

THE:PLACE

TURKEY HAND IN HAND WITH EUROPE:
PROGRAMME FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES
AND CIVIL SOCIETY'S EXCHANGE

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What is THE:PLACE?

- **Türkiye Hand in Hand with Europe: Programme for Local Authorities and Civil Society's Exchange**
- a **collaborative exchange** programme between civil society organizations from Türkiye and the European Union
- **quadrilateral partnership** between CSOs and local authorities
- including **capacity building** activities and **grant support** for co-designed, joint projects.
- funded by **Stiftung Mercator**, co-managed by **ALDA** and **MAD**
- divided into 2 rounds each lasting 2 years, in total it is a 4 years long programme between 2021-2025

Objectives of THE:PLACE

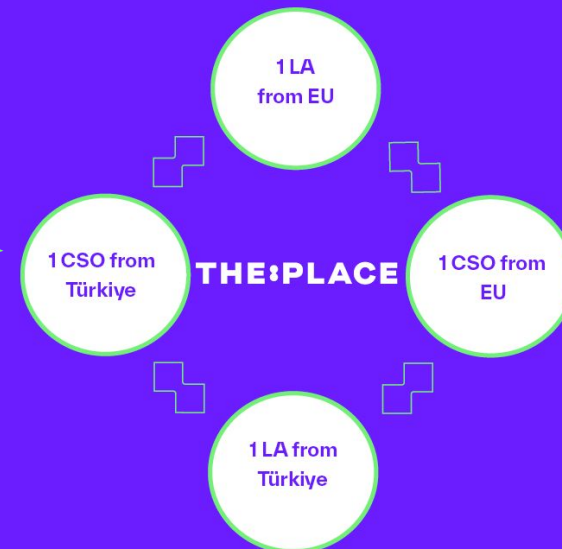
- favor the empowerment of **CSOs and Local Authorities (LAs)** as actors of local development
- build up lasting **Türkiye – European Union networks** of CSOs that work on local issues

through

- **exchanging** knowledge and best practices between CSOs from Türkiye and the European Union
- promoting **cross collaborations** between CSOs and local authorities
- introducing novel methods of **mutual/peer learning** and co-design processes

Who may apply?

- applicants need to be **rights/development-based non-profit CSOs** from Türkiye and the EU that aim to tackle social challenges by working together with local authorities.
- local authorities will become **associated partners** of the participating CSOs.
- the programme will create **quadrilateral** partnerships in the project phase composed of



Who may apply?

If you are **interested** in

- exchanging with TR/EU CSOs,
- collaborating with LAs,
- **working on** such fields of interest (non exhaustive list): urban development, social issues, climate change, digital participation, disaster prevention, participatory budgeting, local democracy, decentralized cooperation, migration management, health...
- through **SDGs & Human Rights** framework

Apply [here](#) till the - **7th July 2023**

Who may apply?

Eligible

- Non-profit NGOs and Foundations based in TR and the EU
- Non-profit Cooperatives
- Experienced CSOs in project management and having sufficient stability

Not Eligible

- Universities & Research Institutes
- Social Enterprises
- Private Companies
- Unions
- Trade Associations
- Trade Chambers

Activities of THE:PLACE

A - Online Matchmaking Event

- Online Matchmaking event in **September 2023** open to the selected CSOs (8 based in the EU and 8 based in Türkiye)
- an **interactive networking session** of presentations will be organised to start imagining potential joint projects
- sessions will be designed for the participants **to know each other better** before the intensive coaching event
- possibility to **debate around potential projects themes** defined based on selected CSOs working fields

Activities of THE:PLACE

B.1 - Capacity Building – Intensive Coaching

- 4 days between **09.10 - 13.10.2023** in person in **Brussels**, 1 or 2 participants per from selected CSOs
- informative session on the two main axes of THE:PLACE programme: **CSO-LA collaboration** and **EU-Turkish cooperation**.
- focus on **team building** (networking activities: group work, reflection sessions, social events...)
- **consolidation** of the match-making between the CSOs
- introduction to **project development**
- **LA representatives** will be invited

Activities of THE:PLACE

B.2 - Capacity Building – Online Learning Programme

- 2 months, online, **November-December 2023**
- to delve on the specific topics chosen by the participants themselves during the intensive coaching event in accordance to their interests and needs
- aimed to provide detailed information & skills about identified topics of interest
- some modules will be free to readapt the content to the needs of the participants
- **experts** will be invited to deliver specific modules, together with ALDA and MAD

Activities of THE:PLACE

C - Design of the Partnership Projects

- December 2023 - February 2024, with the support of the programme, **8 partnerships** will be created (1 Turkish CSO associated with 1 Turkish LA in partnership with 1 European CSO associated with 1 European LA).
- 8 partnerships will work together to co-develop a project with **coaching** provided by ALDA and MAD.

Activities of THE:PLACE

D - Partnership Projects Implementation

- up to 12 months between **March 2024 - April 2025**, + 1 month for reporting
- to engage the partnerships in local activities, capacity building activities, meetings, events, job-shadowing among staff, in-presence studies and help them in co-develop an action plan laying the ground for their future collaboration
- subgranting budget is up to **22.500 € per partnership**
- selected 8 projects will have to comply with the following indications:
 - the objectives of the programme
 - the grant needs to be jointly managed and spent both in Türkiye and EU
 - entail an exchange component, with capacity building and transfer of knowledge among partners & respective territories
 - disaster resilience perspective

F.A.Q.s

Eligibility related questions

Q1. Is it admissible if applicant CSO would like to make a collaboration with a local authority out of its district?

A1. Yes, it is possible even though the programme prefer collaborations within your local area. In the application form you will be asked to explain why this collaboration is relevant. Please be as specific as possible, so to help us best understanding the type and relevance of your relationship with that local authority.

Q2. May applicants apply from a candidate country to EU?

A2. Unfortunately, only Türkiye and the EU members based CSOs are eligible to apply.

F.A.Q.s

Eligibility related questions

Q3. What would it be a problem for assessment if CSO had zero income in the last fiscal year, due to the pandemic and restrictions related to that?

A3. The financial operational capacity is one of the evaluation criteria, as to guarantee the capacity of the NGO to manage cash flow, etc. Please do explain in the application form your reasons for your current situation. We will take those exceptional cases into consideration at the evaluation process, if they have reasonable ground.

Q4. Are the associations of local authorities eligible for the collaboration CSOs would like to establish or strengthen?

A4. Yes, they are acceptable for collaboration along with municipalities and metropolitan municipalities.

F.A.Q.s

Eligibility related questions

Q5. Are federations of associations eligible to apply?

A5. If the federation of associations is registered as an association itself, it is eligible. The confirmation for this criterion will be proven with the legal status document of the organization. The federations who have an association status can apply by choosing the “association” choice within the application form and by uploading the related legal status document to the system.

F.A.Q.s

Eligibility related questions

Q6. I would like to know what exactly means Local Authority, does it necessarily involve a state authority, or other civil society authorities can be taken into consideration?

A6. With Local Authority we mean local actors at the municipal level: either municipalities, metropolitan municipalities or associations of local authorities acting at the local, or district level / district municipalities, metropolitan municipalities or associations of local authorities acting at the local or district level in Türkiye.

Q7. Are state offices such as Administration of National Parks considered to be local authorities?

A7. The focus of THE:PLACE is on engaging with local authorities at the municipal level. It currently does not include local bodies of central state organizations.

F.A.Q.s

Application related questions

Q1. Do we need to prepare a project ideas - a project proposal- for the application?

A1. No, you do not need to have a ready project idea. The application form focuses on your organization's capabilities and motivation to participate in THE:PLACE program. Please refer to our evaluation criteria for more details. Projects will be designed collaboratively with a partner, after participating in the capacity-building activities of the program.

Q2. Should we upload the letter of intent for the associate partnership with LA to the additional documents on the application?

A2. No, you don't need to upload it when applying in to THE:PLACE. You will need to provide it later at the end of the project designing process. You will have time to establish all the required relations with LAs and get the letter.

F.A.Q.s

Application related questions

Q3. We do not have to specify which local authority we will work in this stage, but we may mention the municipalities we have contact, and we might work together on the project?

A3. Yes, you don't have to specify it right now. However, you are supposed to mention which LA you have contact with or would like to work later on the related sections of the application form.

Q4. Is it a disadvantage if our CSO focusing on a topic that was focused on the previous period?

A4. It is not at all an issue, on the contrary it is considered a really positive outcome if new participants can take over from results generated by previous partnerships. The event scheduled in October at Brussels will be the opportunity to share experiences between participants from the 1st and the 2nd rounds.

F.A.Q.s

Application related questions

Q5. We are already working with an NGO from Turkey (or vice versa). Can we apply together, or each NGO apply separately and then we will see if we work together (if selected) after the matching sessions to meet also other partners? Thank you!

A5. To participate in the program, both parties need to submit separate applications. If both applications are selected, there is an opportunity to form a partnership if both parties are interested in doing so.

Q6. Can we find on the website the descriptions of project from the 1st phase? Can you send a link?

A6. It is not yet available, but will be published soon in a detailed document. Please check ALDA and MAD's THE:PLACE web pages for the updates. The mapping and overview of the projects are already published on the social medias accounts of ALDA and MAD though.

F.A.Q.s

Application related questions

Q6. Should we declare which CSO we want to collaborate with in the application form?

A6. Including future collaboration plans between partners in your application is not mandatory and will not affect the evaluation of your application. However, for the subsequent phases after the selection, it would be beneficial to know if you have any intended future collaborations with your partner. This information will help in planning and coordination for the future stages of the program.

F.A.Q.s

Capacity Building Activities related questions

Q1. Are program participants going to determine the capacity building activities or are there specific already determined activities that every organizations have to take?

A1. THE:PLACE program offers semi-structured capacity-building activities that will continue until the project implementation phase. These activities include an intensive coaching event and an online learning program. The content of the online learning program will be tailored to the specific needs and demands of participating CSOs. When it comes to your co-designed projects, you have the freedom to choose the capacity-building activities you want to include, the level of intensity, and the specific topics you wish to focus on.

F.A.Q.s

Matching related questions

Q1. Do partners to be matched have to work in the same field?

A1. No, matched CSOs in the program have the flexibility to choose any topic they want to focus on, as long as it meets the program's criteria. The program call document provides more detailed information on the criteria.

Partner CSOs can collaborate with each other while working on the same topic by exchanging best practices, sharing experiences, or using different methods and tools. They can also combine their forces, expertise on different topics, for common objectives which are reasonable and aligned with the program's objectives.

F.A.Q.s

Matching related questions

Q2. What if there is no other participant who works in similar area as us when we reach to the phase of matchmaking phase?

A2. Working on complementary/different areas is also an added value, so even if there is not another association working in the same area as your organization, you might be paired with an association that can provide you with something else you are looking for (an expertise, method, experience you seek to acquire, etc.). It is therefore not an issue.

F.A.Q.s

Project Implementation Related Questions

Q1. What kinds of costs will be eligible costs during the project period?

A1. Costs related to project management (human resources, travel & accommodation, material,, communication, etc.) The coverage will be detailed at the time of the project period.

Q2. Should CSOs find partners for the projects before the programme application?

A2. No, you don't need to. Partnerships will be built through the matchmaking, intensive coaching and online learning programme activities among the selected 8 Türkiye and 8 EU based CSOs.

F.A.Q.s

Project Implementation Related Questions

Q3. If it's possible for a European CSO to pick the Turkish CSO/LA they'd like to work with, or are the pairs made only by you?

A3. The application is intended for individual organisations from the EU and Türkiye which will be later matched in the course of the programme. However, it is also possible to indicate a preferred partner from the EU (if the applicant is located in Türkiye) and vice-versa.

Q4. I would like to know if the 22.500 Euros grant includes the trips (hotel, flight, food and so on) to Brussels and Istanbul, and project planning too or these costs will be financed with further funds.

A4. No, the programme's budget will cover travel and accommodation costs to the events in Brussels and Istanbul separately. The 22.500€ grants will be reserved for the projects related costs.

F.A.Q.s

Project Implementation Related Questions

Q5. The local authorities will not be involved in the budget or project direct implementation, if I understood well. Will they be part of the contract or not? Are they to sign something or the project is managed between the NGOs?

A5. Local Authorities will become associated partners in the common project of partner CSOs. That means they will not be direct beneficiary nor responsible of the project management or budget.

The only official requirement related to the LAs is signing a letter of intent. LAs will take place more in the implementation phase of the projects. They may involve in different ways through logistic support, participation to the project activities, At the end, it is up to LA and the participating CSOs at which level to be included in the projects.

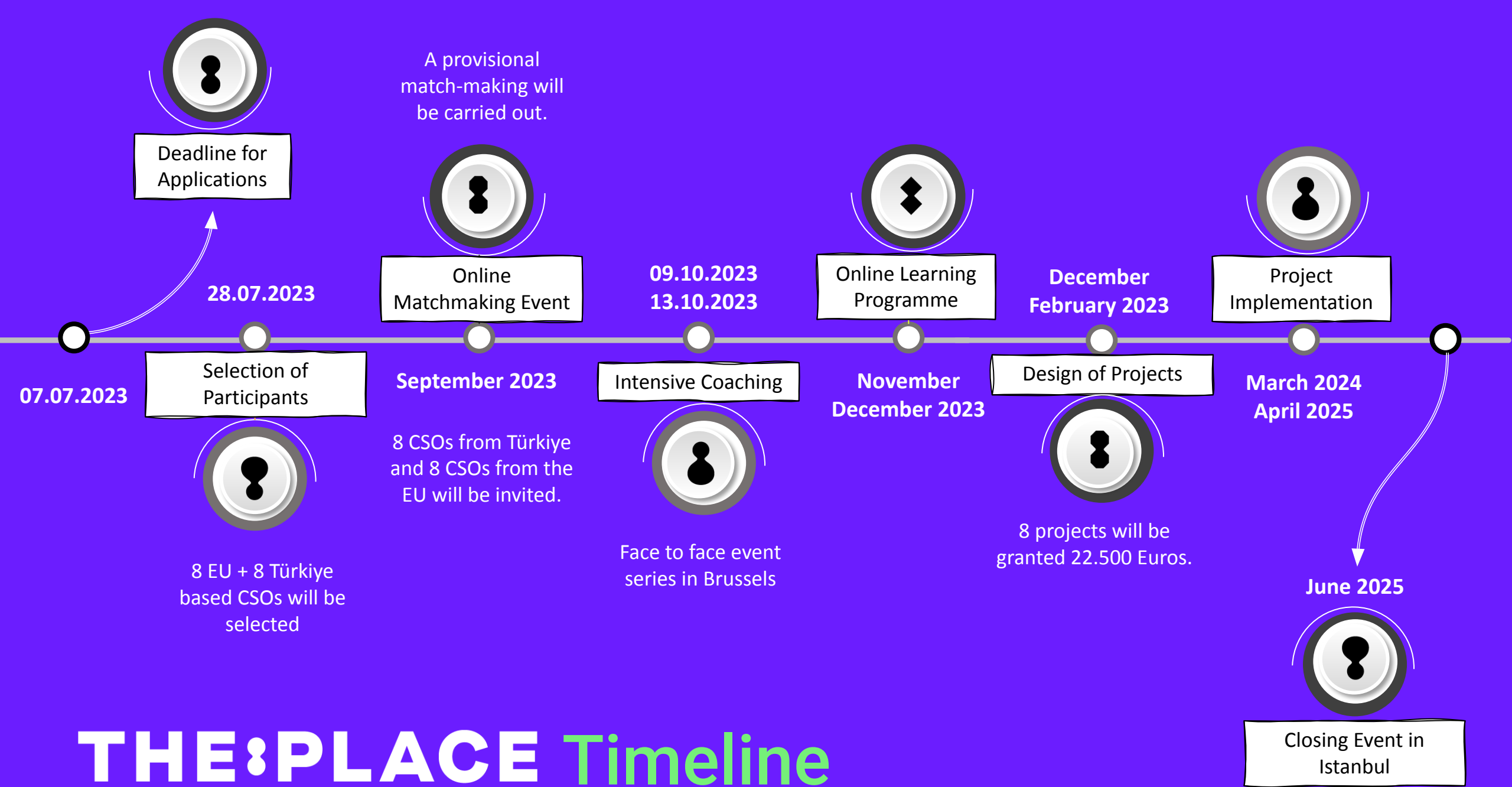
F.A.Q.s

Project Implementation Related Questions

Q6. When we reach out to the project implementation phase, do partners have to work in the same field?

A6. Partner CSOs participating in the program have the flexibility to choose any topic they want to focus on, as long as it meets the program's criteria. The program call document provides more detailed information on the criteria.

Partner CSOs can collaborate with each other while working on the same topic by exchanging best practices, sharing experiences, or using different methods and tools. They can also combine their forces, expertise on different topics, for common objectives which are reasonable and aligned with the program's objectives.



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Initiated by



European Association
for Local Democracy

and



Funded by

STIFTUNG
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