

Call for Interest

Ideas for the set-up of a “Global Citizens Initiative” by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, headquartered in Lisbon, wishes to commission a brief scoping study for a new programming initiative it is considering to establish by the end of 2019. In order to select the individual or the team to undertake the scoping exercise, it has opened a “Call for Interest.”

The proposals should:

- Be a maximum of five pages, with a 300 word executive summary.
- Include the key themes or ideas that are being considered for further study/research.
- Include the proposed timeline (no more than five months) and budget for the scoping exercise.
- Mention the names of team members (if any), including the CV(s) as an appendix.
- Outline the methodology of the proposed study.

Background and rationale

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation’s (CGF) vision is to contribute to a more equitable world by preparing the citizens of the future. The principal priority of its interventions is helping to build a society that offers equal opportunities and is sustainable.

In order to fulfill this mission, CGF develops and executes various activities and programmes. The Foundation operates in Portugal, Portuguese speaking African countries (PALOP), Timor-Leste, UK, France, Armenia and in the Armenian diaspora. In addition to its headquarters in Lisbon, it has offices in London and Paris.

Its global scope has been reaffirmed in recent years by joining international networks, forums and think tanks focused on major global Issues, and by establishing partnerships with some multilateral agencies to support international development, mainly in the PALOP.

2019 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian who was a quintessential citizen of the world. The anniversary provides a unique occasion for the Gulbenkian Foundation to honour its founder by reinforcing its commitment to future generations, to global citizenship and to international programming. Hence, the Foundation intends to launch by the end of 2019 a new “Global Citizens Initiative” (GCI).

Through the GCI, the Foundation will allocate some resources to address a specific global issue or problem that is broadly in line with the Foundation’s strategic priorities and civil society concerns. In order to identify the best or most appropriate sector to intervene in, the Foundation is commissioning a research/scoping study with recommendations to inform its decision-making.

Objectives of the study

The objective of the study is to identify areas on which the Global Citizens Initiative could focus. The Initiative will be implemented during a five year programmatic cycle. The study should take into account the following elements:

1. To identify a global challenge or issue that is relevant to future generations;
2. Have an international scope and be aligned with Agenda 2030 and the SDGs;
3. To focus on a niche where its value added can be evidenced;
4. To build on but not overlap with other programming areas of the Foundation;
5. To have the potential to attract other philanthropic international partners, as well as be appealing to international leaders;
6. To take into account the context in which the Foundation operates, the work of the UN and other foundations or international development organizations.

Methodology and Results

The study should include internal and external consultations, desktop research, meetings and interviews with relevant institutions and individuals.

More specifically, the study should answer the following questions:

- i. Which area or areas, thematic and geographic, should be addressed by GCI, providing some clearly laid out options;
- ii. The targeted beneficiaries of the GCI;
- iii. The programming options (methodology) of the GCI (e.g. grants, fellowships, advocacy, etc.);

- iv. Suggestions for potential international and national partners, as well as opportunities to disseminate the Initiative internationally;
- v. Key success factors and ideas on which impact can be evaluated.

The Foundation will appoint a small team to follow up the study with the selected expert or team, particularly at the following junctures:

- a. Discussion of the methodology of the study;
- b. Review of the proposed list of meetings and interviews;
- c. Discussion of the first draft of the study addressing the scope of the GCI;
- d. Discussion of the complete draft of the overall study.

The scoping study will be undertaken during the months of June to October 2019. The deadline to receive proposals for the scoping study is Monday 1 April 2019, 23h59 GMT.

Proposals can be in English or Portuguese.

The proposals and all enquiries should be sent to the following email address: global.citizens.ini@gulbenkian.pt.

The successful proposal will be announced by 20 May 2019.

The selection of the proposal will be undertaken by a committee of experts within the Foundation, and confirmed by its Board of Trustees. The following criteria will be taken into account in the selection process:

- Originality of the programming ideas proposed and their potential impact.
- Programming practicality and “fit” with the Foundation.
- Expertise of individual(s) undertaking the study.
- Proposed budget.