

Lesbian Economic Power (Non-EU), 2026

Funding Stream 1: Empowering Lesbians through Employment and Entrepreneurship

Questions and Answers

Last update: May 27, 2026

Q	Can we send our draft application to you for an initial review before we submit it? It would be useful for us to know that we are going in the right direction with the application.
A	We cannot review or comment draft applications. Having said that, you may ask questions about the eligibility of activities and other general questions in information sessions and also in email (to grants@lesbiangenius.org) prior to June 1. We will also update this Q&A with these questions and answers.
Q	If we have a question when we write the application, should we join an info session call or should we send an email?
A	You should join an info session if you want to ask it in person, but you can send an email to grants@lesbiangenius.org any time prior to June 1.
Q	Can one organization apply for both Funding Stream 1 and 2?
A	No, you have to choose one Funding Stream and submit only one application.
Q	Is it possible to submit a joint application with other EL*C member organizations?
A	You cannot submit a joint applications, but you as the main applicant can have project partners.
Q	Can there be several applicants or just one applicant?
A	There has to be one applicant, but this applicant may involve project partners.
Q	Do the project partners have to be also EL*C member organizations?
A	No, the project partners do not have to be EL*C member organizations, but they can be.
Q	Does the project have to be a new project, or can it be the continuation of an earlier project/ activity?
A	It can be, it does not have to be a completely new project. You may decide to continue an earlier project or activity, as long as it is clear where you start from and what you want to complete/ accomplish with the project.
Q	Do we need to give you an exact timeline of the planned activities? Sometimes it is difficult to foresee, when can we have a specific workshop or other event.

A	When you fill out the Project Implementation Measurement Matrix, we will ask about the approximate timing of activities. It is not a problem if later you don't stick to it completely.
Q	For the matrix do we have to provide exact numbers e.g. on how many workshops, trainings we plan to do and when?
A	Yes, as much as you can.
Q	Question regarding attendance lists, as Deliverables: in our country we have to apply the Law on protection of personal data, and we also have to make sure that the security of persons attending our events is fully respected. What kind of attendance lists would be appropriate?
A	You don't have to provide a list with personal data, you can think about what is legal and comfortable in your context as an attendance list.
Questions and answers added on 19 May, 2026	
Q	Is there a percentage allocation/limit for payments to contracted specialists and for activities?
A	No, there is no fixed percentage, you can decide based on the needs of your project. Of course, all costs have to be well justified, you have to explain why you need external specialists.
Q	Is it eligible to address such goals as breaking barriers that appeared because of authoritarian governmental course? I mean the situation in Russia or other authoritarian countries.
A	Yes, in case it is very clearly linked to the main objective of the call for proposals. You have to explain it clearly, how the project will contribute to improving lesbians' access to sustainable and dignified employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.
Q	Approximately how many applications will be approved in this funding stream?
A	We don't know yet. It depends on how much money will be spent on Funding Stream 2, as that is the priority. It also depends on the quality of Funding Stream 1 applications and how much money is requested for these projects.
Q	In case we are in a situation in our country that we cannot receive money, only through a fiscal sponsor, how should we include the cost of this in our budget? (As the fiscal sponsor is asking for 10-15% of the money).
A	First of all, in any case where there is a difficulty with transferring the money, we will find a solution on a case-by-case basis. In the case if you already found a fiscal sponsor, you can include the cost of it under Activity 1 – Project coordination in the C3. Other goods, works and services budget category.
Questions and answers added on 27 May, 2026	

Q	Can organisations that are not yet EL*C full members apply for the call, or complete their membership during the application process?
A	No. Eligibility is limited to EL*C full member organisations that had already been approved by the EL*C Board before the launch of the call for proposals. Organisations cannot complete the membership process during the application period for the purpose of becoming eligible for this call.
Q	What should be included in Question 9: “How much did you spend as an organization in 2025 (in EUR)?” Should we indicate the organization’s overall expenditure or only spending related to gender policies/thematic work?
A	Please indicate the organization’s total overall expenditure for 2025, not only spending related to gender policies or activities connected to the project topic. This question refers to the organization’s overall annual spending and is used to better understand the size and operational scope of the organization.
Q	Can projects under Funding Stream 1 focus on employment support and professional development activities, including initiatives linked to creative skills or creative work, without including entrepreneurship or business development components?
A	<p>Yes. Projects under Funding Stream 1 do not need to include entrepreneurship or business development activities. This funding stream supports a broader range of initiatives aimed at strengthening the economic inclusion of lesbians, including employment support, professional development, and access to the labour market. Activities such as career counselling, CV and job application support, skills development, mentorship, and job placement services can be eligible if they contribute to improving access to sustainable employment and strengthening economic independence.</p> <p>If activities are linked to creative skills or creative work, applicants should clearly demonstrate how they contribute to employment opportunities, professional development, self-employment, or broader economic empowerment outcomes. Activities that are not explicitly listed in the call may still be considered if they are clearly connected to the objectives of the funding stream.</p>