Iceland Liechtenstein Norway **Civil Society Fund**

OPEN CALL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs)

IN HUNGARY

ORGANISATIONAL GRANTS

STRENGTHENING CSOs THAT PROMOTE DEMOCRACY, THE RULE OF LAW, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

5,000,000 €

DEADLINE:

11 MAY 2026, 16:00 Budapest time

ökotárs alapítvány

autonómia

CF Kárpátok Alapítvány – Magyarország

The **EEA Civil Society Fund** is part of the contribution of **Iceland**, **Liechtenstein** and **Norway** to 15 EU Member States under the EEA and Norway Grants, including Hungary. The aims of the funding are to **reduce social and economic disparities** in the European Economic Area (EEA) and to **strengthen bilateral relations** between the Donor States and Beneficiary States.

The Civil Society Fund aims to support **a vibrant and resilient civil society protecting and promoting democracy, the rule of law, and human rights**.

The Civil Society Fund programme in Hungary has a total allocation of **€ 22,935,849** (of which app. € 19.5 million will be used for direct project support). A consortium of **Ökotárs-Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation**, **Autonomia Foundation** and **Carpathian Foundation-Hungary** operates the Civil Society Fund programme in Hungary on behalf of the donor countries.

This call targets Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working in all priority areas of the programme (see below) and has a total allocation of **€ 5,000,000.**

SUMMARY OF OPEN CALL	
Title of the call	Organisational Grants
Purpose of the call	To strengthen the "architecture" of Hungarian civil society by supporting the strategic development of CSOs
Outcome	3. CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights strengthened
Output	3.1. Organisational development supported
Relevant project activities	Implementation of the applicant's multi-year strategic development and work plan including building its network and partnerships in civil society
Eligible applicants	Associations and foundations legally registered in Hungary at least 4 years prior to the call deadline (detailed conditions see below)
Project duration	Between 24 and 54 months
Project grant amount	Between € 100,000 and € 200,000
Co-financing	No co-financing required
Capacity building	N/A (the total grant must serve organisational development goals)
Partnerships	N/A
Call available in the following language(s)	English Hungarian

Questions deadline	6 May 2026, 16:00 CET
Application deadline	11 May 2026 16:00 CET

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1. BACKGROUND FOR THE EEA CIVIL SOCIETY FUND IN HUNGARY

Support to civil society is a key priority for the EEA and Norway Grants, funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The overall objectives of EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2021-2028 is to contribute to the reduction of social and economic disparities in the European Economic Area (EEA) and to strengthen bilateral relations between the Donor States and the Beneficiary States.

The EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2021-2028 are based on the common values of **respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities**. All organisations and activities funded by the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2021-2028 shall be consistent with respect for these values and principles and abstain from supporting operations that may fail to do so. Their implementation shall comply with the fundamental rights and obligations enshrined in relevant instruments and standards.

10% of the overall funding of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 has been set aside for support to civil society through the Civil Society Fund. The allocation for the Civil Society Fund in **Hungary** is € **22,935,849.**

Through an open tender process, the secretariat of the Donor States – the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) – has selected a consortium of **Ökotárs-Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation, Autonomia Foundation and Carpathian Foundation-Hungary** as Fund Operator of the Civil Society Fund in **Hungary**. The Fund Operator manages the Civil Society Fund programme on behalf of the Donor States and is responsible for the selection, contracting and follow-up of projects.

The objective of the Civil Society Fund programme is to contribute to a **vibrant and resilient civil society protecting and promoting democracy, the rule of law, and human rights**. The EEA Civil Society Fund in Hungary will include **7** open calls, contributing to the following outcomes[1]:

- Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened
  - Output 1.1: CSO participation in democratic processes increased
  - Output 1.2: Civic engagement increased
  - Output 1.3: Information integrity and media literacy increased
- Outcome 2: Human Rights strengthened
  - Output 2.1: Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported
  - Output 2.2: Gender equality, including SRHR, and LGBTIQ+ rights supported
  - Output 2.3: Climate action, environmental protection, and a just green transition supported
- Outcome 3: CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened
  - Output 3.1: Organisational development supported
  - Output 3.2 An enabling environment for civil society supported
- Bilateral Outcome: Strengthened bilateral cooperation in the civil society sector i.e. between civil society in Hungary and the three Donors States, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

The programme uses a results-based management approach. This means it is designed and managed with a focus on achieving results. The programme has a results framework that guides what can be supported. To be eligible for support, all projects must contribute to the expected results outlined in this results framework.

In Hungary, addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine, countering gender-based violence, and inclusion and empowerment of Roma will receive special attention in the programme.

[1] An outcome is a higher level result area. See more information in Annex.

An overview of all open calls as well as other activities supported by the programme can be found on the website of the Civil Society Fund in **Hungary**: **norvegcivilalap.hu]**

2. FOCUS OF THE CALL

2.1 CONTEXT AND PURPOSE OF THIS CALL

Hungarian civil society organisations (CSOs) promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law have been working in an increasingly difficult environment for the last decade. Being effectively cut off from receiving domestic public funding, they have had to rely on international institutional and philanthropic donors, as well as private donations and crowdsourcing. While some organisations have been able to adjust their strategies and maintain their operation successfully, many others, especially outside of the capital, struggled to adjust and were forced to downsize their work. But key organisations becoming unstable and their future uncertain has broader impacts on Hungarian civil society as a whole as important knowledge, experience and organising power is in the danger of being lost.

Therefore, the main objective of this call is to strengthen the "architecture" of the Hungarian civil society sector i.e. to support CSOs with longer term organisational (non-restricted) grants that play key roles in accumulating, transferring and distributing knowhow, expertise and tools related to the priorities listed above and/or in building, expanding and sustaining civil society networks and platforms on the regional or national level.

2.2 OUTCOME 3. CSOs THAT PROMOTE DEMOCRACY, THE RULE OF LAW, AND HUMAN RIGHTS STRENGTHENED

In the programme's results-based management, focus is first and foremost on the overall results to be achieved. The programme uses a so-called results framework that helps keep this focus, and that defines what is eligible for support. Each project must be assigned to a single outcome and, within that outcome, to one output[2].

This call addresses the following outcome and, within that outcome, the following output:

- **CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights strengthened**
  - **Organisational development supported**

Thus, under this call, CSOs will receive support to implement their multiyear strategic development and work plans, so as to enable them to continue their operation on a higher professional level, improve their capacities and sustainability as well as broaden their networks and partnerships within the broader Hungarian civil society (and internationally).

2.3 EXPECTED RESULTS

In accordance with the above, successful applicants will be expected to increase their overall organisational strength by the end of the project period, in terms of their human resources (paid or voluntary), internal work and structures, communication, financial viability and advocacy capacities. They must also broaden and strengthen their circle of partnerships and networks with other actors of Hungarian civil society, providing them with know-how and expertise.

Each project is expected to align with these main expected results, and report on them narratively.

[2] An output is a lower level result area that contributes to the outcome which is a higher level result area. Together, the output and outcome form a result chain where each level is meant to contribute to the results on the next level. See more information in the Annex.

To track progress, projects should also contribute to programme-level indicators from the selected outcome and output(s).[3] Indicators are a means to quantifiably measure progress. Alongside narrative reports and other sources of information, indicators are used to help *indicate* the extent to which an outcome or output has been achieved. **The indicators listed in the table below are used to monitor progress and measure results at the programme level for this call.**

Each project is required to use the programme-level indicators from the selected outcome and output[4].

In addition, all beneficiaries should design and use their own additional indicators to help track their specific results, although these are not part of the Civil Society Fund overall programme results framework. (See more in the Annex) In their proposal, **applicants must set values to each indicator, and during implementation monitor and report about their achievement,** with justification and supporting documentation (e.g. attendance sheets, photos, print-screens).

Excerpt of the programme results framework	Applicant: enter the target in the application form
Outcome 3: CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened	
Number of CSO employees from supported CSOs with improved skills	
Number of CSO staff who have completed a training course	
Proportion of self-reported women in senior staff roles in the supported CSOs	
[Grant specific indicator 1.]	

2.4 POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

To achieve the expected results, please see the below non-exhaustive list of possible project activities that can be supported under this call:

- Participation in policy and decision-making processes
- Awareness-raising activities
- Outreach and community organising to encourage citizen activism, volunteering, and civic participation
- Watchdog activities and monitoring of policy development and implementation
- Outreach to and interest representation of target groups in marginalised situations
- Capacity-building activities of civil society organisations
- Networking of the civil society sector
- European and cross-border cooperation

The EEA & Norwegian Civil Society Fund provides support for CSOs throughout **Hungary.** Applications from CSOs based in under-served geographic areas and led by target groups that are marginalised are encouraged. 10% of the organisational grants shall benefit Roma and pro-Roma CSOs.

[3] By achieving results under the selected outcome and related output(s), projects will contribute indirectly to the programme's high-level objective to contribute to a vibrant and resilient civil society protecting and promoting democracy, the rule of law, and human rights. However, project applicants are not required to measure results at this higher objective level, neither with narrative reporting nor with indicator reporting.
[4] If the applicant finds an indicator not at all relevant to the project, the value may be 0.

2.5 CAPACITY BUILDING

A key priority of the EEA Civil Society Fund is to develop the long-term sustainability and capacity of the civil society sector in **Hungary**.

In this call, beneficiaries may use the grant for their own capacity development based on the needs assessment submitted as part of application (see Section 4.)

In order to measure improvements in their overall organisational strength, beneficiaries of organisational grants will be obligated to c**onduct an organisational survey provided by the Fund Operator at 3 points of the grant's duration:** after the contract is concluded, at mid-point and once the grant period is finished. The survey will measure the organisation's:

- internal relations
- external relations and communications
- learning abilities
- influence
- financial autonomy
- vision and goals.

3. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

3.1 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The applicant is the entity responsible for the overall initiation, preparation and implementation of the grant[5]. Eligible applicants are CSOs that are established in **Hungary** and fall within the following definition:

> *A non-profit voluntary organisation with a non-commercial purpose, independent of local, regional and central government, public entities, political parties and commercial organisations. Religious institutions and political parties, social partners or profit-distributing cooperatives are not eligible applicants.*

More specifically, eligible candidates must meet the following general conditions:

- Are non-profit, being organisations that have not been created nor operates to generate personal profit. Although it may have paid staff and may engage in revenue-generating activities, it does not distribute profits to its members nor to its board. Where revenue-generating activities are undertaken, these do not represent the purpose of the non-profit organisation, but are a means to support its mission and values;
- Have members who do not have any direct commercial interest in the outcome of the work of the organisation or of its commercial activities, and the organisation does not pursue the commercial or professional interests of its members. (This definition therefore excludes trade- and professional associations, where the aims and purposes of the association is to further the specific interests of its members only);
- Are voluntary in nature, formed voluntarily by groups or individuals, and where the organisation is membership based, membership is not compulsory for any group or individual;
- Are independent of local, regional and national government and other public authorities, and of political parties and commercial organisations: these bodies must not have a majority

[5] Terminology: In line with the legal framework, beneficiaries of grants are generally referred to as *Project Promoters* in contractual and guidance documents.

representation neither among the organisation's founders (in case of foundations) nor in its senior management body.

Religious institutions and political parties, social partners or profit-distributing cooperatives are not eligible applicants. Faith-based organisations are eligible if they meet the principles identified above and if the funded activities do not directly or indirectly promote a religious doctrine, mission or proselytism related to the beliefs of a particular faith (beyond basic religious/cultural awareness raising).

Organisations registered as

- associations and societies (excluding religious associations, parties, trade unions, employer organisations and chambers of commerce)
- foundations (excluding public and trust foundations)

according to the Civil Code of Hungary (Act V. of 2013) at least **4 years prior** to the call's deadline, are considered civil society organisations,), and thus are eligible to apply to this call, as long as they fulfil the above conditions. In addition, applicants for organisational grants must meet the following conditions, too:

- **they must have an average annual turnover over the past four financial years not less than the annualized value of the grant amount applied for**[6];
- they are active in the one or more priority areas of the call (see above);
- **they must have a valid four-year organisational strategy and a detailed work plan for the first two years of the proposed grant period (see below); and**
- they must be in compliance with its payment obligations with regards to taxes, social security contributions and health insurance. Their latest annual accounts must be available in the official registry at https://birosag.hu/ugyfeleknek/civil-szervezetek/civil-szervezetek-nevjegyzeke.

All eligible applicants must abide by the common values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities, and comply with the fundamental rights and obligations enshrined in relevant instruments and standards. Applicants and grantees will be required to make a declaration to this effect.

4. PROJECT CONDITIONS

Project duration	Between 24 and 54 months
Grant amount	Between € 100,000 and € 200,000
Indicative start of project implementation	July 2026
Final date of eligibility of expenditure	31 December 2030

[6] E.g. if an organisation requests 100,000 € for a 4-year long grant, its average annual turnover in the past 4 years must be at least 25,000 €. It it asks for the same amount but only for 2 years, it annual budget must be at least 50,000 €. (The online application form will check this condition automatically after entering the relevant data).

4.1 CONDITIONS

Applicants for organisational grants must have experience/willingness to act as 'hubs', i.e. collaborate with and/or provide knowhow to other CSOs, groups and movements on the regional or national level (alignment with this condition will be evaluated – see also in Selection criteria)**.**

As part of their proposals, applicants for organisational grants must describe and submit their overall **organisational strategy for the grant's duration (2 to 4 years) and a detailed work plan for the first half** (1 or 2 years), including the descriptions of:

- the context in which the organisation works, the main issues or societal problems it addresses
- its current mission and core activities
- Its vision and the objectives it aims to achieve during the grant's duration taking into account at least 3 future scenarios (optimistic - realistic - pessimistic)
- Its organisational development needs (using a SWOT analysis)
- Its development plans (based on the needs), including the means how the applicant will transfer/distribute its knowhow to and/or help build cooperation and networking among civic actors in Hungary
- Its work plan (including all planned activities), broken down to activities:
    - a justification of how the given activity will contribute to achieving the objectives
    - a description of the activity (who – what - when - how)
    - how the results will be measured.
- Supported by their **overall organisational budget plan (incomes and expenditures) broken down per activity for the years 2026 and 2027** (optionally also 2028, included in the application form). No separate project budget is required.

4.2 CO-FINANCING

The grant rate of the project is 100%.

4.3 ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

All expenditures declared by the beneficiary of the organisational grant are eligible that are:

(a) they are proportionate and necessary to carry out the organisation's activities;
(b) they are used in a manner consistent with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness;
(c) they are identifiable and verifiable, in particular through being recorded in the accounting records of the beneficiary and determined according to the applicable accounting standards and generally accepted accounting principles; and
(d) they comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation.

The following expenditure categories are generally eligible:

(a) the cost of personnel, comprising actual remuneration including social security charges and other statutory costs as applicable;
(b) travel and subsistence allowances for personnel and participants in the project;
(c) the full purchase price of new or second hand equipment;
(d) costs of consumables and supplies;
(e) costs entailed by other contracts awarded by the beneficiary for the purposes of carrying out the actions, provided that the awarding complies with the applicable rules on procurement[7];
(f) costs arising directly from requirements imposed by the grant contract e.g. audit costs

[7] For contracts above EUR 15,000 the beneficiary shall ensure fair competition between potential providers for example by way of effective price comparison.

(g) Indirect costs, e.g. rent, utilities and general office maintenance.

Costs related to reconstruction, renovation, or refurbishment of real estate shall not exceed 50% of the eligible direct cost of the project.

Note: the inclusion of a planned expenditure item in the approved project budget cannot be considered as confirmation of eligibility of that expenditure item declared (it may be subject to controls or audits).

Beneficiaries of organisational grants will not need to prepare separate, itemised financial reports on the use of the grant, but **submit their audited annual accounts (along with their narrative reports)** to justify the use of the grant.

4.4 PAYMENT OF THE GRANT

The grant will be paid in euro (€), to the beneficiary's HUF account, and therefore be automatically converted into forint. The actual exchange rate used by the beneficiary's bank on the date of the transfer will be the rate used to account for the costs incurred in HUF. If the grant is paid in more than one instalment, the bank conversion rate used to convert the costs incurred in the actual reporting period will be the rate of the last instalment. The exchange rate risk between the transfer of each instalment shall be borne by the grantee organisation, i.e. any loss resulting from the exchange differences cannot be claimed on the grant.

The grant will be paid in instalments defined in the project contract, depending on the grant's duration:

Advance and interim payments: in equal annual instalments. The advance amount of the grant will be transferred to the beneficiary within 10 working days of signing the project contract. The interim payments will be made within 10 working days after on the approval of interim project reports submitted by the beneficiary.

Final payment: 10 % of the grant support or the remaining final balance. The final payment will be made within 10 working days after the approval of the final project report.

5. HOW TO APPLY

The deadline for applications is **11 May 2026 before 16:00 CET**, as evidenced by the date and time of receipt by the Fund Operator. Late submission will lead to rejection of the application.

Applications should be submitted using the form available after registration in norvegcivilalap.hu in Hungarian.

Only applications that are submitted electronically via the above method will be accepted.

5.1 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions may be submitted no later than 3 working days before the deadline for the submission of applications. The Fund Operator has no obligation to provide clarifications to questions received after this date.

The questions must be submitted through the messaging function available on norvegcivilalap.hu after registration. The Fund Operator will respond within 3 working days. Questions and answers will also be published in the FAQ section of the programme's website at norvegcivilalap.hu. It is therefore advisable to consult the website regularly.

Any complaints related to this call may be submitted via the messaging function of norvegcivilalap.hu.

5.2 SUPPORT TO APPLICANTS

During the application period, in March-April 2026 the Fund Operator will organise at least one personal information session in Budapest and one online for CSOs interested in applying for organisational grants. In addition, information workshops on all calls of the Fund will be held in major countryside centres. The dates and locations of these events will be published on the programme website at norvegcivilalap.hu

In case of local interest, further workshops in other locations may be held upon invitation by a CSO willing to host such an event with the guaranteed participation of at least 10 organisations.

Applicants selected for support in this call will also be invited for a personal interview with the Steering Committee prior to the final decision being taken (see section 7.).

6. ADMINSTRATIVE, ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

6.1 ADMINISTRATIVE CRITERIA

Administrative compliance is checked against the following criteria:

- Compliance with the submission deadline given on the front page and above in Chapter 5. of this call text. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.
- The application is submitted in Hungarian (with a summary in English) via the electronic form available at norvegcivilalap.hu.
- The application form (description of the organisational strategy and work plan) is completed with relevant responses to all questions.
- The applicant has submitted only one application to this call for proposals

6.2 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligibility is checked against the following criteria:

- The applicant is an association or foundation registered in Hungary in accordance with the provisions in section 3. of this call.
- The applicant was registered at least 4 years prior to the deadline of this call.
- The applicant's average annual turnover over the past four financial years is not less than the annualized value of the grant amount applied for.
- The applicant is in compliance with its payment obligations with regards to taxes, social security contributions and health insurance The applicant's statutory data, including its latest annual report is up-to-date in the registry of civil society organisations at https://birosag.hu/ugyfeleknek/civil-szervezetek/civil-szervezetek-nevjegyzeke

The Fund Operator may request additional information/documents from the applicant to determine compliance with these criteria. The applicant will be given 5 working days to provide the missing documentation.

If the applicant fails to respond by the deadline, the application will either be rejected or will continue to be processed without the requested information(s), depending on the nature of the deficiency, with the resulting disadvantages.

6.3 APPEALS

Applicants whose applications are rejected due to non-compliance with administrative or eligibility criteria will be informed of the reasons for rejection and have a period of 8 days to appeal the decision, counted from the day after the notification. Appeals should be submitted via the messaging function of palyazat.norvegcivilalap.hu

The appeal will be forwarded by the contact person to the Steering Committee, which will recommend the acceptance/rejection of the application. If accepted, the application will be returned to the evaluation process.

6.4 SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications that meet the administrative and eligibility criteria outlined in sections 6.1 and 6.2 of this call will be assessed by at least two impartial experts appointed by the Fund Operator. At least one expert will be independent of the Fund Operator.

The experts will independently score the project application according to the selection criteria in the grid below. Each criterion will be scored on a scale of 0 to 3 (not at all suitable - slightly suitable - partly suitable - fully suitable.):

Selection criterion		**Max. score**
1	**The applicant**	**9**
1.1	Relevance: how strongly do the applicant's objectives and work relate to the objectives and priorities of the Civil Society Fund (including its adherence to a human-rights-based approach and the programme's values?	3
1.2	Specialist experience: how relevant is the applicant's experience and track record in its professional field of work, and how stable its operation has been?	3
1.3	Civil society experience: to what extent does the applicant have prior experience in cooperating and networking with other civil society actors in Hungary?	3
2	**The development plan**	**18**
2.1	Strategic vision: how clear and compelling are the applicant's analysis and future goals?	3
2.2	Capacity building: how well has the applicant analysed its development needs and how adequate its proposed responses are?	3
2.3	Cooperation and networking: how does the applicant plan to engage with other civil society actors, acting as "hubs" of civic action in order to distribute knowhow and/or build cooperation?	3
2.4	Coherence: are the connections between the analysis, the objectives and proposed activities clear and logical?	3

2.5.	Results: does the applicant present appropriate methods for measuring the achievement of the planned results, including its risks?	3
2.6	Sustainability: at the end of the grant, to what extent will the applicant be likely become stronger as an organisation?	3
3	**Financial plans**	**3**
3.1	Financial management: is the budget plan proportional and necessary to implement the planned activities in a cost efficient manner?	3
4	Additional scores	Max. 2
4.1	Marginalised areas/groups: does the applicant work in underserved areas and/or with vulnerable target groups, including the Roma?	1+1
	Total score	**30+2**

An application must score at least **21** points to be recommendable for funding

Criterion 1.1 (Relevance) and 2.4 (Coherence) are exclusion criteria, i.e. if an application scores 0 points (failed) from both evaluators, it is automatically rejected. The ranking of projects will be based on the arithmetic mean of the scores. The evaluators will also provide a written justification for their scores, listing the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal.

If there is a difference of more than 30% between the higher of the two evaluators' scores, and both evaluators gave the application a score higher than 10, the intermediary foundations will invite a third expert to evaluate the proposal. In such cases, the average of the two scores that are closer together will be the final score of the proposal.

During the evaluation process, the independent **evaluators may ask additional questions via the online system**, which will be forwarded to the applicant organisation by the intermediary contact person with a deadline for reply, or clarified with the applicant during a site visit (pre-monitoring). Failure to reply will result in the application being assessed on the basis of incomplete information!

7. SELECTION PROCESS

All applications will be assessed according to the following steps and criteria:

Based on the average of the scores given by the independent evaluators, the Fund Operator will establish a ranking order of applications, and forward it to the Selection Committee, composed of three persons with the relevant sector expertise and experience of working in or with civil society. At least one of them shall be external to the Fund Operator.

The Committee will review and approve the ranking of applications and the threshold score based on the evaluators' scores and may modify it, considering how the totality of the selected projects aligns with the general objectives and call specifics. Based on the evaluators' opinion, the Committee may also propose additional conditions for funding.

The representatives of the Donor States will be invited to attend the Committee meetings as observers.

The final decision regarding which projects to support will be taken by the Steering Committee of the Fund Operator composed of the 3 directors of the consortium foundations. The **Steering Committee will conduct personal interviews with key staff members of the applicants proposed for support**. It may modify the decision of the Selection Committee in justified cases.

The decision of the Steering Committee is final and there is no right of appeal.

Timeline for the selection process:

11 February 2026	Announcement of call
March- April 2026	Information workshops and events
11 May 2026 16:00	Deadline for submission of application
mid-May 2026	Application is checked against administrative and eligibility criteria
May-June 2026	Independent experts assess application
End June	Selection Committee meeting
mid-July 2026	Interviews with applicants and decision on applications to be funded taken by Steering Committee of the Fund Operator
mid-July	Announcement of applications awarded funding on the programme's website norvegcivilalap.hu
mid-July	Provisional start of projects

8. INFORMATION TO APPLICANTS AND CONTRACTING

The Fund Operator will publish the grant decision on norvegcivilalap.hu after it has been taken (latest the following day) and will notify the result in writing to all applicants within 15 working days via the electronic grant system, using the contact details provided by the organisation. The notification will include the scores of the application, the conditions of support (if any) and, in the case of unsuccessful applicants, the justification of the reasons for rejection.

Selected applicants will receive their grant contracts and a summary of approved activities and budget (based on the application and finalised after selection) as an annex via the online system. These must be **printed in triplicate and signed and be sent both electronically (PDF format) and in hard copy via post within 30 days to the designated contact foundation**, which will after verification forward it to the Ökotárs Foundation. The Foundation will then transfer the corresponding amount to the grantee.

Mandatory annexes to the grant agreement (to be sent at the same time as the signed contract is returned):

- Annex 1: the summary of the organisational strategy and work plan, including the expected results and indicators, and budget plan (signed!) original copy posted and sent electronically
- Annex 2: a court certificate not older than 30 days of the registration of the organisation (which can be obtained from the competent county courts, also electronically) sent electronically
- Annex 3: a certificate from the tax authority (NAV), not older than 30 days, stating that the organisation has no public debts (the "zero" certificate issued by the competent regional NAV directorate; this can be replaced if the grantee is listed in the database of 'positive' taxpayers free of public debts printed from the NAV website) sent electronically
- Annex 4: a simple copy of the articles of association or statutes sent electronically
- Annex 5: an immediate direct debit order issued by the grantee's bank, valid for all bank accounts of the organisation original copy posted and sent electronically
- Annex 6: a simple copy of the latest annual report (and annexes) sent electronically
- Annex 7: a declaration by the grantee that it undertakes to observe the highest ethical standards and respect the values of the EEA Grants: **human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities** and that it refrains from any action of discrimination or intolerance, sent electronically

The Steering Committee may require additional annexes to be submitted in individual cases in the grant decision.

The **grant contract may be amended** during its implementation. Any significant change in the general activities or in the timetable exceeding 3 months **must be notified in writing by the beneficiary from the designated managing foundation at least 15 days before** the change is planned to take effect.

9. MONITORING AND REPORTING

Each beneficiary will be assigned a grant manager, staff member of the Fund Operator consortium, who will keep regular contact with the beneficiary and can be approached with questions, issues to be discussed or success stories any time (in working hours) throughout implementation via messaging in the online grant system, telephone or in person.

Beneficiaries of organisational grants must **meet with their grant managers at least twice a year**:

- An annual one-on-one evaluation meeting directly following the submission of the annual report to discuss progress, results and problems. Members of the Steering Committee may participate at these meetings.
- For a joint session with fellow beneficiaries to share experiences, find common points and discuss issues affecting civil society in Hungary

The assigned grant managers may visit the beneficiaries at other times to review developments, needs and provide support as and when necessary.

In addition key staff and board members and activists of the beneficiary must fill an organisational survey provided by the Fund Operator at the beginning, mid-point and end of the implementation period (see also in Section 2.)

Beneficiaries of organisational grants must submit **annual narrative and financial reports electronically via the form provided by the Fund Operator**:

- The narrative report must be submitted no later than 31 January of the following year and must provide an overview of the beneficiary's activities and an evaluation of how they contributed to achieving the call's outcome, output and **indicator values**, the difficulties encountered, deviations or adjustments made, including progress in building the organisation's own capacities and its cooperation with other civil society actors.

  The report must be accompanied by tangible products and documents generated during the implementation supporting the indicator values (e.g. publications, press releases, attendance sheets of events, etc.).

- The financial report must be submitted no later than 30 April of the following year and consists of the organisation's **audited** annual accounts. (The grant may be used to cover the auditor's fee.)

The assigned grant manager will check the reports within 20 working days of submission, after which they may ask clarifying questions and request additional documents. Beneficiaries will have 8 days to rectify any omissions (with the possibility of an extension of 8 days if necessary). Once verification is completed also taking into account the findings of the annual meeting (see above), the grant manager forwards the report to the director of the Fund Operator for approval and for transfer of the due annual grant instalment.

More information on reporting will be found in the Guidelines for Project Promoters (including for beneficiaries of the organisational grants).

Annex : Results-based management for the Civil Society Fund

All programmes and funds supported by the EEA and Norway Grants shall follow the principles of results-based management.

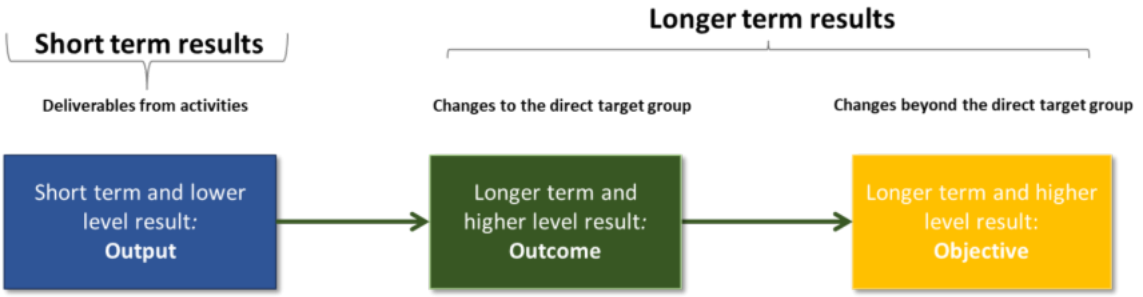
In results-based management, focus is first and foremost on the overall results to be achieved. For the Civil Society Fund, this means focus is on the overall objective. The overall objective is, "A vibrant and resilient civil society protecting and promoting democracy, the rule of law and human rights".

The next step in results-based management is to set a strategy for how to best achieve this overall objective. Results-based management offers a set of tools to do this including result chains, result frameworks, monitoring, and evaluation. We also manage risks for the achievement of results.

Overall about results in the Civil Society Fund

A result chain includes lower-level results that are called outputs, medium level results that are called outcomes, and finally the highest-level result that is the objective.

The result chain can be presented in a figure as follows:

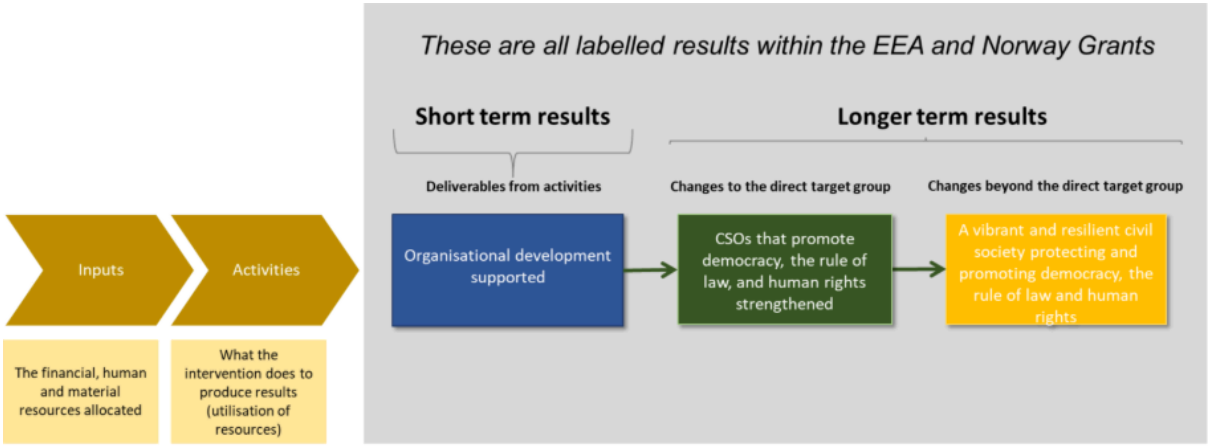


Here is one of the result chains for the Civil Society Fund:

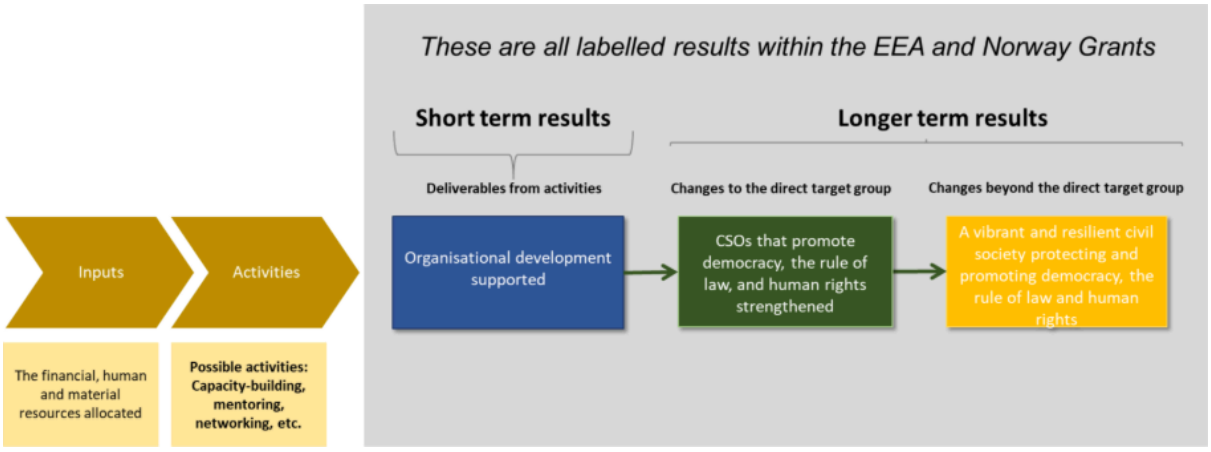


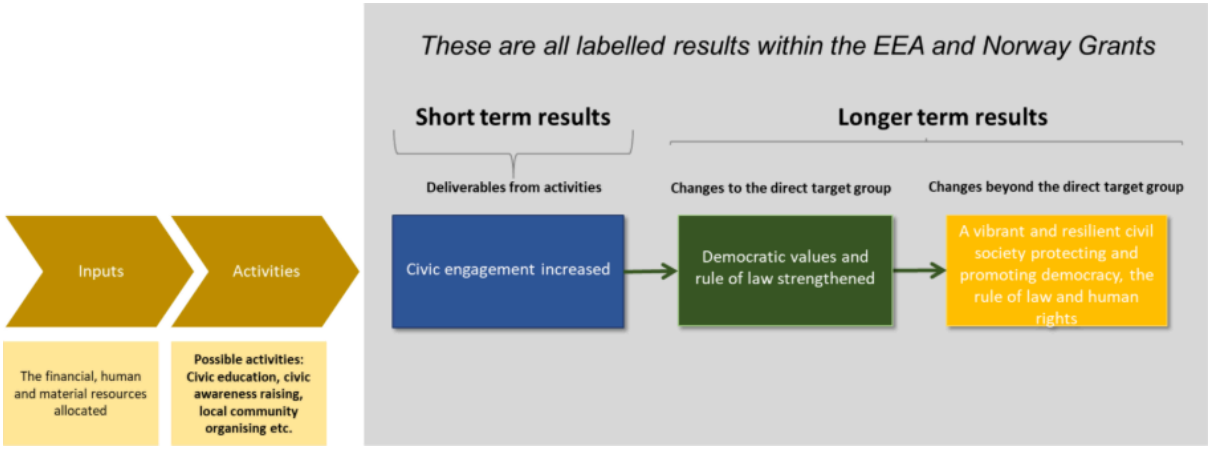
To achieve the outputs, it is necessary to implement activities using the available resources which can be called inputs.

Together with the activities and inputs, the result chain can be presented in a figure as follows:



The two figures below provide general examples of some activities that may be identified to achieve two of the outputs and outcomes in the Civil Society Fund.

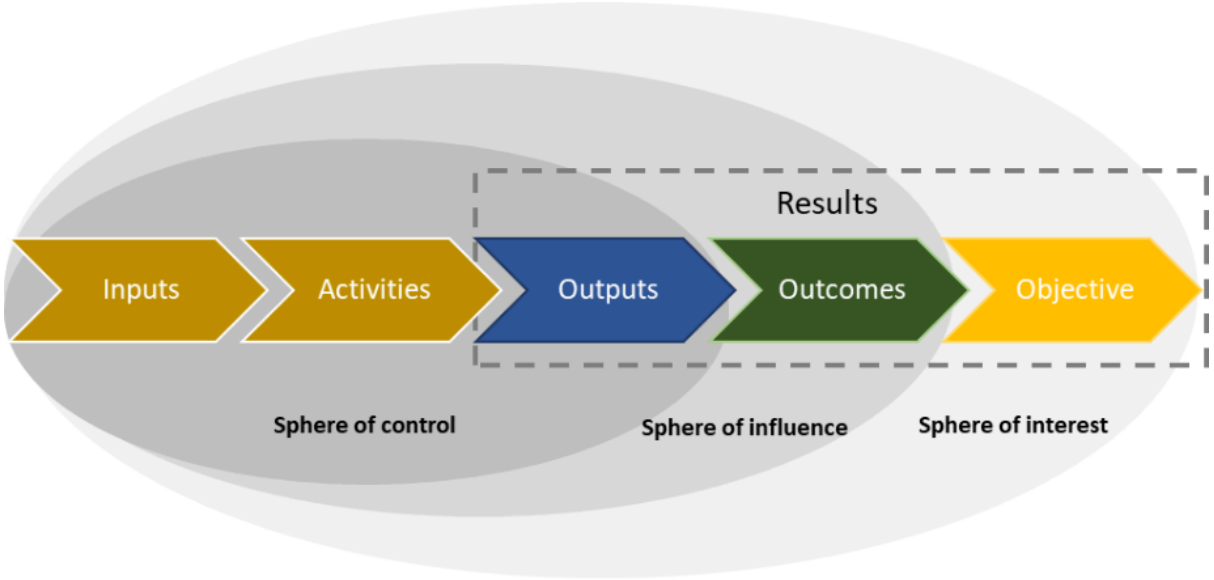




There are assumptions for how one level in the result chain connects to the next. For example, it is an assumption that if civil society organisations are supported to develop their organisations, then they will be stronger as civil society organisationss. For each assumption it is useful to either provide evidence or plan for evidence through for example an evaluation. For this particular assumption on supporting organisational development, the FMO commissioned an external assessment of organisational grants in 2023 which is available on the EEA and Norway Grants website.

The higher up in the result chain, the less control stakeholders have on the achievement of the desired result. The evidence for how the previous level of the result chain contributes to this higher level of the result chain might also be more ambiguous.

Together with the inputs and activities, the different levels of control along the result chain can be presented in a figure as follows:



Key elements for project result-based management in the Civil Society Fund

The Civil Society Fund follows the Programme model. This means that the desired results at both the outcome and output levels will be derived from projects. As the Civil Society Results Framework specifies what is eligible for support, this means that all projects that would be eligible for support have to contribute to the results expected as per the result framework.

Every project must be situated only under one of the three outcomes (not multiple outcomes). Within the same outcome, projects may contribute to one output or more outputs. In addition to contributing to one single outcome, all projects that include bilateral cooperation must also report on bilateral results.

Each project within the programme can also have its own specific results chains. Applicants could consider checking alignment between their project specific results chains with the overall programme results chains. This can help preclude challenges in the implementation and reporting of the projects. However, applicants are not required to develop or work with project specific results chains.

Progress against the Civil Society Fund programme results framework will be measured with the use of indicators. The indicators, including their unit of measurement, data sources of verification, baselines and targets, will be agreed with the part of the project contract.

During implementation, the agreed indicators become a reporting tool. Project Promoters will be responsible for collecting and analysing data to report on the indicators and with narrative against the selected output(s) and outcome.

To ensure accountability and learning, applicants may plan for an evaluation either during or after project implementation.