



Supporting Local Civil Society Organisations in Transitional Justice  
Initiatives and Confidence-building in the Western Balkans –  
RECOM Reconciliation Network

**Guidelines for grant applicants**

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, Serbia and North Macedonia

**Deadline for submission of applications: 20 September 2023**



**Funded by  
the European Union**

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# 1. RECOM Reconciliation Network

## 1.1. Background

The RECOM Reconciliation Network (RRN), former Coalition for RECOM, gathers civil society organisations, artists, writers, historians, lawyers and other individuals who support, through their activities and public engagement, a nominal record of victims of the wars from 1991 to 2001 in post-Yugoslav space. Regional record of all war crime victims was supported by 580.000 citizens from post-Yugoslav countries, who signed a petition for the establishment of RECOM in 2011. Until 2015, leaders of Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Macedonia (now North Macedonia) and two members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina supported civil initiative for establishing an interstate commission that would make a list of all war crime victims.

The Coalition for RECOM adopted RECOM Statute in December 2014, that was previously agreed by Personal Envoys appointed by aforementioned leaders and experts from the Coalition for RECOM, as a document for starting the process of establishment of RECOM. However, political shift in Croatia in February 2015, led to a serious turning point in its dealing with the past – Croatia opted for national dealing with the past which, abandoning regional approach, weakening support for the RECOM initiative.

In consultation with leaders of other post-Yugoslav countries, the Coalition prepared the Declaration on the establishment of RECOM, with proposal that ministers of foreign affairs sign it at the Berlin Summit in London 2018, hoping that Croatia as EU member state, will join afterwards. However, only the Government of Montenegro decided to sign the Declaration, so it was removed from the agenda of Berlin Summit in 2018.

It was followed by significant support of EU Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations. Within the preparation for the Berlin Summit in 2019, Honorary Director General of the European Commission, Mr. Pierre Mirrel, on behalf of the EU Directorate visited Sarajevo, where he was informed by counsellors of members of the Presidency that the Bosniak and Croat members have new political priorities – regional stability and security of Bosnia and Herzegovina and that the Republic of Srpska does not support reconciliation based on judicially established facts advocated by the Coalition for RECOM.

Confronted with the lack of political support to see the establishment of the interstate commission through, the XII Assembly of the Coalition for RECOM in December 2019 decided to restructure the RECOM Initiative by taking care for building the regional nominal list of the victims (130,000), by increasing research capacities involving social science faculties from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia and by providing financial resources.

According to RRN's data, identity of over 27.500 victims is already determined: for around 7.000 war crime victims based on judgments; the Humanitarian Law Center (HLC) and the Humanitarian Law Center Kosovo (HLCK) determined from several sources identity of another 13.500 victims related to the war in Kosovo, and Documenta and HLC identity of 7.000 civil and military victims of the war in Croatia.

Although significant part of the task has been done already, it is necessary to record all the victims and publish it, in order to be available for verification. For such an extraordinary task, it is crucial to provide

stronger support for grass root initiatives that promote perspective of victims and of the justice, regional reconciliation, respect for the victims regardless of their ethnicity, encourage youth to learn, memorize and reflect about the past. That was the motivation for sub-granting programme created by RRN members, conducting research into human losses and detention sites - Humanitarian Law Center (Serbia), Humanitarian Law Center Kosovo (Kosovo), Association Transitional Justice Accountability and Remembrance and Center for Democracy and Transitional Justice (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Centre for Civic Education (Montenegro) and European Policy Institute (North Macedonia).

## **1.2. Objectives of the Call**

The overall objective is the development of a civil society network for reconciliation in the former Yugoslavia, established “from the bottom up”, which prioritizes victims.

The specific objectives include strengthening the position and voice of youth, women, victims, and civil society organisations at the local level in relation to regional reconciliation and transregional exchange of knowledge and best practices.

Please submit a proposal for an initiative that contributes to awareness raising about judicial facts and strengthening the voice of victims, revealing and acknowledging facts about wartime events and crimes in local community, and building a regional culture of remembrance and reconciliation.

## **1.3. Financial allocation**

The total amount of funds for the implementation of the renewed third Call is 43, 000 EUR, with the highest individual grant amount being 7, 000 EUR.

## **2. Eligibility criteria**

### ***2.1. Applicants***

In order to be eligible for sub-granting, civil society organisation must be:

- legal person registered in accordance to the relevant national registration procedures in Bosnia-Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo or Montenegro;
- non-profit making;
- active at the level of a local community;
- have organisational capacity and directly responsible for the preparation and management of the project (with partners if applicable).

All listed conditions are to be satisfied cumulatively.

Organisations can apply individually or in cooperation with other organisations. Partnerships and networking are not a requirement for application. If partners are involved, they must meet the same criteria as the organization submitting the project proposal.

Political parties, international organisations, government institutions, religious communities, and informal groups are not eligible to apply for this Call.

Applicants must have proven track record of activism in the field of human rights and/or transitional justice. Preference will be given to organizations with experience in the field of transitional justice, projects that address gender, youth, and/or victims, as well as projects to be implemented in smaller communities.

## **2.2. Projects**

For example, the projects in Bosnia and Hercegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo can include:

- research on crimes in which suffered people over 60 years old, immobile individuals, people with disabilities, women;
- research on acts of inhuman and degrading treatment of detainees, based on the ICTY database and domestic trials documentation;
- digital collection of interviews with eyewitnesses to events (crimes that were not part of trials);
- mapping unmarked sites of suffering, based on judicial facts and field research;
- documentary, exhibition, book, animation and other projects contributing to regional reconciliation and building common culture of remembrance on wars in the 1990s.

Projects in North Macedonia can include:

- establishing a dialogue on the impact of war on a specific city or settlement, led by NGOs through organised meetings of different local groups in the form of discussions on reconciliation and peace building;
- achieving cooperation with schools through the planning of extracurricular activities on the topic of peace building (debates, creative workshops, etc.) within the subject of civic education;
- local youth campaigns on peacebuilding;
- initiating dialogue with vulnerable groups, primarily women, Roma, the LGBTI community, regarding the use of different narratives in the public life and their analyses;
- networking of youth groups of different ethnicities to build trust, establish dialogue for reconciliation and promote peacebuilding.

The following types of action are ineligible:

- financial support to individuals for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences, congresses;
- scholarships for individuals for studies, training, study visits, or participation in international events;
- promotional activities;
- infrastructure projects or equipment procurement;
- purchase and/or renovation of buildings or offices;
- activities carried out before the signing of the contract;

- activities aimed at making a profit;
- donations and humanitarian aid;
- activities that have already been financially supported under other EU programs;
- requests for co-financing.

### **Duration**

Activities can be conducted during up to five months, no longer than the end of February 2024.

### **Location**

Organizations whose projects are approved conduct activities in the country where they are headquartered. Additionally, activities can be carried out in one or more other countries covered by the competition – Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, and/or Kosovo.

### **Number of project proposals and grants per organization**

An organization cannot submit more than one project proposal under this Call for Proposals.  
A partner cannot submit more than one project proposal under this Call for Proposals.

## **3. How to apply**

### ***3.1. Application form***

Project proposals must be in English or in the official language of one of the countries covered by this Call.

The application consists of:

- scanned proof of registration issued by the relevant authority;
- project proposal in final form
- budget proposal.

### ***3.2. How to send application***

The applications must be sent electronically to email [recom.call@cgo-cce.org](mailto:recom.call@cgo-cce.org) with subject: *Supporting Grass-root Civil Society Actors – RECOM Reconciliation Network*.

Incomplete and applications submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.

### ***3.3. Deadline for submission of applications***

The deadline for the submission of applications is 20 September 2023.

Questions should be sent electronically, by e-mail to [recom.call@cgo-cce.org](mailto:recom.call@cgo-cce.org), no later than 12 September 2023.

## **4. Evaluation and selection**

Applications will be examined and evaluated by the Selection Team assigned by the Project Coordinator.

In first phase, an administrative check of all documentation requested by the Call will be conducted. Only complete applications will proceed to the second phase of the evaluation, which will be carried out according to predetermined criteria such as regional dimension, contribution to reducing ethnicization of victims, informing the public about war crimes and judicially established facts, and capacity to implement the project.

## **5. Notification of decision**

All the applicants in the Call will be notified on the decision of the Project Selection Team by email, no later than 15 days from the closing date of the Call.