

Climate Action Engagement Fund

Funding Fairer Futures – Call for Proposals - 2026(3)- Cycle IV

Introduction

Funding Fairer Futures is an initiative supporting the climate movement to become more inclusive, representative, and community-led. The project is led by CAN Europe together with WECF, CBM Ireland, CAN International, Ecolise and Generation Climate Europe. It is co-funded by the European Commission under the Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) Programme.

The Climate Action Engagement Fund is managed by CAN Europe. This call for proposals is one of five funds run by the different partners of the project.

Overall objective & priorities

We want to **mobilise people in Europe** to act for and drive political and systemic change towards climate justice and just transition. The Climate Action Engagement Fund provides financial support to CSOs/groups promoting **just transition and climate justice** in the European Union, via **awareness-raising, campaigning, mobilisation, public engagement and advocacy activities**.

CAN Europe is in particular looking to support proposals **that develop, implement and strengthen gender-just, disability-just, intersectional and(/or) decolonial approaches to European climate policy and actions**.

We will fund:

Proposals that design **advocacy, campaigns, and actions** using a systemic and holistic approach to connect different issues and perspectives, challenge policy responses based on dominant models presented as neutral or universal, and **advance gender-just, disability-just, intersectional and/or decolonial approaches to European climate policy and actions**.

We will pay special attention to **disability-just approaches**: Proposals that challenge ableist assumptions in climate policies and actions and strengthen the rights, participation, accessibility and visibility of disabled people in climate emergency responses, just transition policies, advocacy



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and campaigns.

Capacity building, networking and organisational development components: In addition to the activities described above, proposals are welcome to include actions that help advance gender justice, disability justice, intersectionality and decoloniality in their **organisation's working culture, strategies and allyship** within and beyond the climate movement.

Promoting equitable access to funding

We aim to **support small to medium** CSOs/groups. This includes those that usually work with small budgets, have small teams, or find it hard to get grants or core funding. We do not apply a fixed definition to 'small' or 'medium', as contexts and organisational structures vary. When reviewing applications, we will consider the overall size and the financial situation of each applicant. Our intention is to prioritise organisations that are less securely funded and for whom this support would make a significant difference to their work.

Additionally, we will favour CSOs/groups led by women/non-binary, youth, frontline communities, people with disability or people with a marginalised background or identity.

Project Scope and Requirements

	Category 2
Total funding available	€160,000.00
Estimated number of projects to be supported	16 projects
Funding amount	€10,000 per project
Reporting Requirements	Two narrative reports on activities and results, one interim and one final report; participation in Funding Fairer Futures monitoring and evaluation efforts.
Project Duration	Minimum 6 months, ending no later than October 2027. Projects can start as of 1st December 2026.

Number of projects to be supported: While we aim to support the number of projects listed in the table above, the final number may vary depending on the quality of the proposals and available

budget. The Selection Committee reserves the right to not allocate all the available funds if the quality of applications does not meet the required standards. In that case, the remaining funds will be carried over to the next funding cycle.

Funding Limits: Project budget proposals should not exceed €10,000. Budget proposals should not include any co-financing.

Reporting Requirements: This funding is provided under the European Union's DEAR programme, which includes strict reporting, results monitoring, and documentation requirements.

All subgrantees must submit periodic narrative reports¹ on activities and results, along with supporting documents such as photos, outreach materials.

We will provide guidance and support to all subgrantees throughout the reporting process and address any challenges that may arise.

Visibility Requirements: All selected projects must acknowledge funding by the European Commission DEAR programme by including the EU logo and written acknowledgement of funding, and adhering to the visibility and communication requirements in all publications, references, documents, news and any other visibility and communication action relating to the project.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for funding under this Call for Proposals, applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- i) be a legal person or an entity without legal personality
- ii) be non-profit making
- iii) if a legal person, be a Civil Society Organisation (CSO) or an association of CSOs constituted in accordance with the legislation in force in the country
- iv) be established in the European Union
- v) not be a beneficiary of a grant (neither lead, co-applicant, affiliated entity, associates, contractors) in the frame of the European Commission's DEAR programme
- vi) not have had the financial, administrative or operational capacity to compete directly for EU funding under the EC DEAR 2022 CfP EuropeAid/173998/DH/ACT/Multi. This means they were not eligible or able to apply directly to the 2022 DEAR call for proposals.
- vii) adhere to EU due diligence requirements, as listed in the Declaration on exclusion criteria

¹ Ranging from every 3 to 6 months, depending on the length of the project.

viii) declare that they have not received and are not expecting to receive financial support from another project resulting from the EC DEAR 2022 CfP EuropeAid/ 173998/ DH/ ACT/Multi

Eligible Locations: The applicants must be based in the below-listed countries:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.

Eligible Activities:

- Awareness-raising
- Public engagement
- Campaigning
- Advocacy
- Projects funded are encouraged to include capacity-building (internal/external), networking and organisational development components.

Please ensure that the proposed activities are in line with the overall objectives and campaigning priorities set out in this Call for Proposals.

Application Process

Application Deadline: Project proposals must be submitted in English by **30 October 2026, 18:00 CET (Brussels time)**.

How to Apply:

1. Complete the following required documents
 - a. [Annex I. Narrative Proposal](#)
 - b. [Annex II. Budget Proposal](#)
 - c. [Declaration on Exclusion Criteria](#)
 - d. [Declaration of Honour](#)
2. Submit the completed application [here](#).
(maximum one application per organisation)

Application Process Support: Applicants can send their questions following email address: fundingfairerfutures@caneurope.org

Timeline:



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- 30 September: Launch of the Call for Proposal
- 30 October 2026, 18:00 CET (Brussels time): Deadline for submissions
- End of November 2026: Information about evaluation results and start of contracting process
- From December to October 2027: Start and implementation of the projects

Evaluation and Selection Criteria

Project proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- *Relevance (30%)*
- *Potential impact (20%)*
- *Coherence of project design (20%)*
- *Capacity and credibility (15%)*
- *Added-value of the funding (15%)*

The Selection Committee will consider adequate representation of selected projects in respect to geographical location and focus areas.

Preliminary results will be communicated to applicants via email. Shortlisted applicants will be subject to a partnership assessment, to evaluate their organisational, operational and financial capacity, and will be required to submit additional documentation as part of this assessment.

Documents to be submitted if selected:

	Category 2
All applicants	• Your official registration document • A bank details statement (in the name of your organisation)
Non registered entities	• Group representation declaration • Memorandum of Understanding with your selected fiscal host • A signed Declaration on Exclusion Criteria by your fiscal host
All applicants will be asked to: • Submit an organigram or list of key staff/volunteers short profiles • Fill a capacity assessment and a survey on your organisational needs and inclusivity practice.	

The Selection Committee (composed of CAN Europe staff) may engage in a process of mutual communication with the shortlisted applicants to discuss potential adjustments or improvements

to their proposals. Applicants will then have the opportunity to refine and resubmit their proposals based on this dialogue.

All applicants will be informed individually via email about the results of the selection process.

Once the reviewing and assessment process is completed successfully, selected applicants will be invited to sign the following grant agreement with CAN Europe:

- [Model Subgrant Agreement](#)
- Annex I Description of the Project
- Annex II Budget of the project
- [Annex III General Conditions](#)
- [Annex IV Template Narrative report](#)
- [Annex VI EU Communication and Visibility Guidelines](#)

Other Benefits for subgrantees

We offer a programme designed to build capacity, foster engagement, and provide ongoing support.

- **Capacity building:** We provide capacity building on topics such as project management, finance, fundraising, comms & campaigning or advocacy. Our goal is to help strengthen your internal policies and practices, enhance organisational and project delivery capacity, and share useful resources.
- **Network Weaving and Collaboration:** You will have the opportunity to participate in events designed to foster value exchanges and build meaningful relationships with diverse NGOs, decision-makers and movements across Europe.
- **Visibility, Communication and Campaigning:** Your organisation will benefit from added visibility and recognition through our channels and online repository. You are also welcome to engage in our campaigns, develop your own actions and share impactful stories.

Further information

For any questions, please contact fundingfairerfutures@caneurope.org.

If you would like to stay updated on upcoming news related to the Funding Fairer Futures project, sign up to our [mailing list](#).