

Call for Education – Romania & Bulgaria

Initiative aimed at contrasting educational poverty

1) INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

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

Accordingly, UniCredit Foundation launches the initiative "Call for Education –Romania & Bulgaria" to fund educational projects in these two countries.

Early school leaving and failure to acquire adequate skills for continuing university studies or entering the job market are widespread phenomena in most UniCredit 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 projects contrasting educational poverty in Bulgaria and Romania 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;
- acquisition of skills appropriate to the attainment of university studies;
- acquisition of adequate skills to enter the job market.

The call will welcome innovative projects both in the areas of intervention and in the operational methodology.

The total funding allocated by UniCredit Foundation for this initiative amounts to **€ 500,000**. This amount will be assigned to **maximum 4 projects**. The amount will not necessarily be divided equally between the two countries, but it will be allocated based on the contents and specificities of the selected projects.

UniCredit Foundation will proceed to the payment of the liberal contribution directly to the winning organizations by bank transfer upon signing a bilateral agreement with the organization itself.

2) APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To apply, non-profit organisations are invited to access www.unicredit.ro/callforeducation and required to submit their projects at callforeducation@unicredit.ro, providing the following documents:

1) ANNEX _Project Form -> project sheet (available on website), including:

- a short **presentation of the organisation (in English)**
- the **reasons why the project is worthy** of support **(in English)**
- a clear description of the **objectives the project** intends to achieve **(in English)**
- a detailed description of the **budget (in English)**
- description of the **impact of the project**, focusing on main goals, duration, geographical area, activities, beneficiaries (number and description), methods for monitoring the results. **(in English)**

2) Copy of the statute (alternatively the link)

3) Copy of the 2021 financial statements (alternatively the link)

4) ANNEX_Self Declaration - Anti-Corruption declaration (available on website) signed by the legal representative.

Applications must be submitted **by 31.03.2023**.

This initiative is reserved exclusively to Romania and Bulgaria.

The respective UniCredit legal entities (UniCredit Romania and UniCredit Bulbank) responsible for collecting the applications are asked to send to UniCredit Foundation a **short list of maximum 4 projects** each.

By **28 April 2023**, candidate projects will be assessed by an ad hoc Evaluation Committee, which will select a maximum of 4 winning projects, with a contribution for each project defined on the basis of the initiative's budget and in compliance with the provisions of the aforementioned articles, for a maximum amount of € 500,000 for the whole initiative.

3) REQUIREMENTS

All projects must meet the following requirements:

- be consistent with the objectives of the call, in terms of contrasting educational poverty
- highlight any elements of innovation and/or experimentation with respect to the themes of the call
- have a relevant geographical scope
- provide for a total duration of 18-36 months.

Organizations can propose more than one project.

UniCredit Foundation will not consider projects aimed at: purchase or construction of real estate infrastructures; the ordinary management of the activity; study, research, training and granting of scholarships or the realization of events, conferences, or exhibitions.

4) EVALUATION PROCESS

The Evaluation Committee will be chaired by the General Manager of the Foundation and composed of the CEE CEO (or a delegate) and an external member expert in educational topics.

The Committee will consider only projects that:

- are carried out by organizations with registered office (or operational office) in Romania and Bulgaria, demonstrating a thorough knowledge of the problem and an overall consistency between objectives, intervention strategy, planned resources and implementation times
- foster social cohesion and the development of relational networks through the involvement of representative subjects of the territorial reality targeted by the intervention, especially the third sector
- provide for the involvement of entities with skills and professionalism appropriate to the implementation of the interventions
- do not represent the mere re-proposal of an initiative already underway, but are designed starting from the context, the needs identified, and the subjects of the territories involved
- 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.

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.

6) CONTACTS

Further information and clarifications can be requested by contacting:

callforeducation@unicredit.ro

7) BANKS' OBLIGATIONS

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

Milan, 24 January 2023