



Together We Empower Programme



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Contents

01. Introduction	4
1.1 Objectives	5
1.2 Priority Areas	5
1.3 Activities	6
1.4 Horizontal Priorities	7
02. Eligibility	8
2.1 Eligibility Criteria	9
2.2 Exclusion Criteria	9
03. Budget	10
3.1 Eligible Costs	11
3.2 Ineligible Costs	11
04. Timeframes and Duration	12
4.1 Timetable and Deadlines	13

05. Application Process	14
5.1 Access Website	15
5.2 Access Guidelines and Submission	15
5.3 Confirmation of application	15
5.4 Supporting documents	15
06. Evaluation Process	16
6.1 The Together We Empower Selection Committee	17
6.2 Evaluation procedure	17
6.3 Decision and Notification of Award	17
07. Reporting and Payment Arrangements	20
7.1 Reporting	21
7.2 Pre-financing payment	21
7.3 Interim payment	21
7.4 Payment or recovery of the balance	21
08. Non-compliance and breach of contract	22
09. Support	23

Introduction

The Together We Empower Programme is a funding programme designed to support voluntary organisations to address gender-based violence and domestic violence, in line with the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence of the Council of Europe.

This programme was developed as part of the Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence's commitment to implement Malta's Third National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence. The programme is administered and managed by the Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence (CGBVDV) and supported by the Parliamentary Secretariat for Reforms and Equality (OPM-EES).

The Together We Empower (TWE) Programme has an allocated budget of €100,000.

1.1 Objectives

The general objectives establishing the TWE are the following:

- a. To support the work of voluntary organisations in the field of gender-based violence and domestic violence;
- b. To enhance capacity and knowledge related to gender-based violence and domestic violence;
- c. To stimulate cooperation and networking between voluntary organisations; and
- d. To provide a platform from which to develop co-operation between voluntary organisations, private entities, local councils and the Government.

1.2 Priority Areas

The general priorities of the TWE are based on areas relating to addressing gender-based violence and domestic violence, including through addressing harmful practices, gender stereotypes and norms in Malta and Gozo:

1.2.1 Gender stereotypes

This priority aims at preventing gender-based violence by tackling prejudices and gender stereotypes. Activities proposed under this priority should focus on addressing misogyny and patriarchy in general, by targeting gendered attitudes, behaviours and social norms that either encourage or minimize the impact of violence.

1.2.2 Gender-based violence

This priority aims to enable applicants to plan programmes or outreach activities to address issues related to different forms of gender-based violence, including forced marriages, forced sterilization, forced abortion, female genital mutilation; sexual, physical, psychological and economic violence; stalking, harassment, and cyberviolence; and other harmful practices. Gender-based violence can take place in various spheres of life including education, employment, social activities, public participation and online.

1.2.3 Domestic Violence:

This priority aims to address the aggravating circumstances that different forms of gender-based violence have within the family or domestic unit. Initiatives under this priority should address at least one form of gender-based violence within the “family or domestic unit” as defined in Cap. 581, Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Act, of the Laws of Malta:

- a. current or former spouses, civil union partners or cohabitants in accordance with the Cohabitation Act, and their children;
- b. persons having or who had a child in common;
- c. persons related to each other either by consanguinity or affinity, civil union or cohabitation up to the third degree inclusively;
- d. persons who are or have been in a sentimental and/or intimate relationship; and
- e. spouses whose marriage has been dissolved or declared null.

1.3 Activities

Activities funded under the TWE include:

1.3.1 Artistic Community-Based Initiatives:

Initiatives proposed under this programme may include specific artistic or innovative activities through community outreach practices. These may include but are not limited to: exhibitions, artistic competitions, dance, drama, and music. Collaborations with VOs based in the community should be supported by the necessary documentation.

1.3.2 Targeted Capacity Building Workshops:

Initiatives proposed under this programme may include information sessions, workshops, conferences or other events, targeting specific social groups or professionals. With reference to intersectionality, this programme supports initiatives that focus on those at greater risk of violence and abuse, these include: children, women, persons with disability, elderly, migrants and persons within the LGBTIQ+ community.

Furthermore, specific initiatives may aim to address specific needs and/or involve victims, survivors, perpetrators, child witnesses, bystanders, and/or professionals working in the field. Collaborations with VOs or entities should be supported by the necessary documentation.

1.3.3 Production and Dissemination of Information Material:

Initiatives proposed under this programme may include written information material, to be disseminated in various formats including but not limited to leaflets, brochures, magazines, and booklets. The development of storytelling material, such as books is also considered under this programme.

1.3.4 Development of tools for informal education

Initiatives proposed under this programme may include the development of educational tools that may be used for informal educational purposes with various or specific social groups. Examples of these tools include interactive sticker books, flash cards, board games, card games, or adaptations of other resources used in different spheres, educational or for leisure.

1.4 Horizontal Priorities

Projects proposed under the TWE shall incorporate a number of principles and horizontal priorities. Projects which address the following horizontal priorities will be prioritised when it comes to the selection criteria. The Horizontal priorities are highlighted below:

1.4.1 Inclusion and Equality

Projects proposed under this programme should abide by the principles of inclusion and equality. All content, events, and publications should be accessible for all.

1.4.2 Civic Empowerment and Engagement

Projects proposed under this programme should seek to empower and engage participants throughout all the phases of the project. Tools, material and events should aim to call out and stand up to violence through empowerment and civic engagement.

1.4.3 Sustainability

Projects proposed under this programme should abide by principles of environmental sustainability. Additionally the sustainability and continuation of the actions developed within the scope of the proposed project should be factored in.

1.4.4 Social Innovation

Projects proposed under this programme should be original and innovative in the field of gender-based violence and domestic violence. Actions previously undertaken under other funding schemes will not be considered.

1.4.5 Collaboration

VOs are encouraged to collaborate and partner with other VOs, public entities or private organisations for multiplier effects. Joint efforts between VOs for implementation, expertise and/or community outreach will be prioritized.

Eligibility

2.1 Eligibility Criteria

- 2.1.1 All projects and initiatives proposed and implemented under the TWE shall be implemented in Malta and Gozo;
- 2.1.2 Projects should comply with all the terms and conditions of this call for applications;
- 2.1.3 Applicants are in conformity to legal or policy requirements through the VO registration number and the VO Compliance Certificate published by the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations. A copy of this certificate needs to be submitted together with the application form;
- 2.1.4 Applicants shall have the financial capacity to implement the project proposed by providing financial statements for the past 2 years. A copy of the VO's financial statements needs to be submitted with the application form;
- 2.1.5 Applicants shall have the operational capacity and expertise to implement the project proposed. Applicants are to provide a brief description of the Voluntary Organisation and the team implementing the project. Any expertise on the project would need to be highlighted in the application form.
- 2.1.6 Only one application per VO shall be accepted under this programme.

2.2 Exclusion Criteria

- 2.2.1 The project proposal is or has been supported under another EU/national fund.
- 2.2.2 The project is purely a fundraising event and/or for-profit-making purposes.
- 2.2.3 Does not observe any of the eligibility criteria.

3.1 Eligible Costs

- 3.1.1 Staff costs for project management are covered up to 10% of the total project cost. Costs may either be incurred for employed personnel responsible for the project implementation or in the case of sub-contracted personnel to manage the project. In case of the latter, VOs should follow the spirit of public procurement regulations.
- 3.1.2 Costs tied to the activities mentioned in Section 1.3 include but are not limited to media slots, content creation, exhibitions, artistic competitions, any costs related to the arts industry, information sessions, workshops, conferences, leaflets, brochures, magazines and booklets.
- 3.1.3 Hospitality (catering) costs which are not part of the main activities of the project are covered up to 15%.
- 3.1.4 Marketing Costs which are not part of the main activities of the project are covered up to 15%.
- 3.1.5 Indirect administrative costs, such as running costs for offices, documents, etc are covered up to 5% of the total project cost.
- 3.1.6 Leasing of equipment for the community-based initiatives and capacity building workshops.
- 3.1.7 An inflation cost of 5% should be accounted for when preparing the budget section.

3.2 Ineligible Costs

- 3.2.1 Purchase of equipment is not eligible under this programme.
- 3.2.2 Infrastructural costs are not eligible under this programme.

Timeframes and Duration

Projects proposed in this call shall commence implementation between April 2025 and October 2025. Projects should be implemented over a maximum period of seven (7) consecutive months.

The Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence reserves the right to propose alternative timeframes, based on and in line with Malta's National Strategy on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence. Should this clause be applicable, the CGBVDV shall discuss the possibility with the beneficiary and factor in allocation of resources.

4.1 Timetable and Deadlines

Timetable & Deadlines

(Deadlines are indicative and may be updated)

Call opening	28 November 2024
Submission of applications	28th February 2025 at noon
Evaluation	1st March – 28th March 2025
Publication of Results	4th April 2025
Grant Agreement Signature	April 2025
Project Implementation	April 2025- October 2025
Submission of final report	January 2026

Application Process

A step-by-step guide is provided below on how to get hold of the application and the guidelines together with steps on how to submit your application.

The application is to be submitted via email on funding@stopviolence.gov.mt.

5.1 Access Website

5.1.1 Access the link www.stopviolence.gov.mt

5.2 Access Guidelines and Submission

5.2.1 Click on the calls and media button (top right)

5.2.2 Click on the Together We Empower tab.

5.2.3 You will find the application and guidelines to download.

5.2.4 Download the documents in PDF format

5.2.5 Once the application is completed, send the completed application together with all the required documents to funding@stopviolence.gov.mt

5.2.4 You will receive an automatic reply stating "Thank you for applying under the Together We Empower Programme".

5.3 Confirmation of application

5.3.1 After submitting your application kindly wait for confirmation issued by the Commission on Gender Based Violence and Domestic Violence

5.3.2 Once your application is approved the email address that you would have submitted will be used for all sort of correspondence related to the various funding schemes.

5.4 Supporting documents

When applying for a project, the lead beneficiary would need to upload a list of supporting documents which will aid in the selection criteria of the project. This list includes but is not exhaustive:

- a. VO number both beneficiary and partners
- b. VO Compliance Certificate both beneficiary and partners
- c. VO's Financial Certificate for the past two years
- d. List of partner and leading projects.
- e. Budget breakdown
- f. Gantt Chart

6.1 The Together We Empower Selection Committee

6.1.1 The TWE Selection Committee is chaired by the Commissioner on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence. The selection committee is composed of:

- a. the Commissioner on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence;
- b. a representative from the Office of the Permanent Secretary of the OPM-EES;
- c. an expert in the field of gender, psychology, and media.

6.1.2 The TWE Selection Committee is tasked with:

- a. Evaluating project proposals;
- b. Carrying out a transparent and equitable selection process for project applications to be funded through the TWE;
- c. Provide and/or monitor effective and efficient administrative processes in the evaluation process and in the implementation of the TWE; and
- d. Decide on the final list of projects to be awarded a grant.

6.1.3 The Commission on Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence is tasked with:

- a. Promoting and providing information on the TWE;
- b. Administer and manage the application process;
- c. Provide support to project applicants and beneficiaries throughout the project life cycle;
- d. Monitor the implementation of the TWE and approved projects;
- e. Evaluate TWE project reports and relevant deliverables;
- f. Support the Selection Committee by assigning a secretary for minute taking;
- g. Disseminate project outcomes and results, in collaboration with beneficiaries, at a national level;
- h. Issuing payment for approved projects.

6.2 Evaluation procedure

The selection of project applications is as follows:

- 6.2.1 All project applications are checked by CGBVDV against the eligibility criteria, the exclusion criteria and supporting documents submitted by the lead beneficiary to substantiate the application form.
- 6.2.2 Those project applications which have successfully passed these checks are individually evaluated by the TWE Selection Committee members.
- 6.2.3 The mark of each proposal is computed and ranked accordingly.
- 6.2.4 Projects receiving more than 65 marks will be selected based on their ranking order until the funds are fully exploited. Should there be additional funds, components from projects receiving less than 65 marks may be considered until funds are fully exploited.

6.3 Decision and Notification of Award

Once the evaluation process is completed, a ranking list of the final mark of each project according to the final marks issued by the TWE Selection Committee is prepared and communicated via a notification email. Results will be uploaded on the CGBVDV website. The decision for granting funds will be based on the selection criteria, ranking order, and the budget available.

Applicants will be notified with the results. All successful applicants will be informed in writing. On termination of the project application procedure the documents including the project application form and the scoring documents will not be returned to the applicant.

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together
we
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If you or someone you know
needs help, reach out.

179  Helpline
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116 006  Helpline for
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Reporting and Payment Arrangements

The projects supported under the TWE will be subject to a payment procedure consisting of one pre-financing payment and a final payment/recovery of the balance due, as described below:

7.1 Reporting

7.1.1 Interim or progress reports

Beneficiaries are to submit a periodic or interim report accompanying the request for an interim payment. The interim and the progress reports must be submitted by the deadline stipulated in the agreement made between the contracting agency and the lead beneficiary. CGBVDV will be providing templates for the interim to the lead beneficiary 30 days prior to the deadline of the reporting.

7.1.2 Final report

Upon the completion of the project, the lead beneficiary shall submit a final report one month after the project would have concluded. This final report should indicate all the project deliverables and activities which have been done throughout the duration of the project. In this report a breakdown of how the budget was spent needs to be given. The final report should also be accompanied by photographic evidence of the completed deliverables as agreed upon in the grant agreement. CGBVDV will be providing a template for the final report to the lead beneficiary 60 days prior to the deadline of the reporting.

7.2 Pre-financing payment

A pre-financing payment of 40% will be transferred to the beneficiary within 30 days of the date when the last of the two parties sign the agreement. Pre-financing is intended to provide the beneficiary with the necessary financial resources to start putting in place the approved actions in the agreement.

7.3 Interim payment

An interim payment of 30% will be transferred to the beneficiary within 30 days of the date which the interim report is submitted. The interim payment is intended to provide the beneficiary with the necessary financial resources to continue achieving the deliverables and activities as outlined in the application.

7.4 Payment or recovery of the balance

The amount of the final payment 30% is to be made to the beneficiary will be established on the basis of the complete final report which is to be submitted within one month following the end date of the project. The final payment will not be processed if CGBVDV is not satisfied that all agreed upon deliverables have been satisfactorily implemented. Should all deliverables be implemented to the CGBVDV's satisfaction, a final payment will be disbursed within two months from the submission of the final report.

Non-compliance and breach of contract

The grant agreement shall provide for measures that the CGBVDV may take in case of breach of contract and other non-compliance issues.

Support

The CGBVDV will be providing necessary support throughout the project lifecycle – proposal to final stage.

For information related to the call for proposals and technical support in the project application process, please contact the CGBVDV on funding@stopviolence.gov.mt or **+356 2276 8303**.

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