We need innovative ideas and fresh thinking if we want to create a world free of corruption. The IACC and Transparency International (TI) places a strong emphasis on promoting citizen engagement and enabling citizens to take the active role in becoming change makers in their own societies. This is the idea behind the International Anti-Corruption Conference’s Social Entrepreneurs Initiative.

**Project overview**

TI is working to improve understanding of the corruption issues which people are faced with every day in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, and to increase awareness and engagement amongst citizens.

For this reason, the IACC and TI are launching a Social Entrepreneurs Initiative (SEI) for MENA. The initiative aims to support innovative ideas from all members of society to boost transparency, accountability and help the fight corruption in their communities. It is modelled after the IACC Social Entrepreneurs' Initiative. The competition opens on the 15th August and the application deadline is the 15th October 2014. Winners will be notified by the end of November 2014.

**Who should be involved?**

The Social Entrepreneurs Initiative invites all citizens of the MENA region to take part in this exciting competition. The competition provides a platform for social entrepreneurs who aspire to create positive change in their communities. With innovative ideas and creative solutions to corruption problems we can help tackle some of the key challenges of today and offer sustainable solutions for tomorrow.

**Am I a social entrepreneur?**

If you have an innovative idea that focuses on creating change for greater good, or that will have a positive effect on society, then yes you can consider yourself a social entrepreneur and are eligible to participate in the competition.

**Eligibility Criteria**

- Participants must be both a national of the MENA region and based in one of the following countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, the UAE and Yemen.
- The proposed projects must have direct impact in at least one of these countries.
- Applications are preferred in English but proposals in Arabic are also welcome.
**Assessment criteria**
Entries will be evaluated and nominated based on the following criteria among other factors:

- Entrepreneurial vision
- Feasibility
- Innovation
- Impact
- Sustainability
- Relevance to anti-corruption, integrity or transparency

**Prizes**

- Seed funding for a total of three projects, each worth 5000 Euros towards the implementation of your project.
- The individuals behind the winning projects will join the SEI network, with each of the projects featured on the IACC SEI page.
- The winners will be sponsored to participate in the next gathering of the International Anti-Corruption Conference.

**Application Process**

**Complete the Online Application Form**
Below you will find the online application form with four sections to be completed. Only applications received via this form will be accepted. Please be as detailed and precise in your answers as possible.

**Further information on the Planning template and Budget template**
Applicants should use the Planning template to show us what steps or activities their project will involve, why these steps or activities are important, and what the duration of these activities will be. The grant will be awarded in two instalments, what steps or activities will you complete with the first instalment (Phase 1)? What will you do with the second instalment (Phase 2)?
Entrainents also need to show how they plan to spend the grant, and how much the project will cost in total. This should be done by completing the Budget template with the envisaged costs.

**Additional Information**

Have you got any questions? If so you can send an email to sei-mena@transparency.org.