



## **Open Call announcement for Albanian civil society organisations for service provision to the LGBT community and awareness raising in Shkodra, Vlora, Pogradec and Durres.**

**Deadline April 6, 2020.**

### **1. Open call announcement**

**IREX Europe, Aleanca Kunder Diskriminimit LGBT and Pro LGBT have the pleasure to announce an open call for sub-grants aiming at the improvement of the lives of the LGBT community in Albania by improving their access to services and support mechanisms – specifically for the LGBT community outside of Tirana. This call is only eligible for Albanian civil society organisations based and working in the Regions of Shkodra, Vlora, Pogradec and Durres.**

This open call for sub-grants is announced under the project “Promoting Rights, Inclusiveness, Dignity and Equality for LGBT in Albania project - PRIDE for LGBT in Albania II, also known as PRIDE II. It is implemented by IREX Europe, Aleanca LGBT and Pro LGBT and funded by the European Union.

*PRIDE II aims to strengthen the role of grassroots civil society organisations’ in promoting the acceptance, inclusion and protection of the LGBT minority in rural and urban Albania, with a particular focus on protecting at-risk marginalised youth LGBTs, and promoting respect for the fundamental rights of the LGBT community.*

### **2. Who are we?**

**IREX Europe** is a French-registered non-profit, non-governmental organisation which works to promote human rights, strengthens independent media and civil society and empowers individuals through developing critical thinking skills, enabling them to take informed decisions and to claim their rights. IREX Europe’s approach emphasizes partnerships with local development organisations to expand capacity, build sustainable institutions and affect change through training, partnerships, education, research and grant programmes.

**Aleanca LGBT** is an Albanian non-governmental organization that envisions a free from discrimination, open and equal Albanian society that embraces diversity and is inclusive of people of all sexual orientations, and gender identities. The Mission is to support, empower and increase the visibility of the LGBTI communities in Albania to enhance and protect the human rights of LGBTI. To strengthen advocacy tools and capacities to ensure meaningful participation on policy level and development and implementation of programs that addresses LGBTI issues. To document the human rights abuses that serve as barrier to full realization of LGBTI and LGBTI sex workers rights to access to services.

**ProLGBT** is the media arm of the LGBT community in Albania with a focus on culture and media. Thanks to its online portal Historia-ime.com, the organisation raises awareness on LGBT issues, and advocates at both national and international levels to support the LGBT community. ProLGBT has also been working intensively with political parties to mainstream LGBT issues in their political agenda, and works closely with EU and US institutions to monitor hate speech and abuses against the LGBT community.

### **3. Context for the project and open call**

As part of its accession to the EU, Albania has made significant legislative progress towards LGBT rights. Yet, while the government has improved the country's official LGBT policy, actual change in Albanian society is very slow and almost non-existent in rural communities. The deep-rooted prejudices in the population prevents any concrete improvements, especially in regions outside of Tirana.

In addition, most professionals including social workers, psychologists, educators, police officers have limited skills and basic knowledge when it comes to working with the LGBT community. There are no guidelines, manuals or curricula that give a clear and comprehensive approach on how to work with vulnerable and at-risk young LGBT people. This reality is even worse in areas outside of Tirana where both discrimination and violence suffered by the LGBT community is widespread while access to basic services is even more limited, and the general population has a very hostile attitude towards community members

As a result, LGBT individuals are continuously subject to human rights violations, stigma and discrimination, mainly under the form of harassment in school, denial of access to reproductive means and discrimination in health care institutions, discrimination in the work-place, and in public local offices.

Under PRIDE II and through this subgranting scheme, we aim to identify LGBT-friendly CSOs located in Shkodra, Vlora, Pogradec and Durres who are willing to develop their skills to support and provide services to local LGBT communities, and/ or raise awareness about LGBT related issues. The subgrantees will also be joining a network of LGBT and LGBT-friendly stakeholders at the national and international level and participate in a nationwide advocacy campaign.

Overall, the aim of the subgrants are:

- For LGBT individuals living outside of Tirana to benefit from improved services and professional counselling
- To raise awareness on LGBTI issues among the general population (eg: through cultural activities/events/campaigns/publications);
- To strengthen and empower LGBT friendly activists and CSOs from different regions of Albania;
- To strengthen the cooperation between civil Society organisations outside of Tirana and national LGBT organisations and develop a network of active supporters across Albania and the Balkan

### **4. Sub granting details:**

The sub granting will be divided into two separate lots:

#### **Lot 1: for SERVICE PROVISION**

- 4 sub-grants to improve/ provide services to the LGBT community.
- maximum amount for each grant: 9000 EUROS
- duration: 18 months
- CSOs can apply for one project only to be implemented in their respective region



- Example of activities supported by the sub grant could include but are not limited to:
  - o Developing a network of LGBT-friendly psycho-social service providers;
  - o Art therapy
  - o Improving access to legal services;
  - o Creating mediation services with families and enabling access to health services and health practitioners knowledgeable of LGBT issues;
  - o Setting up a psycho-social mobile services to further reach rural areas;
  - o Supporting reinsertion into school;
  - o Developing referrals to specialised services;
  - o Organising Vocational training, career counselling; negotiation for employment;
  - o Developing Life skills building.
  - o Educational campaigns on services and health issues
  - o Information about reporting mechanism of discrimination, hate crime, hate speech

**Eligible entities must be either:**

- The applicant must be a Civil Society Organization duly established and registered, and acting in the territory of Albania, and more specifically in at least one of the target regions for at least 2 years by the date of publication of the call for proposal

**Lot 2: for AWARENESS RAISING**

- 2 sub-grants to raise awareness
- maximum amount: 4000 EUROS for each grant
- duration: 18 months
- CSOs can apply for one project only to be implemented in their respective region and/or across the project target regions
- Example of activities supported by the sub grant could include but are not limited to:
  - o Awareness raising campaign through social media for the young LGBT community (using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other popular social media tools);
  - o Research and reports, media reports and articles on and for LGBT community, Investigative journalism
  - o Network building for LGBT Community in regions;
  - o Cultural events for socializing LGBT community;
  - o Exhibition organisation in the targeted regions
  - o Street art and art installations in the targeted regional cities/centres.
  - o Organisation of cultural and sporting events bringing together the general population and the LGBT community;
  - o Open Forums/ fairs/conferences on LGBT related topics;
  - o Police and service providers' training and sensitisation on LGBT issues;
  - o LGBT and human rights awareness campaigns through arts, festivals, fairs, exhibitions, audio-visual material; film screenings, et

**Eligible entities must be either:**

- The applicant must be a Civil Society Organization duly established and registered, and acting in the territory of Albania, and more specifically in at least one of the target regions for at least 2 years by the date of publication of the call for proposal
- An LGBT activist/ LGBT friendly activists developing a project with a Civil Society



Organization duly established and registered, and acting in the territory of Albania for at least 2 years by the date of publication of the call for proposals.

### **Selection criteria when reviewing the applications**

- Eligibility of the applicant and relevant capacity and experience implementing similar activities;
- Relevance to action objectives;
- Coherence of the proposed actions, objectives, and priorities;
- Geographical focus: Project implemented in the targeted regions;
- Medium and longer-term impact; potential and sustainability past the project's end;
- Replication possibility;
- Criteria dissemination strategy
- Peer-to-peer outreach (connection with other organisations);
- Local relevance;
- Activity monitoring plan;
- Respect of do-no-harm and security net for LGBT users of the services in the regions;
- Budget and cost-effectiveness;
- Co-applicants' verification of budget appropriateness; value for money (Steering Committee is fully aware of real costs in Albania); budget breakdown.
- The subgrants cannot be a one-time activity

### **5. Who can apply:**

**For Lot 1:** The applicant must be a Civil Society Organization duly established and registered, and acting in the territory of Albania, and more specifically in at least one of the target regions for at least 2 years by the date of publication of the call for proposal

### **For Lot 2: either**

- A Civil Society Organization duly established and registered, and acting in the territory of Albania, and more specifically in at least one of the target regions for at least 2 years by the date of publication of the call for proposal;
- An LGBT activist/ LGBT friendly activists developing a project with a Civil Society Organization duly established and registered, and acting in the territory of Albania for at least 2 years by the date of publication of the call for proposals.

**Applicants do not have to have prior experience in working with the LGBT community, however, they must demonstrate a very strong willingness to start working on LGBT related issues as evidenced in their statutes or strategy documents.**

### **6. Instructions to apply**

To apply, you can fill in the application form which can be found here and send it by emails to [pzanetti@irexeurope.eu](mailto:pzanetti@irexeurope.eu), [livia.zotrija@gmail.com](mailto:livia.zotrija@gmail.com) and [sidita.zaja@gmail.com](mailto:sidita.zaja@gmail.com)

Additional list of supportive documents to share along with the application:

- Last financial statement
- Court decision



- Statute of the organisation
- Letter of intent (maximum 2 pages) explaining why you want to work with the LGBT community

If you have any question, it is possible to organise a Q&A session if you express your interest for it before March 25<sup>th</sup> by writing to the above emails.

**The deadline for submission of project proposals is 6<sup>th</sup> of April, 2020.**

Applications must be submitted in English.

For more information on this call, procedure of application and criteria of selection, please do not hesitate to contact the above mentioned emails.