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|  | **CALL FOR PROJECTS RULES APPLICABLE TO THE AWARD OF GRANT CONTRACTS** |
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|  | **PROGRAMME NAME:****EMPOWERING PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELI CIVIL SOCIETIES AND MEDIA** |
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|  | **OBJECT OF THE CALL FOR PROJECTS:****GRANT AWARDS FOR PALESTINIAN INDEPENDENT MEDIA***To promote Palestinian independent media, including new media initiatives and fact-checking organizations* |
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|  | **AVAILABLE AMOUNT OF THE CALL FOR PROJECTS:****UP TO EUR 1,000,000**  |
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|  | **FINANCIAL SIZING OF GRANTS:***Minimum grant amount: EUR 20,000**Maximum grant amount:* * *For new media initiatives: EUR 50,000*
* *For fact-checking organisations: EUR 60,000*
* *For independent media actors: EUR 70,000*
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|  | **TIME AND DATE LIMIT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION:** **26 OCTOBER 2025, 18:00 (CEST)**Applications to be submitted by email: julie.dallet@cfi.fr ; alexandre.chatel@cfi.fr  |

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# Empowering Palestinian and Israeli Civil Societies and Media Project

## Presentation of Canal France International

Canal France International (CFI) actively promotes the development of media in sub-Saharan Africa, the Mediterranean and the Levant. We are committed to working together with media organizations to promote dialogue between local authorities and citizens so that people can be as informed as possible. Combating disinformation, protecting the environment, and promoting human rights and gender equality underpin everything we do. CFI is an operator of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and a subsidiary of the France Médias Monde Group.

As part of its activities, CFI is implementing the media component of the joint Expertise France-CFI project “Empowering Palestinian and Israeli Civil Societies and Media”, with the support of the European Union.

## 1.2 Context of the Call for Projects

The Empowering Palestinian and Israeli Civil Societies and Media Project **aims to strengthen the role of independent media and civil society and promote reliable and fact-based information as well as counter disinformation.**

Within this framework, **the specific objective of this Call for projects is to provide financial support to independent Palestinian media actors, including new media initiatives and fact-checking organizations.**

The purpose of this Call for Projects is to define the contractual terms of the future grant agreement, hereinafter referred to as the "agreement", to be concluded between CFI and the selected beneficiary(ies). The terms set out in this Call for Projects are for information purposes only and may be amended unilaterally by CFI prior to the conclusion of the agreement.

This Call for Projects does not constitute for any beneficiary a promise to award the future grant.

## Call for project objectives and priorities

The objective of this Call for Projects is **to provide financial support to independent media actors, including new media initiatives and fact-checking organizations** for a period of up to one year between November 2025 and December 2026.

The specific objective of this Call for Projects is to provide financial support to:

* Up to **25 grants for independent media actors**
* Up to **5 grants for new media initiative**
* Up to **4 grants for fact-checking organizations**

The priorities of the Main Project Grant Facility:

The Grant Facility of the Main Project “Empowering Palestinian and Israeli Civil Societies and Media Project” will prioritize initiatives that are grounded in local experience and strategically positioned within their communities.

**Support will focus on four priority areas** while preserving and scaling existing initiatives that remain relevant under current conditions:

1. **Supporting intra-community resilience and constructive engagement**
2. **Building collective strength focusing on community resilience**
3. **Reclaiming and expanding civic space for justice and accountability**
4. **Fostering meaningful intra and/or inter-community collaboration**

**The priorities of the Media Component and this Call for Projects:**

The Media facility will prioritize **enhancing media pluralism with the objective to counter disinformation and hate speech, amplify democratic voices and facilitate quality public debate and foster dialogue and discussions on public interest issues**.

It will prioritize focusing on common public interest issues that affect entire communities like media reform, women's rights, climate change, civic education, corruption and marginalised communities or communities that experience discrimination and/or exclusion (social, political, gender-related and/or economic) because of unequal power relationships across economic, political, social, gender and cultural dimensions. It will also encourage diverse voices and those promoting coexistence and collaboration.

In addition, the Media facility will support intra-community and cross-sector partnerships that bring together CSOs, media outlets, and other actors.

**Cross cutting considerations**

**Gender**

All funded projects must integrate a gender-sensitive approach. Projects that promote women's leadership, amplify women’s voices, challenge gender stereotypes, promote diverse narratives and address gender-based issues will be prioritized. Special consideration will be given to initiatives led by women or those that directly engage with issues related to gender equality, inclusion and participation.

**Youth empowerment**

Projects that meaningfully engage youth as leaders, creators, and decision-makers will be prioritized. This includes supporting youth-led initiatives and platforms for youth expression.

**Conflict sensitivity**

All activities must be designed and implemented with a clear understanding of the political, social, and historical context. Projects must demonstrate how they will mitigate risks of exacerbating tensions or reinforce exclusion. This includes addressing narratives that perpetuate division and hate speech and promoting equity.

**Do No Harm**

Applicants must ensure that project activities do not unintentionally cause harm or increase vulnerabilities. Special attention must be given to the safety, security, and dignity of project participants, especially those operating in high-risk or politically sensitive environments. This includes developing security protocols, ensuring informed consent, and avoiding exposure of individuals or groups to undue risks.

In addition, particular attention and caution must be exercised with regards to harmful narratives, hate speech, stigmatizing marginalized groups, or contributing to misinformation.

## Amount of the funding made available by CFI

The indicative total amount made available under this Call for Projects is **One million euros (€ 1 000 000).** This amount is indicative, CFI is not obliged to allocate the amount indicated and may unilaterally allocate a lower amount.

Amount of grants:

Any grant requested under this Call for Projects must be between the following minimum and maximum amounts:

• Minimum amount: **Twenty thousand euros (€ 20 000)**

• Maximum amounts:

* + For **independent media actors: Seventy thousand euros (€ 70 000)**
	+ For **new media initiatives: Fifty thousand euros (€ 50 000)**
	+ For **fact-checking organisations: Sixty thousand euros (€ 60 000)**

## Technical support provided by CFI

Successful applicants may receive technical support from CFI. The teams they mobilise for the project may take part in training and information sessions organised by CFI on contractual obligations.

They will also be able to benefit from technical and editorial advice.

# RULES APPLICABLE TO THIS CALL FOR PROJECTS

## 2.1 Eligibility Criteria relating to Applicant status

The criteria are cumulative; if the applicant does not meet one or more of the criteria set out below, its application shall be rejected by CFI:

* Be a legally registered entity (media organization or non-profit / civil society organization);
* Be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the project proposed under this Call for Projects and the subsequent management of a potential grant;
* Be a media outlet or a media organization focusing on Palestinian communities;
* The Application budget of the Applicant should not exceed 40% of the applicant’s annual budget average in the last three fiscal years.

In addition, applicants must demonstrate:

• a strong commitment to producing original content and formats that allow for interactivity with the audience.

• a commitment to public interest content, but that content may cover a range of public interest issues such as socio-economic issues, community issues, gender-related issues, etc.

• that they respect decent work and standards of employment conditions. Staff should have work contracts and applicants should be able to prove staff are paid above the national minimum wage.

• a commitment to media ethics as set out in the IFJ Global Charter of Ethics for Journalists (<https://www.ifj.org/who/rules-and-policy/global-charter-of-ethics-for-journalists>).

## 2.2 Eligibility criteria relating to Project Activities

### ***2.2.1 Duration***

The selected projects must start no earlier than **1 November 2025** (provided the grant agreement is signed before that date) and end no later than **31 December 2026.**

The initial planned duration of the selected projects may not be less than six (6) months or exceed twelve (12) months.

### ***2.2.2 Geographic coverage***

The proposed projects must be implemented in Palestine (and possibly in Israel).

### ***2.2.3 Sector(s) or theme(s)***

Priority sectors/themes:

The Media facility will prioritize projects that aim to:

* Counter disinformation and hate speech.
* Amplify democratic voices.
* Facilitate quality public debate and discussions on public interest issues that affect entire communities like media reform, women's rights, climate change, civic education, socio-economic issues, gender-related issues, corruption, etc.
* Cover marginalised communities or communities that experience discrimination and/or exclusion (social, political, gender-related and/or economic) because of unequal power relationships across economic, political, social, gender and cultural dimensions.
* Promote collaborations (with other media organizations, CSOs, or between different communities) and diverse voices.

### ***2.2.4 Type of activities***

The project able to benefit from financing under this Call for projects should not:

* aim to generate profit;
* be partial or supportive of political and/or armed factions;
* be exclusive of any group.

Projects proposed in continuation of existing actions are eligible.

### ***2.2.5 Ineligible activities***

The following types of activities are not eligible. If the applicant's project consists of one or more of the ineligible activities listed below, the application shall be rejected by CFI:

* Activities consisting solely or mainly in financing the participation of individuals in workshops, seminars, conferences and congresses;
* Activities consisting solely or mainly in financing individual study or training grants.

## 2.3 Eligibility criteria for costs

Only "Eligible Costs" shall be covered by the grant awarded. The budget is both an estimate of costs and an overall ceiling for "Eligible Costs".

### ***2.3.1 Eligible direct costs***

Eligible direct costs must meet all of the following criteria:

1. They must be incurred during the project implementation period by the beneficiary, with the exception of the costs of the final external audit. They must comply with the following formalities:

(i) Costs relating to supplies must concern the delivery and installation of equipment during the implementation period;

(ii) Costs presented in the final reports should be paid before the final reports are submitted. In the event of a cash shortage, which is duly justified, they may be paid at a later date, provided that they are mentioned in the Final Report, together with the estimated date of payment;

1. They are mentioned in the budget allocated to the beneficiary;
2. They are necessary for the performance of the activities;
3. They are identifiable and verifiable, and in particular are recorded in the beneficiary's accounts and determined in accordance with the accounting standards applicable in the country where the Beneficiary is established and with the beneficiary's usual cost accounting practices;
4. They comply with the provisions of the applicable tax and social security legislation;
5. They are reasonable, justified and comply with the principle of sound financial management, particularly as regards economy, efficiency and the award of contracts (services, works, supplies) for which the procedures put in place by the beneficiary can be applied.

### ***2.3.2 Budgetary rules relating to eligible direct costs***

1. For all purchases of services and purchases in excess of ten thousand euros (€ 10,000) excluding tax, a transparent and impartial competitive bidding procedure for service providers/suppliers and the production of three (3) quotes will be required.
2. An external financial audit must be included in the budget.

### ***2.3.3 Eligible indirect costs***

Indirect costs incurred during the implementation of the project may be eligible for flat-rate funding, up to a maximum of 7% of the total estimated eligible direct costs. Indirect costs are eligible as long as they do not include costs taken into account under another heading. No supporting documents need be provided to justify the use of the indirect costs granted.

### ***2.3.4 Ineligible costs***

The following costs are not eligible and cannot be included in the estimated budget submitted:

* Debts and debt servicing costs (interest);
* Provisions for losses or possible future liabilities;
* Costs declared by the beneficiary and financed by another action or programme;
* Purchases of land or buildings;
* Foreign exchange losses;
* Loans to third parties;
* Taxes, including VAT, unless the Beneficiary is able to produce a certificate proving that it does not benefit from an exemption or other exceptions allowing it to recover VAT from the relevant administration and only in cases where the VAT to be paid was not included in the sums described in the budget submitted to CFI.

## 2.3 Presentation of the application and procedures to be followed

### ***2.3.1 How to apply?***

Each applicant must produce an application including all the documents and information listed below, failing which they will be eliminated from the CFI selection process:

* **Appendix 1: Project presentation note**: each project must be presented in accordance with the document;
* **Appendix 2: Provisional project budget**: the provisional budget must be presented in accordance with the document and must be drawn up in accordance with the provisions of Article 3.3.Eligibility criteria for costs;
* **Appendix 3: Application form**: it must be dated and signed and contain the Applicant's legal registration document and bank details, failing which it will be incomplete. It must be accompanied by the following documents:
* Bank details (IBAN) in the Applicant's name;
* Applicant's registration certificate.
* Applicant’s annual budget in the last three fiscal years.

Handwritten Applications are not accepted.

Applications must be submitted in English or French.

Any application that does not comply with the above requirements shall be rejected by CFI without the applicant having the opportunity to amend it.

Applicants may submit their questions regarding the application process or eligibility criteria electronically, no later than 10 days before the application submission deadline, to the address(es) listed below, clearly stating the reference of the call for projects GRANT AWARDS FOR PALESTINIAN INDEPENDENT MEDIA:

* julie.dallet@cfi.fr
* alexandre.chatel@cfi.r

All questions and answers and other important information provided to applicants during the assessment process will be published in a timely manner and shared with all applicants.

# SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications shall be examined and assessed by CFI with the possible assistance of external assessors. All applications shall be assessed according to the stages and criteria described below.

If examination of the application reveals that the proposed project does not meet the eligibility criteria set out in this Call for Projects, the application shall be rejected for this reason alone.

## 3.1 STAGE 1: Opening and administrative verification

At the opening and administrative verification stage, the following elements shall be checked:

* Compliance with the application deadline and format. Non-compliance shall result in automatic rejection of the application;
* Compliance with all the criteria on the Application Form checklist (Appendix 3). If any of the information requested is missing or incorrect, the application may be rejected for this reason alone and shall not be analysed.

Compliant and complete project presentation notes shall be analysed with regard to the requirements of the Call for Projects and the relevance and design of the proposed Project.

## 3.2 STAGE 2: Assessment of the proposed project

The project presentation notes (Appendix 1) shall be given an overall score out of **100 points**, broken down according to the assessment grid below. The assessment shall also check compliance with the instructions on how to complete the project presentation note. The assessment criteria are used to assess the quality of the applications in relation to the objectives and priorities set out in the Guidelines.

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| 1. **Relevance of the Project**

Relevance is analysed according to:* The objectives stated and the priorities of the Call for Projects and the problem statement: Are objectives specific, realistic, and measurable?
* the cross-cutting issues and relevance to the Main Project: Does the proposal address cross-cutting issues such as gender, conflict sensitivity, and Do No Harm?
* the identified needs of the Final Beneficiaries / target groups: Are the target groups clearly defined and relevant to the objectives?
* the proposed partnerships: Does the proposal include relevant partnerships and ensure coordination to avoid duplication?
* the strategic fit and approach: Is the approach coherent, well-structured, and aligned with the Facility’s priorities?
 | **35** |
| 1. **Feasibility and impact**

Feasibility and impact are analysed according to:* Scope & Timeline: Is the project realistic in terms of timeline, location, and scope?
* Methodology: Is there a clear methodology and is the approach evidence-based and appropriate to the context and target groups?
* Activities & Results: Are activities well-designed, achievable and consistent with expected results?
* Anticipated Impact: Will the project lead to rapid, tangible, meaningful outcomes? What impact will the project have?
* Sustainability & Multiplier Effects: Are the Project's expected results sustainable? and are there any multiplier effects? Are there plans for continued impact and scalability beyond the funding period?
 | **35** |
| 1. **Organizational capacity**

Organizational capacity is analysed according to:* Experience & Track Record: Does the applicant have relevant experience managing similar projects?
* Legal & Operational Status: Is the applicant registered and authorized to operate in Palestine and/or Israel.
* Management & Finance capacities: Does the organization have the systems and capacity to manage the grant and the requested budget effectively in the limited time available?
* Risk Management: Are risks and external factors identified, with realistic mitigation strategies?
 | **20** |
| 1. **Project Budget**

Are the Activities adequately reflected in the Provisional Project Budget, and are they cost effective? Are the budget lines well-justified and proportionate to the proposed activities? | **10** |
| **TOTAL SCORE** | **100** |

**Applications with a score higher than 70/100 shall be shortlisted.**

## 3.3 STAGE 3: Award

Shortlisted applications will be considered by a panel made up of CFI representatives and media development expert(s). Applications will be assessed against the established eligibility and evaluation criteria. Final project selections will be made based on this review and revision process. Selected projects are expected to begin implementation in November 2025. A reserve list will also be drawn up by CFI. This list shall be used if other funds become available during its period of validity or if one of the selected projects does not give rise to funding. Applicants shall be informed in writing of the action taken by CFI on each application.

# LIST OF ANNEXES

Documents to be completed

## Appendix 1: Project presentation note

## Appendix 2: Provisional project budget

## Appendix 3: Application form