**TEACHERS MOBILISE FOR THE RIGHTS OF REFUGEES**

*Call for Proposals*

**1. Introduction – Background**

The eruption of wars along the European borders has led to a major exodus of civilians. The living conditions of refugees in transit and destination countries are often inadequate, and restrictive policies, walls, fences, and militarised solutions fail to respond to the real challenges faced by displaced people. Despite efforts in many countries by citizens and civil society organisations to coordinate and welcome refugees, the recent influx of migration in many European countries has exacerbated already high levels of public anxiety. Austerity and financial strains, concerns over national security, and cultural assimilation amidst a climate run by hostile mass media have bolstered far-right anti-immigration parties. The use of slanderous and dehumanising language when speaking about migration and refugees is becoming increasingly mainstreamed. This is something that should be taken seriously in the context of a fully integrated global society.

This situation prompted Education International (EI) to outline proactive initiatives to protect and promote the rights of refugee and migrant children, teachers and education support personnel and their families.

The EI 7th World Congress (July 2015) adopted two resolutions: The first on ‘[Migration, professional diversity and racism](http://pages.ei-ie.org/library/en/libraries/detail/212)’, and the second on ’[The right to education for displaced people, refugee and stateless children](http://pages.ei-ie.org/library/en/libraries/detail/231)’, which mandates that EI work to develop in this area and provide assistance to member organisations to respond to the growing refugee and displaced person crisis. In November 2015, the EI Executive Board adopted a [position paper](http://download.ei-ie.org/SiteDirectory/Human_and_Trade_Union_Rights_and_Equality/Documents/Refugees%20and%20migrants/4710.00ERefugeesRightEducation.pdf) outlining key areas for future action and mobilisation. This Call for Proposals is part of the actions developed by EI to implement these strategic orientations.

**2. Objectives and target audience**

With this Call for Proposals, EI intends to provide technical[[1]](#footnote-1) and financial support to affiliated teacher unions in European countries, so as to **organise field members around local initiatives**.

A **local** initiative can focus on a school, a refugee camp (or section thereof), or a district. The objective is for the short-term project (schoolyear 2016-2017) to make a lasting difference in a few individuals’ lives.

**Target audience**: The supported activities will aim to establish the rights of refugee children, families and teachers, support local teachers and at promoting “refugee-friendly” schools, communities and municipalities.

The activities supported by the initiative may pursue the following **objectives**:

1. Provide access to quality education for refugee children and youth and create conditions for a successful integration in the host education system;
2. Welcome and provide guidance to recent arrivals of refugee students and families in the education community;
3. Develop training modules and capacity building opportunities for local teachers to acquire skills to support refugee children and youth;
4. Promote the participation of refugee teachers and education personnel in the host education system;
5. Encourage curricular and extra-curricular activities in the school community in order to promote exchanges, cultural diversity and to challenge discriminatory attitudes towards refugees;
6. Give a voice to refugee children and educators;
7. Contribute towards empowering local communities to understand and support a rights-based perspective and culture;
8. Mobilise citizens and media to remind governments of their international obligations towards refugees.

**3. Funding**

Applicants can submit requests for funding up to **20,000 USD per local project**. According to the EI rules, only 80% of the total sum will be transferred by EI at the inception of the project. The remaining 20% will be transferred following two successful interim reports (December 2016 and June 2017).

Up to three local applications from the same country may be approved:

* Several member organisations from the same country may apply for support;
* Given the local scope of the supported actions, a member organisation can submit one or more proposals, provided that they will be implemented in different local areas (but the local areas could be in the same city or village).

Each applicant union should identify a **national** **project coordinator** that will be responsible for implementing the activities and reporting to Education International. National project coordinators should have a good proficiency in English for reporting and communication purposes. Only one national project coordinator should be appointed even if more than one local project is approved. The unions can use up to 10% of the funding to cover administrative costs (project coordinator fee, travel and accommodation costs, telecommunications, etc).

**4. Eligibility**

This Call for Proposals is open to European[[2]](#footnote-2) member organisations of Education International.

Applications shall comply with the following requirements:

* they must be sent no later than the deadline for submitting applications referred to in section 5;
* they must be submitted using the [application form](http://download.ei-ie.org/Docs/WebDepot/RefugeesProposalTemplate.docx) (see section 7);
* they must be drafted preferably in one of the EI official languages (English, French, or Spanish).

**5. Timetable**

Publication of the call 2 June 2016

Deadline for submitting applications 20 June 2016

Feedback to applicant unions 4 July 2016

Signature of grant agreements and disbursement July-August 2016

Starting date of the activities September 2016

Duration of the activities Up to 20 November 2017

**6. Review criteria**

Eligible applications will be reviewed and selected on the basis of the following criteria:

* Alignment with the aims of the project (see section 2);
* Involvement of grassroots members at the school/district[[3]](#footnote-3) level (formal and non-formal education settings as well as refugee settlements);
* Justification of the activities based on gaps and needs analyses, when possible including refugees’ perspectives and needs (see application form, section 1);
* Willingness to build alliances with local actors;
* Readiness to share models and experience with the larger EI membership[[4]](#footnote-4)
* Limited geographic and temporal[[5]](#footnote-5) scope of the action plan
* Inclusion of a strategy to disseminate the project’s outcomes (see application form, section 8).

**7. Procedure for the submission of proposals**

The call for proposals is published on 2 June 2016. It is distributed to all member organisations in eligible countries and available [online](http://download.ei-ie.org/Docs/WebDepot/Refugees_CallforProposals.docx).

Proposals must be submitted preferably in one of the EI official languages, using the [application form](http://download.ei-ie.org/Docs/WebDepot/RefugeesProposalTemplate.docx) specifically designed for this purpose. The deadline for submitting applications is 20 June 2016. Application forms and related documents must be sent to refugee@ei-ie.org.

Applications will be reviewed by Education International, based on the criteria outlined in section 6 and applicants will be informed of the results of the selection process no later than 4 July 2016.

The grant agreements between successful applicants and Education International will be signed in July-August 2016 and the implementation of the activities will start in September 2016.

**8. Reporting procedures**

National project leaders are required to provide a final narrative and financial report following the completion of the supported activities, and no later than 20 November 2017.

Interim narrative reports shall be submitted by all beneficiaries in December 2016 and June 2017. Quarterly updates[[6]](#footnote-6) will also be requested starting November 2016, until the completion of the activities and the submission of the final financial and narrative reports in November 2017.

Project leaders are required to report in English.

**9. Contacts**

For further information or assistance with submiting your application, please contact Sonia Grigt (Sonia.Grigt@ei-ie.org).

1. As part of this initiative, and based on prior identification of participants’ needs, EI will develop peer-learning activities, in order to foster exchanges, both within-countries and across borders, and increase success within communities. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. EU member States and candidate countries for EU accession. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Or equivalent administrative units. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Information concerning the implementation of the activities will be periodically disseminated to other participants/unions (electronic network) and to a broader audience, through the EI portal ([www.migrantteachersrights.org](http://www.migrantteachersrights.org)). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The implementation of the activities should start in September 2016 and should be completed by November 2017. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. The format and number of interim accounts (based on the total duration of each project) will be specified in the grant agreement, on a case-by-case basis. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)