

Human Rights Fund

Embassy of the Netherlands to Serbia and Montenegro

About the Human Rights Fund

Human rights are the cornerstone of human dignity, freedom and development of free societies all over the world. The Human Rights Fund (HRF) is a tool of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands used to support activities around the world with the common goal of achieving tangible results in the field of human rights. The policy priorities of the Netherlands are set in the human rights strategy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – **Justice and Respect for All** (<https://www.government.nl/documents/policy-notes/2013/06/14/justice-and-respect-for-all>)

In line with this strategy, the human rights priorities for Serbia and Montenegro have been set as follows:

- 1) **Freedom of expression** (in particular supporting independent position of journalists and media organisations, increasing safety of journalists, internet freedom)
- 2) **Equal rights for LGBTI** (combating discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity; achieve wider social acceptance for LGBTI)
- 3) **Equal rights for women** (in particular promoting political participation of women and combating violence against women)

The Embassy of the Netherlands is looking to support local initiatives of the civil society organizations in both Serbia and Montenegro, aimed at achieving tangible results in the aforementioned priority areas.

Funding Criteria

Organisations interested in receiving funding should take note of the following criteria and technical specifications:

- project proposals should be written in English language;
- average project duration should be up to 1 year (exceptions are possible);
- the amount of the budget requested should be between EUR 15.000 and EUR 40.000 on average (exceptions are possible);
- information on the total budget of the project, co-funding (if applicable), and the organisation's own contribution should be provided;
- information on clear, measurable, visible, and sustainable results, that have a practical/operational impact on the ground, is required;
- projects should be implemented by local civil society organizations involved in the aforementioned human rights themes;

Reporting obligations

After completion of the project, proper narrative and financial reports should be submitted within 2 months. Any major difference between the actual costs mentioned in the financial report and amounts mentioned in the initial budget might lead to rejection of the financial report, unless the difference has been duly explained and approved at an earlier stage.

How to apply

Applications covering one of the abovementioned themes and meeting all of the abovementioned requirements can be sent to the Embassy of the Netherlands in Belgrade by email to bel-os@minbuza.nl.

Organisations are strongly encouraged to use the HRF Project Application Form when applying for funding.

Assessment and Approval Procedure

In assessing project proposals the Embassy will take following factors into account:

- how the problem, objective and envisaged results are presented
- to which extent the proposed activities engage with and assist the target group
- balance between the scope of the project activities and proposed budget
- distribution over the three priority areas
- distribution over Serbia and Montenegro

The 2019 budget of the Human Rights Fund is 150.000 EUR so the funding possibilities are limited; project proposals will not necessarily be approved even if all the requirements are met. The Embassy will assess all the received proposals and inform applicants whether or not their specific proposal has been approved.

The organizations whose proposals are approved will be invited for the contract signing and then be further informed about the reporting and other administrative requirements.

For questions you can contact the Embassy by sending an email to bel-os@minbuza.nl or calling 011 2023 900. Contact person is **Aleksandra Kalinić**.