

Global Challenges Local Solutions European Grant Competition

7th GRANT ROUND GUIDELINES

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Local communities across Europe are confronted with a wide range of social problems, ranging from air pollution and unequal access to education, and on down to poverty. We believe that the best way to solve such problems is to act from the bottom up – this solution involves the whole community and that makes the community eager to act for the common good.

Sometimes local communities need support – a guide who will tell them how to organize their activities in the best way, where and how to look for funding and how to deal with obstacles. The role of such a guide is played in many communities by community foundations (CFs): organizations focused on supporting activities of local communities.

There are approximately 850 community foundations operating across Europe. Thanks to the enormous amount of work, local communities in Europe are empowered in diagnosing crucial social issues and in joining forces with various stakeholders to tackle them. In this way they successfully make changes at the local level, while also contributing to the process of global problem resolution. How? Due to each issue that is being faced at the local level being reflected at the global level. In other words: because local communities across Europe face similar problems, from the broader perspective these can be constructively viewed as global problems.

This is why the United Nations, along with different stakeholders, introduced the idea of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, which form a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. SDGs can establish a common language for all organizations to communicate about similar activities.

Global Challenges Local Solutions Fund is the first fund which connects CFs and SDGs. It is a grantmaking program that supports community foundations throughout Europe to address global challenges on the local level. It was set to provide them with additional resources that can improve local initiatives. The Fund has been focusing on initiatives referring directly to SDGs. The Academy wants to increase by 2030 the number of CFs (approx. 300) which are aware and committed to developing global problems on the basis of SDGs. Meanwhile: CF should learn about SDGs, map

the SDGs to the local needs, promote and educate on SDGs, build local SDG coalition, stimulate action from citizens and NGOs, etc. A useful, 10-step guide for community foundations interested in engaging with the SDGs is provided by the Council on Foundations (USA) in their report “Local Leadership, Global Impact.” (2018, [report](#))

Over the six editions of the Global Challenges Local Solutions program we have built a rich base of **inspiring examples** on how the civil society can contribute to developing the SDGs. Download the **brochures, check our website** and find out more: [I and II round](#), [III round](#), IV, V, VI round on <https://www.localsolutionsfund.org/good-practices/>

Up until now, we distributed 57 grants for the total amount of approximately 680 000 USD, to local organizations across Europe.

The more projects of this kind are implemented under our program, the more we will be able to involve local communities in solving global problems at a local level and make them aware of SDGs’ importance these days.

ABOUT THE 7^h GRANT ROUND

With the good practices collected over these six grant rounds we have proved that solving global challenges at the local level can be performed very successfully. Actually, today we know, that global challenges will not be achieved without the involvement of local initiatives, actions and local stakeholders - community foundations, organizations, authorities, business, etc. So, the overarching goal now is to promote, communicate, educate and implement successful diversified actions in order to raise the awareness within local communities on Agenda for the SDGs and encourage to undertake regular actions driven by the SDGs spirit.

In the 7th GCLS Grant Round, we are opening a CALL for ONLY such projects, which mainly focus on activities aimed at communicating and promoting the Sustainable Development Goals within the community and local stakeholders - organizations, authorities, business, etc.

It can refer to all 17 SDGs, as the Agenda, or selected SDGs, related to the specificities and needs of a given community.

IMPORTANT! The proposed activities should be well connected to the respective SDG goal/target/indicator. The scope of activities should not be limited to raising and distributing humanitarian aid but should be coupled with other interventions, including policy work on the national and local levels.

ORGANISATION AND AIMS OF THE COMPETITION

1. Global Challenges Local Solutions European Grant Competition (Competition) is organized by the Academy for the Development of Philanthropy in Poland (ADPP) within the Global Challenges Local Solutions Program.
 2. The Global Challenges Local Solutions Program (GCLS) is co-financed by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.
 3. Competition was established in order to support grass-root initiatives, run by community foundations together with local communities, aimed at solving global challenges at the local level. These global challenges have been identified in the Agenda for 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which always had to be included in the projects that received GCLS grants.
- The **total amount of up to 100,000 USD** will be awarded within the 7th grant round.

TARGET GROUP

1. Applications to the Competition may be submitted **only** by **community foundations** (Applicants), registered and operating in the following countries: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom (UK), Vatican City. Only **foundations** and **associations** are eligible to apply for the grant.
 2. **Community foundation is understood as** a non-profit and non-governmental organization designed to pool donations into a coordinated investment and grant making facility dedicated primarily to the social improvement of a given community. The six main characteristics of the CFs are:
 - Act as grant-making foundations – i.e. give grants to support development projects,
 - Their mission is broadly defined i.e. to improve quality of life in a community,
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- Serve geographically defined communities: a city, state, region, district or province,
- Are supported by a broad range of private as well as public donors and seek philanthropic contributions primarily inside the community,
- Are governed by multi-sectoral local boards reflecting framework of the community,
- Build capital endowment, which is an important element of sustainability¹.

GRANTS PROCEDURE

- 1. Projects submitted to the Competition should be aimed at communicating and promoting the Sustainable Development Goals within the community and local stakeholders - organizations, authorities, business, etc.**

It can refer to:

- a. all 17 SDGs, as the Agenda,
- or
- b. selected SDGs, related to the specificities and needs of a given community.

The long-term goal is to make the SDGs permanently present in the community.

2. Submitted projects may include tasks for Community Foundations such as:
 - a. organization of educational seminars, thematic competitions, debates on concepts and strategies allowing to implement the SDGS' global idea on the local ground;
 - b. preparation and launch of a communication program for the local stakeholders - local government, media, organizations, etc. - about SDGs, being an inseparable element of all undertaken actions;
 - c. development of strategies including long-term actions driven by the spirit of SDGs and e.g. consultations with the environment.

The project proposal has to include concrete information about actual plans and actions to raise awareness on SDGs within the community, and confirm that the applicant – a Community Foundation - permanently integrates SDGs promotion into its activities.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_foundation

It will be welcomed to see CFs issuing an official statement – e.g. a resolution, a manifesto - that the CF acts for the 17 SDGs and encourages local partners to collaborate with the spirit of SDGs (this is already the implementation of SDG #17).

3. Grants may be awarded both for new projects and for improving existing projects.
4. The project shall determine activities that are going to be implemented in the period not longer than **seven months (from December 1, 2023 till June 30, 2024)**. The grant will be paid in one installment.
5. Applicants can apply for the **grant up to 15,000 USD**.
6. One applicant is entitled to submit only one project within the present grant round. If successful in the present round, another application can be made no sooner than after the final narrative and financial report is accepted by the ADPP.
7. It is required to contribute additional **financial input: 50% of the awarded grant**. The input has to be spent during the lifetime of the project.
8. We encourage all organizations to build partnerships with local and international companies that are involved in SDGs. Check them out on the UNGC website – [link](#).
9. To apply for a grant, **the Applicant must fill in the online application form available at www.localsolutionsfund.org and submit it by October 11, 2023**.

SELECTION CRITERIA AND THE GRANT COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

1. Submitted applications will be assessed formally and preselected by ADPP team.
 2. The Grant Committee will be composed of international experts.
 3. During the assessment, the Grant Committee will take into consideration the following criteria:
 - Adequacy of the planned activities to the principles of the 7th grant round and local community's needs defined in the project,
 - Feasibility of the project and effectiveness,
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- Rationality of the planned activities;
 - Scale of engaging local community members into the project;
 - Durability, as a chance to continue the project;
 - Replicability of the proposed solution and the possibility of its implementation by the other local organizations.
4. The Grant Committee may award a grant in less amount than stated in the application form.
 5. Decisions of the Committee are irrevocable.
 6. Applicants whose applications will be chosen by the Grant Committee, will sign an agreement with ADPP. Applicants will be obliged to submit the final narrative and financial report in compliance with the deadline and rules defined in the agreement.

USE OF GRANT

Ineligible costs

Financial resources within the donation cannot be used for:

- regranting,
- endowment fund,
- lobbying expenditures,
- engaging in and supporting any form of terrorism or violence,
- supporting any religious or political activities.

SCHEDULE

September 6, 2023 – October 11, 2023	Call for applications
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by November 9, 2023	The Grant Committee meeting and announcement of the 7 th grant round results
by November 30, 2023	Preparation and signing grant agreements
December 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	Projects' implementation
July 31, 2024	Deadline for reporting

FINAL PROVISIONS

1. When applying for a competition, an organization declares that its activities are in accordance with the following set of principles stated in TEN WAYS FOR Community Foundations to Consider Diversity and Inclusive Practices, Council on Foundations:
 - Consider how diversity and inclusive practices relate to your community foundation's mission and values and the region and populations the foundation serves.
 - Determine whether your board membership, volunteers, advisory committees, and governance offer opportunities to enhance the foundation's diversity and inclusiveness.
 - Cultivate an internal culture, policies, and procedures that reflect your foundation's commitment to diversity and inclusive practices.
 - Invite more diverse donors and perspectives into philanthropy, through new giving vehicles and leadership opportunities.
 - Hire staff from diverse populations, viewpoints, and experiences.
 - Seek contractors and vendors from diverse backgrounds, communities, and populations.
 - Consider and enhance the impact of your foundation's grantmaking in support of diverse communities and populations.
 - Assess how your foundation is perceived by the public, especially diverse populations, grantees, applicants denied funding, and organizations that have not sought funding from your foundation.
 - Consider ways to model inclusive practices in your role as a community and philanthropic leader.
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- Share what your foundation is learning about diversity and inclusive practices.

More information about those principles can be found here: [link](#).

2. Interpretation of settlements and requirements of the regulations are decided on by ADPP Board.
3. ADPP reserves the right to introduce changes in regulations of the competition during its proceedings. ADPP will inform about possible changes in regulations on a current basis on the website www.localsolutionsfund.org. If participants do not agree with the changes, they have the right to withdraw their application at the latest on the date of enrolment closure.

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