**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands**

and

**the International Visegrad Fund**

are inviting applicants from Eastern Partnership countries to apply for

**Visegrad+ Grants**

**with deadline on February 1, 2018**

for projects promoting democratization and strengthening of civil society in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries in line with the aspirations of the EaP policies of the European Union.

*Projects are to fall within the following thematic categories:*

1. **Legislation and justice:**

* new legislation or amendments to existing legislation,
* professionalization and transparency of justice and its administration,
* adoption of international standards of criminal law,
* law enforcement, crime-fighting, investigation and prosecution of offences, strengthening of public prosecution system,
* juvenile justice system, child protection and combating domestic violence

1. **Good governance: public administration/public order/policy/immigration policy:**

* good governance in terms of legitimacy, predictability, transparency and democratic character of government operations,
* decentralization and deregulation,
* management of public funding,
* fight against corruption—support of comprehensive fact-checking measures and factual accuracy monitoring initiatives, capacity-building of fact-checking platforms, support of partnerships among fact-checking platforms across the borders, support of open data initiatives on state-wide and/or regional levels,
* professionalization of the police, particularly in its relationship with the general public, public administration and public prosecution service, prevention, integrity and community policing,
* prison reform and probation,
* strengthening the immigration system vis-à-vis the Schengen rules, protection of EU’s external borders, implementation of EU’s asylum/migration policy

1. **Communication, media and access to information:**

* support of long-term sustainability of media outlets on state-wide and/or regional and/or community level,
* capacity-building of media management and journalistic skills,
* support of investigative journalism and fact-checking initiatives,
* fight against propaganda

1. **Development of civil society/support of human rights and minorities:**

* enhancing civil society’s management, fundraising and communication skills especially on local and regional level,
* creating relevant partnerships with international civil networks especially within the V4 region;
* support of grass-root initiatives aiming at long-term social, economic, environmental and/or cultural wellbeing of networks of communities,
* support of activities in the areas of human rights and integration of minorities with a special focus on gender equality, media freedom, religious freedom, and protection of minorities
* support of the role of local/regional governments in promoting human rights and protecting minorities,
* public information campaigns towards a functioning democratic society and strengthening a culture of tolerance towards minorities

*General conditions:*

* Non-governmental, civil society not-for-profit organizations are primary recipients of the funding
* Projects develop meaningful cooperation between entities in the EaP and V4 regions
* Projects are implemented within an active cooperation of 1 entity from the EaP region and 3 entities from different V4 countries at minimum regardless of the applicant (preference will be given to those projects involving other EaP countries as well as the full V4 region); subjects from other countries may, however, also apply or be project partners
* Project proposals must be submitted on-line on the Visegrad Fund’s server at <http://my.visegradfund.org/> by 12:00 noon on Thursday, **Feb. 1, 2018**
* Maximum implementation period is **18 months** (starting 2 months after the Feb. 1 deadline at the earliest)
* Total budget per project **do not exceed €100,000**
* Grants can over up to **90% of total project costs**
* **10% of total project costs** must be covered from own contribution, non-cash or in-kind contribution is also recognized

To apply, please read carefully the Grant guidelines [[PDF](http://www.printfriendly.com/print/?source=site&pfDisablePDF=1&url=http://visegradfund.org/grants/grant-guidelines?separately=1)] and see the Application from sample [[PDF](http://visegradfund.org/?download=downloads/program_docs/ivf_program_grants_application-form-sample.pdf)]. For questions concerning the Visegrad+ Grants scheme, please email Strategic Relations Coordinator Jiří Sýkora at [sykora@visegradfund.org](mailto:sykora@visegradfund.org). Please note that individual EaP country contact points are listed on the [International Visegrad Fund website](http://www.visegrad.fund/people/).