



EWI FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2026

RESEARCH GRANTS

Background

Since 2014, Ecumenical Women's Initiative (EWI) has been honoured to support 24 female theologians, scholars and activists from Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia with a total of 28 research grants to conduct academic research on a number of topics.

This year, we are happy to announce the 6th consecutive biennial EWI Fellowship Programme (EFP 2026) call, awarding grants aimed at supporting *feminist research papers* on topics of strategic interest to EWI. By conducting their empirical or theoretical research focused on the EWI region, we invite female scholars and activists to design research in the form of an academic paper no longer than 8,000 words.

Although we leave the choice of paper topics open, possible (intersectional) fields of research could include - but are not limited to - the following:

- Women's movement in the Western Balkans.
- Peacebuilding, environment and religion.
- Interfaith dialogue in peacebuilding.
- Religion, women and gender.

We are especially interested in topics falling into [EWI's mandate](#).

Eligibility

Female researchers and academics, most notably women theologians, and/or activists residing in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia or Serbia. Candidates must have at least a BA degree, demonstrate the ability for quality scholarly research and academic writing applying intersectional and feminist research methodologies and identify with the EWI's values and priorities.

The primary selection criterion is the quality of the research proposal (see the Research Proposal Form.doc in Attachments). Priority will be given to candidates who have not previously been awarded an EWI Fellowship Research grant.

Application Process

Applicants must submit the following by **Friday, 13th March 2026** to eiz.istrzivanja@gmail.com:

- A letter of motivation (specifically highlighting any work or projects related to EWI themes, and – if applicable - the applicant's prior or current involvement in its activities);
- A detailed curriculum vitae, including a list of publications and/or research projects (if applicable).
- The Research Proposal (downloadable from Attachments).
- Two writing samples (preferably already published papers).



- Two letters of reference from persons familiar with the applicant's work (one of which must be of an academician).

Save the date!

In order to provide more detailed information on EFP 2024, EWI will host a **webinar/ info-session** for prospective applicants on **Thursday, 26th February 2026 at 10 h**. Its aim is to present the Programme details to all interested applicants, with a particular focus on the research methodology requirements, as well as to offer space for Q&A before applying to the Call. If interested, **please apply** to eiz.istravanja@gmail.com no later than **22nd February 2026**.

EWI Fellowship Conditions

Each selected candidate / EFP 2026 Research Fellow must:

- Complete the research and submit the finished article according to the required technical criteria and all milestones while mentored by an EWI-assigned reader by the deadline set in the Call. (see Anex 1: Terms of Reference – Research Fellows, including the timeframe).
- Submit their article in Croatian, Bosnian, Macedonian, Montenegrin or Serbian language. Albanian speakers are asked to submit their articles in English.
- Hold the responsibility for the certified professional editing/proofreading of her article before its first draft submission to EWI for final approval.
- Retain the right to use and publish her article elsewhere, noting that the work was created in collaboration with the EWI.

EWI bears responsibility for:

- Monitoring timely meeting of milestones by the Research Fellows;
- Assignment of competent mentors/ readers to EFP 2026 Research Fellows;
- Translation and proof reading of the approved article into / from English;
- Grant payments following submission of the finally approved article;
- E-publication of both language versions of the approved articles on the EWI website.

Description of Fellowship Grants

- Fellowship/contract period: 1 April 2026 - 15 December 2026 (9 months)
- Maximum number of grants to be awarded: 5-7 grants
- Net value of individual grants: € 1,500.
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Selection and Approval Process

Screening of all applications will be done **by an external expert** engaged by EWI to coordinate the Fellowship Programme during this Call. The Coordinator has the mandate to draw up a list of applicants recommended for support to be **approved by EWI Board**.

Applications will be assessed based on the applicant's letter of motivation, CV, field(s) of expertise, documentation submitted (incl. references), academic writing sample quality, the research topic (one that is innovative and of relevance to EWI's strategic fields of interest), geographical scope of the research, as well as the quality of the research paper proposal (Research Proposal Form attached).

Once their proposals have been approved, successful applicants will sign a contract with EWI, embarking on the research implementation. At the end of the research phase, aka EFP 2026, the External Coordinator approves the final version of the Fellows' research papers prior to their grant payments.

Annex 1: TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR) – RESEARCH FELLOWS

Research Fellows

Research Fellows are women scholars and/or activists who can demonstrate their capacity for quality academic research and writing, exhibiting their commitment to gender equality, peacebuilding, nonviolence, ecumenical openness and inter-religious coexistence. Candidates must be resident in either Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro or Serbia.

Research Fellows share EWI values and engagement in its fields of operation. Their research proposals will be relevant to EWI work. In case of equal quality research proposals, priority will be given to candidates who have previously not benefited from the EWI Fellowship Programme and/or those with a track record of affiliation to the EWI partners' network and their activities.

The Process / Timeline

Duration: *1 April 2026 - 31 January 2027*

General Milestones

10 February	EFP 2026 call launched
26 February	EFP 2026 webinar / info session (applications by 22 nd February)
13 March	EFP 2026 call closes
31 March	Applications assessment, selection of Fellows
1-15 April	Contracting Fellows & Mentors / Readers
15 or 16 April	1 st EFP 2026 Fellows webinar

April – December **Research Paper Writing Milestones**

31 May	Submission of the 1 st part of the research (introduction and theoretical discussion)
30 June	Submission of the 2 nd part of the research (methodology developed / specified)
1 July – 31 August	Research implementation
31 August	Interim Progress Report on research progress, experience, challenges, etc.
30 September	Submission of the 3 rd part of the research 'body' of the research: analysis)
1-31 October	Finalization of research papers, proofreading
October	2 nd EFP 2026 Fellows webinar
6 November	Submission of finished/ proofread research papers to EWI for final feedback
30 November	EFP 2026 Coordinator's feedback to the submitted papers' version
11 December	Submission of the papers' final version (based on Coordinator's feedback) +



	the final report with an evaluation of the EFP 2026 participation experience ¹
by 18 December	Payment of EFP 2026 grants (upon EFP Coordinator's approval of final papers)
January 2027	Possible final communication during the papers' translation process.

Deliverables

During the Programme, the Research Fellows are expected to:

- Submit a full application to the EFP 2026 call.
- Actively participate at the 1st and 2nd EFP 2026 Fellows webinar.
- Meet all the Research Paper Writing Milestones in due time (as per this ToR and the Contract).
- Submit an Interim Progress Report.
- Submit a completed and proofread, ready-for publication research paper (of up to 8,000 words).
- Submit a Final Report.

Communication

The EFP 2026 has a designated Coordinator in charge of facilitating and steering the process on behalf of EWI. Besides being a liaison person in process implementation matters, the Coordinator, a skilled researcher and project manager herself, is also a resource person to both the Fellows and their Mentors / Readers pertaining to all matters relevant to the EFP 2026.

Re. research implementation matters, the Research Fellows are expected to communicate most directly **with their Mentors/ Readers** assigned to them by EWI. Optionally and exceptionally, both Research Fellows and Readers are welcome to ask for the Coordinator's input on research implementation issues.

Re. technical matters arising from research implementation, the Research Fellows and Readers are expected to communicate **with the Coordinator**.

Re. contracting and financial matters, as well as their **papers' translation and publication**, the Research Fellows should **contact EWI Office** directly to melanie@eiz.hr.

¹ A mandatory precondition to EWI payment of EFP 2026 grants to Fellows and Mentors / Readers.