

Global Challenges Local Solutions European Grant Competition

9th GRANT ROUND GUIDELINES “SOLUTIONS FOR THE FUTURE”

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Local communities across Europe continue to face a wide range of complex social challenges - from air pollution and unequal access to education to poverty. Over the course of the previous eight rounds of the Global Challenges Local Solutions Fund, community foundations have played a key role in addressing these challenges at the local level, working in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Through their sustained engagement, community foundations have strengthened their capacity to diagnose key social problems, collaborate with diverse stakeholders, and implement effective solutions rooted in the local context. These efforts contribute not only to tangible change at the local level, but also form part of a broader response to global challenges reflected in the everyday realities of communities.

Over the eight editions of the Global Challenges Local Solutions program we have built a rich base **of inspiring examples** of how the civil society can contribute to developing the SDGs. **Check our website** and find out more at: <https://www.localsolutionsfund.org/>

Up until now, we have distributed 79 grants for the total amount of approximately 977,000 USD, to local organizations across Europe.

ABOUT THE 9th GRANT ROUND

The ninth round of the program builds on this accumulated experience and is addressed exclusively to community foundations that participated in previous editions (1-8). This targeted approach reflects the fact that returning participants already have a solid understanding of the program’s framework, have gained practical experience in implementing SDG-related initiatives, and have demonstrated their ability to translate global goals into effective local action.



In this round, community foundations will develop educational and communication video campaigns related to the SDGs, aiming to raise awareness, engage local audiences, and strengthen the visibility of sustainable development at the community level.

In the 9th GCLS Grant Round, we are opening a CALL only for projects that mainly focus on activities aimed at communicating and educating about the Sustainable Development Goals within the community and among local stakeholders - including organizations, authorities, businesses, etc. - **through the joint creation of videos.**

It is important to select the specific SDGs you want to address in this round and to explain why. You can choose 1-3 specific SDGs.

I ORGANISATION AND AIMS OF THE COMPETITION

1. Global Challenges Local Solutions European Grant Competition (Competition) is organized by the Academy for the Development of Philanthropy in Poland (ADPP) within the Global Challenges Local Solutions Program.
2. The Global Challenges Local Solutions Program (GCLS) is co-financed by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.
3. Competition was established in order to support grassroots initiatives, run by community foundations together with local communities, aimed at solving global challenges at the local level. These global challenges have been identified in the Agenda of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which always had to be included in the projects that received GCLS grants.
4. The **total amount of up to 210,000 USD** will be awarded within the 9th grant round.

II TARGET GROUP

1. Applications to the Competition may be submitted **only by community foundations that took part in the previous GCLS rounds** (Applicants).
2. **Community foundation is understood as** a non-profit and non-governmental organization designed to pool donations into a coordinated investment and grant-making facility dedicated primarily to the social improvement of a given community. The six main characteristics of the CFs are:
 - Act as grant-making foundations - i.e. give grants to support development projects,

- Their mission is broadly defined i.e. to improve the quality of life in a community,
- Serve geographically defined communities: a city, state, region, district or province,
- Are supported by a broad range of private as well as public donors and seek philanthropic contributions primarily inside the community,
- Are governed by multi-sectoral local boards reflecting the framework of the community,
- Build capital endowment, which is an important element of sustainability.

III GRANT PROCEDURE

Projects submitted to the Competition should be aimed at communicating and educating about the Sustainable Development Goals within the community and among local stakeholders - including organizations, authorities, businesses, etc. - **through a video-based communication campaign presenting local initiatives and solutions. It is important to select the specific SDGs you want to address in this round and to explain why.**

It can refer to 1-3 selected SDGs, related to the specificities and needs of a given community.

The long-term goal is to make the SDGs permanently present in the community.

One of the mandatory deliverables of the implemented projects is the preparation of video materials promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a local context.

1. The project shall determine activities that are going to be implemented in the period not longer than **six months (from June 1, 2026 till November 30, 2026)**. The grant will be paid in one installment. Extension of the project duration will not be possible.
2. Applicants can apply for the **grant up to 15,000 USD**.
3. One applicant is entitled to submit only one project within the present grant round. If successful in the present round, another application can be made no sooner than after the final narrative and financial report is accepted by the ADPP.
4. It is required to contribute additional **financial input: 50% of the awarded grant**. The input has to be spent during the lifetime of the project.
5. We encourage all organizations to build partnerships with local and international companies that are involved in SDGs. Please refer to the UNGC website recommended by the ADPP team - [link](#).



6. To apply for a grant, **the Applicant must fill in the application form and the budget available at www.localsolutionsfund.org and send it to Ewa Maciejewska - Project Coordinator: e.maciejewska@filantropia.org.pl by 30 April 2026.** No extension of the application deadline will be possible.

IV SELECTION CRITERIA AND THE GRANT COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

1. Applications to the Competition may be submitted **only by community foundations that took part in the previous GCLS rounds.**
 2. Submitted applications will be assessed formally and preselected by the ADPP team.
 3. The Grant Committee will be composed of international experts.
 4. During the assessment, the Grant Committee will take into consideration the following criteria:
 - Adequacy of the planned activities to the principles of the 9th grant round and local community's needs defined in the project,
 - Feasibility of the project and effectiveness,
 - Rationality of the planned activities;
 - Quality and coherence of the video-based communication campaign;
 - Creativity, including the use of video, storytelling and innovative communication formats;
 - Scale of engagement of local community members in the project;
 - Durability, i.e. the potential to continue the project in a lower amount;
 - Replicability of the proposed solution and the possibility of its implementation by the other local organizations.
 5. The Grant Committee may award a grant in a lower amount than requested in the application form.
 6. Decisions of the Committee are irrevocable.
 7. Applicants whose applications will be chosen by the Grant Committee, will sign an agreement with ADPP. Applicants will be obliged to submit the final narrative and financial report in compliance with the deadline and rules defined in the agreement.
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V USE OF GRANT

1. Ineligible costs

Financial resources within the donation cannot be used for:

- regranting,
- endowment fund,
- lobbying expenditures,
- engaging in and supporting any form of terrorism or violence,
- supporting any religious or political activities.

VI COPYRIGHT AND CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION

The grantee declares that they hold the rights to the video materials prepared as part of the project and that these materials do not infringe the rights of third parties.

The grantee grants the Competition Organizer a non-exclusive, free license to use the video materials for informational, educational, and promotional purposes related to the Organizer's activities and the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The license specifically includes the right to:

- publish the materials online (including on social media),
- present the materials at events, conferences, and meetings,
- use excerpts of the materials in publications and promotional materials.

The grantee also undertakes to obtain consent from all persons appearing in the video materials for the use of their image.

VII SCHEDULE

April 1, 2026 - April 30, 2026	Call for applications
by May 20, 2026	The Grant Committee meeting and announcement of the 9 th grant round results

by May 30, 2026	Preparation and signing of grant agreements
June 1, 2026 - November 30, 2026	Projects' implementation
December 31, 2026	Deadline for reporting

VIII FINAL PROVISIONS

1. The interpretation of the provisions and requirements of these regulations shall be decided by the ADPP Board.
2. ADPP reserves the right to introduce changes to the regulations of the competition during its proceedings. ADPP will inform about any changes to the regulations on an ongoing basis on the website www.localsolutionsfund.org. If participants do not agree with the changes, they have the right to withdraw their application at the latest on the application deadline.

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For more detailed information please contact:
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