MENA Common Ground Institute Small Grants Call for Proposals: Tunisian and Egyptian Civil Society Scheme

Background
Four years after the Arab uprisings led to radical political change across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), many societies continue to grapple with insecurity, fluid transitions and aggravated identity politics. Dialogue plays a crucial role in countries undergoing a transition towards democracy and it is much needed now more than ever before.

Building on its 23 years of experience working in the MENA region and 33 years worldwide with a physical presence in 35 countries including 6 countries in MENA, Search for Common Ground (SFCG) engages at this critical time by initiating the MENA Common Ground Institute (CGI).

The MENA CGI is a regional initiative to enhance dialogue quality in the MENA region, with the overall goal to foster collaborative dialogue on local, regional and national levels in the region. In order to achieve this goal, MENA CGI aims at building the capacity of a new generation of Arabic-speaking dialogue design and dialogue facilitation experts; supporting dialogue initiatives and raising their acceptance by communities, unions, civil society, media and local governments; and researching, celebrating and rewarding best dialogue practices.

MENA CGI has commenced its operations in January 2015 with a one-year pilot project “Promoting Dialogues” targeting civil society organizations in Tunisia and Egypt. In the framework of this pilot initiative, MENA CGI will first enhance the skills of local civil society organizations in convening and designing effective community facilitation and dialogue processes. In the first round of the accredited online dialogue facilitation training (March – April, 2015) offered by Soliya, MENA CGI has already engaged with more than 16 civil society organizations in Tunisia and Egypt.

In addition, MENA CGI will support local organizations to implement community dialogue initiatives in their communities. MENA CGI will also empower academic fellows to expand the field of conflict resolution and dialogue in the MENA region. Finally, MENA CGI in partnership with Soliya will produce and disseminate a Dialogue Facilitation Training Manual in Arabic in order to secure a wider reach and replicability throughout the region.

About the Call
MENA CGI is launching a call for small grants targeting civil society organizations in Tunisia and Egypt to design and implement dialogue projects on the local and national levels. The overall objective of the call is to support local organizations to implement dialogue initiatives in their communities. In order to
raise acceptance of dialogue processes by local community members, civil society, media and local governments, projects should involve multiple stakeholders.

Projects funded in the framework of this call may focus on diverse topics of local importance including but not limited to peacebuilding and conflict resolution, countering violent extremism, civic participation, democratic transition, gender advocacy, sustainable development, and social entrepreneurship. Most importantly, projects should focus on promoting and enhancing the quality of dialogue while demonstrating how dialogue can be effectively used in addressing local/national issues. Proposals should highlight innovation in the promotion of dialogue and mention the indicators of the project’s success in the application form.

In addition to the financial grant, the awarded organizations in the framework of this call will receive a specialized training workshop on designing dialogue processes.

**Grant Size**
Minimum: $ 5,000 USD
Maximum: $ 7,500 USD

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<th>Budgetary remarks:</th>
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<td>a) Human resources budget line should be reasonable and proportionate to the project activities.</td>
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<td>b) An overhead/indirect cost is allowed up to 7% of the direct cost.</td>
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**Duration**
The implementation period for the project should be minimum 1 month and maximum 3 months. Project implementation should start 1 June and finish by 31 August at the latest.

**Eligibility**
- Applicant organization must be a legal entity registered in Tunisia or Egypt.
- Proposals could be for projects and initiatives to be implemented for the first time or for a pre-existing and ongoing project or initiative that matches the call objectives.
- Proposals should be complete and respect the designated templates. In case of incomplete proposals, false information, or using other templates, applications will be ineligible and excluded by the MENA CGI evaluation committee.

**Submission**
Civil society organizations in Egypt and Tunisia should complete the application form and budget templates and send them by email to menacgi@sfcg.org. They should indicate in the subject email “MENA CGI Call for Project Proposals”.

Deadline for receiving proposals is **11 May, 2015**.

For more information and/or queries, please send an email to menacgi@sfcg.org.