FORCED LABOUR REGULATION LEGAL FUND

Frequently asked questions

The Freedom Fund has created the EU Forced Labour Regulation Legal Fund ('EU FLR Fund') to support civil society organisations and unions to 'test' different elements of the FLR within its first years of full operation.

The EU FLR Fund will support organisations to collate evidence, submit petitions, engage with the EU authorities and to undertake related activities to leverage the FLR.

The aim of the **EU FLR Fund** is to:

- Help CSOs and unions test what works under the FLR;
- Support strategies that use the FLR as a leverage mechanism to drive broader advocacy, campaign, legal or worker organising strategies;
- Drive positive impact for workers and change in business practices;
- Use learnings to support advocacy to improve the FLR and similar laws elsewhere.

Additional translation requests

Please contact us at the following email if you have additional translation requests, and we will try to accommodate where possible: supplychains@freedomfund.org.

A note on language barriers: it is likely that petitions to the EU can be submitted in EU languages only – this includes English, French, Spanish and Portuguese. If this creates a barrier for you to apply to the FLR Fund, please get in touch with us.

Who can apply?

Human rights organisations, civil society organisations, watchdog groups, trade unions, worker groups, and individual human rights defenders.

Applicants must show:

- Demonstrable knowledge of forced labour in a private sector/supply chain context and;
- Existing experience or interest in using corporate accountability supply chain strategies in their work.

We welcome applications from organisations based in the Global South, or partnerships between Global South and Global North groups. In joint bids, we expect Global South partners to be meaningfully involved in designing the strategy and for project strategies to be reflective of both organisations' strategic goals.

Can current Freedom Fund partners apply?

Yes, existing Freedom Fund partners may apply if their existing support from the Freedom Fund does not cover the project area.

I don't have technical expertise on the EU FLR. Can I still apply?

Yes. Organisations who wish to apply, but feel they may lack the technical expertise to navigate the FLR process and **submit a petition should contact the Freedom Fund as soon as possible** before the deadline. The Freedom Fund may be able to connect you to organisations with specialist knowledge on the EU FLR to support.

Does the Fund have geographic restrictions?

No, this is a global call for proposals. Organisations from any country may apply, and project strategies can relate to forced labour in any country.

As above, we welcome applications from organisations based in the Global South, or partnerships between Global South and Global North groups. In joint bids, we expect Global South partners to be meaningfully involved in designing the strategy and for project strategies to be reflective of both organisations' strategic goals.

Will the Fund consider applications for entirely new forced labour investigations?

No. In this Round of the Fund, **we will not fund projects which require wholly new investigations interviewing workers**. This is due to the significant resourcing needed and the potential safeguarding risks to workers and CSOs involved. At this early 'test' stage of the FLR, we consider it inappropriate to create that burden and risk.

We will only fund petition strategies that involve **using existing evidence** or **updating existing evidence** of forced labour. This includes funding investigations which focus on updating existing evidence from previous on-the-ground investigations. This will be where there is existing access to workers and where further outreach would not create significant safeguarding and security risks. All grants will be subject to a thorough risk assessment and mitigation plan.

My project proposal has specific confidentiality considerations. Can I still submit it?

Yes. Funded projects will be offered additional support or budget of around $5000 to manage specific security or safeguarding considerations.

Please contact us by email, supplychains@freedomfund.org, and we will set-up a secure communications channel to discuss any confidentiality concerns.

Does my project proposal need to show a link to the EU?

Yes. Applicants **should provide basic evidence that their proposed petition would relate to a product sold in the EU**.

Applicants are **not expected to establish detailed supply chain linkages**. However, applicants should just make sure, prior to submitting an application to the Freedom Fund, that there is some indication that the product is sold in the EU.

Examples could be:

- The product appears on a website selling to EU customers;
- The supplier lists an EU company as its client;
- Trade data suggests that the EU imports this product from the relevant country.

Funded projects will be put in touch with organisations which can support in further establishing supply chain linkages.

Will there be more opportunities in the future to apply to the Fund?

We intend to run the EU FLR Fund through at least two rounds. Round One will be for grants issued in 2027, and we expect to fund four to five projects in this round. We expect to launch Round Two in 2028.

What size of grants will the Fund issue? And, how many grants will be issued?

Budget proposals should be in the range of $50,000 to $75,000, including 15% overhead. In Round One, we expect to fund 4-5 projects

When can I expect to hear about next steps?

The deadline for the Expression of Interest is **12:00 PM (noon) GMT on the 5th of January 2027**.

Freedom Fund will invite organisations whose EOI is shortlisted to submit a full proposal on 29 January 2027, with a deadline to submit the full proposal by 15 March 2027.

I have a question not addressed above. Who should I contact?

Contact us with any questions: supplychains@freedomfund.org.