OPEN CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

PrevenT

PrevenTing Gender based violence & violence against Children



CITIZENS, EQUALITY, RIGHTS AND VALUES PROGRAMME (CERV) - DAPHNE

MAY 2024

HISTORY OF CHANGES				
Version	Publication Date	Change	Page	
1.0	30/05/2024	Initial Version		
2.0	04/06/2024	Removal of the phrase		
		and Target Groups		
		from the 1st	6	
		predefined type of		
		activity in the WP 3		
		Removal of the phrase		
		EU interests and policy		
		priorities (e.g.		
		environmental, social,	9	
		safety, security,		
		industrial and trade		
		policy, etc.),		

The Bodossaki Foundation, in consortium with the NGO Support Centre, announces the open call for project proposals 'Preventing and Combating Gender-based Violence and Violence against Children' for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Greece and the Republic of Cyprus for funding under the programme "Preventing gender-based violence and violence against children" (PREVENT). The programme aims to prevent and combat gender-based violence (GBV) and violence against children, by supporting Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) active in these fields, in Greece and Cyprus, and by improving their knowledge, capacity and sustainability.

PREVENT is co-funded by the European Union, through the Citizens, Equality, Rights, and Values (CERV) programme, and by the Bodossaki Foundation and NGO Support Centre, with the total grant amounting to €2.3 million.

PREVENT is coordinated by the <u>Bodossaki Foundation</u> (Greece) in consortium with the <u>NGO</u> <u>Support Centre</u> (Cyprus).

Gender-based violence and **violence against children** are contrary to the values and fundamental rights of the EU. However, they remain pervasive across the EU and have been exacerbated by a number of factors, such as increased use of the internet and social media, and the impact of Covid-19 pandemic.

Within the wider EU context, Greece and Cyprus face certain common challenges that make it particularly urgent to support civil society organisations active in preventing and combating gender-based violence and violence against children. These challenges include, among others, the lowest rankings in the EU in terms of gender equality (in 2023 Greece ranked 24th and Cyprus 21st in the EU¹), high levels of poverty and social exclusion, and high levels of discrimination, in particular against various vulnerable groups. Citizens of both countries are among those with the lowest percentages of confidence in the protection of the EU's core values in the EU.

During the 3 years of its implementation, running from February 2024 to January 2027, PREVENT, through the launch of this open call, will fund approximately 28 projects in Greece and 9 in Cyprus projects that prevent and combat either GBV or violence against children. The total amount allocated through this call is €1.610.000 (€1.288.000 for Greece and €322.000 for the Republic of Cyprus).

PREVENT will also provide an integrated 90-hour capacity building programme and professional support services, tailored to the needs of CSOs in Greece and Cyprus, to promote their organisational development and sustainability.

The main beneficiaries of the programme, through the CSO funding, will be victims and witnesses of gender-based violence in Greece and Cyprus (especially women² and girls), victims and witnesses of violence against children in Greece and Cyprus, frontline professionals and CSOs in Greece and Cyprus. The programme will also benefit policy makers, at national and European level, the media, the general public and the national authorities.

¹ <u>https://eige.europa.eu/gend-equality-index/2023/country</u>

² Following the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, this project refers to both women and men in all their diversity, understanding these are heterogeneous categories including re sex, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics.

The Open Call for Project Proposals 'Preventing and Combating Gender-based Violence and Violence against Children' focuses on the two (2) following thematic areas/outcomes:

• 1st thematic area/outcome: "Preventing and combating gender-based violence"

According to the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), gender-based violence is defined as an act of violence "directed against a person because of that person's gender³" and is mainly violence against women, as it is rooted in gender inequality⁴. lt takes many forms, including verbal, physical and psychological/emotional abuse, sexual violence, domestic and intimate partner violence, cyber violence, stalking and femicide. Gender-based violence violates the fundamental rights of individuals and can cause significant physical, sexual, psychological and economic harm to its victims, as well as having a negative impact on society. As stated in the EU Strategy for Gender Equality, 33% of women in the EU have experienced physical and/or sexual violence, 22% have experienced violence from their partner and 55% have been subjected to sexual harassment⁵. LGBTQ+ people are also at particular risk of violence: 10% of lesbian women, 8% of bisexual women and 22% of trans people have been assaulted in the last 6 years because they are LGBTQ⁶. In April 2024, the European Parliament adopted the first EU rules to combat violence against women. The aim is to prevent gender-based violence and protect victims, especially women and victims of domestic violence. The directive calls for stronger laws against cyber violence, better help for victims, measures to prevent rape and a greater understanding of sexual consent.

• 2nd thematic area/outcome: "Preventing and combating violence against children"

Violence against children⁷ means "all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse",⁸ as listed in article 19(<u>1</u>) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and in accordance with <u>General Comment No. 13 (2011)</u> of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child on the right of the child to be free from all forms of violence. The Council of Europe estimates that one in five children in Europe are victims of some form of sexual violence at least once in their lives, with girls being the most common victims.⁹ Violence against children can occur in different settings, such as at school, at home or on the streets, but also online, through the use of mobile phones or other connected electronic devices, and can take various forms, such as physical violence, abuse or neglect, bullying, juvenile, domestic, sexual and emotional or psychological violence.¹⁰ Cyber violence covers not only the ownership, production and exchange of child sexual abuse material, but also grooming, cyber harassment, victimisation and cyber bullying.

³ <u>Gender-based violence | European Institute for Gender Equality (europa.eu)</u>

⁴ European Parliamentary Research Service (2022), Activity Report 2021, Brussels, 2022, <u>https://www.europarl.europa.eu/EPRS/IA%20and%20EAV%20Annual%20Report%202021.pdf</u>

⁵ European Commission 2020, A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025

⁶ European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), EU LGBTI Survey II, 2019

⁷ The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) defines a child as any human being below the age of eighteen (18) years, regardless of sex, origin, religion or disability, unless the age of majority is reached earlier, in accordance with the legislation applicable to the child.

⁸ Article 19 (1) UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

⁹ Council of Europe, <u>One in Five campaign</u>.

¹⁰ <u>https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-children</u>

Each organisation (CSO) can submit <u>only one (1) application</u> to the Open Call for Project Proposals in one (1) of the two (2) thematic areas either as lead applicant or as partner. Detailed information regarding the submission of applications will be available in the <u>'Application Guidelines'</u>.

Eligible Types of Activities – Work Packages

General Specifications

In the application, the activities of the proposed project must be organised in Work Packages. Each Work Package must include the project activities, as well as the deliverables that correspond to these activities. Under the PREVENT programme, there are **three (3)** <u>predefined</u> Work Packages:

Work Package 1:	Project management	
Work Package 2*:	Preventing and combating gender-based violence (GBV) (1 st thematic area/outcome) or Preventing and combatting violence against children (2 nd thematic area/outcome)	
Work Package 3*:	Communication/Dissemination plan	

***For WP 2 and 3** there are predefined types of activities which are listed below:

Work Package 2:

> 1st outcome (1st thematic area): "Preventing and combating gender-based violence"

For the **1**st **thematic area:** "Preventing and combating gender-based violence", the <u>predefined</u> types of activities eligible for funding are:

- 1. Development of approaches, tools, or systems to prevent all forms of gender-based violence.
- 2. Provision of gender-inclusive support services to victims or/and witnesses of violence.
- 3. Conducting research and analysis aimed at informing policymaking at EU and national level regarding the prevention and combatting of gender-based violence.
- 4. Implementation of advocacy, watchdog and monitoring activities on EU, national and international policies in the field of preventing and combatting gender-based violence.
- 5. Implementation of awareness-raising, training, or/and community-based mobilisation activities to prevent and combat gender-based violence.
- 2nd outcome (2nd thematic area): "Preventing and combating violence against children"

For the **2**nd **thematic area:** "Preventing and combating violence against children", the **predefined** types of activities eligible for funding are:

- 1. Development of approaches, tools or systems to prevent all forms of violence against children.
- 2. Provision of child friendly support services to victims or/and witnesses of violence.

- 3. Conducting research and analysis aimed at informing policymaking at EU and national level regarding the prevention and combatting of violence against children.
- 4. Implementation of advocacy, watchdog and monitoring activities on EU, national and international policies in the field of preventing and combatting violence against children.
- 5. Implementation of awareness-raising, training or/and community-based mobilisation activities to prevent and combat violence against children.

Work Package 3 – Communication/Dissemination Plan:

For Work Package 3, the **predefined** types of activities eligible for funding are:

- 1. Project Communications Activities
- 2. Presence (promotion) on communications channels

Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination Mainstreaming

Gender equality and non-discrimination mainstreaming is a horizontal priority of the PREVENT project. Proposed projects and activities under this Open Call should incorporate an approach that takes into account the unequal power relations and inequalities experienced by individuals due to their social identities, and how these identities interact to generate feelings of vulnerability and marginalisation.

Proposed projects are expected to address these unequal power relations and inequalities and strive to reduce disparities, and ensure equal rights, responsibilities, opportunities, and respect for all individuals, both in the design and implementation of their activities.

More information and guidelines on integrating gender mainstreaming and nondiscrimination can be found in the Guidelines for Applicants. Applicants are also encouraged to consult the <u>European Union's Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025</u>.

Child Protection Policy

According to the European Commission Directives, funded organisations that will implement activities involving direct contact with children are required to have a Child Protection Policy. Therefore, at the application stage, any organization (both the lead applicant and the partner, if applicable) proposing projects that include activities involving direct contact with children must submit their current Child Protection Policy.

CSOs (both the lead applicants and any partners) selected for funding that their project will include activities involving direct contact with children should be guided in their work and philosophy by the best interests of the child, do no harm and respect the rights of the child as outlined in European and international legislation, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

More information on what a Child Protection Policy should include will be available in the "Application Guidelines".

During the application submission period, an online training session on drafting a Child Protection Policy will be held. More information is available <u>here</u>.

Size of Grants

The **minimum** grants amount is $\leq 20,000$ and the **maximum** grant amount is $\leq 60,000$ per project.

The budget will include and provide for costs from both the applicant and the partner (if applicable). The percentage and amount of the grant of the partner (if applicable) must be identifiable separately into the financial budget and the relevant activities.

Organisations must use the budget template that will be provided on the programme webpage.

Grants for the selected projects will be issued as lump sums, in accordance with the European Commission's procedures and guidelines. This approach aims to reduce the administrative burden and simplify project management. Additional details will be found in the <u>'Application Guidelines'</u>.

Duration of Projects

The **minimum** duration of projects is six (6) months, while the **maximum** duration is twelve (12) months, with the possibility of extension for up to two additional months (subject to review and approval by the Programme Management Team, only in special circumstances and without increasing the project budget).

The duration of the projects and the start and end dates will be specified in the grant agreement for each project. The projects are expected to start in April-May 2025.

Location of Projects

Project applications submitted by organisations in Greece must include activities that will be implemented exclusively in Greece and project applications submitted by organisations in the Republic of Cyprus must include activities that will be implemented exclusively in the Republic of Cyprus¹¹.

Additionally, ten (10) points in the evaluation criteria will be allocated to Civil Society Organizations based in rural and/or remote areas¹².

Deadline for application submission

Applications will be submitted online **from June 5, 2024 until September 25, 2024 (at 17.00)** via the <u>Bodossaki Foundation's Programme Portal</u>.

How to apply

Each organisation (CSO) may submit <u>only one (1) application</u> to the Open Call for Project Proposals in one (1) of the two (2) thematic areas either as lead applicant or as partner.

¹¹ Areas of the Republic of Cyprus under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

¹² For the purposes of this programme:

In Greece, all areas are considered rural and/or remote areas, except all the municipalities of the prefecture of Attica (except the islands) and all the municipalities of the prefecture of Thessaloniki.

In the Republic of Cyprus, rural and/or remote areas are considered all areas except the municipalities of the cities of Nicosia, Limassol and Larnaca.

In order to submit an application for the 'PREVENT - Preventing Gender-Based Violence and Violence Against Children' programme, organisations will need to create an account at the <u>Bodossaki Foundation's Programmes Portal</u>. After selecting Sign Up, the person creating the account will be asked to fill in his/her full name (First Name, Surname), an email address (Email) and a password in order to register on the Programmes Portal.

Once the creation of the account in the <u>Programmes Portal</u> is completed, organisations can click on the 'Programmes' option and from the available programmes select 'PREVENT - Preventing Gender-Based Violence and Violence Against Children' and then 'Create Application'. Detailed instructions on how to create an application through the Portal will be available <u>here</u>.

Eligible Lead Applicants and Eligible Partners

Eligible lead applicants and partners are **Civil Society organisations (CSOs)** with legal status in Greece and the Republic of Cyprus that fall under the following definition:

'A civil society organisation is an organisational structure whose members serve the general interest through democratic processes, and which plays the role of mediator between public authorities and citizens, including all non-state, non-profit, independent structures, which oppose all forms of violence and promote and protect the fundamental rights and values on the basis of which the EU was founded.'

Especially for **Greece**, eligible applicants are the following Civil Society Organisations, as defined in the relevant Law 4873/2021: associations, civil non-profit companies, public benefit foundations of the law 4182/2013 and public benefit foundations established by a special law.

Specifically for the **Republic of Cyprus**, eligible lead applicants and partners are Civil Society organisations based in the Republic of Cyprus and established in accordance with the relevant Law 104(I)/2017 and its amendments (non-profit associations, foundations, federations and/or associations), the Companies Law (Cap. 113) (for non-profit companies) or the Charitable Foundations Law (Cap. 41).

Eligible lead applicants or partners should also be independent of local, regional and national governments, other (including public) authorities and political parties.

In addition, the funded projects must not be of a religious, political or trade union/professional nature.

In addition, to be eligible, lead applicants and partners must:

- be based in Greece for applications received in Greece and in the Republic of Cyprus¹³ for application received in the Republic of Cyprus.
- be non-profit making.
- have completed twelve (12) months of operation since their legal establishment before the deadline for submission of applications.
- be no conflict of interest (even potential conflict of interest) between the lead applicant and the partner (if applicable) due to personal, family, financial, political, professional or other relationships between the members, partners, members of the

¹³ Areas of the Republic of Cyprus under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

management bodies, legal representatives, employees and associates in general of the lead applicant and its partner.

Ten (10) points in the evaluation criteria are given to grassroots organisations¹⁴, small organisations¹⁵, and organisations in remote and rural areas¹⁶.

Eligible lead applicants and partners must respect the principles of democratic and human rights and the fundamental rights and values on which the EU is founded. In addition, eligible applicants and partners must not promote, approve or support in their projects, communication strategies or public messages any kind of physical or psychological violence against women, children and other groups at risk.

Projects must also comply with the highest ethical standards, and any other applicable EU, international and national law (including the General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 and the UNCRC).

Evaluation process and criteria

During the first stage of the evaluation, the **administrative** criteria and **eligibility** criteria of the application will be checked.

Organisations will have five (5) working days to submit any supporting documents that they may not have submitted, following a relevant request from the Bodossaki Foundation (Greece) or the NGO Support Centre (Republic of Cyprus). Supporting documents include financial and legal documents, the Declaration of honor and the Child Protection Policy (for projects whose activities have direct contact with children). A detailed list of the supporting documents can be found in Section 11 of the 'Guidelines for Applicants'.

Organisations whose applications are rejected due to non-compliance with the administrative and eligibility criteria of the application will be informed by email and will have the right to lodge an appeal within five (5) working days of being informed. The right of appeal shall be exercised only once at this stage.

The appeal will be examined by the Appeals Committee and the organisations will be informed of its decision within ten (10) working days of the deadline for submitting the appeal. The decision on the appeal is final.

¹⁴ A grassroots CSO for the purposes of this programme is a non-governmental organization that originates and operates at the local level, usually driven by community members who are passionate about a particular cause or issue, such as poverty, education, health, environment and human rights. These organizations often work to address social, economic, and environmental problems within their own communities, without the influence or support of larger organizations or governments. They are typically formed by volunteers who are directly impacted by the issues they seek to address, and they rely heavily on the participation and support of the community to achieve their goals. They often use community mobilization and empowerment strategies to bring about change, and they may engage in advocacy and public education to raise awareness about their cause.

¹⁵ A small CSO for the purposes of this programme is a CSO with an annual turnover less than €40.000.

¹⁶ For the purposes of this programme:

In Greece, all areas are considered rural and/or remote areas, except all the municipalities of the prefecture of Attica (except the islands) and all the municipalities of the prefecture of Thessaloniki.

In the Republic of Cyprus, rural and/or remote areas are considered all areas except the municipalities of the cities of Nicosia, Limassol and Larnaca.

The appeal must be fully justified and submitted electronically to the email addresses given in the Contact Information section, no later than 17:00 local time on the 5th and last day of the deadline.

The project budget is not considered a supporting document but a core document and therefore, in cases of missing budget form, applications will be automatically rejected, and organisations will not have the five (5) working days deadline.

The templates of the budget form and the Declaration of honor will be available on <u>the</u> <u>programme webpage</u>.

Applications that meet the administrative and eligibility criteria will be evaluated by two (2) impartial evaluators appointed by the Bodossaki Foundation and the NGO Support Centre. At least one of them will be independent (external) of the Bodossaki Foundation and the NGO Support Centre and will have been selected through an open call procedure. Evaluators will be required to sign a declaration of no conflict of interest in relation to the organisations whose applications they will be asked to evaluate.

The evaluators will individually and independently evaluate the project application according to the Evaluation Criteria set out below. The average score of the two evaluations will be taken into account for the evaluation of the application. For further consideration of the application, a minimum average score of 60 points is required as a minimum.

If the difference between the scores is greater than 30%, the application will be evaluated by a third evaluator appointed by the Bodossaki Foundation and the NGO Support Centre, who will be independent of both institutions.

In such a case, the average of the two closest scores will be the final average score and will be taken into account for the ranking of the application. Applications with a minimum score of 60 points will be ranked according to their score, without any change in the order of ranking.

The shortlisted applications and at least an additional 10% of the shortlisted applications will be checked for the **legal eligibility of the lead applicants and partners as described in the previous section.**

Organisations whose applications are rejected due to non-compliance with the legal eligibility criteria of the lead applicant and the partner (if applicable) will be informed by email and will have the right to lodge an appeal within five (5) working days of being informed. The right to appeal may be exercised only once at this stage.

The appeal must be fully justified and submitted electronically to the email addresses given in the Contact Information section, no later than 17:00 local time on the 5th and last day of the deadline.

The appeal will be examined by the Appeals Committee and the organisations will be informed of its decision within ten (10) working days of the deadline for submitting the appeal. The decision on the appeal is final.

The application evaluation criteria and the maximum score per criterion are as follows:

	Evaluation Criteria	Maximum score
1. • •	Capacity and relevance of the applicant and the partner (if applicable) Financial Capacity Organisational Skills & Expertise Demonstrated Relevant Experience Aligned with EU Values and Rights. Quality of Child Protection Policy (where applicable)	20
2.	Relevance and justification of the activities The described aims, objectives, activities, deliverables and results of the proposed activity are relevant to the goals and priorities of the Open Call and of each thematic area. The proposed activity is fully justified as necessary and beneficial to the proposed target groups.	20
3.	Quality, impact and sustainability of the proposed activities - taking into consideration gender equality & non- discrimination mainstreaming	20
4.	Lead applicant and/or partner is a grassroots organisation ¹⁷ , small organisation ¹⁸ or organisation in remote and rural areas ¹⁹	10
5.	Partnerships and collaborations	10
6.	Value for money (based on submitted project budget)	20
OVERALL RATING		100

The Selection Committee will examine the shortlist of applications based on the scores awarded and the evaluators' comments. It may modify the ranking of applications only in justified cases if this is necessary for the achievement of the programme objectives. Moreover, the Selection Committee may adjust the budgets of approved projects, if necessary to ensure good value for money, in cases of ineligible activities/expenditures or over-budgeted activities. In the last case, the Bodossaki Foundation/NGO Support Centre will request clarifications from the organizations. The Selection Committee will ensure that at least 70% of the selected projects of the 1st thematic area/outcome "Preventing and combating gender-based violence" will have women as the main target group and that at least 20% of the selected projects will under the 2nd thematic area/outcome "Preventing and combating violence against children".

¹⁷ A grassroots CSO for the purposes of this programme is a non-governmental organization that originates and operates at the local level, usually driven by community members who are passionate about a particular cause or issue, such as poverty, education, health, environment and human rights. These organizations often work to address social, economic, and environmental problems within their own communities, without the influence or support of larger organizations or governments. They are typically formed by volunteers who are directly impacted by the issues they seek to address, and they rely heavily on the participation and support of the community to achieve their goals. They often use community mobilization and empowerment strategies to bring about change, and they may engage in advocacy and public education to raise awareness about their cause.

¹⁸ A small CSO for the purposes of this programme is a CSO with an annual turnover less than €40.000.

¹⁹ For the purposes of this programme:

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In the Republic of Cyprus, rural and/or remote areas are considered all areas except the municipalities of the cities of Nicosia, Limassol and Larnaca.

The decision of the Selection Committee is final and may not be changed.

The final decision will be communicated directly to the organisations and the approved projects will be published on the programme website within four (4) months from the deadline for submission of applications.

Organisations will have the right to request feedback on their applications following a relevant announcement.

Contact Information

Questions relating to the Open Call can be sent no later than ten (10) working days before the deadline for submission of applications to the following email addresses, indicating in the subject line of the email the thematic area under which you are applying. The Bodossaki Foundation and the NGO Support Centre (NGO SC) have no obligation to provide clarifications for questions received after this deadline.

- o <u>helpdesk@bodossaki.gr</u> (for organisations in Greece)
- <u>helpdesk@ngo-sc.org</u> (for organisations in the Republic of Cyprus)

The answers will be posted on the 'Frequently Asked Questions' form on the <u>programme</u> <u>webpage</u>. No individual answers will be given. Organisations are therefore encouraged to consult the website regularly.

Questions relating to the completion of the application form can be submitted through <u>the</u> <u>Bodossaki Foundation's Programmes Portal</u> in the relevant section "Contact a Programme Representative", after the organisation has created an account on the Portal.

Complaints Mechanism

All complaints related to the implementation of the PREVENT programme should be addressed and handled by the programme's **Complaints Committee.** The Complaints Committee is responsible for processing and issuing decisions regarding complaints of possible non-compliance with the principles of good governance in relation to the implementation of the programme.

The Complaints Committee examines complaints received either directly via the dedicated email <u>cerv-complaints@bodossaki.gr</u> or indirectly from the European Commission - Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST).

The Complaints Committee will make a decision within thirty (30) days from submission of the complaint.

To ensure transparency and accountability, in cases of fraud, it is possible to report cases of fraud to the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) via <u>the programme webpage</u>. More information on how to file a complaint through OLAF can be found <u>here</u>.

Personal Data Protection

Regarding the data protection policy applied in the context of the implementation of the project, please consult the general policy – noticer of the Bodossaki Foundation available <u>here</u>,

<u>the general policy - notice of the NGO Support Centre here</u>, and the specific information on the policy applied by the Bodossaki Foundation and the NGO Support Centre available <u>here</u>.

May 30th, 2024



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