

Call for Education 2023

Initiative aimed at contrasting educational poverty

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

1) INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

In coherence with its purpose, UniCredit Foundation is actively engaged in programs aimed at combating school dropout, enhancing the employability, and encouraging university attainment across Europe.

Accordingly, UniCredit Foundation launches the "Call for Education 2023", **funding educational programs in the following countries: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia.**

Early school leaving and failure to acquire adequate skills for continuing university studies or entering the job market are widespread phenomena in most European countries. This is due to several factors, but largely depends on the socio-economic and cultural conditions of the families and of the territories where children are born and grow up. The school represents an essential defence in the contrast of inequalities. Only a quality school can give equal learning opportunities to all students and, above all, to those who are most disadvantaged.

The call intends to identify and support program contrasting educational poverty in favour of **lower and upper secondary school** students (11-19 age group), carried out by **non-profit organizations** with particular focus on:

- tackling early school leaving;
- encouraging university attainment;
- acquisition of adequate skills to enter the job market.

The total funding allocated by UniCredit Foundation under this Call is estimated at **€ 3mln.** The UniCredit Foundation expects to fund around **20 programs.** The amount will be allocated on the basis of the content and specificities of the selected applications. UniCredit Foundation reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available.

2) REQUIREMENTS

All applicants and programs must meet the following requirements:

a. Applicants' eligible criteria:

- be non-profit organizations* with registered office (or operational office) in the above-mentioned countries; organizations and/or projects at cross-border level can also apply
- have access to solid and adequate funding to maintain their activities for the period of the action and to help finance it as necessary
- demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the problem and an overall consistency between objectives, intervention strategy, planned resources and implementation times
- foster the development of relational networks through the involvement of representative subjects of the territorial reality targeted by the intervention and with appropriate skills and professionalism

**For Italy only: applicants must be "Enti non profit del Terzo Settore (ETS) iscritti al RUNTS, aventi i requisiti di cui all'art.4 del D.Lgs. 117/2017"*

b. Proposals' eligible criteria:

- be consistent with the objectives of the call, in terms of contrasting educational poverty
- in case of initiatives already underway, design an up-scaling and a systemization of the intervention
- propose effective and innovative methods of intervention, capable of producing significant effects in terms of contrasting educational poverty, also in cooperation with other organisations, in order to guarantee equal educational opportunities
- clearly identify the results they intend to pursue and the related methods of monitoring and impact assessment, ensuring an efficient use of resources
- present elements of sustainability, also in relation to the continuity of the actions and their geographical and temporal replicability
- provide for a total duration of at least 2 years, with preference given to sustainable medium-long run programs

c. Ineligible activities:

- purchase of land and/or acquisition of immovable property and/or vehicles
- building construction
- the ordinary management of the activity
- study and research activities
- granting of scholarships
- realization of events, conferences, or exhibitions.

In order to guarantee that all the eligibility criteria set by the call are met by the candidates, UniCredit Foundation may avail itself, where necessary, of the collaboration of the internal controls of UniCredit S.p.A.

3) APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications must be written in English and submitted using the electronic submission system available at <https://callforeducation.com>

After filling all the required fields, the following documents must be uploaded:

1. Statute
2. 2021 and 2022 Financial Statement
3. 2022 Annual Report
4. Child Safeguarding Policy (or other reference policy)
5. Project Logical Framework (logical framework + tracking tool)
6. Budget of the program
7. Anti-Corruption declaration signed by the legal representative of the organisation

4) EVALUATION PROCESS

All candidate applications will be assessed by an ad hoc **Evaluation Committee** which will select around 20 winning programs, with a contribution based on the proposal's budget, for an estimated amount of € 3mln for the whole initiative.

The proposals which fulfil the requirements as at paragraph 2) will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

CRITERIA	SCORE
Relevance to the objectives and expected results of the Call: this criterion measures the extent to which the proposal contributes to the goals of the Call	10
Overall design of the action: this criterion refers to the consistency of the overall design of the intervention logic. It measures the extent to which the action is feasible and consistent in relation to the objectives and expected outcomes. It also refers to the programs' level of innovation, resulting in creation of new or significantly improved services in terms of approach and implementation methods	10
Methodology, activities and expected outcomes: This criterion measures the extent to which the activities and means proposed are appropriate and consistent with the expected outcomes, are sufficiently and clearly detailed, with a specific focus on the situation analysis and on a clear definition of the target group	40
Appropriateness of the impact/outcomes evaluation method: This criterion measures the extent to which the proposal includes a sound and detailed impact evaluation method that is suitable for its purposes and appropriate to provide evidence and to determine the expected outcomes. The accuracy of the evaluation methodology, the relevance of indicators, and the monitoring elements will be assessed under this criterion	10
Sustainability of the program: This criterion measures the extent to which the proposed intervention is sustainable beyond the grant period and whether financial means are envisaged to pursue the action. The transferability of the intervention and the extent to which the latter could be implemented on a larger scale will also be assessed under this criterion	15
Cost-efficiency of the proposal: The cost-efficiency of the proposal means whether the costs of the proposed action are adequate to the activities and proportionate to the expected results, referring also to the overall organization budget	15

The proposals with the highest total scores will be considered eligible for award, on the conditions that the total score reaches at least 70% of the maximum total mark (100).

The evaluation of the proposals and the consequent possible assignment of the contribution will be carried out at the sole discretion of the Committee, without prejudice to its absolute discretion in this regard.

5) DEADLINES

By **8 September 2023** non-profit organizations are asked to submit their application on the dedicated platform.

By **27 October 2023**, the Evaluation Committee will select the winning projects also indicating the amount of the support itself, in compliance with the provisions of the aforementioned articles.

6) CONTACTS

Further information and clarifications may be requested to the UniCredit Foundation local contact reference points:

Austria:	Austria_CallForEducation@unicredit.eu
Bosnia and Herzegovina:	Bosnia_CallForEducation.ubb@unicreditgroup.ba
Croatia:	Croatia_CallForEducation@unicreditgroup.zaba.hr
Czech Republic:	Czech_CallForEducation@unicredit.eu
Germany:	Germany_CallForEducation@unicredit.eu
Italy:	Italy_CallForEducation@unicredit.eu
Hungary:	Hungary_CallForEducation@unicredit.eu
Serbia:	Serbia.CallForEducation@unicreditgroup.rs
Slovakia:	Slovakia_CallForEducation@unicredit.eu
Slovenia:	Slovenia_CallForEducation@unicredit.eu

7) OBLIGATIONS

Participation in the call implies the complete and unconditional acceptance of these Terms and Conditions.

Milan, June 26, 2023