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OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS REBOOTING THE FOOD SYSTEM

Financial support to third parties for grassroots and youth-led CSOs in Portugal, Spain, Poland, Estonia, Slovakia, Czech Republic



Open Call for Proposals “Rebooting the Food System”

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Preamble

The project [REBOOTING THE FOOD SYSTEM](#), co-financed by the European Commission (DG INTPA)¹ within the DEAR Programme (Development Education and Awareness Raising²), is realised by a consortium of 14 civil society organisations³ from 9 countries: it aims to **raise awareness and mobilize young people** in different European countries as agents of change towards a **fairer and more sustainable food system** on a local and global level, tackling global inequalities and ecological crises. How?

- With the development of a **pan-European awareness campaign with and for young people**, to promote values and good practices of agroecological principles in the EU and the Global South, and to give voice to women, girls, and people at the margins in creating a sustainable food system.
- With **research, education and advocacy activities**, developed by partners and active youth, for the empowerment of producers and workers in the global food system and the inclusion of agroecological principles and practices in European and national food system-related policies.

You can become part of the Reboot action, if you want to support the project's aims and make change happen! With this Call for Proposals, you as a civil society organisation (CSO) can be awarded and receive financial support to implement your own initiatives at national level to support the cause of Reboot.

The following sections provide details about the objectives of this call, eligible activities, applicants' requirements and evaluation criteria.

1 Background

Our global food system is broken: it favours a small number of "too-big-to-fail" corporations and exploits both our planet and people – and existing policies ensure that it stays that way. Globalisation has created a food system with global food supply chains and large industrial food corporations. Today, **the industrialised food sector is a major contributor to climate change and exploitative labour practices** while the exponential creation of farmland is displacing entire communities and destroying natural habitats. Human rights violations and environmental destruction can therefore be found in almost every supermarket product.

With the Green Deal and the Farm-to-Fork strategy (F2F), the EU has already set the course for change in European agriculture to make it future-proof, sustainable and fair. So far, however,

¹ Grant contract - External Actions of the European Union – CSO-LA/2023/448-324

² <https://dearprogramme.eu/>

³ The lead organization of the project is Christliche Initiative Romero - CIR (DE), Partners organisations are (alphabetic order): Action Aid Denmark (DK); Action Aid France (FR); BUNDjugend (DE); CEEweb for Biodiversity (HU); European Coordination Via Campesina (BE); Focus Association for Sustainable Development (SI); International Movement of Catholic Agricultural and Rural Youth - Europe (BE); Le Mouvement Rural de Jeunesse Chrétienne (FR); Mai bine Association (RO); Mani Tese (IT); Südwind (AT); Tudatos Vásárlók Közhasznú Egyesülete, Association of Conscious Consumers (HU); WeWorld (IT).

implementation has failed. We aim to close this gap. Our vision is an agriculture based on agroecological principles as a counter-model to industrialised food production.

Among the people who would benefit the most from the agricultural transition into a green and fair future, there are the European Youth. **Young People are the key to this action:** all youth need to have a critical understanding of the global challenges linked to the food system, and on the other hand, their active role can be crucial in raising awareness of the different actors and their societies.

As a European coalition of 14 civil society organisations from 9 countries, we are joining forces in the EU-funded project "Rebooting the food system" and calling for an agricultural revolution now! We want to replace the broken system and create a new one based on fair and sustainable principles.



2 Objectives and priorities of the Call

Objectives

In order to increase the impacts of its action⁴, Reboot will provide funding for at least one CSOs in each of the following countries: **Portugal, Spain, Poland, Estonia, Slovakia, Czech Republic.**

The Call for Proposals is open to grassroots-oriented CSOs with a strong track record and who reach out and work with youth. The awarded CSOs will, therefore, spread the messages of the Reboot project to a significantly high number of young people and access other youth interested in becoming active in the campaign.

In each eligible country, the objectives of this Call for Proposals are the following:

The first and major objective is to empower youth (15-30 years old, ideally also the less engaged ones) to actively **mobilize, campaign and advocate** for agroecology and for fair and sustainable food systems.

⁴ Reboot project foresees 2 general objectives it aims to contribute to: 1) More EU citizens, in particular young people, are aware and have a critical understanding i) of the globally interdependent food system, and of agroecological principles and practices in the EU and the Global South, and ii) of the role of women and girls and other marginalised people in creating a sustainable food system; 2) Young people in the EU and partner countries engage actively in campaigning for i) the empowerment of producers and workers (in particular women and girls) in the global food system, and ii) the inclusion of agroecological principles and practices in European and national food system-related policies.

The second objective, not obligatory but strongly encouraged, is to engage institutions providing food in promoting sustainable food system, also involving other target groups (to see all the Eligible target groups, see Section 4 - *Eligible target groups and activities*). This objective should also be achieved **by involving youth directly or indirectly**.

A transversal objective is to provide and share capacities and experiences for the Reboot project, in terms of: thematic expertise; capacity of involvement of determined target groups; innovative methodology for global citizens education, campaigning and advocacy initiatives; exchange of practices and challenges in the EU-Countries external to the consortium⁵.

Priorities

- a. Promote youth activism in a relevant and concrete way, following the **Engagement Pyramid framework**⁶: knowledge of the target groups, alliances with key stakeholders, capacity of involvement and mobilization are essential.
- b. Promote youth activism among **less involved and non-active youth** on global food supply chains or agroecology.
- c. Engage **newly involved institutions providing food** in promoting sustainable food system in the project with demonstrable commitment
- d. Have an **intersectional approach** on human and labour rights in supply chains, with a focus on the interconnection with environmental aspects and gender topics.
- e. Have a strong **capacity-building and partnership approach**, promoting multi-stakeholder collaborations among different target groups.
- f. **Involve people who are directly impacted** by the negative effects of the global challenges (women, girls, migrants, youth and other marginalized people).

3 Eligibility Criteria for Applicants

To be eligible to this Call for proposals, applicants must meet the following criteria:

		Supporting documents
	Being a non-state actor (CSOs or similar)	Statute/Charter
	Being a legal person registered and constituted in accordance with the national legislations in force in one of the eligible countries of this Call for Proposals (Portugal, Spain, Poland, Estonia, Slovakia, Czech Republic).	Statute/Charter

⁵ While financed CSOs contribute experiences, their capacity is also strengthened through involvement and participation in the management activities of the project.

⁶ See https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/library/engagement-pyramid-2pager_en?refpage=search and Section 4-*Eligible Target groups and activities*

Eligibility Criteria	Being a Non-profit making organization	Statute/Charter
	Having at least one bank account in the name of the organization	Annex 3: Template Declaration by the Third Party
	Not being beneficiary of a grant (lead/co-beneficiary/affiliated entity), nor associate or contractor, nor a recipient of other financial support to third parties within the current Call for Proposals (reference: EuropeAid/173998/DH/ACT/Multi)	Annex 3: Template Declaration by the Third Party
	Not having the financial, administrative or operational capacity to compete directly for EU funding under the current Call for Proposals (reference: EuropeAid/173998/DH/ACT/Multi)	Annex 3: Template Declaration by the Third Party
	Agreement on exclusion criteria	Annex 3: Template Declaration by the Third Party

In addition, the following conditions must be met simultaneously:

- a. Only one project proposal can be submitted by each organisation under this Call for Proposals.
- b. No co-applicants are allowed. The funds will be transferred to one organisation per project only. It is possible to subcontract specific tasks of the project. However, outsourcing more than 60% of the project budget by the applicant to third parties is not allowed.

The Eligibility criteria above described define the necessary conditions for participating in this Call for Proposals. Project proposals will be assessed for eligibility and merit: the Merit Evaluation criteria are described in Section 7 - *Merit Evaluation and* define criteria for selecting the applicants who will receive the grant. Only applicants who meet all the eligibility criteria will be assessed for merit.

4 Eligible target groups and activities

Frameworks, Models, Definitions

Following the DEAR Programme indications, in the Reboot project the different target groups, which are the different groups of people impacted positively by the action, are allocated across a range of levels of engagement.

To explore the intensity of engagement, the reference is the model of the ‘**Engagement Pyramid**’ made by the DEAR support team⁷: visually, it is a triangle in which Level 0 (*Consumer* of information about the project or its issues) is at the base, and Level 6 (*Innovator*: committed to the action/the issues and develops and implements (new) ideas for its promotion) at the top.

The Reboot project strategically reach and involve the following Target Groups as key stakeholders in the food system:

- **Target Group 1 (TG1):** EU youths (15-30 years), reached by campaign, educational, advocacy activities (levels 0-4 of the Engagement Pyramid);
- **Target Group 2 (TG2):** EU Youth (15-30 years) actively involved to implement the project (levels 5,6 of the Engagement Pyramid);
- **Target Group 3 (TG3):** Civil Societies Organisations involved in the project as partners or supporters of the activities (levels 0-3 of the Engagement Pyramid);
- **Target Group 4 (TG4):** young farmers and producers involved in the project as partners, experts, trainers, supporters of educational and/or campaign and/or advocacy activities; (levels 2-5 of the Engagement Pyramid);
- **Target group 5 (TG5):** institutions providing food (illustrative and non-exhaustive list of institutions: canteens and cafes of educational institutions such as schools and universities; municipalities and local authorities, national institutions, supermarkets, enterprises, CSOs, etc) newly involved in the project with demonstrable commitment to the project, which improve policies⁸ and/or practices⁹ supportive of Global Citizens Education and/or sustainable development/ sustainable food systems (levels 0-3 of the Engagement Pyramid);
- **Target Group 6 (TG6):** national and international political decision-makers addressed by advocacy activities (levels 3-6 of the Engagement Pyramid);

⁷ See https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/library/engagement-pyramid-2pager_en?refpage=search

⁸ “Improve policies” means: laws, strategies, action plans, regulations, procedures, budgets (or any other formalised practices that expect compliance in the organisation) that have been changed with project or direct grant contribution to better reflect GCE and/or sustainable development.

⁹ “Improve practices” means: ways in which things are ordinarily done within an organisation, which have been changed with project or direct grant contribution to better reflect GCE and/or sustainable development. Practices often result from organisational culture and habits that have accumulated over time. They may or may not conform with the organisation’s policies.

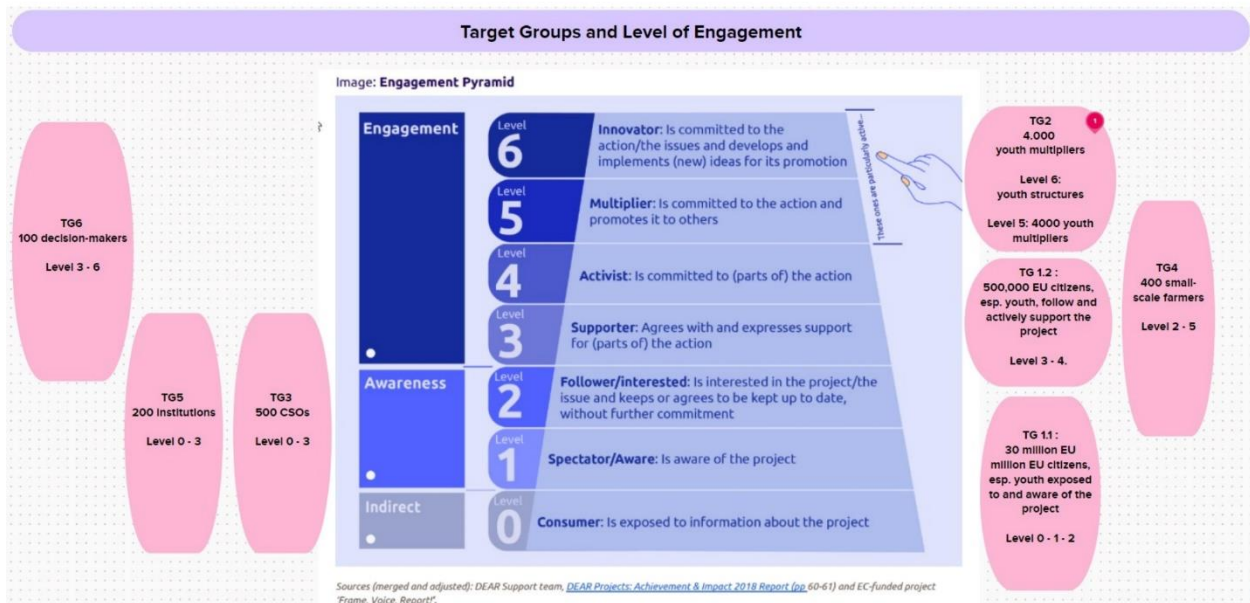


Image 1 – Target Groups and Levels of Engagement – CIR elaboration for Reboot project

Eligible target groups (primary and secondary)

Under this Call for Proposals, projects must focus primarily on **TG2** (15-30-year-old EU Youth actively involved in implementing the project) and **TG5** (institutions providing food that are newly involved in the project with demonstrable commitment): **TG2 and TG5 are therefore defined as the primary target groups** of this Call for Proposals.

Secondarily, activities might reach or involve the other target groups, namely TG1; TG3; TG4, TG6, which are considered the **secondary target groups** of this Call for Proposals.

Eligible Activities

Coherently with the objectives, priorities and target groups above described, project proposals should focus on:

- **Active involvement of youth (TG2)** for the promotion of agroecology and fair food systems, reaching via those further youth (TG1), CSOs (TG3) and/or young farmers/producers (TG4), and/or political decision makers (TG6), to spread awareness on sustainable food system models and to incorporate agroecological principles at local, national, EU and global levels.

and/or

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- **Engagement of institutions providing food (TG5)** to inform and support them in promoting, adopting, implementing, monitoring, modifying or further improving policies or practices supportive of sustainable food systems/ sustainable development with a focus on food. **Also in this case, youth should be actively involved in the implementation of the project (TG2)**, and further TGs can be involved or reached (TG3, TG4, TG6).

Given these premises, the following kinds of activities are considered eligible under this Call for Proposals:

- o **Activities that empower active citizens** to actively campaign and advocate for a fair and agroecological food system by participating in training and exchange activities. Youth can not only participate in training and exchange activities, but also take an active role in them, and where applicable also implement their own activities. Engaging and participatory approaches should be included (e.g. Global Citizens Education framework, peer to peer education, participatory learning method...).
- o **Campaign, communication and outreach activities**, involving youth (TG2) - preferably co-designed and co-realised with youth - to reach out to CSOs, young farmers/ food producers, addressing political decision-makers and institutions providing food to incorporate agroecological principles at local, national, EU and global levels. Creative campaign methodologies for campaigning both online and in presence will be favoured.
- o **Advocacy activities** at local, national and international level.
- o **Management activities** that contribute to strengthening the involvement and participation in capacity-building of the Reboot project, promoting mutual learning processes, and sharing tools, methodologies, themes, and practices with partner organisations of the Reboot project. Management activities include (Illustrative and non-exhaustive list): organisation of trainings/meetings, elaboration of factsheets, toolkits or other training materials, promotion of innovative collaborative tools and methods, etc. Awarded CSOs are expected to participate in-presence and online meetings with the Reboot consortium.

In their budget proposal, applicants must include funds (travel, per diems, accommodation) for their participation in European consortium, networking, and exchange in presence meetings: this will be mandatory for a capacity building meeting in winter 2025/2026 in France; this will be not mandatory but functional to coordination and capacity building needs for further three coordination meetings: in Hungary in summer 2025, Romania in summer 2026 and/or Italy in winter/spring 2027. Each project proposal should proportionate this not mandatory participation to its logic of intervention, and the contribution to the transversal objective of this Call (to provide and share capacities and experiences for the Reboot project: see Section 2 *Objectives and Priorities of this Call*).

Furthermore, proposals should foresee online participation in the appropriate project's working groups and task forces, as well as online coordination with the IFSTP coordinator, the project coordinator, and the consortium.

5 Project duration

The project duration is scheduled as the following: the start of the project is 7th March 2025, and the ending is 30th November 2026. Accordingly, the estimated project duration is 20 months.

6 Budget

The indicative amount made available for this Call for Proposals is EUR 60.000 (sixty thousand) per each eligible country (Portugal, Spain, Poland, Estonia, Slovakia, Czech Republic).

At least one project per country will be funded; therefore, the maximum financial support is limited to 60.000 EUR per third party project proposal: project proposals can be below this indicative amount, depending on the adequacy of the budget to the results and activities of the project (financial efficiency: see Section 7- *Merit Evaluation*).

Any grant requested awarded under this Call for Proposals will be financed 100% of the total eligible costs.

The right is reserved not to award all available funds, in case of insufficient quality of the proposals received and/or in case of insufficient number of the proposals received.

The budget shall be indicated in EUR, as described in Annex 2.

In their budget proposal, applicants must include funds (travel, per diems, accommodation) for their participation in European consortium, networking and exchange meetings: mandatory for a capacity building meeting in winter 2025/2026 in France and, when appropriate to coordination, review and evaluation meetings in Hungary in summer 2025, Romania in summer 2026 and/or Italy in winter/spring 2027 (see Section 4 – *eligible activities*)

7 Merit Evaluation

Project proposals will be assessed for eligibility and merit. The Eligibility criteria described in Section 3 - *Eligibility Criteria for Applicants*, define the necessary conditions for participating in this Call for Proposals, while the Merit Evaluation criteria described below define criteria for selecting the applicants who will receive the grant. Only applicants who meet all the eligibility criteria will be assessed for merit.

The Merit Evaluation will be made through the constitution of the IFSTPs committee formed by Reboot project partners, and in particular: CIR, lead organization of Reboot, formally responsible for this Call for Proposals in its financial, MEAL and legal implications with Subgrantees; WeWorld, partner organization of Reboot, responsible for the coordination of the Call for Proposals' Applicants and Subgrantees.

The IFSTPs committee will be composed by at least 5 persons with complementary competences and knowledge (MEAL, Thematic, Technical, Methodological, Administrative), and will evaluate the merit of only the proposals considered eligible: the committee will draw up a ranking, indicating for each project proposal the merit evaluation awarded, on the basis of the evaluation grid described below and the additional scores.

Merit evaluation criteria		
Merit evaluation criteria (100 points)	Applicants' Technical capacity (25 points)	Applicant's proven experiences with previously successfully managed similar projects at least in the past 2 years;
		Applicant's proven administrative, financial and reporting capacities and experiences with previous managed grants with similar budget sizes and at least in the past 2 years; this includes i.e. the ability to report properly, the employment of staff which is capable and trained for adequate financial administration;
		Applicant's experience in EU project management and reporting, demonstrable at least in the past 2 years;
	Applicants' knowledge of Call's topics (10 points)	Applicant's experience in relevant topics, e.g. youth activism, food system, agroecology, climate change, sustainable consumption, gender issues, human rights, participation process;
	Applicants' knowledge of Call's primary target groups (15 points)	Applicant's capacity and experience to reach, mobilize and work with youth (TG2s), e.g. in realisation of awareness raising campaigns targeting youth, in social media management, in global citizens education, and/or in advocacy processes and initiatives;
		Applicant's capacity and experience in working with institutions providing food (TG5) on improving policies and practices towards a fairer and more sustainable food system;
	Proposals' relevance (10 points)	Relevance of the project and its planned activities to the objectives and priorities of the call;
	Proposals' logic of intervention: quality, coherence and quantitative results (15 points)	A realistic monitoring plan is provided;
		Target groups are appropriately involved and reached: results and activities are well designed and coherent;
		Dimension of the action: number of target groups (in particular TG2 and TG5) involved/reached;
Sustainability (5 points)	Sustainability and replicability elements are included in the project;	
Proposals' financial efficiency (10 points)	Efficiency of the project (impact / budget ratio);	
	Applicant's capacity and experience to promote multi-stakeholder collaborations (e.g. via national or local networks, extent and quality of contacts to	

	Methodology and innovation (10 points)	relevant stakeholders, co-planning and participatory processes);
		Applicant's credible access to less involved and non-active youth and plausible strategies to activate them;
		Innovative project's methodologies (e.g. participatory learning methods, creative campaign methodologies both online and in presence, etc)

Additional scores		Supporting documents
Additional scores (+40 points)	Being a CSO promoting youth activism on different topics, <i>not</i> yet focusing on global food supply chains or agroecology (10 points)	Organisation's Statute/Charter; Organisation's CV if relevant
	Being a CSO promoting youth activism among less involved and non-active ¹⁰ youth on global food supply chains or agroecology (10 points)	Organisation's Statute/Charter; Organisation's CV if relevant
	Being a youth-led CSO/NGO (5 points)	Organisation's Statute/Charter; Organisation's CV if relevant
	Being a grassroot oriented organisation, smaller than organisations eligible in the DEAR or similar EU calls for proposals (5 points)	Organisation's Statute/Charter; Organisation's CV if relevant
	Having policies on the Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEA-H) (5 points)	Internal SEA-H policy
	Having an organisational code of conduct (5 points)	Internal code of conduct

The above-described criteria shall be met in the full application documents, with particular reference to Annex 1 –Template technical proposal, and Annex 2 – Template budget proposal: the presence of external links attesting to the quality of the proposal (e.g. previous projects,

¹⁰ It means those young people who are not aware about Reboot's topics and values

knowledge of methodology and target groups, and/or specific reference to stakeholders supporting the action) will be evaluated as an added value.

8 How to apply

In order to participate in the Call for proposal, **interested organisations must request the *Third-Party Dossier*, via the form here <https://forms.office.com/e/ZfBZBuD6GT>**

The application to submit shall consist of all the following fulfilled documents:

- 1) Template technical proposal (using the template in **Annex 1**)
- 2) Template budget proposal (using the template in **Annex 2**)
- 3) Declaration by the third party (**Annex 3**)
- 4) Official documentation on the legal and non-profit status of the CSO (**Statute/Charter** stating that the CSO is a legal person officially registered, and expressing its aims and purpose)
- 5) further documents (e.g. Organisation's CV, Internal SEA-H policy, Code of Conduct) must be attached only if relevant and in **1 unified PDF file**.

No additional documents must be sent.

The full application must be sent electronically to the following e-mail address: reboot@weworld.it no later than 9th February 2025 h. 6 pm CET. Applications received after this date will not be considered. A response e-mail will be sent upon successful transmission.

Languages: Annexes at points 1) - 3) must be filled out in English. With reference to points 4) and 5), official documentation needs to be attached in the language of origin *and* in an official or unofficial English translation.

Technical characteristics: the application's documents must be sent as PDFs (including all documents listed above (points 1 - 5) and the project budget (Annex 3) also as an Excel sheet. The total file size must not exceed 25 MB. Only proposals handed in with all documents and all information required will be accepted. Hand-written applications and applications submitted in print version will not be accepted. Annexes must be signed by applicants' legal representatives: all types of signatures are admitted.

9 Deadlines and timeline

Launch of the Call for Proposals	16 th December 2024
Deadline to ask questions	24 th January 2025
Deadline for submission of application	9th February 2025 h. 6 pm CET
Publication of the selection results	3 rd March 2025

Signing Contract with CIR, the lead organisation of the Reboot consortium	14 th - 28 th March 2025
Earliest possible date for start of the activities	14 th March 2025
Latest possible date for activities	30 th November 2026

10 Contractual Conditions

The successful Applicants (third parties) will sign a Third-Party Agreement with Christliche Initiative Romero e.V, the lead organisation of the Reboot project, before the start of the project.

The IFSTPs committee (see Section 7 - *Merit Evaluation*) will not only oversee the selection of project proposals, but will also act after the signature of the Agreements as guarantor and connector between WeWorld – Reboot partner organization responsible for the coordination of Call for Proposals’ Applicants and Subgrantees - and Christliche Initiative Romero e.V – lead organization of #Reboot, formally responsible for this Call for Proposal in its financial, MEAL and legal implications with Subgrantees, which signs the Third Party Agreement and distributes the funds (see Section 11 *Payment*).

After the signature, the third party will take responsibility for the implementation of the project.

The third party must report on the project expenditures. It will need to justify expenditures with financial supporting documents (invoices, boarding passes, staff and payroll records, salary slips, etc.) enabling a verification that the funds have been used for the purpose and in line with the Agreement.

The third party will have to comply with the visibility requirements of the Reboot project (inclusion of project logo and EU logos and statements in all communications, documents, publications, materials, reports, etc).

Unspent budget items and non-justified expenditures will need to be paid back to the Co-Beneficiary or will be discounted from the final instalment.

Thus, the Agreement will include

- a fixed list and description of activities to be implemented (Annex 1);
- a project budget (Annex 2);
- obligations to provide narrative and financial reporting (extent and time);
- obligations to keep record (extent and duration);
- obligation to provide proof for received payments;
- these Terms of Reference for the Call for Proposals;
- the signed Anti-Fraud Statement (Annex 3);

- Third-party bank account details;
- Visibility Guidelines for EU funded projects.

11 Payment

Payment shall be made in EUR from Christliche Initiative Romero e.V to the bank account indicated by the awarded applicant when signing the Agreement.

Payment will be done in accordance with the Agreement signed between the Third party and Christliche Initiative Romero e.V, as lead organisation of the Reboot project.

Payment will be executed against the reception of a payment request according the following schedule:

- First instalment upon the signature of the contract, at a height of 40% of the total amount of the financial support;
- Second instalment, following the approval of the interim report, at a height of 40% of the total amount of the financial support;
- Final instalment following the approval of the final report, at a height of 20% of the total amount of the financial support.

12 Contact

All up-to-date information related to the Call for applicant is available [in the page dedicated to the Call for Proposals in the WeWorld website.](#)

For questions on the application process, interested parties may contact the email reboot@weworld.it until 24th January 2025.

The anonymized responses to questions raised will be made public [in the page dedicated to the Call for Proposals in the WeWorld website.](#)

13 Annexes

The main annexes of the Call for Proposal are available [in the page dedicated to the Call for Proposals in the WeWorld website.](#)

Annex 1: Template Technical proposal

Annex 2: Template Budget proposal

Annex 3: Template Declaration by the Third Party (“Anti Fraud Statement”)

Further annexes and documentation are included in the *Third-Party Dossier*, which will be sent to the organisations that express their interest in participating in the Call for Proposals by filling out the [Microsoft form](#), as described in Section 8 – *How to apply*.

14 Data Privacy

It is hereby informed that the personal data provided under this Call for Proposals will be processed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 concerning the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data, as well as the free movement of such data, which repeals Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation, hereinafter GDPR). Personal data are collected and processed by Christliche Initiative Romero e.V and WeWorld as Independent Data Controllers, in compliance with the principles of fairness, lawfulness, and confidentiality protection, including through electronic means, and solely for the purposes of processing the personal data declared in the application form and communicated to the European Union. The data acquired as a result of the request for funding will be used exclusively for the purposes related to this Call. The acquisition of the data and its processing are mandatory in relation to the above purposes; consequently, any refusal may result in the inability of the Data Controller to proceed with the activities provided for in the Call.