



EED FAQs

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What is EED?

The European Endowment for Democracy (EED) is an independent grant-giving organisation that supports actors of democratic change in the European Neighbourhood and beyond. EED is a joint initiative of EU member states and institutions. EED's work is overseen by its Board of Governors and Executive Committee.

Who do we support?

EED supports civil society organisations, movements, independent media, and individual activists working towards a pluralistic democratic political system. Official registration is not a requirement. We also support newly created or non-registered organisations, informal platforms, youth groups and individuals. In particular, EED assists those that cannot be supported by other donors and existing EU instruments.

EED is demand-driven and responds to the needs and demands of local democracy actors. Direct beneficiaries of EED include pro-democracy movements and actors, civic groups and civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations, independent media, journalists and bloggers, artists, and youth groups.

What type of initiatives do we support?

EED's mandate is "to foster and encourage democratisation, and deep and sustainable democracy" in countries facing democratic transitions or democracy deficits in the European Neighbourhood region and beyond. Examples of activities supported by EED include (please note that the following list is not exhaustive):

- Promoting political pluralism and diversity
- Increasing state accountability
- Enhancing the inclusiveness of societies, including by fighting all forms of discrimination against women and minorities, and by increasing their participation
- Supporting citizens' representation and involvement in decision-making processes, both at national and local levels
- Promoting an increased, more effective and more professional role of pro-democracy actors, such as political parties, unions and civil society organisations
- Promoting fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, freedom of association, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of religion or belief.



Where does EED work?

EED works predominantly in the European Neighbourhood (Eastern Partnership, Middle East and North Africa), the Western Balkans and Turkey. The countries eligible for support in the Eastern Neighbourhood are: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. The countries in the Southern Neighbourhood are: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, and Tunisia.

In 2015, the EED mandate was extended to enable provision of grants for applications from countries in the area adjacent to the neighbourhood depending on needs, available funds, and political priorities. These include: Bahrain, Chad, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and the United Arab Emirates, as well as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

In 2018, EED further expanded its operations to include Turkey and the Western Balkans - Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. EED may potentially consider applications from other countries in the future, depending on available funding.

It is not a requirement to be located in one of these countries, but proposed activities should generally have a strong involvement of actors from these countries and target the populations in those countries.

How do we work?

EED primarily seeks to support groups and activists that cannot be supported by existing EU instruments or other programmes. EED is complementary to other donor programmes, acts as a gap-filler and aims to provide fast and flexible support. EED accepts requests for support at any time. There is no deadline!

EED can support individuals and non-registered groups.

EED accepts requests for support in a number of languages: Arabic, English, French, Russian, Turkish and the languages of the Western Balkans.

EED can support operational costs (salaries, office and related costs, communications costs).

EED seeks to give applicants a final answer within 12 weeks and to provide rapid responses to emergency requests for support.

EED is specialised in providing support in a discreet manner.



What is EED's added value?

EED plays a critical, complementary role to other EU or member state efforts to foster democracy. EED's flexibility, rapid response and ability to take risks enables it to adapt to distinctive needs and challenging local contexts. Its niche lies in its capacity to operate in difficult, sometimes dangerous, environments that are often off limits to other donors. With its flexible approach, EED can be more responsive to changing circumstances on the ground.

EED is also well-placed to work with small, fledgling groups that often typify democratic movements in the early phases and help them build up their capacity to apply for larger funding schemes. In this way, EED addresses an important gap in EU democracy support.

How does EED select its grantees?

Funding decisions are made by the EED Executive Committee at its regular meetings following an assessment made by the EED Secretariat in line with the organisational mandate. EED observes, as far as possible, the geographical balance in the allocation of funds between the southern and eastern neighbourhoods.

How is EED funded?

Twenty-five European countries who are members of the EED Board of Governors have contributed to EED's programme budget to date, as well as Canada through a special grant for Ukraine. The EED operations budget is covered by a European Commission grant.

Is EED part of the European Union?

EED was established on the joint initiative of EU member states and the EU institutions. It is not however a part of the European Union but rather an independent grant-making organisation.

What is EED's philosophy?



EED's support is based on a principle of fostering – not imposing – democracy and facilitating initiatives of local actors. A basic tenet is the notion that democracy cannot be imposed from the outside; only change originating from within can lead to a sustainable and inclusive democratic transition.

How can I apply for support?

Applying for support is simple. Click on 'Apply for Support' on our homepage to be directed to our secure application portal where you can find the application form and application guidelines.

How can I work for EED?

All EED jobs are advertised on our jobs page. EED also offers a limited number of paid traineeships per year. Open tenders for the provision of services, works or supplies required for EED's activities are also published on this page as such opportunities occur.

How can I receive news about EED?

You can sign up to our newsletter/events mailing list on this website. You can also follow us on social media:

- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Linkedin](#)

How do I apply for a grant?

Applying for support is simple. Click on 'Apply for Support' to be directed to our secure application portal where you can find the application form and application guidelines. You can complete the application form in a number of languages: Arabic, English, French, Russian, Turkish, Albanian, BHS, Ukrainian.

Please note that a budget template is required with each application. The empty templates in the relevant language can be downloaded from the pages of the application forms.



When does EED publish calls for applications?

EED reviews requests for support on a rolling basis, so applicants can submit their proposals at any time. The Executive Committee – that makes the final funding decision - meets roughly every two months. In duly justified cases, they can also take decisions in between their meetings.

Does my request for support have to be in English?

No. EED accepts requests for support in several languages: Arabic, English, French, Russian, Turkish and languages of the Western Balkans.

What is the average amount of an EED grant?

EED does not have a formal funding range. We generally receive requests for support between € 10,000 and € 150,000 but have also provided grants both below and above that range. On average, our support is between € 40,000 and € 60,000.

Can I submit my application to EED without using the online application form?

Yes. You can apply by mailing the application form and the budget template to secretariat@democracyendowment.eu. EED also accepts applications in hard copy to the following address:

European Endowment for Democracy
Rue de la Loi 34
1040 Brussels
Belgium.

May I submit more than one request for support at the same time?

In principle, you can submit more than one request for support. However, keep in mind that priority will be given to the best idea.



Can I request repeat funding from EED?

As EED is complementary to other donor programmes and acts as a gap-filler, in normal circumstances, EED does not offer repeat funding. There may, however, be some exceptional circumstances where this is permitted.

Can EED co-fund an initiative?

If the initiative is in line with EED's mandate to act as a gap-filler, co-funding may be permitted. This means that it is unlikely that EED could co-fund an initiative that already benefits from substantial financing from other sources, such as e.g. the European Union.

How can I apply for emergency support?

In exceptional and clearly justified situations, EED may process a limited number of requests on an urgent basis. You can apply for support on our website. To request emergency support you should tick the box at the bottom and provide a brief explanation as to why your request is urgent, and the potential consequences if you do not receive funding urgently.

When can I apply for emergency support?

Requests for emergency support should be limited to exceptional circumstances and in times of crisis when urgent and flexible funding from EED can make a difference. These cases have to be duly justified (for example, the fact that you want to start your initiative as soon as possible does not justify urgent support).

If your request for support is deemed not urgent, it will be considered within the standard review period. You will receive an automatic email to inform you about the decision.

How do I know my request for support has been received?

You will receive an automatic email message to confirm that we have received your request for support. This email will also mention your reference number. Please use this number when you inquire about the status of your request for support.



How will I know if my request for support is successful?

All applicants will receive an official response with the outcome of EED's decision on the request for support. EED seeks to give applicants a final answer within 12 weeks.

How do I enquire about the status of my request for support?

You may enquire about the status of your request for support by sending an email to secretariat@democracyendowment.eu. Always mention your reference number in the email so that we can easily track your request for support. Please only do so if you have not heard from us 12 weeks after submitting your request for support.

We aim to review all requests within 8-12 weeks, but sometimes the review process can take longer. The EED secretariat might request additional information or clarifications during this process.

Can I receive feedback on a proposal that was not selected for funding?

While we would like to provide feedback on all requests for support, due to the large number of requests we receive, EED is not able to provide a detailed explanation for each declined application. However, you are welcome to request feedback on your application at grants@democracyendowment.eu.

Does EED have country offices or someone in the country I can speak with about my idea or proposal?

EED is located in Brussels (Belgium) and does not have country offices. We do have a network of consultants in a number of the countries we work in. The easiest option to communicate with EED is to email us at grants@democracyendowment.eu.

Why do I need to indicate the contacts of three referees?

By indicating references, you have a chance to provide us with the contacts of persons who can tell us more about your or your organisation's work and experience. This can be someone with whom you have cooperated in the past or who has benefitted from the work you have been doing. This person can be from any country, but it is advisable to include persons other than those who work in your organisation/group or your family members.

EUROPEAN
ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY



10 Years
Supporting
Democracy



You should also ensure that your referees are able to respond to EED's questions if contacted by a member of staff from our programme team. EED does not always contact all the listed references and may also contact persons that have not been listed as reference persons.