

EIDHR 2020 GLOBAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SHRINKING CIVIC, DEMOCRATIC AND CIVIL
SOCIETY SPACE



The European union is founded on the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law. The European instrument for democracy and human rights (EIDHR) is designed to support civil society to become an effective force for political reform and defense of human rights.

The EIDHR multiannual indicative program (MIP) 2018-2020 underlined that space for civic and democratic action in societies around the world has been facing and unprecedented crackdown, commonly labelled the “shrinking space” Under its first objective – Human rights and their defenders where they are most at risk – EIDHR Global Calls for Proposals would seek to address the issue of closing civic, democratic and civil society spaces with a lens of fundamental freedoms.⁵

The other two objectives of EIDHR complement the first with respect to this global call: EIDHR Objective 2 – Support to other human rights priorities – recalls that although the space for civil society is closing, the role of CSOs has shifted from being mere implementing partners for eradication of poverty to being recognized actors of governance. Under its third priority – Support to Democracy – Global Call objectives would support peaceful pro-democracy actors, capacitating civil society to innovate with modern means of communication and organization, and to resist shrinking space

The **specific objective** of this call for proposals is to pilot a multi-country resource hub, focused on addressing the dynamics (shrinking, opening) of civic, democratic and civil society space. It should support civil society working on human rights and democracy and other actors to steer change towards greater respect for fundamental freedoms, civic engagement and democratic governance and to elicit a more effective development process at the national level.

Dynamics in the shape and scope of civic, democratic and civil society space may include closing or repression, opening, and shifting, as well as irregular patterns with concentrations in certain sectors or segments of civic actors, or alternations of restrictions and openness. Signs of change may include legislative changes, official or de facto policies, patterns of incidents, and evidence of perceived changes in public attitudes, having an impact on the exercise of freedom of association, peaceful assembly or expression, or on civic activism, protest, dissent or political contestation.

The **priorities** of this call for proposals are:

- Engage long- and medium-term **drivers of civic space dynamics** according to **specific country contexts**;
- **Offer** programs of **capacity building, networking and exchange** for human rights defenders and related civil society (including with other stakeholders as appropriate) at a national level and/or with a multi-country or regional dimension;
- **Counter the criminalization and defamation** of civic actors and civil society;
- **Develop and pilot multi-stakeholder response protocols** for early action; **maintain contacts/networks** with national and international actors to assess opportunities for meaningful action; **coordinate or mobilize measures** at different levels as appropriate;
- **Provide direct support** (services and/or financial assistance) in case of sudden-onset changes or significant signals of change;
- **Analyze trends and assess the dynamics** of civic, democratic and civil society space.

The deadline for the submission of concept notes is **20/11/2020**

For more information please view [Call link](#) or contact Externally Funded Projects Department via efp@ju.edu.jo / phone +962535500 ext. 21060 / 21054