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Federal Foreign Office Funding Concept

Cooperation with civil societies in Africa and the Near and Middle East (ZANMO)

Federal budget appropriation 0504 item 687 18

Directorate-General for the Near and Middle East and Africa

Division NA01 – DG and Project Management

ZANMO@auswaertiges-amt.de

The programme Cooperation with civil societies in Africa and the Near and Middle East (ZANMO) is a central Federal Foreign Office tool for values-based cooperation with the civil societies in the countries of the target region. It reflects the growing significance of our societal diplomacy in the target countries against the backdrop of increasing rivalry between systems in the international arena.

With the Funding Concept, the Federal Foreign Office offers civil society players in Africa and the Near and Middle East desiring to cooperate with us on the basis of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights closer partnerships and values-based dialogue, as well as support to boost their resilience and their participation in societal and political processes in their countries.

What does the Federal Foreign Office aim to achieve with the funding?

The projects funded by the Federal Foreign Office are, based on the purpose of the budget item, intended to create and maintain spaces for exchange in the countries of Africa and the Near and Middle East – especially in those countries where future-oriented civil society actors of change are working to promote a pluralistic society in which civil society participation in an increasingly hostile environment deserves our support. Creating and maintaining open spaces in the pre-political spheres also supports the next generation of social decision-makers and activists.

The Federal Foreign Office is thereby making a contribution to stabilising the societies in the region. Civil society and the people on the ground are to be given an effective voice at local, national and international level.

To what extent does the Funding Concept build on other Federal Government strategies?

The funding programme flanks and supplements regional and sectoral strategies of the Federal Government and the Federal Foreign Office, such as the Africa Policy Guidelines and other strategies at German and European level, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Federal Government's Sustainable Development Strategy based on the SDGs.

What do we want to achieve? What are the funding objectives?

The supported projects are designed to **make a contribution** in the countries of Africa and the Near and Middle East within the context of cultural and societal diplomacy

- by **retaining civil society, pluralist, cultural and media policy open spaces** in authoritarian states where hostile conditions prevail or in countries with crumbling state structures.

and/or

- **by effectively boosting the resilience of civil society** – also in the face of disinformation and targeted interference from authoritarian third countries – and improving their scope for **active participation** in social and political processes designed to foster critical thinking.

For this reason, the budget item is to be used to fund short-term and where appropriate medium-term civil society projects which aim to achieve at least one of the **following overarching goals** and are well placed to do so:

- 1) **strengthen civil society pluralistic structures and bolster their resilience**
- 2) **form and reinforce participative societal processes**
- 3) **strengthen the focus on democratic values as a basis for the preservation and use of open spaces for pre-political exchange**

What specifically is to receive funding?

We are particularly interested in targeted, **forward-looking** projects which benefit **the next generation** in the target countries.

One priority is to give a greater **voice to young people, women and disadvantaged population groups** in their countries and provide them with better participation and networking opportunities.

Content may encompass the **entire spectrum of political, media policy and socio-economic projects** within the context of Germany's cultural and societal diplomacy.

That also includes measures designed to promote sharpened civil society awareness of the shared **challenges posed by climate change and sustainable development**.

Priority attaches to projects with a strong **positive regional impact**.

To receive funding, the relevant projects and measures should focus on the **following (content-related) priorities and formats**:

- **Strengthening resources/ capacity-building and imparting skills to civil society players**
 - Academic, professional and socio-political training and further training measures that encourage (greater) engagement and participation in political, social, cultural and business processes
 - Strengthening knowledge transfer between academia, civil society structures and the public particularly relating to cross-border and socially controversial issues connected to the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Assisting with building or expanding civil society networks**
 - Promoting sustainable networks between civil society players at national/subnational level
 - Expanding cross-border civil society contacts and cooperation in the region and beyond (including with Germany)
- **Strengthening diversity of information, opinion and the media**
 - Supporting civil society initiatives in the area of political education and media freedoms
 - Professionalising independent media and strengthening its resilience in the face of state interference and disinformation
 - Raising awareness about and working to prevent disinformation (disinformation campaigns and fake news), supporting media literacy, strengthening media competence and citizen journalism
- **Promoting identity-shaping elements which support societal consolidation processes, particularly with regard to the next generation, upon whose shoulders responsibility for state affairs will rest**
 - Cultural projects designed to teach values with the aim of encouraging discussion of values
 - Dialogue and exchange measures to foster understanding of others' values
- **Promoting educational and academic freedom**
 - Networking and dialogue-based events between academia and the public designed to strengthen academic freedom and/or societal participation in academia
 - Capacity-building and networking for participative reforms in the higher education sector"

Who is eligible to receive allocations?

Recipients may be:

- **civil society, non-governmental organisations operating autonomously from the state and independent institutions comprising media and culture professionals in the countries of Africa and the Near and Middle East;**
- **non-governmental civil society organisations in Germany, including German intermediary organisations involved in cultural relations and social policy¹;**
- **the German political foundations².**

An application may only be submitted by **legal persons**; submission by individuals (natural persons) is not permitted.

Funding requirements – important information!

- The allocation or support takes the form of project funding.
Project funding comprises (as a rule) one-off support for a project of clearly defined and limited content and duration.
The project must be completed and the project goals (measurable impact) should have been achieved within the funding period.
- Project funding only covers expenses arising for the recipient through implementation of the project. They are (in part) covered by partial financing (subsidiarity principle).
- As a rule, the minimum funding for a project is 100,000 euro. Exceptions can be made in justified cases.
- The project and any measures/activities should be implemented in at least one country in the target region. In well-founded exceptional cases, projects which are implemented in (temporary) exile, for example in Germany, are entitled to funding.

¹ Recipients of institutional allocations from the Federal Foreign Office primarily use their institutional funds to finance their activities in Africa and the Near and Middle East, which are generally long term. Additional project funding from appropriation 0504 item 687 18 can only be granted in well-funded exceptional cases for projects of limited duration which are clearly separate from these activities. The same applies to the German Archaeological Institute.

²The political foundations apply for funding within the context of the funding quota corresponding to the funds specified in budget appropriation 0504 item 687 18. The Federal Foreign Office funding guidelines (FR-AA) apply to these projects. They are approved with full financing. The Guidelines for outcome-oriented performance assessments (Annex 4 of the FR-AA) apply.

- Project proposals need to be submitted to the Federal Foreign Office **by mid-September at the latest (15.09)** so that project funding for the coming budget year can be evaluated and allocated.
- Funding can only be approved if the project has not yet commenced when the funding application is submitted and potential funding is approved.

Who can I contact to obtain more information?

Federal Foreign Office

Directorate-General for the Near and Middle East and Africa

Division NA01 – DG and Project Management

Werderscher Markt 1

D – 10117 Berlin

www.auswaertiges-amt.de

ZANMO@auswaertiges-amt.de