NATO PUBLIC DIPLOMACY DIVISION
CO-SPONSORSHIP GRANTS 2025

CONTENT GUIDELINES

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NATO SOCIETAL RESILIENCE GRANTS 2025: CONTENT GUIDELINES

The NATO Public Diplomacy Division supports efforts seeking to contribute to the resilience of our societies and the stability of our security environment. It encourages strong civil society involvement in public debate around security and defence issues, and individual and collective efforts to make an impact. It does so by contributing to a continuous process of international security debate and policy design, through a variety of people-to-people and digital programmes in NATO and partner countries. Thereby, it aims to promote understanding of the Alliance's missions, as well as trust in its actions and values.

These include support for grassroots initiatives and collective action, digital projects, campaigns, academic and investigative research, capacity building, workshops, public events, seminars and other relevant projects promoting peace and security. This support is provided through discretionary grants to relevant civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), universities and think tanks in member and partner countries.

Target audiences

The grants aim to support initiatives that reach out to audiences across the Alliance, in partner countries and globally. Particular focus should be placed on outreach to youth audiences, female audiences and key opinion formers, including those who have not previously connected with NATO. The range of audiences that NATO seeks to reach include:
- Audiences who have an interest in NATO and wish to engage in discussions related to the organisation's priorities.
- Audiences in locations where NATO's role is not well known or who may be sceptical about NATO, but who are open to learning more.
- Audiences in challenging information environments, in particular on topics related to the Alliance, but who are open to learning more.

Selection criteria

The NATO Public Diplomacy Division uses the following criteria to select projects for co-sponsorship:
- Relevance to the specific content guidelines and 5 following priorities:
  1. **Countering information threats**
  2. **Defending NATO values: Voices for individual liberty, human rights, democracy and the rule of law**
  3. **Cooperative security in NATO's southern neighbourhood**
  4. **Empowering women contributing to peace, security and societal resilience**
  5. **Free and independent medi*a***
- Relevance to NATO's current political agenda and communication priorities;
- Impact with civil society, educational value and/or relevance to public discussion of peace and security issues;

- Contribution of the project to NATO's goal of contributing to relevant positive actions related to peace and security, as well as informed debate on these issues;
- Expected impact and reach of the project among target audiences, in offline and online spaces;
- Proven expertise of the organisation related to each specific call for grants;
- Ability to use resources efficiently to achieve the expected outcome.

NATO will accept a maximum of two grant applications per organisation for the five 2025 calls for applications listed below. Each proposal should be unique in nature and only one application can be submitted per category.

NATO reserves the right to decline a project application from a grantee who previously failed to abide by the terms of a previous co-sponsorship grant with NATO.

The 5 calls for applications are available below.

Call for applications 1 – Countering information threats

- **Aim:** To strengthen NATO efforts to address the threat of information manipulation and interference by foreign actors.
- Applications should be focused on effectively countering information threats, building information integrity and strengthening the defender community that engages in such work.
- Potential projects should sit at the nexus between information threats and security.

Priority areas
- Projects that build and strengthen resilience in NATO Allies and partner countries against information threats, including those focusing on how information manipulation undermines democratic institutions and exacerbates polarisation;
- Projects that develop or further strengthen collaborative approaches for analysing and assessing information threats, including those working on a common analytical framework and methodology;
- Projects that identify, expose and raise awareness of manipulative tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) used by state and non-state actors;
- Projects that support civil society organisations working on information threats who are targeted and attacked by foreign actors because of this work;
- Projects that build capacity in organisations working on and promoting media and information literacy;
- Projects raising awareness and offering solutions to protect digital privacy;
- Projects that focus on capacity building for stakeholders globally on countering information threats – such capacity building should focus on sustainability and interoperability with global initiatives and be specific in nature;
- Projects that raise awareness about NATO in NATO countries, partners and globally, including local initiatives to raise awareness about information manipulation targeting NATO specifically;
- Projects that promote NATO's support for Ukraine and counter information threats on this topic, including through the use of open-source intelligence (OSINT).

Call for applications 2 – Defending NATO values: Voices for individual liberty, human rights, democracy and the rule of law

- **Aim:** To strengthen NATO efforts as an Alliance of democracies bound by common values: individual liberty, human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as enshrined in the Washington Treaty and the 2022 Strategic Concept.
- Applications should be focused on preserving, advancing or educating on these values, as well as bolstering the communities that engage in such work.
- Potential projects should seek to make an impact in their communities and advance these causes, while making the link with the preservation of Euro Atlantic security.
- Potential projects should creatively support NATO's role in safeguarding democratic principles and values, such as by promoting free and independent civil society.

Priority areas:
- Projects that contribute to empowering organisations advocating for human rights and democratic governance, with focus on areas relating to NATO priorities;
- Projects in NATO Allied countries that explain the importance of the rules-based international order;
- Projects focused on strengthening civil society actors active in conflict prevention;
- Projects that enable engagement with youth audiences on the importance of defending democratic values to address new and evolving security challenges;
- Projects encouraging community engagement, dialogue, fostering civic education and encouraging public participation in governance;
- Projects that support coordinated responses to protect and promote democratic values;
- Projects that build and strengthen societal resilience among publics in NATO Allied countries and partner countries, including with focus on promoting credible information on defence and security issues;
- Projects that raise awareness about NATO values in NATO countries, partners and globally, including targeted local initiatives to reach priority audiences.

Call for applications 3 – Empowering women contributing to peace, security and societal resilience

- **Aim**: To empower women contributing to peace, security and societal resilience, highlighting the roles and perspectives of women from diverse backgrounds and at different levels on all matters relevant to NATO. To advance awareness and informed debate on the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, related-Resolutions, and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (WPS), in the 25th anniversary year of UNSCR 1325.
- Applications are encouraged to integrate gender analysis and perspectives into projects, which will help inform international security debate as related to NATO's core tasks.
- Applications should highlight NATO's important role in advancing the global Women, Peace and Security Agenda politically and militarily, based on values agreed in the North Atlantic Treaty, over 75 years ago, the ambition of the 2022 Strategic Concept and the Washington Summit Declaration.

Priority areas:

- Projects that portray and help amplify women's perspectives on NATO areas of work within NATO member and partner countries, including Ukraine;
- Projects that showcase the added value of applying gender perspectives to NATO's core tasks: deterrence and defence, crisis prevention and management and cooperative security;
- Projects that raise awareness on countering gendered information threats, the weaponization of gender narratives and tactics employed in hostile information strategies that target social cohesion;
- Projects that address gender-themed information threats facilitated by digital, new and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence;
- Projects that focus on gendered aspects on societal resilience;
- Projects that promote gender equality in the defence and security realm, as well as advance gender-responsive leadership and accountability;
- Projects that create awareness and enhance knowledge of the intersection between gender, climate and security.

Call for applications 4 – Cooperative security in NATO's southern neighbourhood

- **Aim**: To advance engagement with [NATO's Southern Neighbourhood](#) through political dialogue and practical cooperation on issues of mutual interest with the Alliance's partner countries.
- Applications should be focused on promoting understanding of NATO's role and its multifaceted approaches to security, including that of human security, the impact of climate change on security, fostering innovation, countering hybrid threats, military training and exercises, etc.
- Potential projects should contribute to dispel and counter misperceptions about NATO and its partnerships by building regional networks and supporting initiatives focused on explaining NATO's aims and policies.

Priority areas
- Projects that contribute to fostering greater regional security and stability, contributing to peace and prosperity;
- Projects that foster the building of networks of like-minded communities between publics in NATO countries and in partner countries;
- Projects that enable engagement with youth audiences and civil society organisations in NATO's Southern Neighbourhood;
- Projects that empower civil society organisations' initiatives and support capacity building on issues relevant to NATO;
- Projects that inspire dialogue and cross-cultural understanding around NATO's mutually beneficial partnerships;
- Projects that tackle misperceptions about NATO and explain the Alliance's purpose, including through educational and innovative initiatives;
- Projects that promote dialogue on key security issues of mutual interest to NATO and partner countries;
- Projects that explain the benefits of individual partnerships with NATO.

Call for applications 5 – Free and independent media

- **Aim:** To support the independence of media and media freedom across NATO Allies and NATO partner countries.
- Applications should include focus on advancing capacity of media reporting on foreign, security and defence policy issues.
- Media organisations that are beneficiaries of this grant will maintain editorial independence.

Priority areas:
- Projects offering practical support to journalists and media organisations, especially those affected by war, instability and persecution;
- Projects that raise awareness on media freedom, advocate for lifting restrictions on press freedom, counter censorship and promote public debate;
- Projects that help to build networks of media representatives for improved regional and cross-cutting understanding of key security and defence topics;
- Projects that provide meaningful assistance to media organisations to cover relevant foreign policy, security and defence related topics;
- Projects that focus on educational media initiatives for young journalists.