

# RESISTIRÉ Project

## RESponding to outbreakS through co-creaTive inclusive equality stRatEgies

PILOT PROJECT

# GREEN SPACES AS ECOSYSTEM OF CARE

Call for proposals



## Guidelines for Applicants



## ABOUT RESISTIRÉ: Objectives and Conceptual Framework

RESISTIRÉ (Responding to outbreaks through co-creative inclusive equality strategies and collaboration) is a two-year project funded by EU Horizon 2020, designed to advance the understanding of gender and other inequalities caused by policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The objectives of RESISTIRÉ are:

- 1) To understand through qualitative and quantitative research the impact of policy responses to COVID-19 on behavioural, social and economic inequalities in the EU27, Serbia, Turkey and the UK
- 2) To develop and promote policy solutions that can be adopted by policy makers
- 3) To co-create innovative solutions that can be implemented by stakeholders and actors in different sectors to reduce inequalities.

These **Guidelines for Applicants** were conceived in the context of objective no 3.

The conceptual framework of RESISTIRÉ is informed by an **intersectionality** and **gender+** approach.

The term intersectionality describes how different inequality grounds, such as ethnicity, social class, age, gender, sexual orientation and other individual characteristics, intersect with each other and overlap<sup>1</sup>. The result of this interaction is the generation of new and different forms of inequalities<sup>2</sup>. Gender is probably the most universal inequality ground (women make up 51% of world's population)<sup>3</sup>. The gender+ approach focuses on how this specific inequality ground intersects with other inequalities<sup>4</sup>, recognising that women are not a homogeneous group and that "other axes of inequality always intersect gender"<sup>5</sup>.

After collecting and analysing policy responses and related data from a gender+ perspective (objective 1), the project worked to translate them into operational insights and co-created solutions, to mitigate the negative and unequal impacts of COVID-19 (objective 2).

This was accomplished through a co-creation phase consisting of an action-oriented analysis carried out by researchers and civil society stakeholders working together in **Open studios**. Open Studios are a technique developed to design policies and innovative solutions in a participatory way that brings together different expertise and participants' experience<sup>6</sup>. During Open Studios, participants analyse the current situation and depict possible improved scenarios, thereby co-creating 'better

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<sup>1</sup> CRENSHAW, Kimberly (1989) Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics. University of Chicago Legal Forum 140: 139–67.

<sup>2</sup> VERLOO, M. (2013) Intersectional and cross-movement politics and policies Signs 38(4), 893–915.

<sup>3</sup>BUSTELO, María (2015) Evaluation from a gender+ perspective as a key element for (re)gendering the policymaking process. Journal of Women, Politics and Policy. Special issue in Policy Making.

<sup>4</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>5</sup> This inequality ground probably the most universal one (women make up 51% of world's population).

LOMBARDO, E., MEIER, P., & VERLOO, M. (2017) Policymaking from a gender+ equality perspective. Journal of Women, Politics & Policy, 38(1), 1-19.

<sup>6</sup> BOYER B., COOK J., STEINBERG M. (2011) In Studio: Recipes for Systemic Change, Helsinki Design Lab

stories'. The 'better stories' identify how a given (negative) social situation can be improved. They serve to inspire and form the basis for the development of more concrete actions, such as pilot projects.

## RESISTIRÉ OPEN CALLS FOR PILOT PROJECTS

The innovative solutions identified in Open studios have been transformed into a series of **pilot project concepts**, valued as potentially effective in reducing gender+ inequalities in specific domains. In addition, these projects are thought to strengthen small-scale resilience in response to current and future pandemics.

RESISTIRÉ intends to apply and develop these pilot projects by involving civil society organizations, through the launch of a series of calls for proposals (objective 3). Organisations selected under these calls will be asked to use the allocated funding to contribute their expertise and demonstrate the effectiveness of the developed innovative solutions.

In this regard, these Guidelines for Applicants detail information on the pilot project entitled **GREEN SPACES AS ECOSYSTEM OF CARE**. The Guidelines also provide directions on how to structure and submit an application, information on eligibility and evaluation criteria.

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

### Background

The COVID-19 pandemic confirmed the contribution that green spaces make to the wellbeing of those living in residential communities. At the same time, it also highlighted how access to green spaces is conditioned by multiple intersecting inequality factors, such as gender, social class, socioeconomic status and ethnicity.

Moreover, although a green space is a positive element that all members of the surrounding community are theoretically able to enjoy, it may at the same time attract some people but exclude those who do not perceive the area as a place that can meet their needs.

A green space consists of "hardware" - the green space itself and all its structures including public furniture, sports facilities, etc - but also of "software", which represents the different ways in which the space is used.

This project idea puts the focus on the software side of green spaces, more specifically the programming of the use of the different areas of the space, of the different infrastructures available, the timing of the use and who is using the space.

By focusing on the software side, different programmes could be implemented and adapted in a participatory way, considering the needs of all and especially of vulnerable groups in the area.

The programmes could promote inclusiveness and contribute to developing the green space as an 'Ecosystem of Care', which can be seen as an expansion of the 'home realm'. There, problems and care needs can be addressed outside the home with the help of the community.

In this context, the term 'Ecosystem of Care' includes not only the care of the individual, but recognises and cares for groups that are typically discouraged from frequenting green spaces. An 'Ecosystem of Care' also addresses the natural inhabitants of green spaces and embraces the need to protect wildlife. Finally, it also refers to democratic care and conflict resolution.

The utilisation of green spaces as 'Ecosystems of Care' enables the modification and evolution of these spaces, and ensures that the purposes of green spaces can change with the needs of surrounding and connected user groups.

### Description of the pilot project

#### Objective(s) of the pilot project

The overall objective of this pilot project is to transform green spaces into an 'Ecosystem of Care' through the development and implementation of programmes that make all users, and in particular vulnerable groups (from a gender+ perspective), feel welcome and able to access green spaces.

More specifically, the pilot project has three main specific objectives.

1. For one specific green space: to **identify** the diverse community members who could use them, and to identify their respective needs;
2. To **formulate an agenda/plan**, based on the above findings, that provides a clear programme of activities for the local community, especially people from vulnerable groups;
3. To **implement, communicate and evaluate** this plan to assess its strengths and weaknesses, measure the increased use by vulnerable groups, as well as capture feedback from community members.

#### Description of the pilot project, including suggested approach

To more adequately engage communities around a green space, the green space should be programmed to a degree that attracts various groups of people, but does not exclude potential users either. This call is issued to social organisations experienced in contacting, working, and interacting with all kinds of people and (their) local communities, especially those in vulnerable groups. The organisation should be able to organise regular activities in a particular green space. These activities would transform the green space into a welcome and inclusive area. Particular attention should be paid to the role of care in this process: one of the ways in which this project tries to create more inclusive green spaces, is to address the issues people are facing in a collective and holistic way, thereby creating a caring environment and strengthening local ties and solidarity. The project should make use of a participatory approach, meaning that the programming should

be inspired by and based on the involvement and contributions of local communities and users of the space.

The expected tasks are as follows (organised by objective):

1. To **identify** a green space and its users:
  - a. To **find** a suitable green space and a municipality that is willing to allow the project to take place;
  - b. To **conduct research** into the demographic make-up of (potential) users of the identified green space and to pinpoint the needs, wants and interests of these (potential) users. Special attention should be paid to overlapping and conflicting needs, and strategies should be developed to resolve any conflicts that could arise.
  - c. **Building alliances of care** within and through the green space that connect people from diverse backgrounds with each other and promote solidarity and mutual aid. This is done by identifying suitable organisations and (potential) community organisers who can incorporate the green space into their activities and by connecting them with each other (i.e., schools, clubs, associations, local companies, etc.)
2. To **program** a selected green space by:
  - a. **Developing and publishing a programme** that lays out an agenda of activities for the green space (comparable with programmes of, i.e., cultural institutions) and takes into account the existing uses and users, as well as the various care needs of a more diverse group of users, especially those of vulnerable groups. This should be done through a bottom-up approach that involves local organisations, individuals, and other actors. Care should be taken to allow for “silent” areas that are not actively programmed, so that people can still enjoy calmer environments;
3. To **carry out the programme** by:
  - a. **Setting up a “board”** of users (or equivalent governance) that meets regularly to discuss and formally approve the programme in a democratic manner. Potential members of the board are identified from the alliances of care set up in the previous steps.
  - b. **Implementing** the programme by engaging the aforementioned local organisations, individuals, and other actors, **carrying out the minor structural interventions** needed to accommodate all kinds of users.
  - c. [In parallel with b.] **Stimulating the use** of the green space by launching a **promotion campaign** to communicate the existence and benefits of the programme to (potential) users in the vicinity of the green space;
  - d. **Final reporting on** the practical implementation of the programme to identify the increased use of the space and by whom, the overall effectiveness, potential areas that could be improved, and problems to be solved.

Required outcomes

1. A programme of green space activities is provided, able to attract a diverse range of users from the local community,
2. Vulnerable groups (from a gender+ perspective) are specifically targeted and involved in the programming of the space and in the creation of new social networks.
3. The surrounding areas are positively affected in terms of inclusiveness, participation, collaboration and solidarity. The local community is reinforced and durable social networks are built.

### Territorial scope

Due to the limited timeframe and budget allocated to this action, the pilot project should be implemented at the **local (municipality) level in one of the eligible countries** (EU27+ UK, Serbia, Iceland, and Turkey).

### Timeframe of the project

The pilot project should be started in February 2022 and the foreseen end is August 2022. It is required that the actual realisation of the programme last no less than three/four months. A general work schedule for the implementation of the project could be organised as follows:

#### Months 1 to 3 / February, March and April

- Carry out research on the demographic composition of (potential) users
- Build alliances of care
- Set up a “board” of users
- Develop and publish a programme
- Launch the promotion campaign

#### Months 4 to 7 / May, June, July and August

- Implement the programme
- Continuously update the promotional campaign
- Monitor activities internally

#### Months 8 / September

- Final reporting

Applicant organisations will be asked to provide a detailed work schedule of activities.

### Risks and how to mitigate them

Alongside the risks listed below, the selected organisation can identify and point to others during the course of the project, and provide relevant mitigation strategies where capable.

Risks:

1. The need to cooperate with a municipality or other green space owner entails some risks. A municipality can ‘change its mind’ and decide to stop cooperating. On the other hand, it can also get too involved in the project, trying to interfere with what should be a bottom-up approach. To avoid situations like this, a clear (written) agreement with conditions should be negotiated and signed by both parties within the first month of project implementation.
2. The selected organisation should avoid getting involved in the concrete organisation of the planned activities themselves, but should stick to its programming responsibility. The activities should be carried out by users and other organisations who express interest in being involved in the project (identified through the alliances of care), i.e., schools, local sports facilities, (small) businesses, families, associations, informal groups. Clear boundaries on what tasks the organisation will and will not be involved in should be communicated to these interested parties.
3. Conflicts over green space use with existing users and/or uses. Again, making sure that local organisations and communities are involved is crucial, so as to avoid and/or resolve any conflicting views on how areas of the green space should be programmed and utilised.

## WHO CAN APPLY AND WHAT EXPERTISE IS REQUIRED

Eligible applicants are non-governmental organizations, associations from civil society and municipalities involved in the field of urban environmental justice, socio-cultural activities and cohesion, gender and women’s rights, human rights, etc. The proposed programming could be carried out by an NGO active in the care of one or more vulnerable groups, but in cooperation with other organisations representing vulnerable groups, nature and art (like a cultural/arts organisation, an environmental organisation, a sports club, a feminist organisation, etc.).

They are expected to have collaborations established with other entities that might contribute to develop the project and/or facilitate contacts with the target groups (contact with municipality, with local residents, with vulnerable groups, etc).

Under this call, applicants are required to have documented and proven experience in the implementation of projects in partnership with public bodies, in particular with municipalities. Alternatively, it may submit its application after having set up a partnership agreement temporary business association with the municipality. In any case, it must also submit a letter of support from the local authority in whose jurisdiction the green space identified for the project falls.

Besides, the selected organisation must have extensive community and professional networks in place and be familiar with the principles and practical issues of budgeting, as they would be in charge of allocating funding to the different programmed activities. The organisation in question would manage the programming by approaching other local organisations or even individuals for ideas on how to fill the green space’s programmes and for the practical execution of these ideas. The managing NGO must not dictate all activities or how every area of the green space is utilised themselves, but should act as a facilitator and mentor. They are, however, also required to explicitly focus on ensuring diversity and inclusion, in terms of gender equality, LGBTQIA+,

refugees/migrants, people with a disability, etc. In addition, care must be taken to make sure that all programming remains environmentally sustainable and friendly towards all species in the green space. This needs to be supervised by the organisation as a condition for continued funding.

## HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this call, organisations are invited to use the Application Form for Technical Proposals available on the RESISTIRÉ website.

Applications should be submitted no later than the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January at 12PM, using the submission button on the project website: <https://resistire-project.eu/call-for-pilot-projects/pilot-project-2/>.

Applications must be submitted in English.

## EVALUATION PROCESS

Financial support will be awarded to successful applicants following an open and transparent selection process based on the assessment by a panel of researchers and experts from the RESISTIRÉ consortium.

The basic guarantees of transparency are in the application of the following:

- Publicly disclosed selection criteria for applications
- A documented process of selection through equitable, written assessment of applications against the relevant selection criteria, with reasons provided for decisions to assign funds or not to assign them.

The main evaluation criteria will be related to

- a. Alignment with the RESISTIRE objectives and conceptual framework
- b. Alignment with the pilot project objectives
- c. Conformity with the expected outcomes
- d. Description of the pilot project innovation
- e. Scalability and replicability
- f. Justification of the proposed budget
- g. Previous experience of the applicant

For each evaluation criterion, a score from 1 to 5 will be given, except for a) and g), where the score will range from 1 to 10. Following these criteria, the maximum score that can be awarded to proposals will be 45. Proposals scoring below 20 will not be considered eligible for funding.

The three organisations obtaining the highest score will be entered in a shortlist and admitted to the next selection phase. The communication to the shortlisted organisations will be given by email. In case one or more applicants withdraw, those with the higher scores immediately following them will enter the shortlist.

Ultimately, the final selection of one or possibly two successful applicants for the pilot project will be based on written documents, and also complemented by an online Questions & Answer (Q&A)



session between the candidates and the RESISTIRÉ jury panel.

## EXTERNAL MONITORING PROCESS

Throughout the project implementation, the candidate will be asked to participate in periodic meetings for the monitoring and evaluation process (to be communicated afterwards).

## BUDGET AVAILABLE AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

### Budget available

The total maximum available grant for the project will be 40,000 euros. The grant may be divided and awarded to up to two separate applications.

### Financial Conditions

Funding is provided exclusively to meet the costs incurred by the specific project and may not be used to meet costs on another separate project or activity. Any commitment incurred before the grant starting date or any commitment in excess of the amount awarded, is the responsibility of the applicant.

**The maximum grant amount set out in the agreed final budget can NOT be exceeded.** The maximum grant amount of the application is calculated on the estimated and justified eligible costs submitted by the applicants to implement the pilot project. Only justified eligible costs may be used to determine the maximum grant amount.

Payment will be limited to the actual costs within the maximum grant amount set out in the agreed final budget. All costs associated with the project must be itemised and fully justified in the appropriate section F. of the Application Form. ESF, on behalf of the RESISTIRE project, reserves the right to examine, in detail, all items of expenditure charged to an award.

The main categories of costs which can be funded by this grant are indicated in Annex 1.

All costs should be included in EUROS (€).

### Payment Conditions

The contract will be a lump sum one. The Grant Agreement will be signed with one organisation only, who will exclusively receive payments, according to the following schedule:

- 33% upon signing of the Grant Agreement
- 34% upon submission of the programme
- 33% upon approval of the final report

## TIMEFRAME OF THE CALL

The timing of the present call for proposals is summarised in the following timetable.

Launch the call	1 <sup>st</sup> of December 2021
Deadline for applications	23 <sup>rd</sup> of January 2022
Selection of a shortlist of applicants	From 24 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> of January
Communication to the shortlisted applicants	28 <sup>th</sup> of January
Online Question and Answer session	From 1 <sup>st</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> of February
Notification to awarded applicants	5 <sup>th</sup> of February
Grant Agreement sent to applicants for signature	6 <sup>th</sup> of February
Start date	14 <sup>th</sup> of February 2022

## SUPPORT FOR APPLICANTS

The RESISTIRÉ consortium maintains a frequently asked questions (FAQs) section available on the project website: <https://resistire-project.eu/pilots-faq/>. It will be updated on a week basis through the duration of the call. The answers that you cannot find in the FAQs section can be submitted by contacting [aglietti@knowledge-innovation.org](mailto:aglietti@knowledge-innovation.org), [marina.cacace@knowledge-innovation.org](mailto:marina.cacace@knowledge-innovation.org).

## AWARDING ORGANISATION

### Administrative duties

The administrative tasks for the selected applicant, including activity reporting and related documents will be provided during the negotiation and contracting phase.

The selected applicant will be requested to sign a Grant Agreement, after providing appropriate documentation to prove the following:

- Legal existence: Deed or Articles of Association (corporate statutes)
- Legal representative: Copy of Power of attorney document (if applicable), National Identity Card
- Tax Agency Documentation to evidence the fulfilment of tax obligations
- Certificate of up-to-date Social Security payments to evidence the fulfilment of obligations
- Financial statements: P&L, Balance sheets (from the previous year). In the case that it is the first year of activity, it will not be asked any further information
- Bank Account information: IBAN & SWIFT code (if applicable).

### Obligations of beneficiaries

Successful applicants formally accept the following conditions in case of being awarded as the beneficiary of the present call:

- Beneficiaries accept their responsibility for the accuracy and veracity of data and documents submitted for proving the fulfilment of the eligibility criteria when submitting their applications
- Beneficiaries will provide documentary evidence proving the provision of services
- Beneficiaries are obliged to store the documents for external audit purposes until January 2026 either on paper or electronic version
- Beneficiaries will make references to public funding from the EU, including suitable logos, and EU flag
- Beneficiaries will include references to the RESISTIRÉ project and specifically show that funding is 100% under European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme - Grant Agreement No. 101015990
- Beneficiaries will cooperate with and participate in monitoring and evaluation activities on the implemented pilot action that will be carried out by the RESISTIRÉ project team.

If negotiation with the first applicant of the list eventually fails, negotiation will be initiated with the subsequent applicant(s).

After the contract has been signed, a kick-off meeting with the beneficiary organisation will be scheduled to define the detailed planning and work plan of the pilot project implementation, as well as obligations connected to monitoring and evaluation from the RESISTIRÉ project.

## ANNEX 1

### FUNDED COST CATEGORIES

#### 1) Directly Incurred Costs

‘Eligible costs’ are costs that meet the following criteria:

(i) for actual costs:

1. they must be actually incurred by the applicant or their partner organisations;
2. they must be incurred during the pilot project period,
3. they must be incurred in connection with the selected project and necessary for its implementation;
4. they must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular recorded in the applicants accounts in accordance with the accounting standards applicable in the country where the project is implemented and with the applicants usual cost accounting practices;
5. they must comply with the applicable national law on taxes, labour and social security, and
6. they must be reasonable, justified and must comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency.

(ii) for unit costs:

1. they must be calculated in consistency with the applicants’ usual practice, by dividing the full annual cost by the total number of productive units and
2. the number of actual units must comply with the following conditions:
  - a. the units must be actually used or produced during the project period;
  - b. the units must be necessary for implementing the action or produced by it; and
  - c. the number of units must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular supported by records and documentation.

#### Direct Personnel costs

Payroll costs for staff, full or part-time, who will work on the project during the life of the project e.g. employees in local organisations, and/or individuals, and/or other actors in charge of the programme implementation.

In particular this includes:

- costs for employees (or equivalent)
- costs for individuals working under a direct contract
- costs for beneficiaries that are individuals without salary.

Personnel costs are eligible, if they are related to personnel working for the beneficiary under an employment contract or equivalent appointing act, and assigned to the action. Their cost is limited to the share of their time spent on the project.

Exceptional payroll items such bonus, gift vouchers etc. are not eligible.

### Travel and subsistence

Funds for travel and subsistence are not eligible.

### Consumables

The inclusion of consumables is permissible if proportionate to the workplan and is justified as providing clear benefit to the project (e.g. public awareness campaigns)

### **2) Indirect Costs**

Indirect costs are not allowable costs.

Indirect costs are described as non-specific costs, such as overheads.

### **3) Other costs**

Direct costs of subcontracting (including related duties, taxes and charges such as non-deductible value added tax (VAT) paid by the beneficiary) are deemed to be eligible.