



Call for Proposals and submission guidelines

STEP UP Capacity NGO-Fund 2020 – 2021 (A Pilot)

Small-scale support for NGOs in Croatia, Italy and Spain to step up capacity
for **refugee protection and inclusion**

Application deadline:	Extended to September 28 th 2020
Implementation period:	November 2020 – April 2021
Maximum budget:	7.500 EUR

In a nutshell

Through this pilot call for proposals the Dutch Council for Refugees (DCR) seeks new partnerships. NGOs from Croatia, Italy and Spain who want to develop their capacity for the benefit of refugee protection and inclusion are invited to apply for a small grant (up to 7.500 EUR), and optionally to request DCR to provide capacity-building support through knowledge exchange or training. Through this pilot, a total of 5-8 projects will be selected to be supported in the period between November 2020 and April 2021.

Applicants are invited to submit a short and simple project proposal and budget through this [online form](#) by the 28th of September.

1. Introduction

International solidarity for refugee protection is needed more than ever, as the number of refugees and displaced persons fleeing from war, violence and persecution is at an all-time high, protection is hard to get by and durable solutions are barely attained. Where Europe should be leading by example in sharing responsibility for welcoming and hosting refugees, instead the past years have seen a further externalization of refugee protection: preventing arrivals, outsourcing responsibility to countries outside the EU, and downgrading refugee protection inside the union. This is painfully illustrated by refugees living in deplorable circumstances at the borders of Europe with little access to protection, legal assistance, livelihoods, integration, or other durable solutions

National and local NGOs in these countries are doing what they can to assist asylum seekers and refugees and are working with governments and independently to improve reception facilities, asylum procedures, human rights protection, or support for inclusion. Given the magnitude of the challenges, NGOs do not always have the resources, time or capacity to provide long term assistance and enhance the scale and quality of their work.

That is why, as a token of our international solidarity, the Dutch Council for Refugees (DCR)¹ has been investing over the past decade in the capacity of national and local NGOs, mostly at the borders of Europe. We always start from the local need of a partner NGO, and build on 40 years of experience working for refugees in the Netherlands. We support NGOs in their organizational and institutional development, and provide tailor-made knowledge exchange on themes such as EU asylum law, asylum procedures and legal assistance, inclusion policies, lobbying, fundraising, volunteer policy, and more.

We are now **piloting a new method to support local and national NGOs** and potentially build new partnerships, by offering NGOs the possibility to apply for support for capacity-development activities through this STEP UP Fund.

This pilot² is funded by a grant from the National Postcode Lottery.

¹For more information about our international activities visit:

<https://www.vluchtelingenwerk.nl/artikel/dutch-council-refugees>

²If the pilot is successful and useful for local NGOs, DCR will look for additional funding to roll out the STEP UP Fund on a larger scale after May 2021 and will look into developing longer-term partnerships and

2. Objectives

Through this pilot call for proposals DCR aims to support 5-8 projects of NGOs in Croatia, Italy or Spain. The support is for projects that are aimed at **strengthening the NGOs capacity* to work for the protection and inclusion of asylum seekers and refugees.**

For DCR the objective is also to develop new partnerships and networks with NGOs across Europe.

*We understand **capacity development** to be an **investment in the effectiveness and future sustainability of an NGO**, and will consider projects that are aimed at **organizational, knowledge and strategic development, development of new projects and programs and trying out new working methods.** Projects could for example be aimed at improving: working with volunteers, legal aid to asylum seekers and refugees, social counseling of refugees, stepping up lobby and advocacy or fundraising strategies or building coalitions with other NGOs to name a few examples.

3. Optional capacity-building support by the Dutch Council for Refugees

In addition to financial support, applicants may also ask the Dutch Council for Refugees for (in-kind) capacity-building support as part of the project. This can be in the form of knowledge exchange, peer-to-peer learning, or webinars/trainings on themes on which DCR has some expertise such as advocacy, legal aid, working with volunteer networks, providing welcoming/social guidance to refugees and more³; only if deemed useful by the applicants, **it is not required!**

Together with the selected projects who are interested in receiving this support, we will work out a **modest tailor-made capacity-building session/program.**

In addition, all selected partners will be invited for a **joint work visit to the Netherlands** in the first quarter of 2021 to meet and inspire each other, and visit field operations in the Netherlands (of course provided that there are no travel restrictions in place).

4. Eligible applicants and applications

- Applicants must be registered non-profit organizations based in Croatia, Italy or Spain
- Non-profit organizations active at national or local levels are eligible for this call for proposals.
- Applicants should already be working on the assistance of refugees and asylum seekers.
- Applications must address the objectives outlined above: only projects that focus on capacity-development will be accepted.
- Only applications in English will be accepted.

projects with the selected NGOs in the pilot.

³If you would like to know more about the work we do, you can read our [summary Annual Report 2019](#) here, or have a look at [this infographic](#).

5. Selection criteria

- **Impact on NGO-capacity:** The proposal must clearly identify the needs of the organization and how the proposed activity(/ies) are expected to impact the organization's capacity to work for refugee protection and inclusion in the country.
- **Relevance:** The proposal should explain why it is relevant for the current situation for asylum seekers and refugees in the country
- **Concrete results:** The proposal must set out concrete and realistic results it will aim for.

6. Duration of the project

Projects can have a maximum duration of 6 months, and should take place between November 2020 and April 2021.

7. Budget and eligible costs

- Proposals need to be accompanied by a simple budget proposal up with a maximum of 7.500 EUR.
- Eligible costs include costs for meetings, study visits, trainings, research, publications and materials, and consultancies.
- Travel costs for the joint work visit to the Netherlands do not have to be included in this budget. These costs are covered by the Dutch Council for Refugees.
- The budget cannot be used to cover running costs of the organization (such as office costs) or ongoing projects.

8. Application and review process

- Applicants are invited to submit a short project proposal and budget through this [online form](#); before the 28st of September.
- Eligibility check: All submitted applications will be reviewed by DCR for compliance with eligibility criteria.
- Selection: Each proposal that meets the eligibility criteria shall be reviewed by the DCR Secretariat. Following this review, shortlisted applicants will be invited to an online meeting in the week of 5 – 9 October.
- All applicants will be informed about whether they have been selected or not in October.

9. Reporting

- Selected organizations shall compile a short narrative and financial report on the results of the project and the use of the funding, to be submitted by 15 June 2020 at the latest. A reporting template will be provided for this.

Call for proposals - STEP UP Capacity NGO-Fund 2020 – 2021 (A Pilot)
to step up NGO-capacity for refugee protection and inclusion in Croatia, Italy and Spain

10. Contact

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions. You can contact us at ip@dcr.nl