Call for applications „Building Power for Economic Justice“

Questions and answers from the Info Sessions

# Eligibility

## Focus areas

* *Do applying projects or organizations need to address ALL 3 areas of wealth, care, and technology? How does that connect to crosscutting areas like promoting participation of marginalized groups?*

Addressing one of the three focus areas is enough. Addressing more than one theme is welcome but optional. Promoting the participation of marginalized communities is one way to contribute to building power. If you seek to achieve that through other means, this is certainly possible. Please explain how.

* *Do the applying organizations need to focus on one or more of these issues? Is it okay if organizations with different emphases propose projects related to one or more of these areas?*  
    
  We encourage organizations to move away from a purely project-based approach. We aim to support your ongoing work and long-term impact rather than continually pushing for the creation of new projects. While organizations may propose initiatives related to one or more of the focus areas, we prioritize efforts that contribute to sustained, ongoing work that aligns with the key focus areas rather than just individual projects.
* *What kinds of activities could be funded? E.g., in the thematic area of wealth, do you support economic justice work in all industries and sectors?*   
    
  A wide range of activities fit under this call to accommodate that strategies of groups are different. We are open to hear from groups which strategies they think are useful. In your application please explain what you want to do and how that contributes to building power for economic justice - in your logic. The call is not limited to specific sectors or industries.
* *Does the definition of care include caring for the planet? Can nature conservation projects or projects offering ecosystem services apply for funding?*   
    
  The definition of "care" in this program primarily focuses on people, but it can extend to include caring for the planet, especially in the context of environmental justice. While nature conservation projects or initiatives offering ecosystem services may not directly align with our focus areas, they can be considered if they connect to one of the key focus areas—Care, Technology, or Wealth—in a meaningful way. For instance, projects that address climate justice or promote sustainable practices through the lens of these themes could be eligible for funding.
* *Does the technology focus area also include work on how the concentration of power impacts inequality in the technology field?*  
    
  Yes! We are open to all strategies and activities that tackle the interaction of technology and inequality.
* *Is the economic inequality between women and men included in the topic of wealth? Is this program inclusive of LGBTQI+ / gender non-conforming persons in queerphobic contexts?*  
    
  The funding program does neither has focus on gender (in)equality nor is this theme excluded. If you work on gendered inequalities and can relate this to at least one of the three thematic fields (care, technology, wealth) you can apply. The program is open to applications from LGBTQI+ / gender non-conforming communities.
* *Do you refer to monetary/fiscal wealth only or are different aspects of wealth included? E.g. time wealth, which is highly related to socio-economic inequalities*.   
    
  Often the idea of wealth – particularly in the context of economic justice – is primarily monetary. We share the analysis implied in your questions, that there are other dimensions of wealth which are crucial for a good life and that these could be part of struggles for economic justice. If you have a different perspective on wealth please explain in your application.
* *Are there any subtopics or applications of the focus areas that are of* *particular qualification or interest?*  
    
  All the key interests are mentioned in the call. There are no additional focus areas or criteria. If so, they would be mentioned.
* *You mention that you prefer core funding to funding a specific project. Does this mean you’re looking to fund organizations that work exclusively to counter wealth inequality, or would you also support organizations who work more broadly and have a strand of work in this area?*  
    
  Organisations that have a broader scope and want to apply for funding for one aspect of their work are invited to apply.

## Coalition Building

* *How many organizations should form a coalition? Is there a limit on participants?*  
    
  To be a coalition there is a minimum of two. We have not defined a maximum so far. In our experience sharing a grant among a high number of organizations implies the need for a lot of coordination.
* *For grant eligibility, can an organization from a non-eligible region partner with a charitable organization from an eligible region submit a joint application?*  
    
  Yes, through a coalition application where the eligible region's charitable organization serves as the lead applicant. Your application must demonstrate genuine partnership and collaboration, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for both organizations. The partnership should extend beyond simple financial arrangements, documenting how both entities actively contribute to achieving set goals. A successful application will showcase authentic collaboration rather than a nominal arrangement solely to access funding.
* *Can a national organization form a coalition with a small grassroots organization?*   
    
  Yes. We encourage partnerships between organizations of different sizes, providing clear power-sharing mechanisms to ensure the meaningful involvement of smaller organizations in decision-making.
* *What if not all coalition members have economic justice in their charitable objectives? Does this mean other members (e.g., smaller organizations) cannot hold funds?*  
    
  Larger organizations can forward funds to smaller partners. In your application, detail your coalition's structure and fund distribution plan. We'll evaluate this within our legal framework.
* *Is a coalition eligible if their combined gross income totals €100,000?*  
    
  Yes, if your coalition has experience managing budgets of this size. Select "Yes" in the application form and explain your collective financial management experience.
* *If a coalition consists of organizations in different eligible regions, can it carry out activities in both (or more) of these regions?*  
    
  Yes, this is possible.
* *Would it be wiser and more recommendable to cooperate with organizations and actors that work in the same city/country or collaborate with partners located in different countries and/or regions?*  
    
  This depends on what you plan to do. There is no preference for local, national or international work as part of this call.
* *If some coalition members have previously received Bosch funding, are they still eligible?*  
    
  Previous funding from Robert Bosch Stiftung does not automatically disqualify a coalition from applying. However, the program team would need to assess whether this creates conflicts of interest or other issues that could impact the application's eligibility.

## Location

* *Are all European countries eligible?*  
    
  Yes. This includes countries without EU-membership like the UK and Switzerland.
* *Are organizations based in the Middle East, specifically Israel/Palestine and Syria, eligible to apply?*   
    
  Yes, organizations based in the Middle East region, including Israel/Palestine and Syria, are eligible to apply if they meet the other criteria outlined in the guidelines.
* *Are you funding organizations working at country level (= focusing on work in one country) or smaller than national level (e.g., city level)?*  
    
  Yes, we are funding organizations working at country level as well as organizations that work on local/ city level.
* *Does our organization have to be registered in the same country we work in to receive funding?*  
    
  No.
* *My organization is based in one eligible region (e.g., South-East Asia) but operates in a different eligible region (e.g., Sub-Saharan Africa). Under which region will my application be considered?*   
    
  Your application will be considered for the region your work targets. In the above example, this means Sub-Saharan Africa.
* *Would an organization that is based outside the target regions (e.g., in the US / North America), but that operates globally or regionally still be eligible to apply?*  
    
  Organizations registered outside of the target regions (Europe, Central/North Asia, Latin America, Africa, MENA) can apply if they represent or are part of a network working globally or across eligible regions. The key consideration is alignment with the program's scope and objectives.
* *Would an organization based in Germany, working locally in Germany, and collaborating internationally through an international coalition be eligible?*  
    
  Yes. We welcome applications combining domestic German work with international collaboration.
* *Question on the eligibility form: “Is your organization working as a global/regional network?” If we operate in multiple EU countries, that doesn’t necessarily qualify as a network, right?*  
    
  Please tick yes and explain.
* *Are you more interested in topic areas / issues from a global or local context? Are you focused on one particular global region?*  
    
  We are not focused on any particular region, beyond what is written down in the call with regards to eligibility. We do not prefer global activities to national ones but will assess the applications based on their overall quality. Also, all three topics are of equal interest.

## Legal Status

* *What do you mean by ”charitable aims related to economic justice”? Can you give us an example?*  
    
  The rules around charitable status vary widely between contexts. Important is that you hold a charitable status and that this allows you to work on issues of economic justice. This could be e.g. a goal around non-discrimination, social rights … If in doubt, please explain in your application what your charitable status is, whether it is limited to a specific field, and how that would impact your work under this grant.
* *Does “charitable purpose“ mean you must be registered as a charity? Or simply that your mandate reflects social interest good? So e.g., in Germany a gGmbH? Are social enterprises or non-profit collective businesses eligible? If the organization is a non-government organization, but non-charity, can it still apply?*  
    
  The rules around charitable status differ between countries. We look for organizations who have a charitable status at their core, so for example not for for-profit organizations, that want to fund a charitable activity. In the German context gGmbHs are eligible. Applicants should keep in mind that the aspect of community engagement and ways of involving marginalized communities to build their power are core elements of this program.
* *Are non-governmental organizations eligible when charitable aims refer to different things in different countries?*   
    
  Yes, charitable aims can differ in different countries. It is usually possible to find an equivalent charitable aim that matches a charitable aim in Germany (where the Robert Bosch Stiftung is based).
* *Can newly established organizations without registration still apply?*  
    
  Unregistered organizations can apply but must do so in partnership with a registered charitable entity. The registered organization would serve as the lead applicant. You could mention in your application that you are in the process of registering.
* *What is the eligibility of organizations registered as religious institutions?*   
    
  It depends on your church's legal status. We can fund churches that are legally recognized on an equal footing with public organizations. For private organizations, it would depend on their tax status and whether they are considered tax-exempt in the country of registration. If you are invited to Stage 2, please provide more detailed information about your church's legal status.
* *Is a (private) university with a non-profit status allegeable for this grant when its mission aligns with the grant’s goals?*  
    
  Depending on the context there may be differences between a non-profit and charitable status. From the information we have, you may well be eligible. Please feel free to apply and give a bit of context on your legal status.

## Budget

* *What exactly does “budget” mean? Are you speaking about an organization’s equity or turnover? Do you refer to the 2025 budget?*(The eligibility criterion of 100.000-3 million annual reflects careful consideration of multiple factors. With a small team, we prioritize building strong, long-term partnerships (2-5 years) with our grantees while supporting organizations led by those with lived experience of economic inequality. While this approach may limit access for smaller organizations, we encourage coalition-building with more significant partners. We're actively evaluating how to make future funding accessible to grassroots groups while maintaining meaningful support levels. This learning will inform our future grant-making strategies. For organizations with a budget much larger than 3 million the size of the grants provided through this call, becomes less significant with regards to their overall funding.)   
    
  With “budget” refer to the annual turnover of the last fiscal year of the organization. If your annual turnover was just below or just above this bracket, or used to be in this bracket and you just had an extra-ordinary last year with regards to your fiscal situation, please feel free to apply and explain your situation.
* *If the annual operational budget of our organization is around 1.5 million Euro (and annual income including donations and grants is around 10 million Euro) - are we still eligible for this grant?*  
    
  No. Or rather, what happens with the remaining 8.5 million? If you are e.g. a re-granter and collect the additional money to pass it on to smaller initiatives you may be eligible.
* *Does this mean that organizations which never received a fund for operational purposes are not eligible?*   
    
  The eligibility criteria do not exclude organizations based on their funding history. Your funding could also come from e.g. membership or you could have only had project funding so far. Applicants will be assessed on aligning their proposed initiatives with the program's goals around economic justice.
* *Is an organization that had a 100.000€ budget in the last 2-3 years, but is currently running on a budget of 50.000, eligible?*

Please apply and explain.

* *Are organizations with annual budgets slightly exceeding the €3 million limit eligible? Can they still apply as part of a coalition?*  
    
  The €3 million annual budget cap is a strict eligibility criterion. Unfortunately, organizations outside this range are not eligible to apply directly. However, they may be able to participate as partners in a coalition application led by an eligible organization.

## Other eligibility questions

* *Is it mandatory for the organization's leadership team to have "experiences of economic injustice"?*  
    
  It is wished for but optional.
* *We do not have key staff with lived experiences of economic injustice in our organization. Can we still apply?*  
    
  You can apply. But you should keep in mind that it is a focus of this grant program and of the team in general that as much of our funding as possible should reach groups affected by inequalities directly.
* *Are impact evaluations eligible in the funded activities?*  
    
  If you refer to evaluations of your own work as part of the overall costs, yes. If the main activity you seek funding for is an evaluation of other work the answer is no.
* *Could you elaborate on what counts towards pure research? Is it considered pure research, if we do produce a lot of research outputs to shape policy, e.g., policy input to stakeholders and capacity buildings?*  
    
  The focus on this program is on building power by and with groups affected by inequalities. Academic research can play a role in that. Please explain what the contribution of the research (and its various products) is to the goals of this funding program when you apply.
* *What if an organization previously received funding from the Robert Bosch Stiftung, but no longer?*  
    
  If you have received funding from the Robert Bosch Stiftung and its Inequality team in particular until recently, we do not encourage you to apply. This call is to find new partners. If you or a member of a coalition has had some funding from another team of Robert Bosch Stiftung earlier, please note that as part of your application.

# Application Process

* *Is the application form available in a Word document format?*  
    
  Yes, the application form is available in Word document format. You can request the Word form by emailing [**ejfunding@tsiconsultancy.com**](mailto:ejfunding@tsiconsultancy.com).
* *Is it just the application form we need to fill out for Stage 1 or do we need to hand in a separate proposal?*  
    
  You just need to fill out the application form.
* *One of the questions in the Stage 1 application is about what the applicant organization wishes to learn. Could you elaborate on that, since it seems quite broad?*  
    
  We are open to hearing from you what you want to learn from the activities you seek funding for through this call. What type of learning you seek will be very different from organization to organization.
* *Do all coalition members need to fill out the form at Stage 1 or is it enough to hand in one form by the lead organization?*  
    
  Please hand in one application form in total if you want to apply together as a coalition. You may provide an additional document with information on your partners if this is needed to better understand how you want to work together as a coalition and who your partners are.
* *The short time windows in the application process give larger organizations with more capacity an advantage. Do you have ways to balance this out?*   
    
  The application form for Stage 1 is very light. We hope everyone can fill it out in time. In Stage 2, we will ensure all applicants have at least four weeks to submit their applications. You can reach out to us for support!
* *How many applicants will be invited for Stage 2?*  
    
  We plan to invite 20 to 30 applicants to hand in their applications for Stage 2. From these Stage 2 applications, 8 will receive the funding.
* *Can an organization submit multiple applications (e.g. one individually and one as part of a coalition) at Stage 2?*  
    
  We do not encourage you to hand in several applications. We want to focus more on supporting organizations' ongoing work than specifically created projects. If you are selected for Stage 2, you should focus on one application for your organization or coalition.
* *Could you please give a rough estimate of the time required for the second stage detailed proposal? And further explain what you mean by the hands-on support being provided to applicants?*  
    
  For the second stage application we will use the general application of the Robert Bosch Stiftung, with maybe one additional questions. You can find more information on the application process here <https://www.bosch-stiftung.de/en/support-and-documents-project-partners>. Information that you have already provided in stage 1 will be used in stage 2. You will need to provide finance plan for the proposed activities and you will need to provide documents on your legal status etc. The support provided will consist of calls with the team at the foundation to guide you through the process.
* *Can the project already have started at the time of submitting the application?*  
    
  We are prioritizing funding for organizations’ on-going works and their development (core funding) over providing funding for specific projects. If you want to continue ongoing work, this is possible.
* *Can you give some examples of the "accessibility support" you can provide during the application process?*  
    
  This depends on your needs. It may be interpretation, the use of easier English / German or transcription.

# Funding Details

* *What does the program of the funding period look like after approval? Are there other forms of support, such as training, organizational development, coaching, network meetings?*  
    
  Currently planned is an in-person kick-off meeting with all new partners, potentially some existing partners of the foundation and members of the jury. This will also be used to understand how the groups can best be supported beyond their individual grants.
* *What kind of measurements and evaluations are designed as part of this fund, and are there interim reporting periods to address the progress of the project’s objectives? Or rather, what amount of agency do the beneficiary organizations have in co-designing the indicators?*  
    
  For your planned activities you will have full ownership over the evaluation. You will be asked to contribute to the overall learning interests of the team at the Robert Bosch Stiftung. For the development of its strategy and Monitoring, evaluation and learning framework, the inequality team regularly consults with its partners. If you become a partner, you will be invited to contribute to the continuous development of that framework and to capturing learnings.
* *Why is the grant size so high for such few funded projects? Why did you decide against funding more projects with smaller grant sizes? This would enable organizations with a smaller annual budget to apply as well.*  
    
  Our grant size and structure reflect careful consideration of multiple factors. With a small team, we prioritize building strong, long-term partnerships (2-5 years) with our grantees while supporting organizations led by those with lived experience of economic inequality. While this approach may limit access for smaller organizations, we encourage coalition-building with more significant partners. We're actively evaluating how to make future funding accessible to grassroots groups while maintaining meaningful support levels. This learning will inform our future grant-making strategies.
* *Is the grant size different for each organization?*  
    
  This is not clear yet and depends on the applications selected. We currently assume that yes, there will be grants of different sizes.
* *If our organization is selected, from which date can we allocate costs to the grant? Is it from the notification date, the start of the funding period, or another specific date?*   
    
  You can start to allocate costs to the grant from the start of the funding period. We estimate that the earliest date by which the contract has been concluded is ca. in May 2025. It may be later, in particular if the number of applications is very high and we will need more time to review.
* *If our organization is awarded funds, how do we account for those funds?*  
    
  Some general information for grants by the Robert Bosch Stiftung can be found here <https://www.bosch-stiftung.de/en/support-and-documents-project-partners>. It also depends on the type of contract awarded and that in turn depends on your legal status and the activities you want to pursue.
* *What is meant by “Grants that can be used for organizations’ ongoing work and learning, organizational development and wellbeing”?*   
    
  It means you do not have to apply with a new project, but you could apply for funding for organizational development or strategy processes, team retreats, supervision etc.
* *Can you explain what you mean by “technical infrastructure” that cannot be funded?*  
    
  We cannot fund the construction of new buildings or other significant investments.   
  We usually fund smaller investments that make up a share of the budget.   
  IT equipment or digital products can be eligible if they are required to support your charitable aims for your proposed work. Their costs are not included in the 20% overhead for running infrastructure costs.
* *Are staff costs limited in the total funding?*  
    
  There is no limit on staff costs for staff that is directly implementing the activities. You are welcome to include the necessary staff costs as one of the main budget lines in your application. If the amount is considerable, please briefly explain on the application form. Indirect staff will count into the 20% overhead.
* *Do we need to prepare an external auditor for the grant application?*  
    
  No, we do not require an external audit for the application process or the grant reporting.
* *Is co-funding possible while project designing? Would it be possible to include another funder to implement the project so that making a bigger project or for another reason?*  
    
  Yes, you can combine our funding with other sources. However, remember that our grants support your organization's overall work and development rather than specific projects. Any additional funding should align with this core funding approach.
* *What are the co-funding requirements for this grant?*  
    
  There are no mandatory co-funding requirements. While we welcome applicants with additional funding sources, this is not a criterion for selection. Your application should note any existing or planned funding.
* *What if an organization is currently receiving funding from a grant that is co-funded by the Robert Bosch Stiftung?*  
    
  Please make a note of that in your proposal.
* *Is re-granting permitted?*  
    
  Yes.
* *Was unrestricted funding considered for this call?*  
    
  The Robert Bosch Stiftung seeks to fund with trust and flexibility. Even if you need to explain what you want to use the funds for, there are many ways in which you are flexible in the final spending. This will be explained in more detail if you are invited to submit an application in stage 2.

# Selection Criteria & Jury

* *Will the eight proposals be selected considering the different eligible regions? For example, will one project be selected for each region?*  
    
  No, we don't have regional quotas. However, given the context of our foundation, we aim to fund at least one organization active in Germany.
* *Does the Jury include people with lived experience? Are they independent advisors?*  
    
  Yes. The jury was selected to include both subject matter experts and individuals with direct experience of economic injustice. Their profiles will be published after the application deadline to maintain neutrality during selection.
* *Why can we not see the profiles of the jury?*  
    
  We will publish their profiles after the application deadline~~,~~ so that they are not contacted and can remain neutral throughout the selection process.
* *Can you share further details on the scoring matrix you will use to rank applications? How will the proposals be assessed at Stage 1? Can you give further insights on the selections criteria the jury is using?*  
    
  The scoring matrix largely reflects the questions in stage 1. They cover aspects such as relevance to the key focus areas of the call and the commitment to tackling structural economic injustices, the inclusion / representation of groups with lived experiences of inequality/ underrepresented communities, whether there is an intersectional approach, the proposed activities seem feasible and what learning interests speak from the proposal.
* *Will collaboration with an organization from the Bosch* [*International Alumni Center*](https://www.iac-berlin.org/) *be a benefit?*   
    
  No, this will not influence the selection process.
* *Will you assess the work of an organization as a whole or a particular project?*  
    
  As we seek to fund organizations rather than projects, we will focus on the work of the organization(s) as a whole.

# Other

* *How do you define “marginalized communities”? Do you consider minorities marginalized communities?*  
    
  Yes. Marginalization is different in varying contexts. Examples of marginalized communities are mentioned in the call for applications and the application form. If you think it may not be commonly known that a group is marginalized, please share with us what we need to know in your proposal.
* *What’s the fund’s understanding of how change is made? E.g., are there particular approaches to change that you are interested in (campaigning, community organizing, service delivery etc.)?*

With the exception of service delivery, which is mentioned under what we do not fund, all those activities can make a contribution to change. We’re interested to learn from you how you think change can happen and what contribution you want to make to that change.