



The Caribbean Policy Research Institute

Call for Proposals

CFP# 202405CAPRI



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Civil Society Organizations as Actors of Governance and Development CFP# 202405CAPRI

The Caribbean Policy Research Institute (CAPRI) received European Union funding for the implementation of the project ‘Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as Actors of Governance and Development’, to carry out policy-level research on nine priority issues. The overall objective of the project is to enable CSOs to engage as actors of governance and development at the country level.

Financial support to third parties is considered essential to achieve the objective of the project and as a result the funding includes a grant to third party CSOs to deliver a project. The CSOs will not be assisting CAPRI to meet the objective of the project. They will deliver a project that is parallel to CAPRI’s action. CAPRI invites CSOs to respond to the call for proposals.



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1. BACKGROUND

The Caribbean Policy Research Policy Institute (CAPRI) is an independent public policy think tank based at the University of the West Indies, Mona, in Kingston, Jamaica. Our mission is to conduct evidence-informed policy research on topics germane to Caribbean development, and to communicate the findings of that research to policy-makers and the general public. Our work is motivated by the conviction that evidence-informed policies are essential to good decision-making, and that presently this is lacking in Jamaica and the Caribbean.

Our research agenda is strategically organised around four thematic areas: governance, environmental sustainability, social issues, and the economy. We identify specific research topics by closely monitoring "policy windows," where governments are currently grappling with policy dilemmas or are likely to face them in the near future. These topics may fall into two categories: (i) those already under public scrutiny and (ii) those not yet in the public domain but deemed crucial for shedding light on socio-economic implications and influencing policy change. Additionally, we address long-standing or recurring issues that may not currently be at the forefront of public policy debates but are nonetheless vital to the overarching goal of equitable growth and development.

Our reports are publicly launched, whether through web-forums or in-person events and are attended by relevant representatives from the public and private sectors, stakeholders, and the general public.

CAPRI's outputs include:

1. Policy reports that utilise transparent methodologies and produce policy recommendations that are specific, actionable, and feasible.
2. CAPRI Commentary, short pieces which aim to leverage the expertise of our researchers by delivering succinct, accessible, and evidence-based insights on topical policy matters.
3. Public fora at which relevant stakeholders, and members of the public, engage with our work, and with the policy issues.
4. Advocacy activities include high-level, private meetings with state and private sector leaders, including presentations of our research to closed-door stakeholder groups.
5. Social media engagement that harnesses the power of social platforms to amplify our message and engage diverse audiences.

The nine priority research topics under this EU grant are outlined below.

1. Under CAPRI's social issues research theme, there are **three studies**:

- i. Women in Crime: Supporting the empowerment of women and vulnerable/ disadvantaged groups, this research seeks to provide the groundwork for identifying the active and passive roles that women play in violent crime in Jamaica, the mechanisms and pathways by which they become involved, and an analysis of the pathways to reform. In carrying out a situational analysis of women's involvement in crime, the study will analyse evidence and develop informed recommendations to develop gender-sensitive policy and interventions. The research is under the

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key areas of human rights; vulnerable populations; gender; citizen security; and responsiveness of policies to populations' needs.

- ii. Sea of Opportunity: Developing Jamaica's Blue Economy (completed): This indicative study on the blue economy delved into Jamaica's expansive maritime potential and its adoption of the blue economy concept—a comprehensive approach integrating economic activities related to oceans and coastal areas. With a focus on artisanal fishers, sustainable fisheries, ecotourism, and blue finance, the research aimed to explore opportunities for economic diversification and the equitable distribution of social and environmental benefits. This research is under the key areas of environmental impact, sustainability and social equity.
- iii. Jamaica's Adoption System: This study aligns with the empowerment of youth. Wards of the Jamaican state are seldom adopted since the responsible agency deems many unavailable. In 2017, the agency approved the adoption of only 27 of 4,536 children in state care. Even for likely available children, the time taken to place them with approved adopters is inordinately lengthy. This report will analyse the inefficacy of Jamaica's adoption system and make evidence-informed policy recommendations. The research is under the key areas of human rights and vulnerable populations.

2. Under CAPRI's economy research theme, there are **two studies**:

- i. Budget impact analysis: This research is geared towards stimulating policy innovation and improving responsiveness of policies (e.g. budgets) to populations' needs in relevant sectors. The proposed research will interrogate the relevance of group budgeting, and to the extent that such an approach is useful, develop a methodology for analysing fiscal budgets for impacts on social, gender, and demographic categories and use it to publish analyses of the fiscal budget, exposing emerging gaps, and proposing reallocations to close them. This study is under the key areas of gender; inequality; inclusive growth; transparency; and responsiveness of policies to populations' needs.
- ii. Brain Gain: Solving the Labour Shortage and Competing for Global Talent (completed): The report examined the potential effects of increased immigration on economic growth, wages and employment, and productivity. It also considered global attitudes to immigrants before evaluating the potential impacts of liberalizing the Jamaican labour market to achieve higher immigration levels, drawing insights from the experiences of other countries. The key areas covered by this study are the labour market, immigration, emigration, and economic growth

3. Under CAPRI's governance research theme, **three topics** will be explored:

- i. Impact of CSOs on the policy process: This study aligns directly with the overall objective of the action, to strengthen local CSOs as independent actors of good governance and development, and aims to contribute to an inclusive, participatory, empowered, and independent civil society. It will evaluate the efficacy of civil society-led initiatives to reduce violent crime and murder.
- ii. Public health model of violent crime: This study will strengthen the evidence base of the policy community by exploring the relevance and effectiveness of the public health model of violent crime which has been the predominant framework underlying a range of state and non-state initiatives to mitigate the problem in Jamaica. It will examine the evolution of the public health approach to violent

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crime in Jamaica, explore the extent to which the framework has been adopted and applied, and evaluate the efficacy of this approach to Jamaica's violent crime problem. The research is under the key areas of vulnerable populations; youth; human rights; governance; policy innovation; responsiveness of policies to populations' needs; and citizen security.

- iii. Zones of Special Operations (ZOSO) and Violent Crime Reduction: This study will address national security issues affecting vulnerable communities. The research will evaluate the ZOSO strategy and operational design, against its own stated objectives, and against the transformative potential of the underlying model. Key areas under which this study falls are human rights; vulnerable communities; policy innovation; responsiveness of policies to populations' needs; and citizen security.
4. Under CAPRI's sustainability theme, there is one study underway:
 - i. Plastic bag ban: This research aligns with the cross-cutting issue of environmental protection and investigates the outcomes and effectiveness of anti-plastic bag measures in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and Jamaica. The anti-plastic bag measures were intended to reduce plastic bag use and circulation, thus reducing plastic pollution. The study's findings will provide evidence to deduce the effectiveness of current plastic bag reduction measures. It will seek to identify areas to be addressed to render existing policies more effective, do away with measures or elements of measures that are counterproductive, or which worsen the problem, and suggest where new policies and measures should be created and implemented. The study is under the key areas of environmental protection and policy innovation.

2. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO BE GIVEN AND DURATION OF CONTRACT

Two third parties will be selected. The **maximum available amount to each third party is EUR 20,000.** The implementation period for the activities is a maximum of 12 months.

Co-financing is not required from third parties.

3. THE OBJECTIVE AND RESULTS TO BE OBTAINED WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Under the cross-cutting priorities of human rights, indigenous people and disabled populations, environmental protection & climate change, the objective is to strengthen the capacity of CSOs which are active in:

- promoting gender equality, women and youth empowerment & inclusion ;
- promoting access to social services and inclusiveness for the most vulnerable groups (women, youth, disabled, and elderly);
- supporting youth organizations capacities in promoting youth engagement and involving, and/or representing, youth and youth interests (including cultural activities) in key policy processes

The estimated results to be obtained are:

- strengthened governance framework and targeted interventions for vulnerable youth;



- gender-specific social policy changes;
- greater accountability on the part of policy-making and implementing bodies;
- a more inclusive and participatory policy process;
- an improved and more inclusive and sustainable Jamaican economy.

4. THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES ELIGIBLE FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The activities which will be eligible for financial support:

- Supporting CSO sector-specific technical research, analysis, and advocacy to enhance effectiveness;
- Backing local CSO networks and platforms to encourage coordination, collaboration, and exchange;
- Assisting CSOs in addressing risks and building community resilience, promoting peace, and preventing conflicts in fragile and crisis-affected communities;
- Supporting civil society networks and participation in multi-stakeholder dialogues to strengthen alliances with media, private sector, academia, ensuring inclusivity;
- Strengthening digital skills of citizens to foster inclusive digital transformation;
- Initiating and facilitating policy dialogues on youth, gender equality, women's rights, and their active participation in decision-making;
- Providing capacity building and training for youth and women's organizations, and CSOs focusing on youth inclusion and gender equality;
- Enhancing CSOs' capacity for gender-responsive budgeting and planning;
- Utilizing cultural activities (the arts) to address the priorities of the call;

The eligibility requirements to be met by the third parties are listed below:

- be a legal person
- be non-profit-making
- be a civil society organization/non state actor/NGO
- be registered in Jamaica (proof of registration with the government of Jamaica)



The following types of actions/activities are ineligible:

- Actions concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences and congresses;
- Actions concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses;
- One-off conferences: conferences can only be funded if they form part of a wider range of activities to be implemented in the life-time of the action. For these purposes, preparatory activities for a conference and the publication of the proceedings of the conference do not, in themselves, constitute such "wider activities";
- Actions which consist exclusively or primarily in capital expenditure, e.g. land, buildings, equipment, and vehicles;
- Support to political parties;
- Actions involving proselytism.

The following costs are ineligible

- Debts and debt service charges (interest);
- Provisions for losses or potential future liabilities;
- Costs financed by another action or work programme receiving a European Union (including through EDF) grant;
- Purchases of land or buildings,
- Currency exchange losses;
- Salary costs of the personnel of national administrations.

5. INSTRUCTIONS TO RESPOND TO THE CALL

These templates are to be completed and submitted to support the application for the grant:

- Annex A - proposal narrative requirements
- Annex B – budget template - Recommendations to award a grant are always subject to the condition that the checks preceding the signing of the grant contract do not reveal problems requiring changes to the budget (such as arithmetical errors, inaccuracies, unrealistic costs, and



ineligible costs). The checks may give rise to requests for clarification and may lead CAPRI to impose modifications to address such mistakes or inaccuracies. It is not possible to increase the grant as a result of these corrections. It is therefore in applicants' interest to provide a realistic and cost-effective budget.

- Annex C – log frame template.

The deadline for submission of proposals is June 21. Proposals are to be emailed to info@capricaribbean.org

Any proposal submitted after the deadline will be rejected.

Proposals sent by any other means (e.g. by post, hand delivered, and by courier) will not be accepted.

Incomplete proposals may be rejected.

CAPRI has no obligation to provide answers to questions received after the information session. To ensure equal treatment of applicants, CAPRI cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of applicants, proposed actions, or specific activities.

Questions will not be replied to privately. Notices on the CFP will be published on CAPRI's website, capricaribbean.org. Please check the website regularly for updates.

Indicative timetable for the CFP Process

Activity	Platform	Date
Publication of CFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • capricaribbean.org • The Gleaner • CAPRI's social media platforms - Instagram, X, LinkedIn; 	May 15
Submission of questions on the CFP and confirmation of attendance at the information session	Submit questions to info@capricaribbean.org	May 22, 2024
Information session to answer questions related to the CFP	Online – meeting link will be shared with entities that confirm attendance	May 30, 2024 at 10am
Deadline for submission of proposal	Submit proposal to info@capricaribbean.org	June 21, 2024
Notice of successful application	Direct email to applicants from CAPRI	July 5, 2024
Notice of unsuccessful application	Direct email to applicants from CAPRI	July 5, 2024
Contract delivery for signing	Direct email to applicant from CAPRI	July 26, 2024



6. THE EVALUATION PROCESS

To ensure transparency in the selection process, an evaluation panel will be established by CAPRI comprising the Director of Research, CAPRI researchers, and external independent stakeholders who are not directly affiliated with the applicant, and/or who are deemed to be neutral parties. The panel will include a representative from the EU who will observe. To this end, all potential members of the evaluation panel will be asked to declare any potential conflicts of interest, and these will be borne in mind when constituting the evaluation panel. The panel will be tasked with evaluating the proposals submitted using an evaluation grid consisting of objective evaluation criteria and a scoring system. Each proposal will receive an overall score out of 50. A list will be generated after each proposal is scored and the proposals ranked based on their total score. The two third parties with the top two scores will be selected to receive financial support and will be notified accordingly. CAPRI may request the entity to refine the concept after the evaluation process.

A grant contract will be prepared between the selected third parties and CAPRI to indicate:

- Payment arrangements
- Narrative and financial reporting requirements
- Implementation period



7. SCORING

The evaluation grid is divided into sections and subsections and is presented in the section below.

8. EVALUATION GRID

Section	Maximum Score
1. Financial and operational capacity	20
1.1. Do the applicants have sufficient technical in-house expertise (especially knowledge of the issues to be addressed)?	10
1.2. Do the applicants have sufficient management in-house capacity (including staff and ability to handle the budget for the action)?	10
2. Relevance of the proposal	15
2.1. How relevant is the proposal to the particular needs of CAPRI?	10
2.2. Does the proposal contain added-value elements (e.g. innovation, best practices)?	5
3. Design of the proposal	5
3.1. Are the activities proposed appropriate, practical, and consistent with the envisaged outputs and outcome(s)?	5
4. Implementation approach	5
4.1. Is the action plan for implementing the activities clear and feasible? Is the timeline realistic?	5
5. Budget	5
5.1. Are the activities appropriately reflected in the budget?	5
Maximum total score	50

If the total score for Section 1 (financial and operational capacity) is less than 12 points, the application will be rejected. If the score for at least one of the subsections under Section 1 is 1, the application will also be rejected.