

CCG INSIGHT NEWSLETTER

Weekly Funding Insight
Week Commencing 2nd February 2026



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New Opportunities

Call Title:	OPEN CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE LEARNING AND SKILLING PROGRAMME OF THE 2026-2030 UGANDA COUNTRY PROGRAMME
Programme:	UNICEF
Objective:	The desired outcome is that by 2030, more children, adolescents and young people – particularly girls, refugees and those with disabilities – have their right to quality, equitable, inclusive and safe learning met, and are better skilled for successful transition to adulthood and employability. UNICEF envisions an education system where all children and young people, especially the most marginalized access inclusive, equitable, and high-quality learning that prepares them for life and work.
Eligible Activities:	This transformation depends on three preconditions: children being ready to learn through nurturing care and inclusive early education; school-age children accessing quality and inclusive education, and completing primary and lower secondary education with strong foundational learning, safe environments, and qualified teachers; and adolescents and youth acquiring relevant, market-ready skills through updated curricula, expanded vocational and non-formal pathways, and private sector engagement. These pathways are interlinked, with early childhood development supporting readiness, system improvements strengthening foundational outcomes, and market-driven skilling aligning education with labour demands. Actions must take place in Uganda.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligible are non-profit organisations with sector expertise and experience in the area.
Total Budget:	\$1,000,000
Deadline:	13/02/2026
More information and official documents:	https://www.unpartnerportal.org/api/public/export/projects/19725/

Call Title:	CIVIC INNOVATION FUND (CIF) 2026
Programme:	CIVIC INNOVATION FUND
Objective:	Objective Across Europe, financial and economic literacy is increasingly becoming a cornerstone of civic education and democracy promotion. In times of rising living costs, increasing inequality, digitalisation of finance, and growing distrust in institutions, the ability to understand economic systems, manage personal finances, and make informed financial decisions is essential for active citizenship, social cohesion, and democratic resilience.
Eligible Activities:	Financial and economic literacy goes far beyond budgeting or saving. It has proven to empower people – especially young people and vulnerable groups – to understand how economic policies affect their daily lives, how financial systems work, and how they can participate more confidently in society. Well-designed educational initiatives in this field can strengthen autonomy, reduce exclusion, and foster critical thinking about economic choices at both individual and societal levels. If you are developing or planning a project that connects civic education

	and strengthening democratic societies with financial and economic literacy, but lack the resources to pilot or scale it, this call offers you the opportunity to turn your idea into reality. Actions must take place in Europe.
Eligible Applicants:	While they encourage and welcome applications from all organisations, CIF is particularly interested in promoting projects from startups in civic education (i.e organisations that were established in the last 3 years) and youth led-organisations.
Total Budget: €100,000	
Deadline: 16/02/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://app.guestoo.de/public/event/46e82095-ee7c-462a-a19c-c787a34158f3?lang=en

Call Title:	CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY
Programme:	UNFPA
Objective:	Objective This call for proposals is part of the ‘Advancing Gender Equality with the Civil Society: Ensuring Safety, Health, and Rights for Women and Young People in Türkiye’ programme, which is implemented by UNFPA Türkiye with the financial support of the European Union.
Eligible Activities:	The purpose of this call is to support civil society organizations in the fields of: Reproductive health and rights across the life course, from puberty through pregnancy and childbirth to menopause, including safe motherhood and access to quality, rights-based services. Gender equality and gender-based violence prevention and response (including digital violence), male engagement Youth empowerment, education and protection, adolescent health and life skills, addiction prevention, and prevention of child, early and forced marriages, Gender responsive family-friendly policies and the care economy. Actions must be implemented in Turkey.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligible are non-profit organisations with country and sector experience.
Total Budget: €1,000,000	
Deadline: 16/02/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://www.unpartnerportal.org/api/public/export/projects/19722/

Call Title:	GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR GRASS ROOTS AND HUMAN SECURITY PROJECTS (GGP) – ARMENIA
Programme:	Embassy of Japan to Armenia
Objective:	Objective

	The Government of Japan invites to apply for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP). Reflecting the Japanese Government’s strong commitment to uphold the concept of “Human Security”, GGP program intends to contribute to improvements in various fields including education, health, infrastructure, as well as other sectors. The overall goal of GGP is to enhance the wellbeing of people at the grassroots level, based on the concept of human security.
Eligible Activities:	<p>Project areas include:</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing medical equipment to medical institution - Providing mobile clinic vehicle - Renovating/Extending medical institution <p>Welfare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishing/Renovating community center for vulnerable population - Installing basic equipment to the centers - Providing mobile care service for vulnerable population <p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Executing landslide prevention and Improving disaster preparedness - Providing garbage containers and collection vehicle - Equipping renewable energy source <p>Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Constructing training center for farmers <p>Water and Sanitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Constructing irrigation system - Installing/Replacing water pipes <p>Others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reducing mine risk <p>Actions must take place in Armenia.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs), Local Municipalities, Educational Institutions, Research Institutions and Medical Institutions based in Armenia are eligible. Recipients shall have minimum 2 years of activities with stable financial status. They do not accept any applications from outside of Armenia.
Total Budget: \$1,000,000	
Deadline: 28/02/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://www.am.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/b_000195.html

Call Title:	STREAM I (INCUBATOR) - SECOND CALL
Programme:	European Commission (EC) - CERV
Objective:	<p>Objective</p> <p>The desired objectives and results of the call for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • higher capacity of CSOs for system change – on the local, regional and national levels,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • higher innovation potential of non-profit sector, • higher capacity and ability of CSOs for scaling of their own innovative approaches and services, • higher cross-sectoral and intra-sectoral cooperation of CSOs, • strengthening of sustainability potential of CSOs and raising their focus on better diversification of resources, • strengthening organizational resilience and advocacy abilities of CSOs, • higher capacity of CSOs for strategic communication with the public (to fight disinformation).
Eligible Activities:	<p>Areas of support are: education, Democracy and rule of law.</p> <p>Actions must take place in Slovakia.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	Eligibility is limited to non-profit organisations.
Total Budget: €100,000	
Deadline: 13/03/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/competitive-calls-cs/13021

Call Title:	Submissions open for McCain Global Leaders Program
Programme:	McCain Institute
Objective:	<p>The McCain Institute is pleased to announce its McCain Global Leaders Program to support senior-career professionals committed to advancing democracy, human rights and positive change to apply for this fully funded, year-long leadership initiative.</p> <p>The 2026 Global Theme focuses on Advancing Freedom, Defending Rights, and Creating Opportunity, while the Western Hemisphere emphasizes Building Partnerships and Advancing Migration Solutions. In Europe and Eurasia, the focus is on Countering Authoritarians by Leveraging Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights. The Africa and the Middle East region centers on Protest to Policy: Growing Democracy for All, and the Asia and Oceania region highlights Creating Stability by Advancing Democracy and Freedom.</p>
Eligible Activities:	<p>The program is designed as an intensive, non-residential 12-month journey that combines regional and global engagement, allowing participants to connect with peers in their home regions while also becoming part of a broader international network. The McCain Institute will recruit a diverse cohort of leaders who are actively working on issues aligned with the global and regional themes through a wide range of professions and projects.</p> <p>Participants will engage in a blend of online learning and three major in-person experiences. Throughout the program year, they will take part in the McCain Leadership Curriculum, which draws inspiration from Senator McCain’s legacy and emphasizes community building, peer mentorship, and group problem-solving. This curriculum supports leaders in clarifying their leadership philosophy, strengthening practical skills, and navigating complex challenges in their societies. The first in-person gathering, known as the Leadership Experience, will take place in Athens, Greece, where all participants will come together for a seven-day</p>

	<p>program focused on leadership principles, engagement with experts, and the development of individual impact projects.</p> <p>This will be followed by the Changemaker Tour during winter 2026/2027, where each regional cohort will participate in a five-day study tour in a host country within their region, gaining deeper exposure to the program’s themes and strengthening regional networks. The program will conclude with the Legacy Experience in Vietnam in spring 2027, a capstone event that brings together leaders, alumni, and advisors to reflect on growth, explore collaborations, and consider the next steps in their leadership journeys.</p> <p>The program runs from June 2026 through May 2027, with approximately 25 days of in-person programming and an estimated 6–8 hours per month of virtual engagement. While participation requires a significant time commitment, the McCain Institute covers all direct costs of participation, including economy-class travel, accommodation, and visas, and also provides a stipend to support incidental expenses.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	<p>Applicants are expected to be mid- to senior-career professionals with at least five years of experience and strong working proficiency in English. There is no age or minimum educational requirement, and individuals from all professional backgrounds and countries are encouraged to apply. Selection is based on leadership capacity, vision, service orientation, and alignment with the program’s themes.</p> <p>Applications must be submitted through the online portal between January 26, 2026, and March 15, 2026, by 11:59 PM Eastern Standard Time. The review process can take up to three months after the application window closes, and applicants who are not selected are encouraged to apply again in future cycles. Graduates of the program become part of the McCain Global Leaders Alumni Network, gaining long-term access to global peers, mentorship, and collaboration opportunities.</p>
Total Budget:	€Not available
Deadline:	15/03/2026
More information and official documents:	https://www.mccaininstitute.org/programs/leadership-programs/mccain-global-leaders/

Call Title:	AI for Good Impact Awards: Recognizing Transformative AI Solutions
Programme:	AI for Good
Objective:	<p>The AI for Good Impact Awards honour innovative AI solutions that create meaningful, measurable benefits for people, the planet, and prosperity. The awards feature three main categories: AI for People, AI for Planet, and AI for Prosperity. AI for People recognizes projects that empower individuals and communities, improving human well-being and expanding digital participation. AI for Planet honours initiatives that harness AI to protect the environment, promote climate resilience, and support responsible resource use. AI for Prosperity celebrates AI applications that build resilient and innovative economies, strengthen governance systems, and modernize industries.</p>
Eligible Activities:	Focus areas include health and well-being through AI for diagnosis, accessibility, and assistive technologies; education and lifelong learning with personalized

	learning, language inclusion, and teacher support; digital inclusion and equality for gender, disability, and vulnerable populations with connectivity access; poverty reduction and food security via agricultural optimization and resource access; climate change mitigation and adaptation; biodiversity conservation and ecosystem protection; water management, circular economy, and pollution reduction; sustainable cities and infrastructure; economic growth; industry and infrastructure innovation including smart manufacturing, logistics, and energy efficiency; and governance, justice, and peacebuilding through data-driven insight.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligibility for the awards is open to small and medium enterprises, large corporations, non-profit organizations, academic and research institutions, government bodies, and individual contributors, while startups are invited to participate in the AI for Good Innovation Factory startup competition. Each project submitted demonstrates how AI can create measurable benefits, drive sustainable progress, and address pressing global challenges.
Total Budget: €Not available	
Deadline: 15/03/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://aiforgood.itu.int/ai-for-good-impact-awards/

Call Title:	Climate Investment Challenge
Programme: Climate Investment Challenge	
Objective:	<p>The Climate Investment Challenge is inviting postgraduate students to tackle real-world climate investment challenges through the lenses of innovative financing mechanisms and climate analytics.</p> <p>The opportunity features two prize tracks: The Innovative Financing Mechanisms track seeks creative financial structures that can mobilise large-scale capital for climate solutions, such as blended finance models or climate-focused outcome bonds. The Climate Analytics track focuses on data-driven tools and metrics, including innovations like greenwashing indicators or AI-based risk models, to improve climate-aware investment decision-making across public and private markets.</p>
Eligible Activities:	<p>The challenge encourages participants to move beyond theory and design solutions which could move the dial on climate investment. Whether structuring a new financing mechanism or building a data-driven analytical tool, participants have the opportunity to present ideas that could support real-world development and scale.</p> <p>Winning teams can receive a cash prize to support the development of their solutions. The current prize pool across both prizes will be within £16,000–£24,000. Winning teams also gain access to Imperial College’s climate finance network for accelerator opportunities and potential institutional partnerships, offering further scope for growth and collaboration.</p> <p>All participants gain valuable experience, visibility, and insight into what it takes to turn strong ideas into implementable climate solutions. Regardless of location, the challenge is global and welcomes applications from around the world.</p> <p>The challenge follows three stages. In Stage 1, each team completes a Concept Note using the provided template for the prize their team is applying to, and only</p>

	one team member submits on behalf of the team. In Stage 2, 16 teams are selected as semi-finalists and develop a 10-slide Business Case Deck describing their solution in depth. In Stage 3, a group of experts selects 8 finalists, with 4 for each prize track, and finalists are invited to pitch their solution to a panel of expert judges at the final event held in London, with hybrid presentations available. The Concept Note deadline is 9:00am UKT, 16th March 2026, the Business Case Deck deadline is 27th April 2026, and the final event takes place on 11th June 2026.
Eligible Applicants:	The challenge is open to postgraduate students worldwide. Teams must consist of 2–6 members, with at least one member being a postgraduate student enrolled in an MSc, MBA, PhD programme, or equivalent. Teams may include members from the same university or from different universities. Solutions must be original to those in the team and cannot be based on solutions already developed by a company or platform.
Total Budget:	£100,000
Deadline:	16/03/2026
More information and official documents:	https://www.climateinvestmentchallenge.org/the-challenge

Call Title:	CULTURE HELPS SOLIDARITY – FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR COLLABORATION GRANTS
Programme:	European Commission (EC) - CREA
Objective:	Objective This open call is the first cascading grant call for proposals offered by the Culture Helps Solidarity project, selected under the call for fostering Ukrainians’ access to culture and cultural heritage. Culture Helps Solidarity supports arts and culture professionals from Ukraine to sustain creativity, resilience, and community connection during and after the war.
Eligible Activities:	This call for proposals seeks to support collaborative projects between at least two organisations in Ukraine and Creative Europe countries respectively, that work with culture to improve access to cultural participation and support the integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees into their host communities – with particular attention to vulnerable groups such as veterans, and their mental well-being. It prioritises partnerships between Ukrainian-led organisations, whether based in Ukraine or operating in exile, and non-Ukrainian organisations, especially from neighboring Creative Europe countries. Through these collaborations, the call aims to foster: (1) cross-border networking, the exchange of professional experience and good practices, (2) stronger capacities for intercultural dialogue and mental health support, and the professional development of cultural managers in line with EU standards, (3) while highlighting a culture of solidarity in shaping a European future for Ukraine. Actions must take place in Ukraine and EU member states.
Eligible Applicants:	Applicants should be based in Ukraine or another Creative Europe country (all EU Member States as well as certain non-EU countries) and correspond to one of the

	following categories: non-profit organisations, public or private bodies. At least one of the applicants must actively work on the integration of displaced people or refugees from Ukraine into new realities and communities through culture, in particular families and children. Applicants should not receive funding from any other Creative Europe scheme for the project(s) they apply with. The collaboration project has to be charitable.
Total Budget:	€450,000
Deadline:	31/03/2026
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/competitive-calls-cs/13041

Call Title:	RESEARCH GRANTS ON EDUCATION: LARGE
Programme:	Spencer Foundation
Objective:	<p>Objective</p> <p>The Large Research Grants on Education Program supports education research projects that will contribute to the improvement of education. This program is “field-initiated” in that proposal submissions are not in response to a specific request for a particular research topic, discipline, design, method, or location. Their goal for this program is to support rigorous, intellectually ambitious and technically sound research that is relevant to the most pressing questions and compelling opportunities in education.</p>
Eligible Activities:	<p>They recognize that learning occurs across the life course as well as across settings— from the classroom to the workplace, to family and community contexts and even onto the playing field—any of which may, in the right circumstance, provide the basis for rewarding study that makes significant contributions to the field.</p> <p>Actions can take place in various countries worldwide.</p> <p>We anticipate awarding grants with budgets across each of the following funding tiers: \$125,000 to 250,000; \$250,001 to \$375,000; and \$375,001 to \$500,000. Within each of our funding tiers, we evaluate projects within tier and strongly encourage applicants to submit for funding that best fits their project rather than applying for the highest amount of funding.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	Principal Investigators (PIs) and Co-PIs applying for a Small Research Grant on Education must have an earned doctorate in an academic discipline or professional field. While graduate students may be part of the research team, they may not be named the PI or Co-PI on the proposal. The PI must be affiliated with a non-profit organization or public/governmental institution that is willing to serve as the administering organization if the grant is awarded.
Total Budget:	\$10,000,000
Deadline:	15/04/2026
More information and official documents:	https://www.spencer.org/grant_types/large-research-grant

Call Title:	Apply for Innovate for Impact Challenge: Driving AgTech Innovation
Programme:	World Food Prize Foundation
Objective:	The World Food Prize Foundation, in collaboration with America's Cultivation Corridor, is hosting the Innovate for Impact Challenge to accelerate AgTech innovations that address global food security and sustainability.
Eligible Activities:	The Challenge focuses on supporting early-stage, for-profit startups in the agricultural technology space, evaluating them based on innovation impact, market potential, sustainability contribution, and scalability and replicability. Its objectives include identifying transformative AgTech solutions, fostering early-stage entrepreneurial growth, enabling startups to showcase their innovations to international audiences, and providing opportunities for investment, partnerships, and mentorship.
Eligible Applicants:	The Innovate for Impact Challenge is open globally to startups in early stages, from validated concepts to pre-Series A funding, with at least one founder working full-time on the project. Startups will compete through a live pitch event at the 2025 Borlaug Dialogue in Des Moines, Iowa, presenting solutions to a global audience of over 1,500 food and agricultural leaders from more than 70 countries. The top three finalists will receive \$50,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000 respectively, along with unparalleled exposure, networking opportunities, and engagement with investors, policymakers, industry experts, and potential partners worldwide.
Total Budget:	€100,000
Deadline:	15/04/2026
More information and official documents:	https://www.worldfoodprize.org/index.cfm?nodeID=96969&audienceID=1

Call Title:	Call for Sustainable Chemistry Innovations: ISC3 Innovation Challenge
Programme:	International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre
Objective:	The ISC3 Innovation Challenge 2026 invites start-ups worldwide to present innovative solutions in Sustainable Chemistry and Electronics.
Eligible Activities:	The challenge focuses on innovation in design and performance, including eco-design principles, design for disassembly, reducing material intensity, and developing sustainable solders, recyclable encapsulants, and safer solvent systems. It also emphasizes resource-efficient use or substitution of critical raw materials and toxic metals through alternative technologies, recycled or non-toxic feedstocks, and sustainable manufacturing approaches such as low-energy fabrication, green solvents, scalable chemical routes, and biodegradable electronic components. Social issues like child labor and unsafe working conditions are addressed. End-of-life and circularity innovations are encouraged, including chemical or mechanical recycling, recovery of metals like Li, Co, and Au, use of recyclable or biodegradable materials, and closed-loop systems to prevent material dissipation. Alternative and emerging materials include organic and polymer electronics, 2D

	materials, MOFs, COFs, self-healing or stimuli-responsive materials, and sustainable alternatives to fossil-based plastics. Novel devices in energy storage, conversion, organic electronics, photonics, and optoelectronics are also sought.
Eligible Applicants:	Selected finalists receive customized support from the ISC3 Global Start-up Service, including pitch training, and the opportunity to be featured as Start-up of the Month. Winners include two Special Impact Awards for notable environmental or societal impact and the overall Innovation Challenge winner, with all awards presented at the final pitch event during the ISC3 Investor Forum at the Impact Festival.
Total Budget: €100,000	
Deadline: 24/05/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://www.isc3.org/page/challenges-investor-forums/innovation-challenge

Call Title:	Zayed Sustainability Prize Supporting Global Sustainable Solutions
Programme:	Zayed Sustainability Prize
Objective:	The Zayed Sustainability Prize is a global award established by the Abu Dhabi Government to recognize impactful solutions that advance sustainability and humanitarian development in line with the legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.
Eligible Activities:	<p>The Prize focuses on Health, Food, Energy, Water, Climate Action, and Global High Schools, with the aim of rewarding innovative, impactful, and inspiring solutions that address pressing global challenges while promoting sustainable and human-centered development. Managed by Masdar, Abu Dhabi’s renewable energy company, the Zayed Sustainability Prize supports organizations that have already demonstrated real-world impact. It does not support early-stage startups or untested concepts, but rather proven solutions that are technically and commercially viable, adopted by the market, and capable of scaling their positive outcomes.</p> <p>Across the Health, Food, Energy, and Water categories, applications are assessed based on innovation, impact, and inspiration. Innovation emphasizes unique value propositions, transformative approaches, and viable solutions that address real needs. Impact focuses on measurable improvements to people’s lives, resilience to challenges, strong governance, and clear plans for using the prize funds to expand benefits. Inspiration reflects alignment with Sheikh Zayed’s values of sustainability and human development, and the ability of solutions to motivate wider societal change. The total prize fund amounts to US \$5.9 million. Each of the Health, Food, Energy, Water, and Climate Action categories receives US \$1 million, while the Global High Schools category distributes US \$900,000 across six schools, with US \$150,000 awarded to each selected school. This funding enables winners to scale their solutions, deepen impact, and inspire further sustainable development worldwide.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	The Climate Action category similarly rewards initiatives that demonstrate tangible contributions to environmental sustainability and climate resilience, while the

	Global High Schools category supports student-led projects from six global regions: The Americas, Europe and Central Asia, Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and East Asia and the Pacific. These projects emphasize youth leadership, education, and local sustainability action.
Total Budget:	\$5,900,000
Deadline:	15/06/2026
More information and official documents:	https://zayedsustainabilityprize.com/

Call Title:	FELLOWSHIPS FROM CANON FOUNDATION
Programme:	Canon Foundation in Europe
Objective:	<p>Objective</p> <p>The Canon Foundation in Europe is a philanthropic, grant-making institution, active in the promotion of international culture and scientific relations between Europe and Japan. It was founded in 1987 under Dutch law and has its Secretariat in Amstelveen in the Netherlands. Its objective is the promotion of science, culture, know-how and mutual understanding between Europe and Japan. Annually, the Canon Foundation in Europe grants up to 15 Fellowships to highly qualified European and Japanese researchers. European Fellows are expected to pursue a period of research in Japan whereas Japanese Fellows are expected to do their research in Europe. Canon Foundation Fellowships are for a minimum period of three months up to maximum of one year. They support all fields of research. There are no limitations or restrictions. Applicants do not have to be currently enrolled or employed at the time of applying.</p>
Eligible Activities:	<p>Canon Fellows from Europe are free to choose their host institutes and hosts in Japan. The same freedom is given to Japanese Canon Fellows coming to Europe. Canon Foundation Research Fellowships may be applied for when an agreement on co-operation and on a research plan has been reached between the guest researcher and the proposed host institution. Applications can also be submitted by members of commercial, industrial, governmental or professional organisations.</p> <p>European countries are eligible as well as Japan.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	<p>All Europeans are eligible to apply (including Israel, Turkey, Balkan and Baltic countries). Applicants should have obtained at least a Master's or PhD degree within the last ten years of applying to the Canon Foundation. They will also consider candidates who obtained their qualification more than ten years ago as long as they provide further supporting information in their application. Please note that priority is given to applicants going to Europe and Japan for the first time.</p>
Total Budget:	€100,000
Deadline:	15/09/2026
More information and official documents:	https://www.canonfoundation.org/programmes/research-fellowships/

Call Title:	ERC PROOF OF CONCEPT GRANT
Programme:	European Commission (EC) - Horizon Europe
Objective:	Objective The ERC Proof of Concept Grants aim to maximise the value of the excellent research that the ERC funds, by funding further work (i.e. activities which were not scheduled to be funded by the original ERC frontier research grant) to verify the innovation potential of ideas arising from ERC funded projects. The objective is to provide funds to enable ERC-funded ideas to be brought to a pre-demonstration stage where potential commercialisation or societal opportunities have been identified.
Eligible Activities:	The ERC Proof of Concept call aims at supporting ERC grant-holders to establish the innovation potential of their idea during the pre-demonstration phase. This would help among others: (1) establishing viability, technical issues and overall direction; (2) clarifying IPR position and strategy; (3) providing feedback for budgeting and other forms of commercial discussion; (4) providing connections to later stage funding; and (5) covering initial expenses for establishing a company. Actions must take place in EU member states or Horizon Associated Country.
Eligible Applicants:	The ERC actions are open to researchers of any nationality who intend to conduct their research activity in any EU Member State or H2020 Associated Country. Principal Investigators may be of any age and nationality and may reside in any country in the world at the time of the application. ERC Principal Investigators do not have to be based full-time in Europe. The host institution must either be established in an EU Member State or Horizon Associated Country as a legal entity created under national law, or it may be an International European Interest Organisation (such as CERN, EMBL, etc.), the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) or any other entity created under EU law.
Total Budget:	€60,000,000
Deadline:	17/09/2026
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/ERC-2026-POC

Call Title:	Strategic Fund Supporting Women's Rights and Gender Justice in Nigeria
Programme:	ActionAid Nigeria
Objective:	The ActionAid Nigeria, with funding from Global Affairs Canada through the Renewed Women's Voice and Leadership Project, invites Expressions of Interest for the Strategic Opportunity Fund to support timely and impactful interventions that advance the rights of women and girls in Nigeria. The Strategic Opportunity Fund focuses on emergency interventions, critical advocacy interventions, and protection and support for women human rights defenders, with an emphasis on rapid response, gender equality, gender justice, systemic change, and inclusion of structurally excluded groups. The Strategic Opportunity Fund is designed as a fast, responsive funding mechanism to enable women's rights organizations, women's rights networks, and women human rights

	<p>defenders to implement short-term interventions that deliver immediate and measurable benefits for women and girls. The fund supports rapid action to protect rights, sustain advocacy, and respond effectively to emerging gender-related challenges, particularly in crisis or rapidly evolving contexts.</p> <p>Funding under the Emergency Intervention Fund provides grants of up to N10,000,000 per project, with up to twelve grants awarded annually. The Critical Intervention Fund offers grants of up to N6,000,000 per project, with up to thirteen grants available each year. The Women Human Rights Defenders Intervention Fund provides grants of up to N17,711,495 per project, with up to four grants awarded annually.</p> <p>Applicants may apply under only one funding category. The Emergency Intervention Fund supports responses to urgent or unforeseen situations such as natural disasters, conflict-related crises, political instability, or sudden policy changes that negatively affect women and girls. The Critical Intervention Fund supports short-term advocacy and strategic opportunities aimed at influencing policy change, amplifying women’s voices, and strengthening women’s movement building efforts. The Women Human Rights Defenders Intervention Fund provides protection and emergency assistance to women human rights defenders facing threats, intimidation, or violence as a result of their activism, ensuring their safety, wellbeing, and continued engagement.</p>
Eligible Activities:	
Eligible Applicants:	<p>The call is open to women-led organizations, women’s rights networks, and women human rights defenders operating in Nigeria. Eligible applicants must demonstrate that their proposed intervention is strategic, time-sensitive, and capable of achieving measurable impact for women and girls. Proposals should clearly show how the intervention advances gender equality and gender justice, contributes to systemic change, and complements existing initiatives. Applicants must also demonstrate the capacity to implement the intervention within a short timeframe. Priority is given to initiatives supporting structurally excluded groups, including women and girls with disabilities, those in conflict settings, women and girls on the move or returnees, female inmates, survivors of gender-based violence, out-of-school girls, elderly women, and women in politics.</p>
Total Budget: €1,200,000	
Deadline:	Ongoing
More information and official documents:	https://www.feministhub.org/expression-of-interest-for-womens-rights-networks-and-movements/

Link to Previous Funding Newsletters

<https://www.consultcormack.com/funding-newsletter>

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