**GUIDELINE FOR APPLICANTS**

**GRANTS COMPETITION**

Youth-led social cohesion initiatives (grants), implemented by UNDP

May 2025

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# **context**

The “Enhancing social cohesion in Moldova through dialogue and community empowerment” project aims to strengthen social cohesion, resilience and sustainable peace on both banks of the Nistru River. The project has one outcome - “Beneficiary communities on both banks of the Nistru River contribute to improved (cross-community) dialogue, trust and cooperation” and two outputs:

Output 1: “Local platforms and tools are established in target communities to foster dialogue, tolerance and cooperation”

Output 2: “Youth and older persons have the capacity to actively participate in the community life, to access social services and contribute to social cohesion”

The second output entails the establishment of local community initiatives/dialogue platforms.

UNDP plans to support youth-led initiatives for social de-tensioning and strengthening social cohesion, interregional cooperation and intercultural communication in the 10 communities where Social Tension Monitoring Mechanisms (STMM) is currently being undertaken. These localities are Ocnița, Dondușeni, Orhei, Căușeni, Ștefan Vodă, Basarabeasca, Cahul, Taraclia, Comrat in ATU Gagauzia, and Durlești, Chișinău Municipality.

# **the goal and objective of the project**

**The goal:** to empower target communities and their residents to take an active role in addressing the needs of the people (older people, youth, women, under-represented groups and refugees), address local tensions and strengthen social cohesion.

**The objective:** 10 youth-led initiatives for social de-tensioning and strengthening social cohesion, interregional cooperation and intercultural communication, with participation of young people in implementation team, are implemented in 10 STMM localities.

# **general conditions of the project**

The project will be implemented by offering 10 grants not to exceed 16,000 US dollars each. The project implementation deadline is November 30, 2025. Grants will be awarded only to non-governmental organizations registered under the national legislation of the Republic of Moldova. The applicants must have a bank account in MDL dedicated to this project. The grant will be disbursed in MDL at UN Operational Rates of Exchange (UNORE) effective on the date of grant agreement signature. In case of discrepancies between the translations, the English version shall prevail.

Project proposals that meet the following criteria will be considered eligible:

1. The applicant is a non-governmental organization (NGO) or a civil society organization (CSO) legally registered under the national legislation of the Republic of Moldova.
2. The applicant is either a registered NGO/CSO in one of the STMM localities or has actively implemented at least three project interventions in those localities within the past three years.
3. The proposed initiative is aligned with the overall goal of the Project.

# **the budget**

1. The project proposal shall include a budget expressed in US dollars (VAT0%), with detailed information on each cost line, as per the template in Annex 2.
2. Cost estimates will cover the full project implementation duration of 5 months.
3. Cost estimates will be realistic and follow the action plan described in the project proposal.
4. The maximum budget limit is 16,000 US dollars.
5. The budget must be justifiable and optimized for cost-effectiveness.
6. All goods and services purchased will be included at the value excluding VAT.
7. The estimated costs must consider the level of effort of staff involvement as well as the cost-share from other programs and/or projects, if any.

**Eligible costs:**

1. Project administrative expenditure (administrative staff: project manager, accountant, project assistant, telecommunication services, rent and utilities, bank charges, etc.).
2. Expenditure for suppliers of services and goods, as needed).
3. Expenses for the purchase of consumables and other materials necessary for the implementation of the project.
4. Other expenses, which are necessary for the effective implementation of the project, well justified.

**Non-eligible costs:**

1. Costs incurred before the signature of the grant agreement (including costs related to the submission of the project proposal).
2. Fines, penalties, and exchange rate losses.
3. Activities covered 100% by other programs/projects.
4. Individual sponsorship for attending workshops, seminars, conferences, or scholarships.
5. Current costs of the organization that are not related to the project objectives.
6. Expenditure on the purchase or production of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, munitions, luxury goods and other goods prohibited under UN regulations, including those related to the organization of gambling.

# **project proposal evaluation criteria**

Project proposals will be evaluated by a Selection Committee established by UNDP, who will present the results to the Project Board for endorsement.

The evaluation and selection of the proposals will be performed based on Evaluation Criteria set out below. The applicants who will obtain the highest score will be announced winners. Each sub-criterion will be scored from 1 to 10, where 10 will be the maximum score. Each criterion shall be given a weight in relation to the total evaluation score. Each sub-criterion shall be assigned a weight in relation to the score of the criterion of which it is part of.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Sub-criteria** | **Weight** |
| 1. **Relevance to Social Cohesion Goal** | | **20%** |
|  | * 1. Alignment with Project Objectives | 50% |
|  | * 1. Target Groups | 50% |
| 1. **Innovation and Creativity** | | **15%** |
|  | * 1. Innovative Approach | 40% |
|  | * 1. Creativity | 60% |
| 1. **Feasibility and Sustainability** | | **10%** |
|  | * 1. Practical Implementation Plan | 70% |
|  | * 1. Sustainability | 30% |
| 1. **Impact and Measurability** | | **10%** |
|  | * 1. Expected Impact | 50% |
|  | * 1. Measurable Outcomes | 50% |
| 1. **Collaboration and Partnerships** | | **15%** |
|  | * 1. Local Partnerships | 60% |
|  | * 1. Cross-Community Cooperation | 40% |
| 1. **Resource Allocation and Budget** | | **5%** |
|  | * 1. Budget Justification | 50% |
|  | * 1. Cost-effectiveness | 50% |
| 1. **Gender Equality and Inclusion** | | **10%** |
|  | * 1. Gender-sensitive Approach | 50% |
|  | * 1. Inclusive Participation | 50% |
| 1. **Monitoring and Evaluation** | | **5%** |
|  | * 1. Monitoring Plan | 60% |
|  | * 1. Evaluation Framework | 40% |
| 1. **Risk Assessment** | | **10%** |
|  | * 1. Risk Identification | 50% |
|  | * 1. Mitigation Actions | 50% |
| **TOTAL** | | **100%** |

The Selection Committee will review each application received against the established criteria endorsed by the Project Board, ensuring a fair and transparent process. Upon the completion of the evaluation and selection process, the Selection Committee will propose a list of ten recommended organizations for grant allocation. This list will then be presented to the Project Board for final review and endorsement.

The selection process consists of two stages:

**Stage I:** Checking the eligibility of the application. This stage involves but is not limited to: (a) verification that the eligibility of the project complies with the above-mentioned criteria; (b) complete submission of the application; (c) the veracity of the information provided in the application. Applications that are incomplete, erroneous or do not meet the eligibility criteria will be excluded from the competition. At the end a list will be drawn up of the organizations passing to the second stage and those eliminated will be announced.

**Stage II:** Evaluation of project proposals that have passed Stage I. The evaluation will be carried out in accordance with the evaluation criteria, awarding the appropriate score. The applicants with the highest score will be announced as the winners. At the end, the winning organizations will be informed about the decision of the Selection Committee.

# **application procedure**

Interested organizations will submit a package of documents including:

1. Application form, signed by the representative of the Applicant (Annex 1).
2. The Budget according to the form (Annex 2).
3. A copy of the Registration Certificate for the Applicant or Extract issued by Public Service Agency.

The application form and annexes are posted on the UNDP Moldova website (<https://sc.undp.md/viewtenders2/>). These documents can also be obtained by sending a request to Marcel Blanuta at the following e-mail address: [marcel.blanuta@undp.org](mailto:marcel.blanuta@undp.org).

The competition application file must be sent electronically by e-mail to [marcel.blanuta@undp.org](mailto:marcel.blanuta@undp.org). The application deadline is **May 23, 2025,** **16:30.** Message subject should be: ”Youth-led initiatives grants – Organization name”. The documents in the application file must be in PDF format, except for the budget which will be in .xlsx format (Excel).

Applications submitted by any other means will be rejected. Applications that are incomplete or submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Applications sent by e-mail must not exceed 20 MB. Applications larger than 20 MB will be split into multiple messages, and in the subject line of each message, in addition to "Youth-led initiatives grants – Organization name", the subject must indicate "part x from y". For example, if the file is to be submitted in three messages, then the first message will have the subject "Youth-led initiatives grants – Organization name – part 1 from 3" and the last message "Youth-led initiatives grants – Organization name – part 3 from 3".

Requests for clarification on the application can be sent to the following email address: [marcel.blanuta@undp.org](mailto:marcel.blanuta@undp.org).