

# **CALL FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPETITION “ENGAGING YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN RECOVERY PROCESSES IN UKRAINE THROUGH YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES”**

## **1. BACKGROUND**

The present Call for Proposals (CfP) is administered by UNDP’s project “Civil Society and Youth Support Project” (CSYP) and "Inclusive Recovery Support for Resilience and Human Security in Ukraine” (at inception phase).

On January 1, 2023, the United Nations Development Programme in Ukraine (UNDP) under the financial support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark launched the “Democratization and Human Rights 2023-2026 Project”, under which the sub-project Civil Society and Youth Support Project (CSYP) will be implemented until the 31 December 2026. The project has a three-dimensional approach:

First, it works to strengthen civil society organizations, focusing first and foremost at the subnational level, to enable active civil society participation in strengthening Ukraine’s resilience, sustainable recovery and development processes, and to link established CSOs with youth groups – especially new initiatives that emerged after February 2022 – to ensure the cross-fertilization of skills.

Second, the project works at the central level to create a more enabling policy environment for CSOs and support the national "youth machinery." At the national level, UNDP is also working with the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS) to re-design and transform the Youth Worker Programme by developing additional capacity development exercises, courses, and learning events for the youth workers, and to help the Ukrainian Youth Foundation kick-start its operations. CSYP supports CSOs in monitoring the implementation of national-level youth policies to determine how much progress has been made, and which areas need additional effort.

Third and finally, the CSYP empowers young Ukrainians’ to actively participate in the country’s recovery by honing their skills in good citizenship and leadership. The project supports youth-driven projects and exposes young women and men to how local governments operate to implement locally relevant social cohesion initiatives.

The anticipated UNDP project "Inclusive Recovery Support for Resilience and Human Security in Ukraine” aims to stimulate urgent recovery and strengthen resilience against side-spread death, destruction, displacement, and suffering caused by the war in Ukraine and promote Human Security in Ukraine by undertaking concerted immediate actions against interconnected and multidimensional threats that Ukraine is currently facing. The project will promote a rapid recovery from the devastation of war by comprehensively implementing the urgently required interventions, which include: restoration of basic infrastructure (electricity, water, public facilities, etc.), enhancement of a safe living environment through clearance of mine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) and debris removal, promotion of economic recovery with support for agricultural industries and small and medium-sized enterprises and social reintegration of war victims and veterans, strengthening of capacity and functions related to

the implementation of anti-corruption policies, expansion of judicial services to war victims and socially vulnerable people, and strengthening of governance in the formulation and implementation of reconstruction plans by the Ukrainian at the national and local levels.

UNDP is recognizing youth as key agents of change in resilience building and sustainable recovery, and in the longer term, sustainable peace. Building on a strong relationship with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine and a substantive experience of supporting youth participation at national, regional and local levels. Hence, UNDP support the promotion of young people's voices and participation in decision making processes at all levels in the recovery efforts.

The full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation into Ukraine has had significant impacts on its youth population, resulting in disruptions in education, placement, and psychological traumas. According to the nationwide survey 'Impact of War on Youth in Ukraine - 2024', about 79% of young people reported experiencing losses due to the war. Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, significantly grew the level of volunteering engagement of young people: from 20% in 2022 to 42% in 2023, and 51% in 2024 (UNDP, 2024). In 2024, 59% of young people stated that they were willing to participate in the recovery processes and only 0.4% were already involved. This demonstrates a great potential for creating opportunities for young people to contribute meaningfully to recovery efforts in their communities and across Ukraine.

In 2022, UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine, All Ukrainian Youth Centre and selected CSOs, launched the VidNOVA:UA Programme with the aim of promoting the engagement of young people in the recovery of Ukraine and the normalization of life in communities affected by the war through youth exchanges (<https://vidnova.org.ua/>). In three years, 46 civil society organizations (CSOs) organized 52 youth exchange visits for more than 1500 young people in 52 communities across 18 oblasts of Ukraine during summer and autumn months of 2022-2024. While the youth actively contributed to the reconstruction work under the supervision and mentorship of skilled construction workers, the exchanges also aimed to strengthen the sense of unity and social cohesion by fostering increased connections between young people from different parts of the country. In 2024, 87% of participants confirmed that the exchange had strengthened their motivation to take part in volunteer initiatives in the future, and 73% confirmed their desire to participate in the restoration of their community in the future. In 2024, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has issued decree #553 effectively adding the VidNOVA:UA programme to the State Target Social Programme "Youth of Ukraine" 2021-2025, thus, creating grounds for the programme's institutionalization.

To further promote the role of youth in the recovery of Ukraine, in 2025, UNDP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine and the All-Ukrainian Youth Center, plans to implement a programme in close cooperation with local CSOs and local self-government bodies. This includes organizing **15 youth exchanges across various oblasts of Ukraine, with the ultimate goal of renovating 15 youth spaces/centers** as well as strengthening the social fabric of the country by providing an opportunity for participants to explore the diverse cultures of different regions of Ukraine.

The programme demonstrates a strong commitment to helping young people contribute to positive change and unity in Ukraine's ongoing recovery and development. Therefore, in 2025 the UNDP will ensure the adjustment of methodology to reflect lessons learned from previous

years and ensure it can be autonomously used by interested institutions and CSOs in the future. An important aspect of the implementation of VidNOVA:UA 2025 is the preparation of the programme for a full transition to the state-lead administration by the state institutions “All-Ukrainian Youth Center” (AYUC) and Ukrainian Youth Foundation.

In this context, UNDP Ukraine would like to:

1. Identify and select an experienced civil society organization which in partnership with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine, All-Ukrainian Youth Center and Ukrainian Youth Foundation will coordinate the implementation of national programme of inclusion of young people into recovery processes “VidNOVA:UA”.

*and*

2. Identify and select youth centres and/or youth CSOs (up to 15) to act as implementing regional partners responsible for organizing youth exchanges in their communities.

## **2. OBJECTIVES OF THE COMPETITION:**

### **LOT 1**

The primary focus of Lot 1 is to select a CSO that will provide coordination support to successfully conduct 15 youth exchanges, and ensure methodological support and training of youth centers’ / CSOs’ staff including:

- Identify and propose a **coordination team** which should consist of a director, an operation manager (AUYC-based), a manager of restoration works, a manager of the education component, a participants manager (AUYC-based), an SMM-manager (AUYC-based), a PR-manager (AUYC-based), a finance manager, a financial consultant for regional teams. IMPORTANT! Due to the future transition of the programme under the state administration, four positions in the coordination team are envisioned for specialists from the state institution All-Ukrainian Youth Center. All positions of the coordination team (incl. AUYC-based) should be reflected in the budget with the involvement of personnel for the full period of project implementation.
- Participate in the **process of selecting youth centers** and youth CSOs which will apply for Lot 2 of this competition which will include the assessment of proposed sites for restoration of civil infrastructure objects;
- Ensure the **update of the methodology** to include the reflection of previous iterations of the programme, to compile the best working techniques and formats of non-formal education within the programme, and to prepare it for autonomous use by interested institutions and CSOs in the future.
- Create the **database of the participants** of the VidNOVA:UA programme over the 2022-2024 years, including regional hub teams, participants, partners of the programme in order to add this information to the comprehensive mapping of the impact of the programme over the years.
- In partnership with UNDP team and All-Ukrainian Youth Center **conduct training sessions** for youth centers and/or youth CSOs on the updated methodology and logistical specifics of the exchanges (2 rounds of 4-day training sessions for up to 15 teams of 3 people with travel cost, accommodation and meals covered by organizers -

MYS, AUYC, UNDP). The programme of the training sessions will focus on the development of civic competencies, financial management, volunteering and the values of social cohesion.

- Select the **Ambassadors of VidNOVA:UA** 2025 – up to 15 alumni of VidNOVA:UA 2022-2024, who will participate in promoting the programme at the local level, join one youth exchange as a participant to ensure the exchange of institutional memory with new participants. Lot 1 ensures the development of standardised terms of reference for the Ambassadors and support their smooth integration into the operational workflow of the youth exchanges.
- Ensure the work of the central office of national programme of inclusion of young people into recovery processes “VidNOVA:UA”, with the aim to **coordinate work of regional hubs** with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine and All-Ukrainian Youth Centre **ensuring communication about the project within the society**;
- Conduct a **communication campaign** to attract the young participants to participate in the programme including establishing partnership with universities, professional technical schools, local self-government bodies to promote the programme through their channels as well as to widely promote the programme results;
- Support the **local teams with developing the programmes of exchanges** in their communities with a focus on promotion of intercultural learning and social cohesion in addition to manual work on the restoration of youth centres;
- Support youth centers and youth organisations in **conducting one or two 5-day youth exchanges** in oblasts identified by the Ministry of Youth and Sports<sup>1</sup>, including overseeing the organization of logistics such as accommodation, travel, and food for the participants;
- Establish a **robust system of monitoring of programme** implementation including ensuring that all of the planned activities are properly implemented, and new participants are given priority over the one’s who have already participated in the programme;
- Conduct a **series of surveys among participants** of the exchanges and local teams (before and after the exchanges) and conduct analysis of the programme effectiveness and results.

## LOT 2

The primary focus of Lot 2 is to select youth centres and/or youth CSOs to act as implementing regional partner for organizing youth exchanges within the framework of the National Youth Exchange Programme “VidNOVA:UA”, namely:

- Based on the received methodology and training, finalise the **curricula/schedule for exchanges** (educational part, including civic competencies, financial management, volunteering and the values of social cohesion);
- Maintain **contact and coordinate with local authorities** on the organization of works on the restoration of civil infrastructure objects: CSO submits an application in partnership with the local government body that owns the facility identified for restoration;
- Identify and propose an **implementation team** which should consist of a coordinator, a finance manager, a manager of restoration works, a manager of the education component, and the manager of a communication component of the programme;

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<sup>1</sup> Particular emphasis will be placed on ensuring equitable opportunity for participation in the youth exchange activities for youth from conflict affected communities, regardless of their current area of residence/relocation.

- Formulate the **brief description of the cultural and historic significance** of the community (or communities) in the region, where the organisation is planning to conduct a youth exchange, in order to prepare a comprehensive cultural programme for the exchange;
- **Identify the object for the restoration** within “VidNOVA:UA” programme at the concept submission stage according to the following criteria:
  - ✓ It is required that the communal property (the premises are owned by the community) selected for the restoration wasn't part of VidNOVA:UA programme 2022-2024;
  - ✓ A letter of support for the project implementation from the local authority **is mandatory**;
  - ✓ In the letter of support from local authorities as the property owner must commit to sustain the operations of the restored premises and make it available for youth work or community activities for the period of at least 5 years;
  - ✓ In case of private ownership of the premises suggested for restoration, the owner must commit to making the restored premises available for youth work or community activities for at least 5 years.
- Support the coordinating organisation (Lot 1) in **selecting participants for a youth exchange**, as well as support the **communication campaign** on local level to attract the young men and women to participate in the programme;
- In partnership with local authorities, “VidNOVA:UA” coordinating organisation and All-Ukrainian Youth Center, **conduct one or two youth exchanges** during the July-September 2025 (not earlier or later): one organization can conduct a maximum of two 5-day exchanges in two different communities within one oblast;
- Ensure **timely reporting to** the central coordinating office (to coordinating organisation) and efficient outreach campaigns on the local level before, during and after the exchange;
- Participate in the **experience exchange activities**, organised by coordinating organisation (Lot 1), to share knowledge and lessons learned with other CSOs on planning and implementing youth exchanges.

**By submitting a concept for this competition, the identified CSO team (at least 2 nominated representatives) agrees to participate in the mandatory 4-day offline training and several online sessions which will take place anytime between 01 April to 15 May 2025. Exact dates will be communicated pre-selected CSOs.**

### **3. PARTICIPANTS OF THE COMPETITION:**

#### **LOT 1**

Non-profit youth organizations and/or organizations working with youth, in particular charitable organizations, public associations (including civil society organizations and unions) that are officially registered in Ukraine for no less than three years. The applying must have proven experience in implementing national level projects preferably with and for young people. The contest does not provide grants to for-profit organizations, political parties, state authorities, local governments, state and municipal enterprises religious communities and private (physical) individuals and entrepreneurs.

## **LOT 2**

Non-profit youth organizations and organizations working with youth, including charitable organizations, public associations (including civil society organizations and unions) that are officially registered in Ukraine. The contest does not provide grants to profit organizations, political parties, state authorities, local governments, state and municipal enterprises religious communities and private (physical) individuals and entrepreneurs.

Additionally, to be eligible for this competition, NGOs must not have participated in the VidNOVA:UA programme **more than twice** between 2022 and 2024.

**Proposals that do not meet this criterion will not be considered for selection.**

Preference will be given to NGOs applying in partnership with communities that have not previously hosted the youth exchanges within the VidNOVA:UA programme.

### **3.1. Eligible organizations**

The parameters that will determine whether an NGO is eligible to be considered for funding by UNDP will be based on the Capacity Assessment Checklist CACHE (Annex 5).

### **3.2. Geographic location and security considerations:**

UNDP will accept applications from all regions under the control of the government of Ukraine. The applying CSO has to prove its capacity to operate in the proposed area of the intervention which will be assessed by the Grant Selection Committee.

Depending on the security situation and the proximity of the hosting community to the frontline, UNDP, in consultation with partners, reserves the right to postpone or cancel the youth exchange to ensure the safety and well-being of both organizers and participants. The final decision will be made based on the assessment of risks and in alignment with UNDP security guidelines.

## **4. COMPETITION STAGES:**

### **LOT 1**

The winners of the competition will be chosen on the basis of the evaluation results of the project proposals by the Grant Selection Committee. UNDP might invite the selected candidates for the online interview to verify the provided information and ask any additional questions if needed. UNDP will conclude grant agreements with one finalist that will be recommended for funding. To participate in the competition under Lot 1 the applying CSO should submit the proposals according to the template provided in Annex 1.1 of this CFP.

### **LOT 2**

#### **Stage I**

Submission of project concepts according to the Annex 1.2 of this CFP.

## Stage II

Based on the results of the review and preliminary evaluation of the concepts, representatives of pre-selected youth centres and organizations will be invited to participate in a (four day) preparatory training and submit finalized project proposals. The aim of the training is to prepare the youth CSO teams for the implementation of the youth exchanges in their regions, including guidance on finalisation of project proposals, as well as guidance on programmatic and financial reporting, as per UNDP guidelines.<sup>2</sup> **Two training rounds will be organized between 1 April and 15 May 2025.**

The winners of the competition will be chosen on the basis of the evaluation results of the project proposals by the Grant Selection Committee. **UNDP will conclude grant agreements with those finalists that will be recommended for funding.**

### 5. BUDGET AND ALLOWED EXPENSES:

Eligible costs must:

- be necessary for carrying out project activities;
- be utilised only on the expenses for the activities within the frame of this project;
- comply with the principles of sound financial management, in particular value for and cost-effectiveness;
- be properly recorded, identifiable and verifiable, and backed by original supporting documents.

UNDP grant may only be used to cover the following costs (Lot 1):

- Staff salaries and expert fees;
- Purchase of consultative services provided that these are essential for project goals and objectives;
- Printing and copying;
- Utility services;
- Renting, catering and other services envisaged by the project activities;
- Travel costs (provided that travel complies with internal UNDP regulations).

UNDP grant may only be used to cover the following costs (Lot 2):

- Staff salaries and expert fees;
- Purchase of consultative services provided that these are essential for project goals and objectives;
- Construction materials or repair work (no more than 6'000 USD from the total amount);
- Furniture and equipment (no more than 1'000 USD from the total amount);
- Consumables and supplies, including minor personal protective equipment;
- Printing and copying;
- Utility services;
- Renting, catering and other services envisaged by the project activities;
- Travel costs (provided that travel complies with internal UNDP regulations).

The following costs are ineligible (Lot 1, Lot 2):

- Costs of project proposal preparation;
- Debts reconciliation;
- International travel;

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<sup>2</sup> Please note that the training is mandatory for the implementing team

- Reimbursement of expenses related to exchange rate fluctuations;
- Creation and registration of the organization;
- Direct fiscal support to state authorities;
- Political activity or military activity;
- Religious propaganda;
- Activities leading to direct or indirect discrimination of any social strata;
- Projects aimed at gaining profit from activities;
- Purchase of vehicles and / or luxury goods and related services.

## 6. FINANCIAL CONDITIONS AND TERMS OF IMPLEMENTATION:

The maximum budget of the project proposal under the **Lot 1** should not exceed **60'000 USD**, and under the **Lot 2** should not exceed **20'000 USD per exchange**. The available amount for construction materials under the Lot 2 should not exceed **6'000 USD**.

The maximum timeframe for the project implementation of project under **Lot 1** is **7 months**. The maximum timeframe for the project implementation under **Lot 2** is **4 months** if the applying CSO partner plans to organize **1 exchange visit**, and **6 months for 2 exchange visits**.

The contribution from the implementing organization or from other sources will be considered and will be regarded as an advantage for the applicant. This contribution could be made both financially and in non-financial form (for example, remuneration of the personnel of the organization, provision of its office or equipment for project tasks, etc.).

The grantee organization will receive an advance payment for the planned activities under the grant agreement. The amount of advance and subsequent payments will be specified in the grant agreement. The grant tranches are paid by UNDP in advance, except for the last tranche. The last tranche, with a minimum amount of at least 10% of the total grant budget amount, should be covered by the CSOs' own funds. After successfully processing the final financial report, UNDP will compensate the eligible expenses incurred under the last tranche.

Nota bene! **The final tranche of 10% will be disbursed to the grantee organization upon 100% completion of project reporting, including confirmation of all financial transactions.**

Both Lots **must submit their applications together with a letter of guarantee** indicating their willingness and ability to cover 10% of the grant budget amount (Lot 1 – 6'000 USD, Lot 2 - 2'000 USD). Upon review and approval of the final financial report, UNDP will reimburse the eligible expenses incurred under the last tranche.

## 7. SUBMISSION PROCEDURE:

### For Lot 1

Complete project proposals as per template provided in Annex 1.1 should be submitted in Ukrainian or English to the email: [grants.ua@undp.org](mailto:grants.ua@undp.org) and [google form](#) specifying in the subject line the title and Lot of the competition "*Lot 1. Engaging young men and women in recovery processes in Ukraine through youth exchange programmes*". The project proposals should be submitted no later than **18:00 on 03 March 2025**.

### For Lot 2

## Stage I

Concepts of the project proposals as per template provided in Annex 1.2 should be submitted in Ukrainian or English by e-mail to the address: [grants.ua@undp.org](mailto:grants.ua@undp.org) and [google form](#) specifying in the subject line the title and Lot of the competition “*Lot 2. Engaging young men and women in recovery processes in Ukraine through youth exchange programmes*”. **The project concepts together with letters of support from property owners and/or subnational authorities and guarantee letter from applying NGO should be submitted no later than 18:00 on 10 March, 2025.**

## Stage II

Based on the results of the review and preliminary evaluation of the concepts, the selected organizations will be invited to submit finalized project proposals. The complete project proposals and supporting documents should be submitted to the address [grants.ua@undp.org](mailto:grants.ua@undp.org) no later than **one week after completion of the training** organized by UNDP.

Contact email for questions:

[vidnova.programme@gmail.com](mailto:vidnova.programme@gmail.com)

Please consider there will be a public presentation of the programme and application process for all interested parties with Q&A session on the week of 17-21 February 2025. Detailed information will be provided on the official media platforms of the programme: [Website](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

## 8. SELECTION PROCESS

### 8.1. Assessment procedures

UNDP specialists will check the proposals submitted by the CSOs for each competition stage against the criteria. The Programme can request additional information from the applicants at its own discretion.

To ensure full transparency and equity of the process, UNDP forms a Grant Selection Committee (GSC) that will appraise the proposals that have made it through the first stage. GSC is a temporary authorized body that is responsible for considering, selecting and recommending proposals for funding. The Grant Selection Committee may decide to request additional independent expert opinion during the selection process.

### 8.2. Criteria for the assessment of proposals

The proposals shall be assessed by the GSC in accordance with the following criteria:

LOT 1

Selection criteria	Maximum score
1. Quality and responsiveness of the project proposal to the broad themes highlighted in item 2 of this CFP.	25 points

2. Demonstrated ability of the proposed team to cope with the scope of works described in the project proposal.	25 points
3. Demonstrated experience of the applying organisation in the implementation of nationwide projects for youth.	15 points
4. The proposed budget is realistic and aligns with the overall goals and objectives of the project.	20 points
5. Quality of the proposed networks (including scope of partners proposed for implementation and already existing networks linked to the lead applicant).	15 points
Total	100 points

#### LOT 2

<b>Selection criteria</b>	<b>Maximum score</b>
1. Motivation of applying CSO to participate in the VidNOVA:UA programme.	10 points
2. Applicant is collaborating with the community, which previously didn't participate in VidNOVA:UA Programme. (0 points - community hosted VidNOVA:UA 2022-2024, 5 points - community had never hosted the VidNOVA:UA)	5 points
3. Quality of the proposed networks (including scope of partners proposed for implementation and already existing networks linked to the lead applicant).	15 points
4. Demonstrated ability of the proposed team to cope with the scope of works described in the project proposal.	30 points
5. The proposed budget is realistic and aligns with the overall goals and objectives of the project.	20 points
6. Quality and responsiveness of the project proposal to the broad themes highlighted in item 2 of this Cfp.	20 points
Total	100 points

### 8.3. Additional round of interviews

After a comprehensive review of project proposals, the Grant Selection Committee may recommend additional online interviews with the highest-scoring organizations to finalize project selection.

The interview will include questions about the proposed program, budget, and team composition.

## 9. REPORTING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

### 9.1. Monitoring and evaluation, frameworks for project implementation

The Grantee is responsible for monitoring project implementation and evaluating its results. UNDP will monitor the project through Grantee reports, online consultations, site visits, meetings with project personnel and stakeholders, and participation in project events.

### 9.2. Reporting

The Grantee shall submit the following reports according to UNDP format:

- **Brief reports on demand** occasionally requested by UNDP CSDR in cases when information on Programme implementation is required in between reporting periods;
- A **Completion report**, including a summary of activities and results as well as financial report for total duration of an agreement (templates will be provided by UNDP).