforms with the ambition to bring about a scalable solution for filling data gaps on marginalised groups in the monitoring and review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Thereby, the project aims to make a key contribution towards fulfilling the Agenda 2030’s universal pledge to leave no one behind. The MVHC project fosters an inclusive model of SDG monitoring, supporting the collection, analysis and dissemination of community-driven data and giving a stage to data produced by the local target groups themselves – helping to make their voices heard and count. In 2018, the partnership set up national coalitions in five pilot countries: Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal, and Vietnam. The national coalitions brought together national CSOs, civic networks and platforms, as well as community-based and community-led organisations. Each country coalition



delivered a national pilot research with a focus on various marginalised communities with the overall goal of closing knowledge gaps, analysing local drivers of vulnerability, and deriving concrete recommendations for public policy-making and planning. In the pilot project (2018-2019), more than 2.000 community representatives from over 20 different counties and neighbourhoods were involved. In our follow-up project, launched in 2020 and running over the coming years, the ambition is to reach at least **100.000 people from marginalised communities** in a growing number of action countries such as Malawi or Denmark.

Theory of Change

As an advocacy partnership, we aim to foster an enabling political environment for the inclusion of marginalised communities in the SDG process, working in close exchange with key government entities and local decision makers in our action countries. At the global level, we work with multilateral agencies and global platforms to amplify and reinforce our political messaging.

Our overall goal is to make sure that:

- Country SDG priorities are inclusive of the voices of those at risk of being left behind.
- SDG strategies and policies are informed by community-driven data, complementing other official data.

To make sure the voices of marginalised communities are **heard**, we work towards:

- the inclusion of community-driven data in the Voluntary National Reporting of UN member countries
- the empowerment of marginalised communities in the public SDG discourse
- the creation of nationally and internationally recognised guidelines for the generation and use of community-driven data in the SDG process

To make sure these voices also **count** in the political process, we work towards:

- public policies, programmes, services and/or budgets earmarking the support for marginalised communities, following the principle to leave no one behind
- community-driven data and other inclusive instruments being used to monitor public service delivery at the local level
- local and national governments actively using community-driven data to adjust policies, programmes and/or budgets.

To follow through on the above goals and outcomes, **we apply an approach that is locally led, but globally connected:**

- Our country teams facilitate trainings for local CSOs and community-based organisations to collect SDG monitoring data. Following up on these trainings, local community champions collect data and enter into a dialogue with government authorities at the national and subnational level, aiming to foster the active use of this data in the planning of policies and services.
- Our team of global experts supports the country teams through capacity building and the development of guidance material for an improved use of data. A key effort in that regard is the development of digital data platforms to visualise the national project data.
- Global members and strategic allies form an advocacy alliance for the increased use of inclusive data approaches in the SDG process targeting key multilateral agencies and other UN member states, reinforcing our national political work from the global level.



Outlook

Making Voices Heard and Count is currently co-financed by Germany's biggest private foundation, the Robert Bosch Stiftung, the Swedish Development Agency (Sida) and the partners of the Leave No One Behind coalition¹. We are in strategic partnerships with GIZ / Partners for Review and the Danish Institute for Human Rights who are supporting our work around multi-actor data partnerships. We further work with the UN Foundation / Global Partnership on Sustainable Development Data on a joint report with the focus on the impact of Covid-19 on marginalised communities and the role that civil society data can play in response planning. We have further entered into a collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division supporting us with technical guidance.

With the financial support of the EU as of 2022, we aim to further scale up our work in our existing action countries, and launch new collaborations in up to 10 new action countries inside and outside of Europe until 2025, thereby further reinforcing our political push towards a more inclusive SDG implementation worldwide.

In this coalition, we bring together globally connected civil society actors who are active in more than 150 countries worldwide, having well established relationships with public authorities at the national and subnational levels, as well as with actors from local civil society. Our platform has the potential to launch communities of action around the globe including the EU's priority partner countries/regions, helping to strengthen the EU's political agenda towards more active inclusion and a successful delivery of the 2030 Agenda.

About the Centre

The [International Civil Society Centre](#) was founded in 2007 and is owned by 15 of the world's largest international civil society organisations such as Amnesty International, Oxfam and Save the Children. Our mission is to strengthen the impact and resilience of international civil society organisations to support people to change their world for the better. The Centre serves as the secretariat of the Leave No One Behind partnership. In this role, the Centre aims to secure smooth coordination between partners at all levels. It keeps track of the progress of the partnership' strategic goals and of overall project implementation at the national levels. It facilitates global events and 'national exploration workshops' to foster new collaborative country action. It leads on the overall external outreach, acquisition of new members and fostering of strategic partnerships. Also, it coordinates global fundraising and actively supports fundraising for national project implementation. In this function, the Centre is able to leverage the network and facilitate partnerships to form effective and valuable consortia for EU funding purposes. We are open to facilitate horizontal (between organisations) and vertical (between global and national level) consortia for successful funding applications.

¹ Current global members (June 2021) are: ActionAid International, ADRA International, BRAC, CBM Global, Development Initiatives, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Islamic Relief Worldwide, Plan International, Save the Children International, Transparency International, Voluntary Services Overseas, World Vision International



Deliverables

Against the above background, the Centre is commissioning a consultant to:

Part 1:

- ❖ **prepare an inception report for an assessment of EU fundraising opportunities**
 - including the offeror's understanding of the partnership and project deliverables and needs
 - suggesting a concrete approach on how to assess partnership and partners to understand funding needs and matching opportunities
 - describing a methodology on how to identify and scope respective EU funding opportunities
 - offering a timeline for the delivery of the individual work streams
 - outlining requirements and recommended steps for a successful application to one or more funding opportunities
 - including an assessment / recommendation on possible options for the partnership / individual members to enter into a long-term strategic partnership with the EU
 - *Optional:* indicate how the offeror can support the partnership in the preparation / delivery of these next steps and in in the application process
- ❖ **scan available funding opportunities offered by the various EU funding mechanisms and instruments, and identify one or more applicable concrete opportunities for the Leave No One Behind partnership**
 - this may include a two-tiered approach of smaller/medium sized grants (5 and 6 digit opportunities) and major grants (7 digit opportunities)
 - this must not include a scoping exercise of non- EU funding opportunities as this has been done by the Centre already
- ❖ **advise on needed administrative and financial capacities and required due diligence to apply for and administer potential grant amounts**
 - this may include, but not limited to, an overview of basic governance issues, policies and procedures needed to prepare funding proposals and administer respective grants
 - depending on the concrete opportunities identified by the offeror, this advice should be preferably provided per identified funding opportunity
- ❖ **identify partner organisations within the Leave No One Behind partnership who are best suited to take on the lead applicant role**
 - this includes an assessment of the LNOB members' existing partnership with the EU and their track record of EU funding
 - this may further include an assessment of each partner's specific governance model, administrative capacities, and regional networks
 - this may also include and assessment whether multi-partner / consortia applications or single lead applications are preferable

(optional) Part 2:

- ❖ **offer ongoing support for the next steps of the application process**
 - this part depends on the successful completion of the first part and the partnership's decision on whether to go ahead with an application for an identified funding opportunity.



- the offeror should indicate in their proposal whether they are applying for both parts of the consultancy call or just for the first. Applying for the optional second part of the consultancy will not inform the final selection of the awarded consultant.
- if deciding to apply for the optional part 2, the offeror should describe what kind of support they may offer to the partnership in terms of following through on an identified fundraising opportunity (this may include but does not have to be limited to providing strategic advice / writing support for the application process)

Proposal Guidelines

Proposals are expected to be comprehensive but succinct and include the information set forth below. All proposals must be submitted in plain English.

- ❖ **Proposal Narrative, no more than 5 pages, including:**
 - A brief description of the offeror’s experience and expertise in the field that illustrates overall qualifications, capabilities, and suitability
 - A brief description of the offeror’s understanding of the scope of services and proposed methodology for the work
 - A brief outline of the methodology to be used to assess the partner(ship)s capacity, i.e. by conducting interviews/ sharing questionnaires or a fundraising audit
- ❖ **Resume or CV of individual or principals, in the case of a consulting firm**
- ❖ **List of past and current clients and successful EU funding applications the offeror has been involved in**
- ❖ **Cost requirements**
- ❖ **The Offeror should include a detailed budget**, which at a minimum includes the daily rate and level of effort for each person who will work on the services described above. All budgets must be in Euros (EUR).
- ❖ **Proposal Submission:** Proposals, including any attachments, should be sent electronically in PDF format to: pkoblowsky@icscentre.org. Please ensure to include in the subject line: “**Call for proposals – EU Funding**”.

Timeline

We propose the following timeline for the consultancy, but are open to the feedback and suggestions from the offeror in terms of feasibility and optimal timing for the delivery of the consultancy.

End-Aug / early Sep:	Review of applications and selection of final candidate(s)
Throughout September:	Hiring Consultant and agree on timeline for inception report
	Consultant to familiarise with consortium + Centre structure and project goals
	Consultant to arrange interviews with partner organisations in order to clarify funding eligibility / possible means of support through partners
Mid/ End-September:	Consultant to present the eligibility analysis to the partnership’s Executive Committee



Timing tbd:	Once the EU publishes funding opportunities for the next year(s), conduct a matching analysis, in synergy with the earlier produced partner assessment
	Partnership to review available possibilities and decide to go/not go with application process against an identified funding opportunity
<i>(optional Part 2)</i> 2022	<i>Depending on decision to go ahead after Part 1:</i> Consultant + fundraising teams of involved partners to go through needed due diligence of the identified opportunity(s) and agree on task sharing in the development of a grant application
	Support preparation of the application for identified opportunity(s), involving partner(s) that have been highlighted as potential lead(s) / co-applicant(s)

Required Qualification:

- University degree in a relevant field or commensurate years of experience in a relevant field
- Strong track record in identifying (and applying for) matching EU fundraising opportunities for international civil society organisations and their development and/or advocacy projects
- Native English speaker or equivalent English skills
- (Fundraising) experience in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a focus on inclusion / equality is a major asset

Selection Process and Agreement

The contract offered to the selected consultant will be a **Service Agreement**. The agreement will be provided to the Offeror whose offer will be the most advantageous to the Centre in terms of cost, functionality, and other factors as specified in this call.

The Centre as the hiring organisation reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all offers and discontinue the call process without obligation or liability to any potential Offeror or other party.
- Accept other than the lowest price offered.
- Award a contract on the basis of initial offers received, without discussions or requests for best and final offers.
- Award more than one contract.