

Terms of Reference

Introduction

Through this Call for Expression of Interest, IOM BiH seeks to partner with local civil society, non-governmental organizations, and media from local communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly Una-Sana Canton, West Herzegovina, Central Bosnia, Brčko District, Banja Luka region, Prijedor, Prnjavor, Zenica, Kalesija and Birač region, to and invites all interested parties to submit project proposals corresponding to the program objectives of its BHRI program.

Background

Launched in November 2017, the BHRI program has been implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), to strengthen positive social actors and discourses to provide alternatives to extremist voices and influences. Funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) with funds from Austrian Development Cooperation, BHRI is part of IOM's multi-donor social cohesion and resilience portfolio.

Through a small-grants mechanism, BHRI is working to bolster local activism and leadership for enhanced civic engagement and strengthen voices and actors that challenge division and extremism.

For the upcoming period, the overall objectives of the program are:

- 1. to increase civic engagement of youth and citizens for positive change in their communities; and*
- 2. to increase audience, reach and engagement with positive media content as an alternative to divisive and extremist media content.*

Through BHRI program, IOM BiH seeks to partner with local civil society, non-governmental organizations, and media from local communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly Una-Sana Canton, West Herzegovina, Central Bosnia, Brčko District, Banja Luka, Prijedor, Prnjavor, Zenica, Kalesija and Birač region, to and invites all interested parties to submit project proposals corresponding to the program objectives.

Project proposals must therefore contribute to addressing the vacuum of positive narratives in Bosnia and Herzegovina that allow negative voices to flourish. BHRI will continue bolstering credible voices to develop and disseminate messages and implement activities that strengthen youth civic engagement and present an alternative to extremist and divisive rhetoric and thought.

Objective

The objectives of this Terms of Reference are to:

- 1. increase civic engagement of youth and citizens for positive change in their communities and*
- 2. increase audience reach and engagement with positive media content as an alternative to divisive*

and extremist media content

Proposed interventions

- *Create resources and/or conditions necessary for youth activism and organizations to act in their local communities.*
- *Support and strengthen advocacy initiatives aimed to enhance the position of youth in their local communities and youth activism in BiH.*
- *Strengthen cooperation and networking opportunities among youth, youth organizations, media, and other stakeholders across the targeted communities.*
- *Inspire collective action of youth and citizens of BiH based on the idea of shared heritage, values, needs and interests.*

Overarching Outcomes:

1. *Respond to the needs of the youth sector in BiH.*
2. *Strengthen the know-how necessary to ensure the sustainability of local youth organizations and the development of new generations of community leaders.*
3. *Enhance the cooperation among different youth organizations and other stakeholders.*
4. *Enhance cross-community exchange and cooperation thus strengthening the connections and collaboration.*
5. *Creating joint ideas, values and interest-based narratives that promote shared positive action between youth and the citizens of BiH.*

Expected results

1. *Established a mentorship program for the capacity building of future community leaders and created a knowledge transfer system/practice within the youth organizations.*
2. *Conducted capacity building of local activists/community members to implement community and advocacy actions aiming to engage youth and promote positive narratives.*
3. *Advocated towards identified stakeholders (individuals or institutions) to advance the position and the status of youth in the identified targeted communities, as well as countrywide. The advocacy initiatives need to be designed to enhance the opportunities and support for youth in local communities – for instance, related to access to social services, youth organizing, youth policies, implementation of the Law on youth, etc.*
4. *Promoted conducted activities through planned, community-based, and country-wide campaigns disseminating positive narratives and connecting youth for change.*
5. *Cultivated youth exchange among different communities within BiH, ensuring experience and knowledge exchange among youth; and conducted joint activities in each of the communities to counter divisive narratives*
6. *Implemented joint cross-entity projects and activities aiming to promote youth activism and positive narratives through cooperation/coalitions/networks of organizations/bodies/media active in targeted communities.*
7. *Promoted positive narratives through creative outlets and arts to contribute to the creation of the idea of shared heritage, values, needs and interests of all the citizens of BiH*

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| Impact |
| <i>To strengthen positive social actors and discourses to provide alternatives to extremist and radicalizing voices and influences. To this end, IOM is proposing to bolster local activism and leadership for enhanced civic engagement and strengthen voices and actors that challenge division and extremism.</i> |
| Partnerships and collaboration |
| <i>Partnerships - Partnerships with other organizations working with youth and/or promoting positive narratives are strongly recommended.</i> <i>In the case of a partnership, the concept must include a clear description of the role of the partner, and a plan for sharing resources between the partners. During the project proposal phase, selected applicants whose projects envisage partnership relations will have to submit a statement letter signed by the partner.</i> |
| Proposed timeline: |
| <i>The implementation period of the project must be 6 months minimum up to 8 months maximum.</i> <i>The projects must be implemented within the period from April 1st to November 30th of 2023.</i> |
| Qualification and experience |
| <i>- Civil society organizations or non-profit organizations registered in Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with applicable domestic regulations. The organization must be registered in accordance with the law for at least one (1) year, with clear evidence of previous experience in the implementation of similar projects, be youth-led and have a track record of working with youth and on youth-centred issues and promoting positive narratives within their communities.</i> <i>- Youth Councils, both umbrella and local councils registered in Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with applicable domestic regulations. The councils must be operative for at least one (1) year, with clear evidence of previous experience in the implementation of similar projects and activities.</i> <i>- Media outlets/organizations founded and registered in Bosnia and Herzegovina active in local communities designated within this call, working with young journalists, covering topics of interest to youth and producing the alternative and positive narratives in BH context.</i> |
| Submission of the project proposal |
| <i>The application must be submitted by e-mail to the IOM.</i> <i>Applications are submitted exclusively via the e-mail address: sjjproc@iom.int</i> <i>The application is submitted via e-mail in PDF format (signed and scanned).</i> |
| Place and the deadline for submission of the project |
| <i>March 13th, 2023, by 11:59 p.m., via e-mail sjjproc@iom.int.</i> |

Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

