

INNOVATION FUND 2023 – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The **Innovation for Change (I4C) Hub**'s mission is to empower civil society to defend civic space. I4C is launching the Innovation Fund for Civil Society Organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean that work to strengthen the sector through innovation.

As part of I4C, the Argentine Network for International Cooperation - [RACI](#) - opens this new call for proposals to support 8 (eight) local, national, and regional organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean, with financial resources - up to USD 8,000 each - to address challenges related to one of the following areas:

Promotion of the Enabling Space

Activities dedicated to strengthening and improving the conditions in which Civil Society and its organizations operate.

Inclusive democracy and Civic Participation

Activities that refer to the strengthening of democratic mechanisms and institutions and/or the involvement of citizens in decision-making processes.

Fighting disinformation

Actions that promote strategies to counteract the circulation of false, misleading or inaccurate news and generate good citizen practices with respect to information.

Transparency and Accountability

Activities related to "openness regarding decisions and activities that affect society, the economy and the environment, and willingness to communicate them in a clear, accurate, timely, honest and complete manner", assuming responsibility for what has been done.

The I4C Hub has the following goals:

- Strengthening and empowering CSOs in the LAC region to protect civic space through innovative seed-funding initiatives and movements that creatively address community challenges related to: (i) promotion an enabling environment; (ii) democracy and citizen participation; diversity and inclusion or (iii) transparency and (iv) accountability.
- Generating innovative, practical tools that positively impact community challenges related to the above topics and which can be shared and made available for replication in I4C LAC and the I4C network.

Who can apply?

Only non-profit Civil Society Organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean may apply to become beneficiaries of the Innovation Fund. The Program will not accept proposals from individuals, companies, or governments. Organizations must be legally registered and have a bank account in their name that can accept transfers in U.S. dollars.

What is the timeframe to complete the project, and how much funding is provided?

Projects may last up to 4 months. The Fund will provide up to a maximum of USD 8,000 (eight thousand US dollars) per project. Only one proposal per CSO will be accepted.

The selected CSOs must submit a mid-term progress report and a final report at the end of the project. The provision of funds will be subject to the approval of these reports.

Which activities are not eligible?

- International travel/participation in foreign conferences and lodging.
- Political, religious, or evangelical activities. Religious associations will not be excluded, as long as the proposed project meets the objectives of the Fund, does not exclude followers of other religions, and the funds are not used to support proselytizing activities.
- Ongoing or recurring funding of the beneficiary organization's operating/operational expenses, such as salaries and wages, office supplies, and communications that are not relevant to the project submitted.

Application Process

RACI will coordinate the application process:

Interested organizations must create an user to log-in in the following online platform <https://fondodeinnovacion.vform.io/>

Once the registration is completed, the user will be able to access the application form. Please note that only one user per organization will be accepted.

Submission period will be open from Thursday, March 23rd until Sunday, April 9th at 11.30 pm (Argentina time).

During this process, RACI's team will be available for consultations and support through the following email address fondoinnovacional@raci.org.ar.

Selection Criteria

1. Organization Profile – 10%

Background and capacity of the organization in terms of the activity and theme presented in the project. The possibility of generating alliances and collaboration with other actors will also be considered.

2. Project feasibility – 20%

The proposal should be achievable within the set timeframe, with Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound (SMART) goals

3. Project analysis – 25%

The analysis will take into account whether the project fits the Fund's objectives, the clarity of the proposal, the proposed activities contribution to the stated objectives, and that the project meets a concrete and well-defined need and is relevant to the target audience and the local context.

4. Budget – 20%

The project budget should be cost-effective and clearly detailed and in compliance with eligible expenses.

5. Innovation and Sustainability – 25%

The extent to which the project proposes a novel and better (more efficient, effective, of higher quality) solution (process, product, service) to a social problem than traditional approaches will be taken into account. On the other hand, it is expected that the project's objectives and positive impact will last beyond the project's completion date.

SCHEDULE

Submission of application forms – March 23 – April 9, 2023

RACI's team will review the application forms received, taking into account the five dimensions mentioned in the call for proposals under the "selection criteria" section.

Selection – April 10th – Tentatively May 10

RACI's team, together with the I4C Regional Executive Committee, will assess submitted proposals based on the same criteria. Eight projects will be selected for funding.

Contacto con organizaciones seleccionadas – After May 11

RACI's team will contact selected organizations to start administrative proceedings.

Announcement of Selected Projects – Tentatively between May 11 and 19

Los ganadores se publicarán en el sitio web de RACI y las redes sociales del I4C LAC HUB.

Please note that these are estimated dates which may change for reasons beyond RACI's control. Selected organizations may be required to postpone the start date of projects while the end date will have to remain the same.

For further information: please write to fondoinnovacionalc@raci.org.ar.



Innovation for Change Regional Hub was created by

