CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
EXTERNAL CONSULTANT - RESEARCHER

Do you want to do research and develop an analysis to help strengthen and ensure funding for women led, grassroots organisations and the women’s movement in general? If yes, this research opportunity is for you!

The European Women’s Lobby (EWL) is the largest umbrella organisation of women’s associations in the European Union, gathering over 2000 women’s associations. The EWL has members in all 28 EU Member States and three of the candidate countries. The EWL campaigns for a feminist Europe, which promotes women’s rights and equality between women and men in the European Union in line with our organisational strategic framework “Together For A Feminist Europe!”. 

The EWL is looking for an experienced and senior consultant to conduct a research by consolidating existing information and initiatives in funding women-led, grassroots women’s organisations, and the women’s movement in general in Europe, talk to key individuals as appropriate, and building from this, write an analysis and recommendation that will lay-out a series of scenarios or options to be considered in order to establish a European women’s fund. 

We are looking for an outstanding professional with a natural talent for communicating with feminists from different cultures and backgrounds. As an intersectional feminist organisation, we are seeking to build a feminist Europe that represents Europe in all of its diversity. As such, people/women of color and from ethnic minority groups, people with disabilities, people from the LGBTQI community and people coming from marginalized groups are especially encouraged to apply.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates are requested to submit an application to the European Women’s Lobby via email to jobs@womenlobby.org and to mae.ocampo@womenlobby.org along with a

- one-page cover letter explaining your motivation and alignment with our research needs;
- copy of your CV; and
- 2-page proposal for how this work will be carried out, detailing the timing and the methodology.

Please include in the e-mail subject line: “Application for Senior Consultant: Researcher feasibility study to establish a European women’s fund, and YOUR NAME”.

Closing date for applications is 30 June 2019 at midnight CET.

Applications not respecting the instructions will not be considered.

Interviews of shortlisted candidates will be held from 01-03 July 2019. Interviews through Skype are possible for candidates who are not able to come to Brussels in person. The ideal candidate should be able to start as soon as possible.
1. Background

As part of the European Women’s Lobby (EWL) Strategic Framework, EWL stresses the importance and is working towards finding effective ways of funding the women’s movement in Europe. The EWL started discussing the lack of funding for the women’s movement across Europe building from the ongoing strategy to ensure gender budgeting is mainstreamed across European Union institutions and agencies. It was within this context that EWL committed to conduct a research geared towards looking at the European context that would help shape a process or mechanism that would support girls and women across Europe. Key issues to address related to:

- what were the challenges and gaps faced in supporting the women’s movement across Europe;
- what are the existing funding mechanisms and how to succeed in increasing the availability of funding;
- which institutions, agencies, and funders/donors fund projects for women’s rights, empowerment and gender equality;
- how do we ensure that support for grassroots movements in Europe are also reached including small under-resourced organisations; and
- what concrete steps to take in order to increase funders’/donors’ ability to support a broad range of girls’ and women’s projects across Europe.

To assist in this process, EWL brought together a small group of key individuals (women’s funds, women’s organizations, funders) to have a discussion and brainstorm about the potential and intention to create a new funding platform dedicated to the women’s movement in Europe. We concluded the day with the following highlights:

- Continue open dialogues and conversations in order to build connections, solidarity, relate with each other, and build on each other’s strengths;
- Build on existing initiatives and explore potential partnerships in order to understand and tap into the different roles we play;
- Expand our thinking on what are the gaps and challenges faced and what solutions and models were already thought of so we either build on, partner, replicate or support existing initiatives;
- Get better in closing the gap and in consolidating analysis on the many existing researches on grant making for women’s movements;
- Have more conversations around pushing for systemic alternatives and continue to push for a more sustainable transformative agenda that would ensure funding for grassroots movements; and
- The resources in Europe are there and they exist; we need to work together and plan strategies on how to effectively push and access available resources in Europe.

The full notes, output and recommendations of this brainstorm will be shared upon commencement of the research and can be integrated into the feasibility study.

2. Purpose, Focus and Task

Purpose: To undertake the development of a feasibility study on the establishment of a European women’s fund that would effectively support women-led, grassroots women’s organisations and the women’s movement in general.
Focus: With the highlights above, we concluded that EWL’s research should focus on the existing research that have already been conducted and on the existing initiatives in building funds for women’s organisations. The research that has already been conducted includes a wide scope from looking at available resources in Europe, to what are the gaps and challenges of women’s movement, to scoping available funding for women-led organisations, etc.

There is a need to look at all these different pieces of research and initiatives and bring together a consolidated analysis and a recommendation to help look at which approach, strategy or mechanism to take in order to be ensure effective, appropriate and adequate funding for the women’s movement in Europe.

The task, therefore, is to consolidate existing research and initiatives that already exist in funding women-led, grassroots women’s organisations, and the women’s movement in general in Europe. Building from this, set out a series of scenarios or options to be considered.

3. Scope of Work, Methodology

The researcher will collect data by contacting key women’s funds and women’s organisations who have conducted research, and when necessary, conduct interviews to understand the research context and outcomes from the project implementer and/or researcher.

The researcher will also speak with various key players and partners about the options and scenarios for mechanisms for channeling more and better funding to the women’s movement in Europe. We, therefore, expect the Consultant to:

a. consolidate resources available and researches conducted around the theme of funding the women’s movement in Europe (gaps, challenges, ideas for new mechanisms, etc) and in Europe;

b. analyse existing data and information; and

c. conduct interviews (maximum 10) with key actors (key women’s funds and women’s organisations who have conducted research).

4. Results and Deliverables

A 20-page content analysis including:

a. Context and mapping of:
   - existing actors working on/with the women’s movement (women’s organizations, NGOs, etc);
   - current funding opportunities and different funders; and
   - different existing/arising potential funding mechanisms.

b. Recommendations
   - A series of scenarios and recommendations to be considered; and
   - A 3-year operation plan (assessment of financial needs, proposed legal set-up, business plan, and main principles and values).
5. Duration and reporting of the research

2 months: from 1st of July to 31st of August, with the expected analysis and recommendation to be submitted to EWL by the first week of September.

The Consultant will coordinate and report to Mae Ocampo, Program Director at the European Women’s Lobby.

6. Profile, essential skills and attributes

A senior consultant that will entail skills from an individual who has experience and can demonstrate the following:

- Strong commitment to intersectional feminism and women’s rights;
- Deep respect for diversity, and demonstrated commitment to the promotion of a diverse and inclusive Europe;
- Understanding and experience in funding for the women’s movement including knowledge of the philanthropy and foundation sector in funding human rights and women’s rights in Europe;
- Connections and networks with women-led, grassroots organisations, women’s organisations, and women’s funds;
- Ability to work efficiently and responsively within a multicultural environment;
- Ability to write clearly and produce quality work in English and synthesise a range of other research within a deadline; and
- Experienced communicator and in working virtually.

7. Details of consultant fees and agreements

The details for entering into agreement for consultant fees, tasks and responsibilities, accountabilities and binding agreements will be discussed during the application process and are to be entered into contract between the European Women’s Lobby and the selected candidate with an attached Terms of Reference (ToR).