Financial Mechanism: MENA InnovateFund

The MENA InnovateFund is a dedicated financial mechanism designed to support digital democracy initiatives in the MENA region by addressing the funding challenges faced by civil society organizations (CSOs). It targets grassroots organizations, collectives, individual leaders, activists, and community-based entities, regardless of their legal status, providing resources to scale existing projects or test new ideas. The fund emphasizes sustainability, transparency, and innovation in its approach, offering financial support, capacity building, and strategic partnerships based on the regional ecosystem. It aims to create a supportive ecosystem that educates donors about the region's unique needs, promotes continuous funding opportunities, and fosters the exchange of best practices in financial sustainability among CSOs.

How to know if you are eligible for the implementation of this mechanism?

The Top 4 Requirements we are looking for in a partner to implement this prototype are:

1. **Proven Expertise in Digital Civic Participation:** Proven track record in using digital technologies to enhance public participation and civic engagement, with a keen focus on integrating traditionally excluded and underrepresented communities.

2. **Community Connections:** Well-established relationships with grassroots organizations, community groups, and civil society actors within the region. Proven experience in co-designing initiatives with these stakeholders is essential.

3. **Robust Project Management Capabilities:** Demonstrated experience in project management, including large scale grant management and sub-granting capacity, comprehensive planning, execution, and monitoring of projects, with a detailed project timeline, well-defined objectives, and achievable milestones within a 12-month period.

4. **Strategic Alignment and Operational Support:** Clear alignment with the prototype’s strategic objectives, including facilitating fiscal sponsorships, providing technical assistance, and offering expert support to develop and refine funding proposals, ensuring that all operational aspects align with the fund’s strategic goals.
Non-Financial Mechanism: MENA Digital Democracy Empowerment Initiative

The MENA Digital Democracy Empowerment Initiative addresses the region’s significant challenges in digital knowledge, capacities, and accessibility among civil society organizations (CSOs). It aims to enhance CSOs' digital skills by providing innovative and modern tools necessary for implementing projects in Digital Democracy. The support offered includes the development of AI-powered tools tailored to the needs of CSOs, the establishment of the MENA Digital Democracy Academy for comprehensive offline and online training programs, and the creation of Communities of Practice to encourage peer-to-peer learning and collaboration.

*How to know if you are eligible for the implementation of this mechanism?*

The Top 4 Requirements we are looking for in a partner to implement this prototype are:

1. **Proven Expertise in Digital Democracy:** Demonstrated experience in digital participation, advocacy, and digital rights within the Middle East and North Africa. This includes a proven track record of implementing successful initiatives directly related to digital democracy.

2. **Strong Capacity Building Background:** Extensive experience in providing training, consultancy, and capacity-building services. Ideally, the organization should have a demonstrated ability to develop and enhance digital competencies and resilience among civil society actors.

3. **Community Engagement and Networking:** Proven capacity for community building and supporting community-led design and action. Experience in organizing regional networking events is essential.

4. **Commitment to Regional and Global Representation:** A strategic focus on addressing regional challenges and opportunities, with the capability to represent the region in international forums. The organization should be committed to elevating the regional expertise in digital democracy and ensuring that the voices and perspectives of Middle East and North Africa are included in global discussions.