

Call for Proposals for Advocacy or Awareness Raising Campaigns and initiatives for LGBTI+ Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia

ERA is announcing a call for applications for civil society organisations, collective or networks, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia or Serbia to receive a grant and mentoring support to develop and implement advocacy or awareness-raising campaigns and initiatives aiming at promoting the rights of LGBTQIA+ people in their country.

ERA is a regional non-profit organization of LGBTIQ+ organizations from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia and Türkiye. The organization is based in Belgrade, Serbia. Our mission is to inspire positive change in the society, promote and advocate for human rights of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and sex characteristics, by facilitating cooperation and providing resources and capacity development for the LGBTIQ+ movement across the Balkans and Türkiye. ERA's approach combines advocacy at national, regional and European levels with capacity-building, research and knowledge production, strategic networking, sub-granting, and cross-sector partnerships—raising awareness, strengthening LGBTIQ+ CSOs, mainstreaming LGBTIQ+ priorities within EU integration processes, and advancing a resilient, financially sustainable movement grounded in evidence and collaboration.

BACKGROUND

The present call for application is launched by ERA within the framework of the FIER·ES programme (Fostering the Inclusion, Equality and Resilience of LGBTQIA+ people). FIER·ES aims to support LGBTQIA+ CSOs and initiatives so that they are better able to carry out their mandate and mission and promote respect, inclusion, dignity and equality for LGBTQIA+ people in the Eastern Partnership countries and the Western Balkans. It is coordinated by ERIM (more info on www.erim.ngo) and implemented together with ERA and Genderdoc – M (Moldova).

The programme is co-funded by Agence française de développement.

SCOPE OF SUPPORTED ACTIONS

This Call for Proposals supports advocacy and awareness-raising initiatives that contribute to the promotion and protection of the human rights of LGBTIQ people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.

Proposed actions should aim to strengthen public awareness, promote informed dialogue, influence policies and practices, combat discrimination, and create opportunities for greater

visibility and inclusion of LGBTIQ communities. Applicants are encouraged to design initiatives that respond to identified local needs and challenges and demonstrate the potential for meaningful impact at the local, national or regional level.

Supported actions may include, but are not limited to:

- Development of policy papers, advocacy briefs, or recommendations;
- Research and analysis on issues affecting LGBTIQ communities, where directly linked to advocacy objectives;
- Public debates, roundtables, conferences, and community discussions;
- Advocacy and strategic communication campaigns;
- Media and digital awareness-raising campaigns;
- Public education and outreach initiatives;
- Art exhibitions, cultural events, and creative advocacy initiatives;
- Film screenings and film festivals;
- Human rights fairs and community events;
- Pride marches and other public events promoting the rights and visibility of LGBTIQ people;
- Other innovative advocacy or awareness-raising initiatives aligned with the objectives of this Call.

All proposed actions should be non-profit, rights-based, and implemented in accordance with the principles of equality, non-discrimination, participation, and respect for human rights.

GRANT SIZE & DURATION

- Maximum grant amount: 9,000 EUR
- Maximum duration: up to 9-10 months

Budgets must be clearly linked to proposed activities.

We expect the projects to start from October 2026.

MENTORING COMPONENT

As part of this Call, applicants may request tailored mentoring support to strengthen the development and/or implementation of their proposed initiative. Mentoring may include technical guidance on project design, advocacy strategies, activity planning, monitoring, visibility, or other implementation-related aspects, depending on the identified needs of the beneficiary.

Applicants wishing to benefit from this support should indicate their mentoring needs in the Application Form. Requested mentoring should be clearly justified and linked to the proposed action. Mentoring will be paid directly by ERA and will not impact the amount of the grant awarded to the organisation.

Requesting mentoring is optional and will not influence the evaluation or selection of applications.

ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

This call is open to civil society organisations, engaged in promoting human rights of LGBTQIA+ people. Eligible applicants must:

- Be a civil society organisation, a collective or network, working with or for LGBTQIA+ communities
- Have a mission and activities that are consistent with democratic principles, human rights, and non-discrimination, including respect for LGBTQIA+ rights
- Have been active for at least two years in areas relevant to LGBTQIA+ rights, human rights, or related fields
- Applicants must be based in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, or Serbia and can submit only one application. Applicants must submit a complete application in line with the requirements of this call and within the specified deadline.

The following are not eligible:

- Political parties or party-affiliated organisations
- For-profit entities
- Religious organisations
- Public Institutions

ELIGIBLE AND NON-ELIGIBLE COSTS

Eligible costs may include, but are not limited to:

- Personnel costs directly related to the implementation of the project
- Fees for external experts, consultants, facilitators, trainers, or service providers
- Venue rental and logistics for meetings, workshops, public events, or other project activities
- Travel, subsistence, and accommodation costs directly related project activities
- Publication, translation, and communication and outreach costs
- Costs related to discussions, dialogues, workshops, or participatory activities
- Advocacy / awareness raising events

- Overhead costs (up to 20%) directly related to the implementation of the project, such as accounting, financial management, basic administration, or utilities, provided that they are reasonable and proportionate to the grant amount.

The following costs are not eligible under this call:

- Core operational or organisational costs not directly linked to the proposed initiative
- Direct service provision or assistance to individuals
- Participation in conferences or events not directly linked to the dissemination or discussion of the supported initiative
- Equipment or software purchases, unless clearly justified as essential for the initiative and proportionate to the grant amount

Evaluation Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed by an Evaluation Committee according to the following criteria.

Evaluation Criterion	Maximum Score
Need for and relevance of the proposed action considering the context	25
Demonstrated organisational experience and capacity to implement the proposed action	10
Quality, feasibility and coherence of the proposed activities and outreach strategy	20
Expected impact and contribution to advancing the rights and visibility of LGBTIQ communities	20
Cost-effectiveness and coherence of the proposed budget	15
Inclusion of underserved, marginalised and/or less visible LGBTIQ communities, and/or implementation outside capital cities	10

TOTAL	100
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APPLICATION PROCESS

The application package must include:

1. Application Form
2. Budget Form

Applications can be submitted in English, Bosnian, Serbian, Montenegrin or Macedonian. If you do not complete the application form in English, please add an online translation in English using either Google Translate or DeepL and send it to us with the form the email address: grants@lgbti-era.org. The applicants must receive a confirmation email the latest 2 days after the deadline for receiving the application.

Please indicate in the email subject line: *"Application – Advocacy & Awareness raising call (Country name)"*.

Applications should be submitted using the Application Form in Word and budget in Excel formats.

Proposals must be submitted online by August 25, 2026, at 23:59 CET.