



## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### EU project “Voices for Change: CSOs join forces to advocate for Accountability, Transparency and Public Awareness”

#### Grants to support research on CSO regulation in Mongolia

April 16, 2025

**DW Akademie**, in partnership with the **Media Council of Mongolia (MCM)**, is offering two financial grants for selected, qualified Mongolian researchers. In the past, several thematic studies have been conducted on the legal environment for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Mongolia focusing specifically on the status of the organizations’ activities, their cooperations, funding status and effectiveness. However, most of these studies are outdated and do not reflect the current situation. This gap shall be filled by up-to-date research.

The funding of the research is part of the “Voices for Change” project. Its grant scheme foresees awarding so-called Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) conducting research enabling the creation of a favorable legal environment for CSOs in Mongolia. The financial support is intended to start as soon as possible and to terminate by October 2026.

**(i) Introduction: objectives and output of “Voices for Change” project**

- Overall objective of the project: Fostering accountability of Mongolian CSOs as leverage to strengthening the civil society sector’s independence and capacity to contribute to good governance and social cohesion.
- Specific objective of the project: CSOs represent the interests of Mongolia’s civil society competently, visibly and credibly, and are accountable to its members, the public and the state.
- Expected output of the project: State representatives, CSOs and media actors have gained a better understanding of their mutual interest to create an enabling legislative and political environment for civic engagement in Mongolia.

**(ii) Objectives and results to be obtained with financial support**

- Strengthening the impact of the expected output of the “Voices for Change” project by collecting both national and international best-practice examples in the field of CSO regulation.
- Summarizing and publicly distributing research findings to initiate a public debate on the topic.
- Enabling Mongolian civic actors to understand and contextualize global achievements of CSO legislation.
- Facilitating a more balanced advocacy work in favor of a supportive legal environment for Mongolia’s civic sector.
- Addressing the urgent local need of bringing the civic sector’s independence into accordance with legitimate government interests, such as enforcing compliance rules and preventing organizational misuse (for example through money laundry or bribery).

**(iii) Scope of work**

The scope of work consists of three primary steps:

- An in-depth assessment of the impact of current regulations. This assessment shall include a review of the impact of the implementation of the Law on Non-Governmental Organizations in accordance with the “Methodology for Assessing the Impact of Legislative Implementation” approved by the Government as Appendix 6 to Resolution No. 59 of 2016.
- Research on the legal framework and international trends for supporting CSOs. (This research should incorporate international standards for action and provide detailed policy recommendations.)
- The two grant winners will closely collaborate to develop a CSO legal policy paper (e.g. draft an alternative bill for CSO regulation) for Mongolian lawmakers.

**(iv) Activities eligible for financial support**

- Carrying out research work (deskwork and/or on-site studies).
- Compiling, analyzing and further processing research findings.
- Creating coherent products that serve as a factual basis for further debate, such as short reports, summaries and presentations.
- Documentation and public presentation of policy papers and other relevant aspects on the topic of CSO regulation.
- Budget may include: personnel costs (service fees, honoraria), travel costs including visa and insurance, domestic travel, transport costs (including insurance), accommodation, per diems including alimentation, room rent, equipment hire, conference/event fees, archive fees, small allowance for stationary/office supplies.

**(v) Persons eligible for financial support**

- Non-partisan academics and other professional researchers ideally specialized in social sciences, media law and/or other fields related to public administration.
- Researchers with a demonstrated record of investigative and/or publicist activity.
- Researchers with a sound understanding of public policy and advocacy matters.
- Researchers with an in-depth understanding of Mongolia’s domestic CSO context.
- Researchers ideally familiar with international exposure as a consequence of public policy work.

**(vi) Criteria for selecting organizations and providing financial support**

- FSTP applications are competitive and will be scrutinized by a jury consisting of DW Akademie and MCM staff.
- To award the FSTP, the jury will evaluate each proposal based on a thorough and fair ranking system comprising the following selection criteria:

<b>Selection Criteria</b>	<b>Score</b> (max. 10 points per category)
a) Relevance of the application to the “Voices for Change” project	
b) Motivation and management capacities of the applicant	
c) Background and description of the activities	
d) Indicators to measure output(s)	
e) Description of assumptions and risks	
f) Description of target groups	
g) Explanation of promotion of outputs	
h) Work plan and timetable of the project	
i) Experiences of the applicant	
j) Soundness and cost-effectiveness of budget	
<b>Total Score</b>	/100

- Upon successful application, an FSTP contract containing agreed outputs, a timeline and the budget will be drawn up.
- Participatory design and topic selection will support giving special attention to diverse representation of EU priority target groups (women, youth, vulnerable groups).
- Calls for proposals are particularly targeted at organizations representing people with disabilities as well as indigenous communities.

**(vii) Criteria for determining the exact amount of financial support**

- An evaluation committee jointly formed by DW Akademie and MCM will scrutinize the submitted budgets.
- The proposed activities and expected impact must justify the expected expenses.
- The evaluation committee may suggest amendments to the proposed budget within the limits of the grant size.
- The financial support is based on actual costs incurred in the implementation process and compliance with non-profit principles.

**(viii) Maximum amount which may be given**

Two grants with a budget of **5,000 EUR each** will be given out to the two successful applicants.

**(ix) Submission guidelines**

- A project proposal using the enclosed application form.
- A financial proposal using the enclosed budget template.
- The language of submission is English.
- Both documents must be sent to [dw-akademie.mongolia@dw.com](mailto:dw-akademie.mongolia@dw.com) with the following subject line: “Voices for Change” FSTP - Research on CSO regulation
- Applicants will receive a confirmation of submission.
- Application deadline: **May 1, 2025**, 11pm Mongolian time