

APPLICATION GUIDELINE

1st Open Call for Project Proposals 2026

under the Western Balkans - Gender Equality Fund

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION of project application: 10th of June 2026, 12:59 hrs CET

CONTRACTING AUTHORITY: Western Balkans Fund

Table of Contents

1.	Background	3
2.	Who can apply?	4
3.	What are the priority areas of this Call?	5
4.	What type of activities are eligible?	8
5.	What is the financing amount and project duration?	8
6.	What costs are eligible?	9
7.	How many applications can you submit?	10
8.	Visibility	10
9.	How to apply and the procedures to follow	10
10.	Evaluation and selection of the project applications	11

1. Background

Western Balkans Fund (WBF), established by the Western Balkans Six Ministries of Foreign Affairs, promotes regional cooperation by supporting civil society organizations and key stakeholders through people-to-people initiatives in the intervention areas of sustainable development, education and scientific exchange, and culture.

During the 2025 Berlin Process, under the UK's leadership, practical action to promote gender equality across the core themes - security, migration and growth, were designed. As per Chair's Conclusions of the Western Balkans Leader's Summit on the Berlin Process, held in London, 22nd of October 2025, gender equality is recognized as an enabler and accelerator of regional priorities, and that societies where women's and girls' rights are respected are more secure, stable and prosperous.

This important promotion, was in response and as a follow-up from the 2024 Berlin Process Recommendations to ensure that gender equality remains a central and continuous focus within the framework, and reporting from civil society that gendered perspectives had previously been absent.

Responding directly to a Recommendation from the 2024 Gender Equality Forum, the six Contracting Parties of the Western Balkans Fund represented by the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs, agreed to earmark 15% of the WBF's core budget for gender equality initiatives. This commitment of the WB6 has been formalized at the 2025 Western Balkans Leader's Summit on the Berlin Process, under the "Bilateral issues and good neighborly relations"; section 46.

The Initiative was further strengthened with the financial support by the Swiss Development Cooperation through the Agreement for "Fostering inclusive partnerships in the Western Balkans " for the period 2026-2029 and the European Commission under the EU Civil Society Facility and Media Program in favor of the Western Balkans and Turkey for 2024-2025 (IPA III).

The announced funding for gender equality initiatives will be implemented through a dedicated Gender Equality Fund for the Western Balkans, with this Call for proposals serving as its first operational mechanism.

The overall objective of this Call is:

To advance gender equality and women's empowerment in the Western Balkans by supporting regional civil society cooperation, advocacy, and innovative initiatives addressing relevant social, economic, digital, environmental, and security challenges.

The priority areas of the Gender Equality Fund for the Western Balkans are based on the "Joint statement on cooperation of the institutional mechanisms for gender equality and protection against discrimination of the Western Balkans Six (WB6) as agreed on within the 2025 Sarajevo Gender Equality Forum¹.

Therefore, Western Balkans Fund announces the first open Call for project proposals under the Gender Equality Fund for the Western Balkans. This Call is implemented in accordance with WBF internal rules and applicable EU grant management standards. These Application Guidelines aim to help potential applicants to prepare and to submit their applications.

¹<https://westernbalkansfund.org/joint-statement-on-cooperation-of-the-institutional-mechanismsfor-gender-equality-and-protection-against-discrimination-ofthe-western-balkans-six-wb6-and-croatia/>

2. Who can apply?

2.1 To be eligible to apply for the grant, the Lead Applicant and the partners must be:

- a legal entity, (individuals and/or not registered entities are not eligible) **and**
- established in one WBF Contracting Parties (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo* , Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia), **and**
- non-profitmaking, **and**

Be a specific type of organisation from one of the following categories:

- **Civil Society Organization (CSO/NGO)**
- **Educational institution** (such as university/faculty², school, institute, library, research centre, academy)
- **Associations of culture or sports** (such as museums, art galleries, theatres, or associations of cultural institutions, sport associations, etc)
- **Business associations** (such as association of enterprises, agriculture association, chamber of commerce, tourism association, etc)
- **Media associations** (such as: organizations working with media, journalism, and freedom of expression)

Note that: Political Parties and Religious Institutions are not eligible under this specific Call for proposals, neither as Lead Partner nor as Project Partner, nor as associated partners.

2.2 Partnerships are an essential requirement for applying to this Call for Applications.

The following make a project partnership:

The Lead Applicant

The Lead Applicant is the sole responsible, as contract signatory with WBF, for the sound implementation, funds expenditure and reporting under this Call for Proposal. The Lead Applicant is responsible for submitting the project proposal, signing the Declaration by the Lead Applicant, signing the grant agreement with the WBF, and representing the partnership.

The Project Partners

Partnership must include Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and/or institutions as described in the eligibility of applicants section 2.1.

Partnerships must include participants from at least three (3) different WBF Contracting Parties (CPs). Each partnership should have one (1) Lead Applicant and at least two (2) Project Partners from different WBF CPs.

The Associated Partners

In cases where it corresponds to the project proposal's logic, it is necessary and/or the potential impact of the proposed project may be improved; the project proposal may list associated partners.

Associated partners are those businesses, organizations and/or public institutions contributing to the implementation of project activities, but which do not benefit from the transfer of the project's funds disbursed through this open Call for project proposals, with the exception of per diem and/or travel costs if needed. Associated partner's role should be clearly explained in the project proposal.

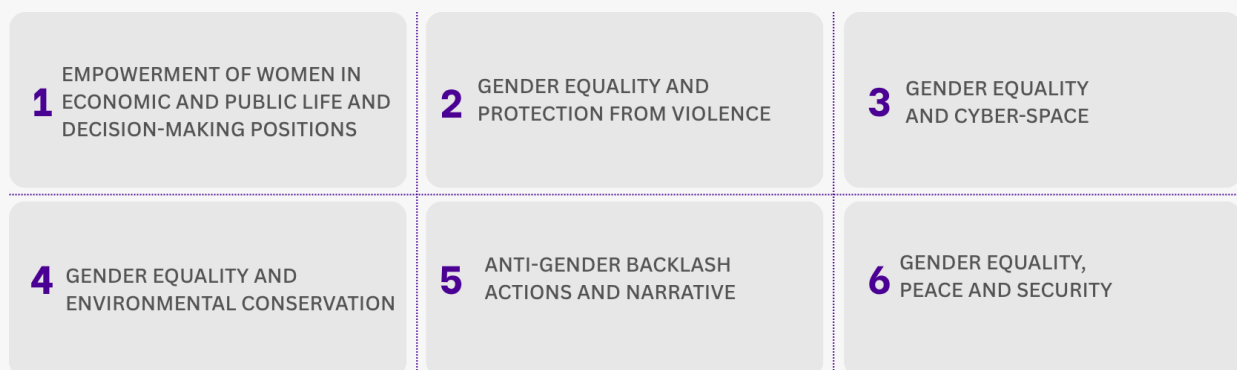
* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UN Security Council resolution 1244 and the International Court of Justice Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

² privately owned universities can apply through this open Call as well; however, their project proposals must not have the purpose of generating profit. Universities can apply on the level of faculties.

3. What are the priority areas of this Call?

Following the “Joint statement on cooperation of the institutional mechanisms for gender equality and protection against discrimination of the Western Balkans Six (WB6) as agreed on within the 2025 Sarajevo Gender Equality Forum, this open Call for project proposals is organized around six priority areas. Applicants are required to indicate the priority area they are applying for.

Applicants are encouraged to propose actions that demonstrate measurable impact, sustainability of results, and, where possible, innovative approaches, including the development of practical tools, pilot initiatives, or scalable solutions.



1. Empowerment of Women in Economic and Public Life

Under this priority area projects should aim to achieve one of the following expected results:

- Advanced women’s economic empowerment and participation in public and economic decision-making
- Improved recognition and valuation of women’s paid and unpaid work.
- Strengthened advocacy for gender-responsive economic policies and care economy investment.

Examples of Eligible Actions (Non-Exhaustive List)

- Research and policy initiatives addressing barriers to women’s economic participation, including marginalized groups.
- Initiatives linking women’s economic empowerment with security and environmental sustainability.
- Education and awareness initiatives on the valuation of paid, unpaid and community work.
- Monitoring and advocacy promoting gender-responsive budgeting and gender budget analysis.
- Actions preventing and addressing discrimination in economic and public life and decision-making positions, including awareness-raising, legal support and advocacy.
- Initiatives promoting the objectives of CEDAW General Recommendation No. 40 on Equal and Inclusive Representation of Women and Men and the principles of EU Directive 2022/2381 on Gender Balance among Directors of Listed Companies.
- Advocacy initiatives promoting increased investment in the care economy.
- Innovative community-based initiatives strengthening social services for the sick, elderly, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.
- Advocacy for institutionalized and ring-fenced budget allocations for gender equality policies and services at national and local levels.

2. Gender Equality and Protection from Violence

Under this priority area projects should aim to achieve one of the following expected results:

- Strengthened regional cooperation in addressing violence against women and girls.
- Improved support mechanisms and services for survivors of violence.
- Increased public and policy attention to sustainable funding for protection services.

Examples of Eligible Actions (Non-Exhaustive List)

- Initiatives promoting adherence to the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).
- Regional CSO cooperation strengthening specialized services for victims of violence and trafficking.
- Advocacy initiatives promoting zero tolerance for violence and discrimination, including cross-border cooperation and exchange of practices.
- Development of innovative policy proposals and support mechanisms assisting survivors after leaving violent situations, including legal support, alimony enforcement and destigmatization initiatives.
- Advocacy promoting adequate and sustainable public funding for essential services for survivors.

3. Gender Equality in the Digital Space

Under this priority area projects should aim to achieve one of the following expected results:

- Increased awareness of gender inequalities in digital technologies and AI systems.
- Strengthened participation of women and girls in STEM and digital innovation sectors.
- Enhanced engagement of civil society in shaping inclusive digital policies.

Examples of Eligible Actions (Non-Exhaustive List)

- Policy advocacy initiatives supporting adherence to GREVIO Recommendation No. 1 on the Digital Dimension of Violence against Women issued by the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO).
- Regional initiatives promoting the principles of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law (2024).
- Activities supporting women's participation in digital innovation, including pilot or skills-based initiatives
- Policy dialogue and advocacy promoting gender-sensitive digital governance
- Awareness and education initiatives on online safety, digital rights, and inclusion
- Joint initiatives encouraging girls to pursue STEM education and supporting women's careers in IT and AI development, with emphasis on youth-led innovation and digital literacy.

4. Gender Equality and Environmental Conservation

Under this priority area projects should aim to achieve one of the following expected results:

- Increased integration of gender perspectives in environmental and disaster-response policies.
- Strengthened cooperation between CSOs, youth initiatives and environmental actors.
- Improved community resilience through gender-responsive approaches to climate challenges.

Examples of Eligible Actions (Non-Exhaustive List)

- Initiatives addressing the gender-specific impacts of natural disasters.
- Activities supporting gender-responsive approaches in disaster risk reduction and recovery.
- Community-based actions improving resilience and inclusion in environmental responses
- Regional awareness campaigns promoting CEDAW Committee General Recommendation No.

37 on Gender-related Dimensions of Disaster Risk Reduction in a Changing Climate, in collaboration with youth activists and youth-led green initiatives.

5. Countering Anti-Gender Backlash

Under this priority area projects should aim to achieve one of the following expected results:

- Strengthened regional cooperation in addressing anti-gender narratives and disinformation.
- Increased civic awareness and resilience to gender-based misinformation.

Examples of Eligible Actions (Non-Exhaustive List)

- Initiatives addressing disinformation and anti-gender narratives through evidence-based approaches
 - Development of communication strategies or tools to counter misinformation
 - Cooperation, coalition-building and exchange of practices among CSOs working on civic resilience, democratic values and social inclusion (Women, Roma, Youth, LGBTIQ)
 - Training and capacity building to equip activists, teachers, judges, police, and social workers with anti-backlash strategies
 - Awareness and education initiatives promoting equality, norm-change, inclusion, and critical thinking, engaging both women and men
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6. Gender Equality, Peace and Security

Under this priority area projects should aim to achieve one of the following expected results:

- Stronger CSO engagement in peacebuilding and security policy discussions.
- Greater participation of women and youth in peace and security processes.
- Increased awareness of gender dimensions in migration, trafficking and humanitarian protection.

Examples of Eligible Actions (Non-Exhaustive List)

- Exchange of CSO experiences supporting the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and strengthening community-level networks.
- Educational and dialogue initiatives integrating gender perspectives into the security sector, including the concept of human security, while engaging youth in community safety and conflict prevention.
- Advocacy promoting equal participation and leadership of women and young people in peace and security decision-making.
- Regional campaigns promoting Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)17 on Protecting the Rights of Migrant, Refugee and Asylum-seeking Women and Girls.
- Awareness initiatives promoting CEDAW Committee General Recommendation No. 38 on Trafficking in Women and Girls in the Context of Global Migration.

4. What type of activities are eligible?

4.1 Types of Eligible Activities

Projects proposed under the priority areas may include, but are not limited to, the following types of activities:

- Awareness-raising campaigns and public outreach, including media engagement, digital campaigns and community events.
- Capacity-building activities, such as trainings, workshops, mentoring and knowledge exchange among CSOs, educational institutions, institutions of culture or sports, business and media associations and community actors.
- Cooperation and networking initiatives, including exchange of experiences, peer learning and joint actions among organizations and institutions from different Western Balkan Six.
- Pilot and innovative initiatives, including testing new approaches, tools or community-based services addressing gender equality challenges.
- Community-based initiatives, particularly those supporting vulnerable or marginalized groups.
- Research, studies and policy analysis, including evidence-based reports, policy briefs and recommendations supporting gender equality.
- Advocacy and policy dialogue initiatives, including engagement with decision-makers at local, national and regional levels.
- Knowledge sharing and dissemination activities, including conferences, publications and digital knowledge platforms.

Activities should take place in the Contracting Parties of WBF (WB6). Activities outside of WB6 are not encouraged however in exceptional cases should be properly justified.

4.2 The following types of activities are NOT eligible:

- activities that are religious or political in nature;
- actions that are commercial and profit-making;
- actions already covered and co/financed by SDC and/or EU/C
- activities that may lead to discrimination, exclusion, or harm to any group;

5. What is the financing amount and project duration?

5.1 Total amount available under this open Call: 240.000.00 EUR³.

The maximum amount of the grant per project is up to **40.000 EUR** and the minimum is **30.000 EUR**.

- The grant **shall not exceed 90%** of total eligible costs of the action.
- Co-financing amount committed by the applicant and/or its partners must **not fall below 10%** of the total eligible costs of the action⁴

Example of the co-financing formula: A minimum of 4.444,44 EUR is required as co-financing if asking the maximum (40.000 EUR) amount of grant.

(Max. size of the grant 40.000 EUR + 10% co-financing 4.444,44 EUR = Total Amount of Eligible Costs 44.444,44 EUR)

In-kind contribution is eligible only in the form of volunteering and must not exceed 30% of the total co-financing amount.

³ WBF reserves the right not to award all available funds.

⁴ Being that this open Call is supported by the Swiss Development Cooperation and European Union, the co-financing amount may not come from neither of these donor funds

To the successful applicants, grant will be disbursed in two tranches: first tranche in the amount of 80% upon the contract signing and second tranche up to full value of the grant upon the reporting.

5.2 The project duration must be no less than 8 (eight) months and no more than 12 (twelve) months. The total duration includes the full implementation period as well as the final reporting phase. The reporting period shall take place at the end of the action and should not exceed 30 days.

Projects must be planned to start no earlier than September 2026 and to be completed no later than September 2027.

6. What costs are eligible?

6.1 Eligible costs

1. **Human Resource costs** – (up to 25% of the Total Amount Granted by WBF)
 - The cost of staff assigned to the action (gross salaries of the dedicated project personal including social security charges and other related costs, excluding bonuses); salaries and costs shall not exceed those normally borne by the beneficiary(ies), unless it is justified by showing that it is essential to carry out the action.
 - The Total Costs for Human Resources (HR) must not exceed 25% of the Total Amount Granted by WBF. (Example: if max grant requested from WBF is 40.000 EUR -> Total HR Cost should be up to 10.000 EUR)
 - HR cost-sharing between Lead Applicant and Project Partners is encouraged.
2. **Direct costs of the actions** - costs incurred by the Lead Applicant and/or Project Partners for the implementation of the project such as:
 - Travel, Accommodation and board costs for staff and other people taking part in the action
 - Travel costs need to be justified as the most cost-effective option.
 - Travel with a personal vehicle is to be calculated on basis of 0.3 EUR per km
 - Accommodation and board costs up to 100 EUR per night
 - Rent of premises and related technical services, renting costs for equipment (new or used) and supplies specifically dedicated to the purposes of the action, costs of services and supplies purchased by the beneficiary(ies) for the purposes of the action.
 - Experts costs - must not be part of the HR expenses declared in the applied project nor may they be employees of the Lead Applicant or the partners
 - Dissemination costs – dissemination costs need to be properly justified and connected with the proposed activities and the proposed communication plan
3. **Volunteering** - In-kind contributions are eligible only in the form of volunteering and may not exceed 30% of the total co-financing amount. Volunteering cannot be part of the HR expenses declared in the applied project nor may they be employees of the Lead Applicant or the partners. The Lead Applicant and partners are required to comply with all applicable local regulations governing volunteering. The monetary value assigned to volunteer contributions should not exceed standard market rates. Volunteers' work shall be declared as eligible cost, but set aside of the direct costs as the calculation of indirect costs does not apply.
4. **Indirect costs** must not exceed 7% of the subtotal direct eligible costs
 - The indirect costs incurred in carrying out the action may be eligible for flat-rate funding, but the total must not exceed 7 % of the estimated total eligible direct costs (e.g. accountancy, bank charges costs, running expenses, un-foreseen costs in the direct costs of the actions (subject above eligibility of costs), etc.).

6.2 Ineligible costs

The following costs cannot be covered by the WBF grant:

1. Costs incurred for Applicant's activities undertaken before signature of the contract.
2. Debts and debt service charges (interest).
3. Provisions for losses, or potential future liabilities.
4. Applicant's activities aimed at profit making activities.

5. Applicant's activities that are affiliated directly with/or supportive to political or religious agendas.
6. Costs declared by the beneficiary/ies and financed by another action or work programme receiving a European Union grant.
7. Purchases of equipment, land or buildings.
8. Currency exchange losses.
9. Credits to third parties, unless otherwise specified in the special conditions.
10. Bonuses included in costs of staff; customs and import duties, or any other charges.
11. Fines, financial penalties and expenses of litigation.
12. Taxes⁵, including VAT (except when it is non-recoverable under national VAT legislation might be eligible and/or declared in the Declaration by Lead Applicant).
13. Beneficiary's individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences, congresses.
14. Alcohol and tobacco costs

Applicants may not propose financial support to third parties. In other words, sub-granting is not allowed under this Call for proposal.

7. How many applications can you submit?

Under this Call for Applications, an applicant may submit multiple applications as Lead Applicant or appear as a Project Partner but will be awarded only once as Lead Applicant and once as Project Partner (in each case the highest-scoring proposal).

8. Visibility

Successful applicants will be instructed to follow "EU visibility guidelines for external actions" as all communication and visibility activities implemented under the framework of the Gender Equality Fund for Western Balkans program that will seek to ensure synergy with the SDC and EU Communication Strategy.

Applicants must include a clear, feasible and detailed communication plan as part of the project proposal. The communication plan should outline the main target audiences, key messages, communication tools and channels, as well as the expected results of communication activities.

9. How to apply and the procedures to follow

9.1 Where and how to send applications

Lead Applicants are invited to submit full project application on behalf of the established partnership, in English language, by using the online WBF OGMS.

<https://wbfportal.org/applicant>

The online system provides detailed information about the Annexes incorporated in the System:

1. Annex A – Application Form
2. Annex B – Budget of the Action
3. Annex C – Declaration by the Lead Applicant (to be signed and stamped)

Applications sent by other means (e.g. by fax, mail or by email) will be rejected. (In case of a system breakdown the applicants will be notified for further application instructions from the WBF Secretariat). Upon submission of the Project Application online, the Lead Applicants will receive a confirmation of receipt with the Protocol Number (PN-9-XYZ). Should the confirmation of the receipt be not received within 3 days after the deadline please contact the WBF in writing by using the following email address:

info@westernbalkansfund.org

⁵ Excluding HR related Taxes and Withholding Tax

Please note that incomplete applications won't be able to be submitted automatically by the System.

The deadline for the submission of applications is **Wednesday 10th June 2026, 12:59 hrs. CET (time)**. The Lead Applicant is advised to avoid waiting until the last day to submit the full application.

9.2 Information Sessions

Information sessions on this Call for proposals will be held. Please check the WBF webpage and social media pages for the exact Info-session schedule.

9.3 Partnership Platform

The Western Balkans Fund has created a new Web-based Partnership Platform to assist applicants to find suitable Project Partners in the context of the preparation of this Call for Applications.

Please register: <https://wbpartnership.com/>

9.4 Additional information

Inquiries pertaining to this Call for proposals can be sent by e-mail no later than 15 days before the deadline to the following e-mail address:

info@westernbalkansfund.org

The WBF has no obligation to provide clarifications to questions received after this date. Only the questions sent in written will be answered (no phone inquiries). Replies will be summarised and publicised no later than 10 days before the deadline for submission of project applications at the WBF website. Please note that the replies to the questions asked during the Information Sessions will also be published at the WBF Website.

10. Evaluation and selection of the project applications

All applications will be evaluated according to the steps and criteria specified below. If the examination of the application reveals that the proposed action does not meet the eligibility criteria stated in Step 1, the application will be rejected on this sole basis without undertaking further evaluation steps.

Applications will be examined and evaluated by the Contracting Authority (WBF) with the assistance of external assessors.

The list of the recommended projects is endorsed/approved by the WBF Governing Bodies. According to WBF internal rules, winning applications must respect and ensure balanced distribution of funds between WBF CPs.

STEP 1: Opening, Administrative and Eligibility checks

During the opening and administrative and eligibility checks the following will be assessed:

1. If the deadline has been met. Otherwise, the application will be automatically rejected.
2. If the project proposal satisfies the eligibility criteria specified in section 2.1 of this Guidelines.
3. If the project consists of minimum 3 project partners coming from three different WB6 CPs
4. If the project application was submitted through Online Grant Management System
5. If the Declaration by the Lead Applicant has been uploaded in OGMS and has been signed and stamped
6. If the application is typed and is written in English
7. If the Budget is completed in line with section 6.1 of this Guidelines, and stated in EUR
8. If the duration of the action is minimum 8 months and does not exceed 12 months
9. If the requested grant amount is in range of minimum 30.000EUR and maximum 40.000EUR
10. If any of the requested information/document is missing or is incorrect, the application may be rejected on that sole basis, and the application will not be evaluated further.

STEP 2: Individual Evaluation

2.1 DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker check

The step 2 of the eligibility assessment starts with an assessment of the project proposal according to the OECD DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker. Only project proposals that meet the principal score of 2 will be considered for further evaluation, i.e. quality evaluation.

Principal score of 2 definition:

Gender equality is the main objective of the project/programme and is fundamental in its design and expected results. The project/programme would not have been undertaken without this gender equality objective. The project/programme is designed with the principal intention of advancing gender equality and/or the empowerment of women and girls, reducing gender discrimination or inequalities, or meeting gender-specific needs.

Minimum requirements (must be met in full)	Yes
A gender analysis of the project/programme has been conducted.	
Findings from this gender analysis have informed the design of the project/programme and the intervention adopts a 'do no harm' approach.	
The top-level ambition of the project/programme is to advance gender equality and/or women's empowerment.	
The results framework measures progress towards the project/programme's gender equality objectives through gender-specific indicators to track outcomes/impact	
Data and indicators are disaggregated by sex where applicable.	
Commitment to monitor and report on the gender equality results achieved by the project in the evaluation phase.	

2.2 Quality Evaluation of Project Proposals

The project proposals that pass the eligibility and marker check will be evaluated on the quality of the proposed action as per the following criteria:

No	Criteria	Score
1	Relevance of the project proposal To what extent is the project proposal compliant with the GeFund objective?	Max 20
a)	it has a strong potential to advance gender equality in the WB e.g. the project proposal builds new or strengthens existing regional networks for advancing gender equality (condition 1) within one of the priority areas of the call (condition 2) and is complimentary with EU/national/local strategies in advancing the gender equality (condition 3)	20
b)	it has moderate potential to advance gender equality in the WB e.g. one of the conditions is not met;	15
c)	it has weak potential to advance gender equality in the WB e.g. two of the conditions are not met;	10
d)	it has no potential to advance gender equality in the WB e.g. all three conditions are not met;	0
2	Added value To what extent does the project proposal bring added value to the GeFund objective?	Max 20
a)	the project proposal leads to a positive change (in terms of target groups and regional cooperation) in the addressed priority area, e.g. proposed solutions are adequate, feasible and sustainable, the scope of the project proposal is broader than the usual local benefit only to the respective organisation or locality concerned;	20
b)	the project proposal will lead to a temporary positive change (in terms of target groups and regional cooperation) in the addressed priority areas, e.g. expected solutions are adequate and feasible, but not sustainable;	15
c)	the project proposal may improve current situation (in terms of target groups and regional cooperation) in the priority area but it cannot lead to a positive change in the area/s, e.g. the adequacy, the feasibility and the sustainability of the expected solutions has no potential to change the current situation;	10
d)	the project proposal does not lead to a positive change (in terms of target groups and regional cooperation) in the addressed priority areas e.g. expected solutions are not adequate, feasible and sustainable;	0

3	Capitalization potential of the project proposal To what extent does the project proposal builds on existing practices and knowledge?	Max 20
a)	the applicant has justified the capitalization potential of the project proposal and upgrades existing practices and knowledge in the addressed priority area	20
b)	the applicant has justified the capitalization potential of the project proposal, upgrades existing practices and knowledge in the addressed priority areas but only to a limited extent	15
c)	the capitalization potential of the project proposal is limited, because the existing practices and knowledge in the addressed priority area, are mostly repeated instead of being upgraded;	10
d)	the applicant failed to justify the capitalization potential of the project proposal; e.g. the project proposal is not built on existing practices and knowledge in the addressed priority area	0
4	Partnership relevance To what extent is the partnership composition relevant for the proposed project?	Max 20
a)	The proposed partnership is relevant, e.g. all partner organizations have proven experience and competence in the addressed priority area (condition 1), there is a clear division of partners' responsibilities (condition 2), partner organizations complement each other (condition 3)	20
b)	The proposed partnership is moderately relevant e.g. one of the conditions is not met;	15
c)	The proposed partnership is weak e.g. two of the conditions are not met;	10
d)	The proposed partnership is irrelevant e.g. none of the conditions are met;	0
5	Maturity of the project proposal To what extent is the proposed implementation plan consistent with the project proposal?	Max 20
a)	The plan and the budget is realistic and consistent with the overall project proposal e.g. the proposed activities are in line with project objective (condition 1) the budget is realistic and in line with the proposed activities (condition 2), the project timeline is feasible (condition 3);	20
b)	The plan is not sufficiently realistic, but still consistent with the overall project proposal e.g. conditions 1 and 2 are met, but not condition 3	15
a)	The plan is insufficiently realistic e.g. two of the conditions are not met	10
a)	The plan is neither realistic, nor it is consistent with the project proposal e.g. neither of the three conditions is met and/or information is missing	0
MAX TOTAL SCORE		Max 100

As a rule, applications which obtain less than 55 points during evaluation will not be taken further in consideration.

STEP 3 – Submission of supporting documents

Only shortlisted applicants will be required to provide the following documents through OGMS:

1. Partnership Agreement (WBF Format)
2. Scanned statute and the registration certificate
3. Proof of the lead applicant's bank account (e.g., a bank verification letter or a recent bank/account statement indicating the account name and IBAN/account number) and the latest available annual financial statements, audit report, or other equivalent financial documentation.
4. A financial capacity form of the Lead Applicant (WBF Format)

The declaration by the Lead Applicant will be cross-checked with the supporting documents provided. Any missing supporting document or any incoherence may lead to the rejection of the application on that sole basis. Any rejected application will be replaced by the next best placed application for that respected CP.

Notification of the Contracting Authority's decision

The Lead Applicants will be informed in writing by the contracting authority's only on the status concerning their application "Approved or Rejected". The decision will be disseminated through WBF OGMS System.

WBF will publish the list of selected winners online. Within 10 days of the publication, any applicant who believes they have been adversely affected by an error or irregularity during the award process may submit a complaint to the Contracting Authority, which will make reasonable efforts to review and investigate the matter. WBF will collect all complaints and provide a response within 10 days following the end of the complaint submission period.

Indicative timetable⁶

The grant contract shall be signed preferably within 1 month following the notification of the award decision.

	DATE	TIME
Information sessions	13 th of May 2026 20 th of May 2026 26 th of May 2026	11:00 CET to register, follow WBF website and social media
Deadline for requesting any clarifications for the application process	27 th May 2026	COB (5 pm CET)
Date on which clarifications are issued	1 st June 2026	COB (5 pm CET)
Deadline for submission of full applications	10 th June 2026	12:59 hrs CET
Contract signing	July 2026	N/A

⁶ This indicative timetable refers to provisional dates and may be updated by the contracting authority during the procedure. In such cases, the interested parties will be informed by the Contracting Authority.