The CHARTER PROJECT Africa
Democracy | Elections | Governance

Guidelines

Democratic Governance in Cabo Verde

Building coalitions and using civic technology to promote and popularise the African Governance Architecture (AGA)

21 January 2022

GOREE INSTITUTE

Cofinancé par l'Union européenne

Table of contents

Overview 3

Background 3

Context 4

Priorities of this Call 5

Approach 6

Scope 7

Support package 7

Application and selection procedures 8

- Indicative timetable 8
- Expression of interest 8
- Screening, initial assessment and pre-selection 9
- Final assessment, due diligence, and award decision 9
- Negotiation, finalization and contract signing 10

Eligibility criteria 10

- Beneficiaries 10
- Geographical orientation 12
- Costs 12

For more information 12

1. Overview

These guidelines provide an overview of the call (hereafter "the Call") launched by the **Charter Project Africa** in Cabo Verde. The main objective of this document is to enable potential applicants to understand the context of the Call, its scope, priorities, support package, application and selection process and eligibility criteria. This will enable potential applicants to write sound proposals that meet the objectives of the Call.

2. Background

The **Charter Project Africa** is a pan-African project that focuses on the commitments contained in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) - the African Union's principal policy document for advancing democratic governance in African Union member states.

The project promotes the use of civic technology to amplify citizens' voices. It does this by providing financial resources, through grants, as well as technical resources, through expertise, to civic initiatives aimed at promoting democracy, particularly those led by under-represented groups. This support is provided in eleven African Union member states - Botswana, Benin, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia - as well as at regional and continental level.

The project also opens spaces for collaboration between citizens, civic initiatives and African Union decision-makers at national, regional and continental levels - with a focus on digital formats. Particular attention is given to the role and mandate of the African Governance Architecture (AGA). In addition, the role of the ACDEG in bringing about positive change in AU member states is monitored, analyzed and promoted. The presence of a dedicated secretariat in Addis Ababa helps to strengthen the links between pan- African civil society and African Union policy makers.

The project is implemented by a consortium of six African and European organizations:

AfricTivistes is a pan-African union of bloggers and web-activists across the continent. It promotes democratic values, human rights and good governance through digital media. As part of the project, it plays a major role in civic technology and digital engagement activities.

Code for Africa (CfA) is the largest federation of data journalism and civic technology labs on the continent, with a presence across Africa. In the framework of this project, it is leveraging its expertise in digital democracy projects as well as its existing digital toolkits and will support the beneficiaries in the implementation of their initiatives.

Democracy Works Foundation (DWF) is a regional democracy support organization with several offices in Southern Africa. Within the framework of the project, it

coordinates regional dialogue and advocacy activities and supports grantees in the region.

The Gorée Institute is a pan-African organization located on Gorée Island in Dakar, Senegal, which has been supporting peace and democracy in Africa since 1992. Within the framework of this project, it coordinates dialogue and advocacy activities at the regional level and supports grantees in the region.

The European Centre for Development Policy Management is a leading independent think tank on international cooperation. It has a long history of research on regional and continental governance initiatives in Africa. In this project, ECDPM has the lead responsibility for policy analysis and strategy development.

European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) is a pan-continental network of European democracy support organizations based in Brussels, Belgium. It supports democracy initiatives around the world. In this project, it is primarily responsible for engagement with the AGA and acts as the consortium leader.

3. Context

Despite the **African Union**'s (AU) growing political and institutional framework for strengthening democracy, democratic governance in AU member states faces a variety of challenges, including in West Africa. While the translation into domestic law of normative instruments, such as the **African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance** (ACDEG), embodying continental commitments to a democratic agenda, has increased in recent years, political transformations across the continent indicate consistency with a decade long trend of democratic backsliding.

Ineffective translation into national policy of the ACDEG is a reminder that domestic politics usually trump continental objectives, especially in a context of weak monitoring and enforcement of regional and continental commitments.

It is in this context that the A**frican Governance Architecture** (AGA) was established. The AGA is defined as 'a platform for dialogue between different stakeholders with a mandate to promote good governance and strengthen democracy in Africa, in addition to translating the objectives of legal and political declarations into the shared values of the AU'. In essence, the AGA is a platform that brings together state and non-state actors to create synergies in efforts to promote good governance and strengthen democracy in Africa.

In West Africa, the **Economic Community of West African States** (ECOWAS) is a key actor that can contribute to democratic governance in the context of the AGA. For example, its "Protocol A/SP1/12/01 on Democracy and Good Governance" was developed in 2001 as an expression of a new collective political will of ECOWAS Member States to advance the process of conflict prevention and resolution, and to achieve peace and security through the development of democracy and good governance. The Protocol represents both a starting point and an important step in

the regional process of building a democratic political governance framework in West Africa, particularly in the context of elections.

Moreover, there is room for further engaging ECOWAS on matters of democratic governance, for example by developing a mechanism for monitoring violations of fundamental principles that is accepted by ECOWAS. The establishment of such a mechanism would serve to draw attention to critical countries where pro-activity is needed to avoid abuses that are detrimental to democratization and civil peace.

Civil society can play a key role in such processes. For example, by identifying and addressing the lack of transparency in the governance of public affairs, the lack of political ethics, and growing corruption. These are all factors that handicap the exercise of active citizenship and often lead to disaffection of citizens with politics as well as to a disconnection between the top and the bottom of society.

In other words, collaboration with and within civil society is more than necessary. Civil society organizations have demonstrated their strength in the co-construction of innovative, participatory, and inclusive solutions through their capacity to mobilize society around eminently political issues and to defend the interests of citizens. They are legitimate actors to defend the citizens of the countries concerned by the Charter Project Africa in regional frameworks such as the African Union.

4. Priorities of this Call

Capacity of civil society is limited. Few CSOs are working on democratic governance issues in Cabo Verde (it has to be noted that some organizations focus on citizen education, which also pertains to democratic governance). In addition, the lack of knowledge of the ACDEG, the AGA and the ECOWAS by most civil society actors is a hindrance to advocacy initiatives in this area. There is hence a need to train actors on these instruments. More generally, there is an urgent need to institutionally strengthen CSOs and to develop strategies that ensure that the government involves Cabo-Verdean civil society in the dialogue on public policy making.

This Call seeks to support civil society in Cabo Verde to promote the African Charter for Democracy, Elections and Governance and to strengthen engagement with ECOWAS. More specifically, it will enable the deployment of civic technology to enable their own and/or citizens' engagement with AGA members and ECOWAS.

The mobilization of citizens' groups at the various national, sub-regional and regional levels in an inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach should allow for the construction of consensus positions within civil society on the ACDEG and to share them among CSOs and citizens in Cabo Verde as well as with national, sub-regional and regional institutions.

The following areas of democratic governance are to be considered by applicants:

- Participation in public space & public discourse;
- Electoral cycles and elections;

- Rule of law and orderly transfers of power between governments;
- Democratic culture and political pluralism;
- Political accountability and freedom of expression;
- Reduction of civic space;
- Participation of youth and women in electoral processes;
- Responsive, transparent and accountable governance.

5. Approach

Two approaches are to be followed by recipients:

A. Use of civic tech

In accordance with the priorities described above, all proposals should **integrate the use of civic tech solutions**. The Call will pay particular attention to the upscaling, adaptation or replication of pre-existing civic tech initiatives. While the ground-up development of original ideas qualifies for funding as well, such proposals, like all others, need to demonstrate feasibility and probabilities of success within the budget ceilings.

B. Creation of a network and coalition-based action

Under this Call, the selected CSOs to be funded will ultimately **collaborate in a network** and work on the basis of this coalition. Mainstream CSOs working in the field of good governance and democracy will be networked with organizations specialized in the use of civic technology to promote and popularize AGA with a focus on the above-mentioned themes.

The aim of this two-fold approach (A & B) is to get mainstream CSOs to use civic technology as a new working tool especially in the promotion of democracy and good governance.

Candidates must propose ideas that will help them to…

- …address issues of democratic governance (at national or international level) with the primary objective of strengthening and consolidating the principles contained in the ACDEG;
- …monitor violations to democratic governance of the principles promoted and/or formally accepted by ECOWAS;
- …promote and facilitate CSO engagement with AGA and ECOWAS and/or collaboration with civic initiatives.
- …promote and popularize the ACDEG through the use of civic tech;
- …makes relevant recommendations to institutions such as the AU and ECOWAS.

Particular elements of added value are…

- …special attention to **youth participation;**
- …a clear focus on **gender equality and women's empowerment.**

6. Scope

The overall budget available for this **Call is EUR 37 000**. This amount will be allocated to **a network of up to four CSOs from Cabo Verde.** Each organisation will receive a separate grant that will be **up to 9 250 EUR each** (depending on the number of selected organisations that will compose the network). The program will be supported **for an implementation period of six to seven months** depending on the proposal (the duration will be confirmed at the time of contract signature). Each grantee will enter a grant contract with the Gorée Institute.

Due to the moderate size of the financial support available for each network, the Call will give particular attention to the **scaling up**, **adaptation** or **replication** of pre-existing civic technology initiatives - if they comply with one of the priorities described below. Financial support can also be used to fund the use of civic technologies in close partnership with a citizens' group or civil society organization that does not have the expertise to do it alone. Although the **initial development of original ideas** may also be funded, these proposals, like all others, must demonstrate their feasibility and likelihood of success within the budgetary limits specified above.

7. Support package

In addition to financial support, the call will provide selected initiatives with additional technical support according to their identified needs.

In summary, the support package is as follows:

- **Financial support**
  Up to EUR 37 000 for the network initiative in Cabo Verde for a total of up to four grants (roughly EUR 9 250 for each recipient).[1]
- **Technical support**
  Provision of integrated technical expertise through the engagement of civic technology specialists.
- **Thematic support**
  Provision of thematic expertise on democracy support, African Union governance and continental policy development.
- **Marketing, communication and development support**
  Facilitating access to decision-makers at the African Union level as well as to the international development community.

[1] The exact amounts will be determined later in the selection and proposal development process.

- **Peer learning and networking**
  Facilitation of exchanges between beneficiaries and other members of related civic tech ecosystems.

8. Application and selection procedures

The selection process consists of **two stages**: the submission of **applications** and, once received, the submission of the **full proposal** by the shortlisted candidates.

The following steps provide an overview of the application and selection process, from the publication of the guidelines to the start of implementation.

8.1. Indicative timetable

Publication of the Call for applications	**21 January 2022**
Deadline for submission	**7 February 2022**
Announcement of shortlisted candidates	**18 February 2022**
Deadline for submission of the full proposal	**29 February 2022**
Negotiation, finalization and award	**March 2022**
Implementation	**April - October 2022**

8.2. Expression of interest

The application period is open immediately and closes on **7 February 2022 at 11:59 PM (GMT)**. This means that potential applicants will have a period of approximately 3 weeks to prepare and submit their concept notes. The online application form is available at the following link: https://civictechfund.africa/apply-for-support/caboverde. Only concept notes submitted via the online application form will be considered.

Upon submission of the concept note, applicants will receive a confirmation that their concept note has been received. If this confirmation is not received, please contact info@civictechfund.africa, mentioning the title of this call.

8.3. Screening, initial assessment and pre-selection

All applications will be subject to an administrative check to establish whether the information required by the online application form has been provided. In addition, applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria (see section 7 below).

After passing this administrative check, applications will be subject to an initial assessment. At this stage, the following three evaluation criteria will be assessed:

- Relevance to priorities (as described in these guidelines) ;
- Technical viability of the proposed civic technology initiative;
- Experience and operational capacity of the implementing organization.

On the basis of this initial assessment, applications will be shortlisted. All applicants will receive a formal response on the outcome of their application by **20 February 2022**. However, individual feedback on the reasons for unsuccessful expressions of interest cannot be provided due to resource implications.

8.4. Final assessment, due diligence, and award decision

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to develop a full proposal **by 29 February 2022, 11:59 PM (GMT)**. Together with the full application, a number of additional documents will be requested from applicants, including a detailed budget and a monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework. **Specific instructions and templates will be sent by email to shortlisted applicants.**

In addition to the three evaluation criteria mentioned above (relevance, technical viability, experience, and operational capacity), the following four criteria will also be evaluated for full proposals:

- Elements of added value (as described in these guidelines) ;
- Expected impact on the proposed target groups;
- Sustainability;
- Cost-effectiveness;
- Efficiency.

The evaluation of full proposals will be conducted by the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Charter Project Africa, composed of representatives of the Consortium members.

At this stage, a due diligence process will be conducted: applicants will be asked to provide additional financial documentation, such as the most recent organizational business plan, audited annual financial statements and recent financial statements, including organizational performance indicators, if available.

On this basis, the strongest proposals will be identified and submitted to the Africa Charter Project Steering Committee for approval.

However, individual feedback on why proposals were not successful cannot be provided due to resource implications.

8.5. Negotiation, finalization and contract signing

The responsible staff of the Gorée Institute will interview the selected applicants and make comments and requests regarding the proposed initiative. A number of additional documents may need to be completed by the applicant. Once all comments have been considered and additional information and documents have been provided, a grant agreement will be signed between each applicant and the management team.

9. Eligibility criteria

Potential applicants should pay particular attention to the following eligibility criteria which determine whether they can be considered.

9.1. Beneficiaries

The Call will focus on providing support to non-profit organizations (CSOs, NGOs, Associations etc.) active in the civic space and the civic technology ecosystem and in democratic governance.

In summary, the eligibility criteria are as follows:

- The organization must be registered in Cabo Verde;
- The organization must be a legal entity;
- The organization must be non-governmental, independent of local or regional government;
- The organization can be a non-profit organization, but must - in this case - be strongly committed to advancing civic participation.
- The organization must be able to sign a grant agreement;
- The organization must not have received any unfavorable opinions, either from its own auditors or from those of its donors;
- The organization shall have policies and/or practices in place to ensure the ethical management of personally identifiable information;
- The organization must not have been judged for fraud, corruption, participation in a criminal organization or any other illegal activity.

In addition, the beneficiaries of the call must adhere to several (but not necessarily all) of the following high-level guiding principles

- The organization's activity is positioned to foster innovation, sustainable growth and/or large-scale change in policies, behavior and systems;

- The organization has an approach that fundamentally adopts a sustainable balance to solve social and/or economic problems;
- The organization has established local, regional and/or national partnerships to optimize its model and deliver its mission on a larger scale;
- The organization has the capacity to grow in terms of its ability to manage additional resources and the work associated with expansion;
- The organization can already show evidence of the impact of its work and can indicate how additional resources will increase its impact;
- The organization can demonstrate how the intervention supported by the appeal will be sustained.

9.2. Geographical orientation

Activities should be implemented in Cabo Verde **where a network of 3 to 4 organizations will be set up to implement the project** (see "Approach").

9.3. Costs

Beneficiaries will be asked to submit a budget with the costs necessary to achieve the agreed results. These types of eligible costs are the following:

- Staff costs;
- Expert fees ;
- Travel expenses ;
- Software purchase costs ;
- Consumable costs (activities) ;
- Costs of service contracts;

The ineligible costs are as follows:

- Debts and service charges ;
- Provisions for potential future losses, liabilities or commitments ;
- Purchase of land, vehicles or buildings or office rental;
- Foreign exchange losses.

10. For more information

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to send an email to latyr.tine@goreeinstitut.org copying info@civictechfund.africa and mentioning the title of this Call.