

## CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS - THE:PLACE PROGRAMME

Türkiye Hand in Hand with Europe: Programme for Local Authorities and Civil Society Exchange

### Programme & Objectives

**THE:PLACE** is a collaborative exchange programme designed to establish enduring networks between Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Türkiye and the European Union. Managed by **ALDA - European Association for Local Democracy** and **MAD - Mekanda Adalet Derneği** and supported by the **Mercator Foundation**, the programme aims to empower CSOs and Local Authorities (LAs) as crucial actors in local development.

The programme targets to enhance CSOs' capacity to make a significant impact in their respective work areas, by facilitating the exchange of knowledge and cooperation among those working on local issues. It also encourages collaboration with local authorities through quadrilateral partnerships. The programme provides targeted capacity building, peer learning, and **subgrant support on joint partnership projects**.

THE:PLACE will last from November 2021 to October 2025, supporting two rounds of beneficiaries (the first from February 2022 to October 2023 and **the second from September 2023 to September 2025**).

### Who is THE:PLACE for?

We are seeking Civil Society Organizations which:

- adopt human rights or development-based approach (İnsan hakları veya kalkınma temelli yaklaşım),
- are non-for-profit NGOs and Foundations (Türkiye için dernek, vakıf ve kar-amacı-gütmeyen kooperatifler),
- are based in Türkiye or the European Union,
- are interested in engaging in an international exchange process coupled with an enhanced engagement with a local authority at the city level (either municipalities or metropolitan municipalities/district municipalities and metropolitan municipalities in Türkiye),
- have an experience in project management and sufficient stability as an organisation (for example, a minimum of 3 permanent staff members for both EU and TR CSOs and preferably a maximum of 10 permanent staff members for TR, 20 for EU);

Cooperatives must be non-profit and specifically meet the following criteria:

- the cooperative doesn't distribute the difference between incomes and expenditures to its members, board members or board of advisors,
- the cooperative doesn't distribute any additional income coming from reserve funds or asset sales to its members,
- in the purpose and activity section of the main cooperative contract, it should be stated that the objectives of the cooperative are to be in the public interest.

Please note that participants from the 1st round are not eligible to apply to the 2nd round of the programme, since they will already be actively involved in several activities throughout the 1st round.

Applying CSOs should indicate their intended collaboration with a specific Local Authority and provide a plan or vision outlining the existing or envisioned partnership in the application form. The plan should detail how the collaboration will occur and include expectations and capacity-building needs. CSOs should also elaborate the relevancy of their relationship with the Local Authority, or the wish to collaborate in the application form (for example, the CSO is located in the same municipality, has its secondary offices there, has an already ongoing long-term collaboration through a project or a Memorandum of Understanding...).

Previous collaborations with local authorities and possibly following up on a previous project are not strictly required to apply. Local Authorities will be later, in the proceeding phases of the program, invited to join the partnership through the “**associate partner**” formula by signing a letter of intent.

CSOs don't need to have a partner organisation in order to apply for the program. Once the selection process is complete, you will be matched with a suitable partner. However, if you already have a specific partnership in mind that you would like to bring to THE:PLACE, both organisations must submit separate applications. If both organisations are selected, they may decide for the partnership later, along the process.

### What will we work on in THE:PLACE?

The program doesn't have restrictions on topics in which participating CSOs would like to enhance their capacity or work on the joint project they would like to develop later as long as they align with the general framework of the Human Rights Based Approach and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). And, of course, CSOs are expected to be motivated to collaborate with local authorities and actively engage in international exchange with their counterparts through those topics.

In light of the recent earthquake disaster in Turkey and the growing climate crisis worldwide, we believe it is crucial to incorporate a disaster resilience perspective into our works of any kind. Therefore, the program will look for participating CSOs to integrate this perspective into the projects they develop and implement later within the program.

### Programme Activities

Building up on the first round closing in October 2023, the second round of the programme will run from September 2023 to June 2025, consisting in 5 main phases:

- an **online matchmaking** event in September 2023 (you would be informed in July of the precise date) 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.
- an **intensive coaching** in Brussels of 4 days (9th to 13th October 2023) focusing on team building through interactive sessions to get to know each other and reflect on the two main axes of THE:PLACE program: CSO-LA collaboration and EU-Turkey cooperation. The coaching will also be aimed to introduce the partnerships to the insights of project development.
- an **online learning programme** (November 2023 - 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;
- a **project development phase** (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). These 8 partnerships will work together to co-develop a project with coaching provided by ALDA and MAD.

→ a **project implementation** period of up to 12 months (March 2024 - April 2025) will 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 with the support of a grant of **22.500€**;

→ a **closing event** in June 2025 in Istanbul aimed to project dissemination and follow up, as well as celebrating the achievements of the whole THE:PLACE programme.

### Evaluation of Applications

CSOs will be selected on the basis of their organisational capacity, interest, motivation, and willingness to engage throughout the project. Please note that the project language will be English, and participants are expected to be professionally proficient in this language in order to favour the exchange.

We will pay specific attention to the geographical distribution of the selected organisation to guarantee wide national and international coverage.

Applications that are submitted will be reviewed to ensure they meet the technical requirements outlined in this Call for Proposals. The shortlisted applications will then undergo evaluation by the Selection Committee of the programme. The Selection Committee consists of representatives from ALDA, MAD, and Mercator Stiftung, who are members of the committee. The evaluation will be based on the criteria specified below.

<b>Technical Capacity</b>	<b>%30</b>
Project Management Experience	%10
Technical Expertise	%20
<b>Operational Capacity</b>	<b>%30</b>
Financial Capacity	%10
Human Resource Capacity	%10
Impact Capacity	%10
<b>Match&amp;Relevancy</b>	<b>%40</b>
Motivation&Interest of Applicant	%15
Expectation&Targets of Applicant	%15
Relevancy to the Programme Objectives	%10
<b>Total</b>	<b>%100</b>

## Application Procedure

1. Check the eligibility criteria
2. Fill out the Google form at this link: <https://forms.gle/h27hKfYFYGySbKuKA>
3. Ensure you have uploaded relevant documentation:
  - a. Statute of the organisation,
  - b. Latest activity report or certificate of activity from the Directorate of Civil Society for Turkish applicants,
  - c. Latest budget or financial report of the organisation,
  - d. Additional documentation proving the collaborations with Local Authorities can be added if relevant.
4. Submit your application by 7th July 2023.

## Key Dates

Publication of the call and opening of Q&A	<b>29th May 2023</b> Send your questions to: <a href="mailto:info@theplaceprogramme.org">info@theplaceprogramme.org</a>
Infoday	<b>19th June 2023</b> 10:30-11:30 CET / 11:30-12:30 TRT Register here: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Awyvb3V9Qk00JhoDCuFN9g">https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Awyvb3V9Qk00JhoDCuFN9g</a>
Closing Q&A period	<b>20th June 2023</b>
Publication of the FAQ	<b>22nd June 2023</b> FAQ for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Round will be published here (ALDA): <a href="https://www.aldaeurope.eu/progetto/theplace/">https://www.aldaeurope.eu/progetto/theplace/</a> and here (MAD): <a href="https://mekandaadalet.org/en/program/theplace/">https://mekandaadalet.org/en/program/theplace/</a>
Closing of the application period	<b>07th July 2023</b> Apply here: <a href="https://forms.gle/Nv6p49VBGYNreE97">https://forms.gle/Nv6p49VBGYNreE97</a>
Information of applicants on the results	<b>28th July 2023</b>

LINK

The call is open until 07th July 2023