Call for Proposals and submission guidelines

STEP UP Capacity NGO fund 2020 – 2021 (a pilot)

Small scale support for NGO's in Croatia, Italy and Spain to step up capacity
for **refugee protection and inclusion**

Application deadline: September 21st 2020

Implementation period: November 2020 – April 2021

Maximum budget: 7.500 EUR

Call for proposals - STEP UP Capacity NGO-Fund 2020 – 2021 (A Pilot)
to step up NGO-capacity for refugee protection and inclusion in Croatia, Italy and Spain

In a nutshell

Through this pilot call for proposals, the Dutch Council for Refugees (DCR) seeks new partnerships by funding NGO's from Croatia, Italy and Spain to develop their capacity for the benefit of refugee protection and inclusion. Organisations are invited to apply for a small grant (up to 7.500 EUR) and optionally to request DCR to provide capacity building support through knowledge exchange or training. Through this pilot, a total of 5-8 projects will be selected to be supported in the period between November 2020 and April 2021.

Applicants are invited to submit a short and simple project proposal and budget through this [online form](#) by the 21st of September.

1. Introduction

International solidarity for refugee protection is needed more than ever as the number of refugees and displaced persons fleeing from war, violence and persecution is at an all-time high. Protection is hard to get by and durable solutions are barely attained. Where Europe should be leading by example in sharing responsibility for welcoming and hosting refugees, the past years have seen a further externalization of refugee protection: preventing arrivals, outsourcing responsibility to countries outside the EU and downgrading refugee protection inside the union. This is painfully illustrated by refugees living in deplorable circumstances at the borders of Europe with little access to protection, legal assistance, livelihoods, integration or other durable solutions

National and local NGO's in these countries are doing what they can to assist asylum seekers and refugees. They are working with governments and independently to improve reception facilities, asylum procedures, human rights protection, or support for inclusion. Given the magnitude of the challenges, NGO's do not always have the resources, time or capacity to provide long term assistance and enhance the scale and quality of their work.

That is why, as a token of our international solidarity, the Dutch Council for Refugees (DCR)[1] has been investing over the past decade in the capacity of national and local NGO's, mostly at the borders of Europe. We always start from the local need of a partner NGO and build on 40 years of experience working for refugees in the Netherlands. We support NGO's in their organisational and institutional development and provide tailor made knowledge exchange on themes such as EU asylum law, asylum procedures and legal assistance, inclusion policies, lobbying, fundraising, volunteer policy, and more.

We are now **piloting a new method to support local and national NGO's** and potentially build new partnerships by offering NGO's the possibility to apply for support for capacity development activities through this STEP UP Fund.

This pilot[2] is funded by the National Postcode Lottery.

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[1]For more information about our international activities visit:
https://www.vluchtelingenwerk.nl/artikel/dutch-council-refugees
[2]If the pilot is successful and useful for local NGOs, DCR will look for additional funding to roll out the STEP UP Fund on a larger scale after May 2021 and will look into developing longer-term partnerships and projects with the selected NGOs in the pilot.

2. Objectives

Through this pilot call for proposals DCR aims to support 5-8 projects of NGO's in Croatia, Italy or Spain. The support is for projects that are aimed at **strengthening the NGO's capacity* to work for the protection and inclusion of asylum seekers and refugees**.

DCR's objective is also to develop new partnerships and networks with NGO's across Europe.

*We understand **capacity development** to be an **investment in the effectiveness and future sustainability of an NGO** and will consider projects that are aimed **at organisational knowledge and strategic development, development of new projects and programs and trying out new working methods**. Projects could for example be aimed at improving working with volunteers, legal aid to asylum seekers and refugees, social counseling of refugees, stepping up lobby and advocacy or fundraising strategies or building coalitions with other NGO's to name a few examples.

3. Optional capacity-building support by the Dutch Council for Refugees

In addition to financial support, applicants may also ask the Dutch Council for Refugees for (in-kind) capacity building support as part of the project. This can be in the form of knowledge exchange, peer-to-peer learning, or webinars/trainings on themes on which DCR has expertise such as advocacy, legal aid, working with volunteer networks, providing welcoming/social guidance to refugees and more[3]; only if deemed useful by the applicants, **it is not required**!

Together with the selected projects interested in receiving this support, we will work out a **modest tailor made capacity building session/program**.

In addition, all selected partners will be invited for a **joint work visit to the Netherlands** in the first quarter of 2021 to meet and inspire each other and visit field operations in the Netherlands (of course provided that there are no travel restrictions in place).

4. Eligible applicants and applications

- Applicants must be registered non-profit organizations based in Croatia, Italy or Spain
- Non-profit organisations active at national or local levels are eligible for this call for proposals.
- Applicants should already be working on the assistance of refugees and asylum seekers.
- Applications must address the objectives outlined above: only projects that focus on capacity development will be accepted.
- Only applications in English will be accepted.

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[3]If you would like to know more about the work we do, you can read our summary Annual Report 2019 here, or have a look at this infographic.

5. Selection criteria

➢ **Impact on NGO capacity**: The proposal must clearly identify the needs of the organisation and how the proposed activity(/ies) are expected to impact the organisation's capacity to work for refugee protection and inclusion in the country.
➢ **Relevance:** The proposal should explain why it is relevant for the current situation for asylum seekers and refugees in the country
➢ **Concrete results:** The proposal must set out concrete and realistic results it will aim for.

6. Duration of the project

Projects can have a maximum duration of 6 months and should take place between November 2020 and April 2021.

7. Budget and eligble costs

➢ Proposals need to be accompanied by a simple budget proposal up with a maximum of 7.500 EUR.
➢ Eligible costs include costs for meetings, study visits, trainings, research, publications and materials, and consultancies.
➢ Travel costs for the joint work visit to the Netherlands do not have to be included in this budget. These costs are covered by the Dutch Council for Refugees.
➢ The budget cannot be used to cover running costs of the organisation (such as office costs) or ongoing projects.

8. Application and review process

➢ Applicants are invited to submit a short project proposal and budget through this online form before the 21st of September.
➢ Eligibility check: All submitted applications will be reviewed by DCR for compliance with eligibility criteria.
➢ Selection: Each proposal that meets the eligibility criteria shall be reviewed by the DCR Secretariat. Following this review, shortlisted applicants will be invited to an online meeting in the week of 5 – 9 October.
➢ All applicants will be informed about whether they have been selected or not in October.

9. Reporting

➢ Selected organisations should compile a short narrative and financial report on the results of the project and the use of the funding to be submitted by 15 June 2021 at the latest. A reporting template will be provided for this.

10. Contact

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions. You can contact us at ip@dcfr.nl