# **Call for Proposals: AI Act Implementation Grants**

The European AI & Society Fund is pleased to invite applications for our AI Act Implementation Grants: a total of €400,000 in funding to support immediate work to promote social justice objectives in the implementation of the European AI Act.

* Who can apply? Organisations that want to promote social justice outcomes within the AI Act’s secondary legislation and enforcement infrastructure
* How much will we award? €10,000 - €60,000
* How long are the grants? Flexible, according to the needs of the project and the AI Act implementation timeline
* What’s the deadline? Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. The first review of submissions will start on 10 November with funding from projects selected in that round beginning on 15 December. The call operates on a first-come, first-serve basis and will be closed when the budget is exhausted.
* Where? Organisations should be registered and carry out their work in the EU, EEA, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Switzerland and the UK.

Full information about the call for proposals and how to apply is below.

**We will hold two information sessions if you would like to find out more:**

* 23 October 11-12h CET, you can register [here.](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpcuChrDMvHdO7JuL6YoLxPp1SihTBAJCr)
* 5 November 14-15h CET, you can register [here](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEudOipqTsjHtFMZ1lvBkw2O5aVJWDZzQMY)

We are also offering separate grants to support broader work on securing accountability over the use of AI in Europe outside of the confines of the AI Act implementation process. You can find information about those grants [here.](https://europeanaifund.org/newspublications/ai-accountability-grants/)

## **Context**

The AI Act Implementation Grants are part of our [Making Regulation Work](https://europeanaifund.org/newspublications/launching-our-new-build-breakthrough-initiatives-to-meet-the-ai-challenge/) programme which aims to challenge the harmful impacts of AI on society and secure accountability for AI use by supporting the effective implementation and enforcement of legislation in Europe.

While the adoption of the European Union’s AI Act in 2024 was a significant milestone in itself, the implementation and enforcement phase that now follows will decide whether it can have a practical impact on how AI is developed and used. Public interest advocates must be active partners in this process to ensure that the regulation can be an effective tool to challenge the harmful impacts of AI on society and secure accountability over AI use. Their success will determine the future direction of AI not just in Europe, but also in the many countries across the globe that look set to follow the EU’s regulatory lead.

In the near term, the institutions and secondary legislation that will operationalise the AI Act will be established, the guidelines that specify prohibitions and risks will be drawn up, transparency measures will be drafted and technical standards agreed. There is significant scope to influence this process and promote social justice priorities. [Research](https://europeanaifund.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/240827_FINAL_AI_ACT_Enforcement.pdf) commissioned by the European AI & Society Fund outlines a detailed list of strategic actions that civil society could undertake.

In response, the European AI & Society Fund is launching grants with a total budget of €400,000 to resource the immediate, time-sensitive needs of public interest groups and coalitions that want to play an active part in the implementation of the AI Act. Open from October 2024, these grants will be issued on a rolling basis until the total budget is spent.

## **Scope**

The AI Act Implementation Grants will provide support for work strengthening social justice perspectives in the development of secondary legislation and the enforcement infrastructure of the AI Act at EU and national levels. The fund does not prescribe which approaches or tactics to leverage in the pursuit of strengthening the AI Act.

Examples of work that may qualify for funding include:

* Soliciting expert advice or commissioning research on a specific aspect of the AI Act implementation, for example the fundamental rights impact assessments
* Ad-hoc convening costs to coordinate among stakeholders involved in the implementation, including travel costs and venues
* Systematising coordination between organisations working in Brussels and at the national and regional level.
* Convening costs to engage with authorities responsible for the enforcement of the AI act
* Travel costs and compensation for experts and advocates that provide substantial input as part of the AI Act implementation process
* Compensation for time spent on one of the sub-committees of the Code of Practice, or in similar processes

Under this call, we won’t fund:

* Work focused on *enforcing* the EU AI Act and other regulations, please consult the [open call for AI Accountability Grants](https://europeanaifund.org/newspublications/ai-accountability-grants/).
* General support and staff time requests to grow organisational capacity.
* Public awareness raising campaigns about the AI Act.
* Top-up requests adding to already ongoing grants provided by the EAISF, unless you can substantiate how the additional costs cannot be covered by the current funding.
* Work that focuses on hypothetical future risks of Artificial General Intelligence and other speculative technologies that have not yet materialised.

[This recent report](https://europeanaifund.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/240827_FINAL_AI_ACT_Enforcement.pdf) from the European Centre of Non-Profit Law may be helpful to provide further examples of the type of work needed to make the AI Act an effective tool for social justice.

## **Who can apply?**

* Organisations with a track record of work on AI and social justice
* Organisations should be registered and carry out their work in one or several of the following countries: the EU, EEA, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Switzerland and the UK.
* If you want to apply in partnership with other organisations, please choose one lead applicant who represents the coalition in this process
* Organisations must have non-profit status

We particularly welcome applications that include collaborations with organisations on national level that directly work on social justice issues.

If you are not sure if you are eligible, please check out our [FAQ](https://europeanaifund.org/newspublications/call-ai-act-implementation-grants/) and join our information sessions.

* For the session on 23 October 11-12h CET, you can register [here](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpcuChrDMvHdO7JuL6YoLxPp1SihTBAJCr).
* For the session on 5 November 14-15h CET, you can register [here.](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEudOipqTsjHtFMZ1lvBkw2O5aVJWDZzQMY)

If you are still unsure, please contact us on [info@europeanaifund.org](mailto:info@europeanaifund.org).

## **How much money to request?**

Grants will be between €10,000 and €60,000. We usually issue our funds in three instalments: 50% on grant signing, 40% midway through the grant period subject to previous funds having been spent, 10% on completion of the grant. For small grants the instalment plan might vary

We anticipate that we will receive very diverse proposals and have therefore made the grant size and duration flexible. The amount of money needed for the work will vary – for instance whether it is preparing a potentially lengthy and complex piece of research or whether it is a shorter and more focused assignment.

We encourage applicants to make realistic judgements about the resources they will need to conduct the work, including overhead costs, and neither under nor overbudget their proposals.

## **How to apply?**

Please complete the application form on the [online portal](https://nef-europe.optimytool.com/en/project/new/private/?form=63b342a6-b523-514e-be41-6da000299b00&key=cf89f9c8027cf9fec757cfeee66c0f329704ddf1). You will also need to submit a budget template and the due diligence information.

Together with your application, you will need to submit the following due diligence documents:

* Proof of registration / articles of association
* Your 2022 accounts
* Your 2023 accounts
* Audit report 2023 (if your organisation is audiited)
* Forecast annual budget for 2025
* Most recent operating budget (2024)
* Bank identification form
* Proposed budget for the project (you can download the budget template from [here](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Feuropeanaifund.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2024%2F10%2FBudget-template.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK))
* Due diligence questionnaire (you can download the template from [here](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Feuropeanaifund.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2024%2F10%2FDue-dilligence-questionnaire.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK))

For more info, please see our [FAQ](https://europeanaifund.org/newspublications/call-ai-act-implementation-grants/). The application process for the AI Act implementation grant has only one submission stage.

Applications can be submitted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed every 3 months until the budget is spent. It is possible that the full budget of €400,000 may be allocated during the first review of submissions from 10 November 2024. If this is the case the grants will be closed at that point.

All information must be submitted in English. If English is not your first language feel free to share with us a translated proposal, please indicate in the text whether you have used a translator, so we are aware when reading your submission. All further communication and activities will take place in English.

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| **Application stages** |  |
| Launch of call for proposals | 15 October 2024 |
| First Info session | 23 October |
| Second Info session | 5 November |
| **First submission deadline** | 10 November 2024 |
| Notification of funding decision | 10 December 2024 |
| Announcement on whether a second round of evaluations will take place or if the call will close if the full budget is allocated in the first round. | 12 December 2024 |
| Grant start date for selected applications | 15 December 2024 |

## **How do we make decisions?**

Funding decisions will be made by a selection committee made up of European AI & Society Fund staff and representatives from our partner foundations.

We will assess applications against the funding scope outlined above. Our objective is to make the AI Act an effective tool for social justice. Our evaluation will consider the applications against the following criteria. Each criterion is given a particular weight in which is indicated by the number in brackets:

1. Does the proposal articulate how the proposed work will engage in the implementation process of the AI Act? (5)
2. Does the proposal articulate a compelling rationale for how it will promote social justice in the AI Act? (5)
3. Are the objectives and activities clearly articulated and defined in the proposal? (4)
4. Does this work seem feasible within the budget, requested resources and available organisational capacity proposed within the application? (3)

## **About the European AI & Society Fund**

The European AI & Society Fund works to shape Artificial Intelligence to serve people and society, now and into the future. We pool resources from our philanthropic partners and use these to support public interest experts and advocates in Europe working towards AI policy and governance that secures fundamental rights, challenges social injustice and promotes fair, inclusive and sustainable societies.