

## 8<sup>TH</sup> CALL FOR PROJECTS OF COOPERATION

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### *French-Croatian cooperation program for Croatian Civil Society Organisations*

The French Embassy in Croatia launches its 8<sup>th</sup> call for projects aimed at promoting French-Croatian cooperation in priorities areas. This program is implemented in cooperation with the Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

#### **I. What is the objective of the call?**

The call offers Croatian associations the opportunity to benefit from a grant of up to 4,000 € to implement projects within their areas of expertise/action and which align with specific priorities of the French Embassy in Croatia underlined in this Call.

#### **II. What are the sectoral priorities of the call?**

To be eligible, project proposals must fall under at least one of the following priority themes:

#### **1/ MEDIA LITERACY:**

##### **Critical thinking:**

- Promotion of an informed use of social media.
- Education to identify fake news, exert critical thinking and counter disinformation;
- Training youth to forge fact-based opinions and viewpoints on societal topics;

**Artificial intelligence:** special attention will be given to projects addressing new challenges related to artificial intelligence

**Fight against disinformation in general;**

**Projects addressing the issue of digital addiction;**

**Any other project related to media literacy.**

Special attention will be given to projects encouraging the participation of youth into public and social life and debate.

#### **2/ GENDER EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS:**

##### **Combating violence against women:**

- Example: the Embassy has made available with Croatian subtitles five short-movies from the French body *MIPROF*<sup>1</sup>: project proposals aiming at promoting these short movies among identified groups of

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<sup>1</sup> MIPROF is the *French Interministerial Mission for the Protection of Women Against Violence and the Fight Against Human Trafficking*; the short movies are available on the You Tube channel of the Embassy:  
[www.youtube.com/@ambassadedefranceencroatie6233](http://www.youtube.com/@ambassadedefranceencroatie6233)

stakeholders (such as nurses, doctors, law students, social workers, police officers, high schools, etc...) will receive special attention in the selection process;

**Fight against gender stereotypes, especially professional ones:**

- promotion of successful Croatian and French female figures;
- enhancement of women's participation and leadership in professional fields that are characterized by a prevailing presence of men (science, gastronomy, military, sport etc). A special attention will be given to proposals related to intersectionality.

**Any other project related to the topic.**

**3/ SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:**

**One Health:** projects based on the UN's "One Health" approach, as an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimise the health of people, animals and ecosystems;

**Islands:** All proposals connected to the sustainable development of coastal and remote areas, the local inhabitants, initiatives promoting nature-based solutions, education on sustainable practices, etc...

**Sustainable tourism:** a special attention will be given to projects promoting sustainable and innovative practices in tourism;

**Any other project related to the topic.**

**III. Who can apply?**

The applicant must be a non-profit civil society organisation registered in the Croatian Register of Non-profit Organisations (RNO) for at least 12 months. The applicant must have a transparent financial reporting (consultable in the RNO).

Applicants who were selected in the framework of the previous calls are eligible but their application will not be given priority.

**IV. What types of activities can be supported (non-exhaustive list)?**

- Organisation of conferences, roundtables, debates, workshops, trainings and seminars;
- Activities oriented towards children and youth in the framework of cross-curricular subjects (on civic education, media literacy, etc.);
- Organisation of study visits to discover a good practice in France with a concrete plan to implement it in Croatia;
- Awareness raising, citizen mobilisation and advocacy activities;
- Joint publications, etc...

Selected projects will be eligible to use the premises of the French Institute in Croatia (Preradovićeva 5, Zagreb) for their public events during the project's duration, provided they submit a request at least one month in advance and in accordance with the French Institute's event schedule.

**Important remarks:**

- Profit making activities are not eligible.
- "One-off" conferences or events with no clear follow-up activities should be avoided.
- Online activities can also be supported.

- The Embassy will be invited to participate in all the public events organised within the project, and when possible and suitable, to address the audience.

## V. What should be the duration for the project?

The maximum duration for the project is 12 months.

Projects should start in 2026 and be completed by September 2027.

## VI. What is the level of co-financing?

**The maximum amount that can be awarded to a project is 4,000€, covering no more than 80% of the project's total budget.** Therefore, a minimum co-financing of at least 20% is expected from the applicant.

There is no minimum grant.

Please note : project that will be selected for funding from the French Embassy will become eligible to co-funding from the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Republic of Croatia, under modalities described here (approximate opening of the call: June 2026): <https://udruga.gov.hr/istaknute-teme/financiranje-programa-i-projekata-udruga-iz-javnih-izvora/sufinanciranje/321>

In the selection process, the French Embassy will give priority to applications that are planning to apply for co-funding from the Government Office through the above Call.

## VII. What are the selection criteria?

**Relevance:** alignment with the needs and challenges faced by Croatian society and with the priorities of the call;

**Feasibility** of the proposed activities within the given timeframe;

**Coherence** between the defined objectives and the activities proposed;

**Impact** of the project at local, regional and/or national level.

Projects that promote **French expertise** or demonstrate a direct link to **France** will be prioritised in the selection process, particularly those including an active involvement of a French partner.

Also, **regional dimension** of the project activities through a cooperation with neighbouring countries will be considered a plus.

## VIII. Selection process and indicative timetable:

**First step:**

- Submission to the Embassy of two documents: **(1)** a brief **concept note** in English summarising the project (word document) and **(2)** a provisional **budget** for the project (Excel document).
- The templates for these documents can be found on the webpage of the French Embassy and has to be completed and returned to [djuro.zifra@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:djuro.zifra@diplomatie.gouv.fr).
- **Deadline for the submission of the concept note: Sunday, July 5, 2026.**
- Applications will be evaluated by a selection committee composed of representatives from the French Embassy and the French Institute of Croatia and from the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Republic of Croatia.

## **Second step:**

- On the basis of the first preselection, the Embassy could contact the short-listed project applicants for more details, if needed.
- Expected publication of the final results: end of July 2026
- Signature of the contract and payment of the grant: August 2026

## **IX. Reporting procedure:**

A narrative and financial report in English will be sent to the French Embassy within 2 months maximum after completion of the project.

## **X. Contacts:**

For any further information, contact the French Embassy: [djuro.zifra@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:djuro.zifra@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

All necessary documents can be found on the French Embassy website <https://hr.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr> and on the website of the Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, <https://udruga.gov.hr/>.