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Turkish-German Climate Cooperation: Strengthening Civil Society for Climate Change Action

APPLICATION GUIDELINE

(EUR 50,000 – EUR 110,000)

March 2025

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Background

The *Turkish-German Climate Cooperation: Strengthening Civil Society for Climate Change Action* is a grant scheme funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) on behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office through the *Climate Diplomacy Action Programme (CDAP)*. CDAP supports the Federal Foreign Office in the implementation of German foreign climate policy and accompanies Germany's climate policy cooperation with its partner countries. It is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, a German federal enterprise and service provider in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development and international education work.

The grant scheme “Turkish-German Climate Cooperation: Strengthening Civil Society for Climate Change Action” supports civil society actors to promote energy transition in Türkiye and strengthens climate cooperation beyond the national governments between Türkiye and Germany, reflecting the close links that exists at multiple levels between both countries. Germany and Türkiye are both committed to the Paris Agreement and acknowledge the importance of driving change across all levels to reach the Paris targets - individual, institutional, and systemic. By raising awareness, promoting more ambitious climate policies, and bridging the gap between stakeholders, civil society - especially universities, think tanks, and NGOs - plays a critical role in combating climate change. The collaboration between German and Turkish NGOs can foster partnerships that leverage shared expertise and resources. These partnerships will enable the exchange of best practices, enhance capacity building, strengthen the overall impact of civil society efforts, and advance climate cooperation between both countries.

Objectives and Modalities

Within the scope of the project, GIZ's 'call for concept notes' aims to support registered NGOs based in Türkiye that seek collaboration with German NGOs to support energy transition in Türkiye and foster mutual learning.¹

Priority will be given to projects providing the following activities:

- Research & Publications
- Participatory communication strategies throughout transition processes
- Network Building, roundtables & workshops, innovative formats
- Co-creation workshops with relevant stakeholders
- Up-scaling of ongoing activities related to the themes

Applicants are strongly encouraged to consider the environmental impact of their activities in their concept notes and throughout the implementation period.

The concept notes must propose potential activities aimed at fostering **collaboration between Turkish and German civil society organizations**. This could include expert roundtables, thematic conferences, joint workshops, networking events, or other formats that encourage exchange and cooperation. GIZ expects organizations to submit their proposals, outlining their suggested activities for collaboration in **Annex 1, Concept Note Template, Section 4**.

¹ A German implementing organization will be contracted and tasked with networking and collaboration between Germany and Türkiye.

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Gender Mainstreaming

The International Climate Initiative (IKI) promotes gender justice by promoting gender-responsive approaches, requiring gender-responsive project planning as a minimum standard for implementing organizations. Accordingly, IKI projects incorporate concrete measures to eliminate gender-based discrimination and inequalities, ensuring that gender dynamics are deliberately considered to enhance climate action (for further information: <https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/about-iki/values-responsibility/gender/>). Concept notes have to demonstrate a significant commitment to gender-responsive design and implementation.

Themes to be funded

Applications will be received for the following thematic areas 1) Energy Transition and Ambitious NDCs, 2) Just Transition and 3) Inclusive decision making in energy transition

1) Energy Transition and ambitious NDCs

The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) detail each country's climate targets under the Paris Agreement. Reducing carbon emissions, improving energy security and independence, fostering sustainable economic growth and healthy environments all require an energy transition away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy and energy efficiency. Türkiye aims to quadruple its existing renewable energy capacity, reduce energy intensity by 35%, and integrate renewable energy technologies into the national energy system as part of its short- and medium-term targets set for 2030 and 2035 according to the Long-term Strategy announced at COP 29. Under the scope of the project, activities will be supported which increase climate ambition by informing the debate around the updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in relation with the Energy Transition.

2) Just Transition

By supporting the workers and communities that may be affected, a just transition ensures that the move to a net zero economy is equitable and inclusive. It can be characterized as transition management that ensures equitable outcomes for all stakeholders and that no one is left behind. This strategy is essential as it addresses potential socioeconomic inequalities arising from the energy transition. By prioritizing social justice, it minimizes economic disruptions, ensures support for vulnerable communities, and strengthens public backing for climate policies. Proposed activities should focus on creating inclusive and equitable energy transition plans, ensuring that no one is excluded or left behind. This funding theme is centred around extensive stakeholder engagement, initiatives to build the capacity of affected communities, and the development of policies that promote economic diversification.

3) Inclusive Decision Making in Energy Transition

Inclusive decision making is essential for energy transition strategies to obtain widespread support and avoid backlash. Involving all relevant parties in the decision-making process, such as communities, businesses, and civil society, guarantees that a range of viewpoints and needs are taken into account. Without such inclusivity, there is a higher risk of backlash from groups who feel excluded or negatively impacted, potentially slowing down progress. Within the scope of the project, activities should aim to increase social acceptance, propose strategies for inclusive governance of the energy transition and promote among stakeholders a fair, equitable and sustainable transition to renewable energy sources.

Example of Target Groups for Activities

- Research & Publications: Researchers, academics, policy analysts and wider public (engaging with the public, communities, and non-academic stakeholders to make research and knowledge more accessible)
- Participatory communication strategies: Various audiences in public (e.g. youth, general public, local community located in certain province/ area subjected to energy transition)

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- Network Building, roundtables & workshops, innovative formats: Civil Society Organizations, NGOs, private sector and community leaders located in certain province/area subjected to energy transition
- Co-creation workshops with relevant stakeholders: Government Officials (national or provincial level), private sector, business associations, profession organizations, unions, chambers Community Representatives, and NGO Partners, various segments of community

Eligible applicants

Only local non-governmental organisations (i.e., associations, initiatives and foundations), think-tanks or research institutions active in Türkiye are eligible for implementation of this project.

Organisations have to fulfil the following criteria:

- Have proficiency in English and Turkish for communication and reporting
- Describe how the proposed project activities will contribute to energy transition in Türkiye, and potentially in Germany
- Select one priority theme
- Submit proposals through Annex 1 Concept Note, Capacity Statement and Budget Template (for deadlines, see “Application Process” in this document)

Before any grant agreement can be issued, a check must be conducted to determine whether a potential recipient is eligible. GIZ's commercial and legal eligibility check is based on predefined criteria. GIZ examines whether the potential recipient is commercially, administratively and legally qualified to assume responsibility for implementing the measure or whether the potential recipient is not yet sufficiently qualified to do so. The required information for the commercial and legal eligibility check includes the following:

- Proof of legal personality
- Proof of tax liability
- Proof of non-profit status
- Revenue and financial statement
- Previous experience: Be established at least 5 years prior to the call, holding a minimum of 2 years' experience with externally funded projects; Have experience in managing funds amounting to minimum EUR 50,000 in one single project; Have at least 5 years of experience in the field of climate change
- Time recording system (e.g.: timesheet)
- Commercially qualified staff: Have a project manager/officer and experienced finance officer or certified public accountant (CPA)
- Control systems, internally and externally
- Compliance with the law and anti-corruption

The full commercial and legal eligibility check will only be conducted for shortlisted organisations. The list above is, at this point in time, for information purposes only.

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Volume of the projects and type of support from GIZ

The grant scheme provides financial support to its implementing partners. Each local initiative can apply for funds between **EUR 50,000 and EUR 110,000**. The duration of the project shall be up to 10 months, finishing at the latest in June 2026.

All partners will receive the following support:

- Briefing session during the application process
- A welcome package with all relevant information including visibility guidelines, partnership framework, finance management templates, monitoring templates and indicator guidelines, contact persons, etc.
- A kick-off-meeting between GIZ and each project to explain technical procedures and financial management
- Regular technical exchange on GIZ standards and procedures regarding reporting, monitoring, contract management
- Networking opportunities with other partner organisations and GIZ projects
- Field visits by GIZ and other stakeholders of the project

GIZ does not provide support for

- Scholarship schemes
- Credit schemes
- Purchase of land, vehicle or medicines
- Projects with high maintenance costs
- Lump-sum payments - all costs are settled against evidence
- Construction of any kind, including solar or wind powered plants
- Projects aimed at solely or principally financing construction measures
- Establishment of new offices for the applicants outside of their province of operation

Monitoring and Evaluation

Every project needs to have a system in place on how to monitor and how to measure, evaluate and report on the progress of the project. GIZ offers its partners advice in improving their databases and M&E tools.

During the project period, GIZ will collect ongoing information through:

- Narrative reports:
 - Bi-Monthly progress reporting (4 reports over the duration of the grant, each no longer than 4 pages)
 - One final report at the end of the contract
- Regular monitoring visits/ check-in calls (by GIZ and other relevant stakeholders)
- Ad-hoc requests by GIZ (if needed)

Application Process

The applicant organisations must submit the following documents:

- A concept note (Annex 1)
- Budget in Euro (Annex 2)
- Organisational capability statement (Annex 3)

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- A copy of protocols and agreements (e.g. Memorandum of Understanding with public institution) of the organisation applying (if available)
- A copy of the organisational registration documents

The contract and reporting language will be English. Thus, applicants should submit their concept note in English. The applicant organisations should submit the complete application to cdap-tr@giz.de **until 27.05.2025**.

During the application process, an information session will take place with an input in English, questions are also welcome in Turkish, on 15.04.2025 between 10:00-12:00 a.m. If you are interested in attending, kindly register for the sessions until 10.04.2025 contacting the email address indicated below.

Before preparing these documents, please carefully review and consider the information provided in this guideline. Applicant organisations should use the templates attached. If you require further **technical support, please contact us via** email at cdap-tr@giz.de. The communication can be done in Turkish and English.

Process of Selection

GIZ will evaluate and approve concept note applications through a committee consisting of GIZ employees. The projects of the shortlisted applicants will be reviewed by the GIZ steering committee which also includes the German Federal Foreign Office as donor of the grant. Please keep in mind that a limited number of applications will be supported through this open call. The selected organizations will be visited for commercial suitability and will be expected to submit a more comprehensive project proposal, budget, logical framework and other relevant documents upon the request of GIZ. In preparation of these documents, the partner organisations will receive technical support from GIZ.

Timeline

- Announcement of call: 20.03.2025
- Info session in English and Turkish: 15.04.2025
- Deadline for the submission of applications: 27.05.2025
- Announcement of partners to be contracted: 30.06.2025

Annexes

Annex 1: Concept Note Template, **Annex 2:** Budget Template, **Annex 3:** Organisational Capability Statement Template.

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