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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

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

Grant Opportunity for Mongolian CSOs to Strengthen Social Services and Community Voices

4 February 2026

DW Akademie, in partnership with the **Media Council of Mongolia** (MCM), is offering financial grants to Mongolian civil society organizations (CSOs), including registered non-governmental organizations (NGOs), that advocate for the rights of youth and other vulnerable groups. This grant scheme aims to support organizations operating - among others, but not exclusively - in informal ger (yurt) settlements in Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar.

To promote greater transparency and fairness within the social sector, the grant scheme supports the collection, analysis and sharing of data to highlight challenges marginalized groups face in accessing communal services. Within the broad spectrum of communal services, special emphasis is placed on social services such as child protection, family support, youth development and mental health care. Generally, communal services refer to the utilities and public amenities that a city, town, or municipality provides to enhance the quality of life for its residents.

Another key goal of the grant scheme is to foster trust between data providers and data users, such as journalists and influencers. Accordingly, the grants aim to support projects that actively involve key stakeholders, including advocacy organizations and public communicators, in activities and public discussions. These exchanges shall address both the benefits and challenges of journalistic practices, especially the tendency to oversimplify complex data and facts instead of providing nuanced reporting.

Applicants are encouraged to propose their own ideas and approaches to achieving both objectives: supporting data-driven work and building a “communication bridge” between civil society and media.

The grants on offer are part of the EU-financed “Voices for Change” project, with funding provided as so-called Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP). All FSTP measures are designed to maximize the project's impact. Funded projects should start as soon as possible and conclude by October 2026, when the “Voices for Change” project ends.

(i) Project Introduction: objective and output of “Voices for Change”

- Overall objective of the project: Fostering accountability of Mongolia's civil society as leverage to strengthen the civil sector's independence and capacity to contribute to good governance and social cohesion.
- Expected output of the project: CSOs, media actors and educators initiate new forms of digital communication that actively involve youths and other marginalized groups in policy debate and advocacy.



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(ii) Objectives and results to be obtained with community development FSTP

- Creation of public evidence regarding structural discrimination of youths and/or other vulnerable and often marginalized groups, such as women or people with disabilities.
- Tangible impact on communities in informal ger settlements of Ulaanbaatar metropolitan area.
- Data collection, processing, and public distribution, e.g. through press conferences and publications of scientific documentation.
- Structured process mentoring.
- Advocacy events for gathering feedback on data-driven work.
- Constructive exchange events to facilitate communication and mutual understanding between civil society and the media sector.

(iii) Types of activities eligible for financial support

- Data-driven work.
- Organization of public events and other communication formats.
- Budget may include:
 - Personnel costs (service fees, honoraria)
 - Purchase of services such as graphic design or visibility products
 - Rent and office fees (including communication and Internet infrastructure)
 - Stationery/office supplies (small allowance)
 - Purchase of technical items (e.g. recording equipment)
 - Transportation costs
 - Staff travel and per diems, including meals
 - Accommodation allowance
 - Event catering
 - Insurance

(iv) Organizations eligible for financial support

- CSOs engaged with community development work.
- CSOs preferably located and/or active in ger districts of Ulaanbaatar.
- CSOs with a proven record of advocacy in the social sector.
- CSOs with expertise in collection, evaluation, and public dissemination of statistical data.
- CSOs with qualified (fixed-term or freelance) staff to oversee the project content as well and manage the project administratively and financially (both in close collaboration with DW Akademie and MCM).
- CSOs must provide proof of their registration under Mongolian law.



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(v) Criteria for selecting organizations and providing financial support

- FSTP applications are competitive and will be assessed by a jury consisting of representatives from DW Akademie and MCM.
- Grants will be awarded based on a thorough and fair ranking system according to the following selection criteria:

Selection Criteria (refer sections 3a - 3i on the attached Application Form)	Score (10 points max. per category)
a) Relevance of the application to the “Voices for Change” project	
b) Motivation to apply and management capacities	
c) Background and description of the activities	
d) Indicators to measure outputs	
e) Description of assumptions and risks	
f) Description of target group(s)	
g) Explanation of promotion of outputs	
h) Work plan and timetable of the project	
i) Experience of the applicant	
j) Soundness and effectiveness of estimation of costs	
Total Score	/100

- Upon successful application, an FSTP contract specifying the agreed outputs, timeline, schedule for narrative and financial reports, as well as the budget, will be drawn up.
- Participatory design and topic selection will ensure diverse representation of EU priority target groups (women, youth, other vulnerable groups).
- FSTP Calls for Applications are specifically aimed at organizations that represent and empower people with disabilities as well as indigenous communities.

(vi) Procedure for determining the project budget

- Interested organizations are asked to submit an estimated breakdown of costs, which will be reviewed by the evaluation jury as part of the overall application.
- Following positive notification, applicants will be asked to submit a detailed budget.
- Upon successful application, organizations will be informed of the exact amount of the available grant (see section vii below).
- DW Akademie and MCM may suggest amendments to the proposed budget within the limits of the grant size.
- Proposed activities and anticipated impact must justify the expected expenses.
- Financial support is based on actual costs incurred during implementation and compliance with non-profit principles.



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(viii) Scope of financial support

- The total available budget for the grant scheme is 25,000 EUR, which will be allocated among the selected grants.
- The exact number of grants, as well as the specific amount awarded to each grant, will be determined based on the quality and quantity of applications received.

(ix) Required application documents and guidelines

- Document #1: A complete project proposal. Please fill in the Application Form template.
- Document #2: An estimated breakdown of costs (not a detailed budget), clearly distinguishing between personnel and material expenses.
- Language of submission: English
- Both documents must be sent as PDF files to dw-akademie.mongolia@dw.com with the following subject line: *“Application FSTP: Strengthen Social Services and Community Voices”*.
- All applicant organizations will receive an email confirming receipt of their application.
- Application deadline: **Tuesday, 24 February 2026**, 11:00 PM Mongolian time.