



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS (CFN) #CEP-YCEA-05

### YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AWARD

*Please send your nominations no later than April 5, 2021.*

USAID's Civic Engagement Project (CEP) invites nominations for this year's Youth Civic Engagement Award (YCEA). Individuals, organizations, institutions, media, businesses or members of the community can submit a nomination for an individual young person who has been active in their community or engaged in a topic of public importance, or they can nominate an informal youth group, formal youth organization or youth CSO alliance that has promoted young people to be civically engaged or active in their community.

CEP is a five-year initiative that aims to strengthen the linkages between citizens and government. It supports civil society organizations (CSOs) to constructively and effectively engage government institutions on anti-corruption, transparency, and rule of law issues, and it also promotes young people to become more engaged in public life in North Macedonia.

CEP is implemented by East West Management Institute, Inc. (EWMI), in partnership with three local CSOs: Metamorphosis Foundation for Internet and Society, the Association for Democratic Initiatives (ADI), and the National Youth Council of Macedonia (NYCM). NYCM manages the YCEA. For more information about NYCM, please visit <http://www.nms.org.mk>

#### I. ABOUT THE AWARD

CEP will award up to six Youth Civic Engagement Awards (YCEA) to successful young men and women (age 18 - 29), informal youth groups (consisting of at least three members), and youth CSOs or youth CSO alliances that have demonstrated **exemplary commitment** to improving the life of their community or that of the society at large by undertaking actions that address issues of public concern at any level in North Macedonia. YCEA will be awarded for actions that the nominees have undertaken **during the period January 2020 to March 2021**.

YCEA will recognize initiatives by young men and women, informal youth groups, and youth CSOs/youth CSO alliances that have demonstrated: **a clear vision** for improvements at the community, regional, or national level that are systemic and sustainable in addressing a priority societal and/or community concern; **exceptional creativity, innovation, and leadership** in defining and addressing issues of public concern; and have **brought about tangible results** in improving the community or society's wellbeing due to the nominee's actions.

Through their activities, YCEA recipients will personify **examples of outstanding youth civic engagement**. Civic engagement encompasses individual and collective actions that serve to identify and address issues of public concern. Civic engagement can take many forms, from individual volunteerism to organizational involvement. It can include efforts to directly address an issue of public concern, work with others in the community to solve the problem, and/or interact with public institutions to address this problem.

Upon award, CEP will support future initiatives by YCEA winners through in-kind grants<sup>1</sup>.

### **Award categories**

CEP will award YCEA as follows:

- **Individual:** up to two awards for young men and women (age 18 - 29).
- **Informal youth groups:** up to two awards.
- **Youth CSO's/CSO alliances:** up to two awards.

#### **a. Eligibility**

- The young men and women and informal youth group members nominated for YCEA should:
  - (i) Be citizens of North Macedonia;
  - (ii) Are between 18 and 29 years old by March 1, 2021;
  - (iii) Have performed the work or services for which they are being nominated, within the Republic of North Macedonia at local, regional, or national level;
  - (iv) Demonstrate that they have been **fundamental** or **integral part** to the conveyance of the action, i.e., it is unlikely that the activities would have occurred without their participation.

---

<sup>1</sup> **In-Kind Grant** is a type of grant whereby goods and services are procured by CEP on behalf of and in close consultation with the respective YCEA winner.

- Youth CSOs legally registered in North Macedonia should:
  - (i) Be a **CSO registered in North Macedonia**, meaning that it is managed by a governing body the simple majority of which are citizens or lawful permanent residents of North Macedonia;
  - (ii) Have at least **two years of operational experience**;
  - (iii) **Must not be a debtor** to the Government of North Macedonia and must have cancelled any debt to the state or arranged for debt collection by the state prior to receiving the first disbursement of grant funds by CEP;
  - (iv) Must operate as an **independent non-politically affiliated organization**;
  - (v) Must not be debarred, suspended, excluded or otherwise ineligible to receive US government funding.

Civil servants, political appointees, members of the current parliament, staff of public broadcasting companies, and/or leaders of political parties cannot be nominated for YCEA.

The number of YCEAs available is strictly limited and therefore, however valuable their engagement, not everyone can receive recognition. It is important to realize that an award will not automatically be granted following a submission of nomination.

#### **b. Nomination criteria**

Ideal candidates for YCEA would be young men and women, informal youth groups, and youth CSOs/CSO alliances that:

- Have displayed exceptional commitment and dedication towards contributing to the community or society at large through exemplary action and service;
- Is/are considered as role model by peers and the wider community;
- Have demonstrated creative and innovative approaches to addressing the issue of public concern that he/she/they has/have worked on;
- Have applied creative and innovative approaches to engaging community members and other groups in addressing the respective issue of public concern;
- Have developed or supported opportunities for youth to participate in activities that benefit others;
- Have engaged people with fewer opportunities and socially marginalized groups, including the poor, ethnic minorities, women victims of violence, disabled people, LGBTI persons, etc., in efforts to address the respective issues of public concern;
- Have undertaken actions that bring about long lasting solutions to the respective issue of public concern;

- Might have effectively combined academic learning or research with community service outside the school or university;
- As part of the actions undertaken to address the respective issue of public concern, have made creative use of digital technology to make available information that otherwise wouldn't be accessible.

CEP will **not accept** or review nominations for activities conducted by individuals or groups that include:

- Support for or lobbying on behalf of a political party;
- Religious activities;
- Academic research or work for personal professional development.

### c. Award

Upon award, YCEA winners will be awarded **grants** to support the advancement of their civic engagement work. To that end, they will be invited to submit a brief concept paper that outlines their actual goals and needs. The grants will be:

- Up to \$1,500 for **Individual** YCEA category;
- Up to \$2,500 for **Informal youth groups**; and
- Up to \$2,500 for **Youth CSOs/Youth CSO alliances**.

## II. NOMINATION PROCESS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Young men and women, informal youth groups, and youth CSOs/CSO alliances can be nominated to be considered for YCEA by individuals, organizations, institutions, media, businesses or by members of the community. Awards will be announced and presented during the YCEA Ceremony that will be held in Skopje during June 2021.

To nominate candidates for YCEA, please go to the [following link](#) and follow the instructions in the nomination forms. It is important that you provide as much information as possible about your nominee, and explain their actual contribution and impact.

**The deadline for submitting the nominations is 16:00h, April 5, 2021.**

**The nominated candidates that meet the criteria will be shortlisted and subjected to public voting process.**

For questions and clarifications, please, write to [filip.kulakov@nms.org.mk](mailto:filip.kulakov@nms.org.mk).

CEP will post the responses to the questions on NYCM's web site.

Please refer to the timeline table for specific deadlines.

## Timeline

Call for Nominations launch date	March 15, 2021
Deadline for submitting questions and clarification requests to CEP	March 20, 2021
Date when CEP will issue clarifications	March 25, 2021
<b>DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS</b>	<b>16:00, April 5, 2021</b>
Review of nominations and shortlist of nominees	April 5 - 10, 2021
Public voting process	April 10 - 25, 2021
Notification of YCEA winners	April 26, 2021
YCEA winners submit project outlines	By May 10, 2021
YCEA Ceremony	<b>TBD in May 2021</b>
<i>Please note that the dates above are subject to change</i>	

*This grant program is made possible by the support of the American People through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID.) The contents of this Call for Nominations are the sole responsibility of East-West Management Institute, Inc. and the National Youth Council of Macedonia and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.*