Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway
Civil Society Fund

OPEN CALL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs)

IN HUNGARY

CAPACITY BUILDING AND NETWORKING

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

1,000,000 €

DEADLINE:

5 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 **€ 1,000,000.**

SUMMARY OF OPEN CALL	
Title of the call	Capacity Building and Networking
Purpose of the call	To strengthen and revitalise Hungary's civil society by funding innovative capacity-building and networking projects that enhance the institutional resilience, skills, and local engagement of CSOs - especially those outside major urban centres - through creative methodologies and participatory practices.
Outcome	3. CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights strengthened
Output	3.2. An enabling environment for civil society supported
Relevant project activities	Developing and implementing innovative CSO capacity-building, and creative training methods, as well as participatory tools of cooperation with local governments, networking, mentoring, and broad dissemination of the above to strengthen especially rural civil society.
Eligible applicants	Associations, foundations, nonprofit companies and social cooperatives legally registered in Hungary at least 1 years prior to the call deadline (detailed conditions see below)
Project duration	Between 24 and 48 months
Project grant amount	Between € 50,000 and € 100,000
Co-financing	No co-financing required
Capacity building	N/A (the total grant must serve organisational development goals)

Partnerships	Applications may be submitted in partnership with (preferably not more than **2) other organisations/entities that are eligible by this call**. Partnerships with entities from the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) are encouraged.
Call available in the following language(s)	English Hungarian
Questions deadline	29 April 2026, 16:00 CET
Application deadline	5 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:

- 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.

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.

These trends also led to a lack of or insufficient capacities in many CSOs to change their approaches, and develop tools and working methods better suited to the changed circumstances and the needs of their target groups, e.g. in terms of attracting and involving young people. Older, more "routine" tools are often becoming ineffective, however, the constant pressure that CSOs experience hinder creativity and innovation.

The main objective of this call is to strengthen the capacity, innovation, and outreach of CSOs by supporting projects that **develop and use creative, participatory, digital and or artistic methods to build organisational skills**, foster community engagement, and enhance collaboration between CSOs, local communities, and public authorities – particularly in under-resourced areas – thereby promoting inclusive civic participation, sustainable networks, and knowledge exchange across the sector.

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

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[1].

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**
  - **An enabling environment for civil society supported**

Thus, under this call, CSOs will receive support to develop capacity building projects mostly through new, innovative approaches, using e.g artistic or digital tools, and to disseminate these broadly by training the use of their tools among civil society, thus helping build their capacities.

2.3 EXPECTED RESULTS

The call is expected to strengthen the institutional resilience, skills, and sustainability of Hungarian CSOs — particularly those outside Budapest — by enabling them to access innovative, practical capacity-building support and adopt new creative and participatory methods. Funded projects shall introduce fresh training approaches, expand CSO–local government cooperation on participatory decision-making, and employ tools that improve organisational management, community engagement, and strategic action. All in all at least 50-100 additional CSOs will indirectly benefit (e.g.

[1] 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 Annex 2.

as participants of the trainings), thereby helping rebuild the "missing middle" of civil society, reduce regional disparities, and contribute to a more enabling, connected, and capable CSO ecosystem.

Organisations supported in this call must also broaden and strengthen their circle of partnerships and networks with other actors of Hungarian civil society, providing them with knowhow and expertise.

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

To track progress, projects should also contribute to programme-level indicators from the selected outcome and output(s).[2] 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 for the selected outcome and output[3] below.

In addition, all Project Promoters 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 Annex 2.) 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 employees from supported CSOs with improved skills	
Number of new or continued partnerships established between supported CSOs and other entities within the Beneficiary Country	
Number of training courses delivered by supported CSOs	
Number of people who participated in CSO-led training courses	
[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:

- Training, coaching, mentoring and development programmes led by creative industry experts, using proven creative methods (such as theatre, participatory art, music, photography, and public installations) to design engaging and effective community projects that support civic engagement, social development, capacity building and project design.

[2] 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.
[3] If the applicant finds an indicator not at all relevant to the project, the value may be 0.

- Matchmaking between local CSOs and academic institutions or think tanks that can help develop new ideas, projects and methodologies.
- Mobile “creative civic labs,” roadshows and travelling exhibitions that visit rural towns to engage youth and local groups through art-based social action and to showcase effective civic engagement methods.
- Development of interactive online tools (games, simulations, VR/AR experiences) for teaching rights, participation, or advocacy skills.
- Setting up remote mentoring networks for CSOs with poor access to training opportunities.
- Developing practical toolkits and templates that make professional management accessible to small CSOs.
- Supporting local governments to launch regular citizens’ assemblies, youth councils, or community advisory boards.
- Training municipal staff and CSOs in open data, transparency practices, or co-creation methods.
- Co-developing digital platforms for local engagement (feedback platforms, idea-collection tools, neighbourhood dashboards).
- Facilitating multi-stakeholder forums in rural municipalities to involve citizens in planning, environmental decisions, or social services.
- Piloting new inclusive approaches for involving marginalised groups (Roma communities, women, persons with disabilities, youth).
- Organising regional exchange visits, study trips, and peer-learning events among CSOs with similar missions. Training and integration programmes for new civic groups, creatives, informal movements, and local activists.
- Events, networking conferences or “civic festivals” that bring together CSOs, creative professionals, local governments and local communities to co-design interventions and engage the wider public.
- Creating new digital or methodological toolkits (e.g., guide on using artistic methods in activism, template for participatory processes).
- Opening small pop-up community spaces for CSOs in smaller towns.
- Supporting CSOs to build long-term community engagement strategies.

The EEA 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.

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, Project Promoters use the grant to support the capacity development of smaller CSOs. To measure improvements, Projects are expected to include impact-measurement activities within their project proposals.

3. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

3.1 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The applicant is the entity responsible for the overall initiation, preparation and implementation of the project (the project promoter). 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 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)
- social cooperatives and nonprofit companies exclusively owned by natural persons and falling under the category of micro- and small enterprise (have fewer than 25 employees).

according to the Civil Code of Hungary (Act V. of 2013) at least **1 year 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.

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.

3.2 ELIGIBLE PROJECT PARTNERS

Projects may be implemented in partnership with project partners. Partners share a common economic or social goal with the project promoter, which is to be realised through the implementation of the project. Project partners shall be actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of the project.

Unless explicitly stipulated, the following entities are eligible to be project partners:

- Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as CSOs, established as a legal person either in the Donor States[4], Beneficiary States[5] or Ukraine and Serbia;
- An international organisation or body or agency thereof;
- Any CSO or private entity established as a legal person in Hungary.
- Informal, ad hoc and self-help organisations (including grassroots organisations) that are not registered legal entities (hereinafter referred to as "informal groups"). Informal groups are considered eligible project partners provided that:
    - their members are legal residents or based in either the Donor States, Beneficiary States or a country outside the European Economic Area that has a common border with Hungary;
    - they are not established or operating with the purpose of personal profit;
    - membership in the group is voluntary and non-discriminatory;
    - their purpose aligns with the objective of the EEA Civil Society Fund;
    - they are independent of local, regional and national government and other public authorities, as well as of political parties, religious institutions and commercial organisations; and
    - they are represented by one single person, with legal residency in Hungary, who signs the partnership agreement on behalf of the group. An informal group cannot not be a direct recipient of the project grant.

A partnership agreement between the Project Promoter and each of its partners shall be submitted as a supporting document to the application. The agreement shall be in Hungarian or in English, and should contain the following: i) provisions on the roles and responsibilities of the parties; ii) provisions on the financial arrangements between the parties including, but not limited to, financial reporting obligations, means for proof of expenditure, payment flows and the expenditure for which project partners can be reimbursed from the project budget; iii) provisions on the forms of grants for all costs in the project and their calculation method; iv) requirements for the submission of proof of expenditure and/or proof of conditions fulfilled where lump sums are used; v) provisions on audits of the project; vi) a detailed budget, which foresees flexible rules for shifts between budget headings; and vi) provisions on dispute resolution.

If one of the parties to the agreement is an entity from the Donor States or an international organisation or body or agency thereof, the partnership agreement shall be in English and shall be based on this template (to be published later).

A project partnership shall not be mistaken for sub-contracting. Project partners always share a common economic or social goal through the implementation of the project, and are actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of the project. In contrast, sub-contracting is aimed at one or several specific deliverables, e.g. services or equipment to realise a specific activity within the project. Sub-contracting shall always be carried out based on an appropriate service or purchase contract.

One organisation may submit one project proposal as applicant (lead partner) and may be partner in further two under this call.

[4] Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

[5] Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.

4. PROJECT CONDITIONS

Project duration	Between 24 and 48 months
Grant amount	Between € 50,000 and € 100,000
Indicative start of project implementation	July 2026
Final date of eligibility of expenditure	31 December 2030

4.1 CONDITIONS

Applicants shall commit to train (or otherwise build the capacities of) at least 5 CSOs / citizen or community groups in the course of their project.

4.2 CO-FINANCING

The grant rate of the project is 100%.

4.3 ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

All expenditures declared by the Project Promoter are eligible that are:

(a) the actions constituting the basis for reimbursement shall be carried out between the first and final dates of eligibility of a project as specified in the project contract;
(b) they are connected with the subject of the grant contract;
(c) they are proportionate and necessary for the implementation of the project;
(d) they are used for the sole purpose of achieving the objective of the project and its expected outcome(s), in a manner consistent with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness;
(e) 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
(f) 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 Project Promoter for the purposes of carrying out the actions, provided that the awarding complies with the applicable rules on procurement[6];
(f) costs arising directly from requirements imposed by the grant contract e.g. audit costs
(g) Indirect costs, e.g. rent, utilities and general office maintenance.

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

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

Applicants are encouraged to provide in-kind own contribution in the form of voluntary work up to 5% of the requested grant amount[7].

As part of their proposal, applicants must submit an itemised draft budget for their project, broken down per each activity (included in the application form). The grant will be reported on a lump sum basis i.e. costs related to a given activity, calculated on the basis of the approved draft budget may be claimed to the project in **one single amount once the activity is performed and proven in its entirety** (see also in Monitoring and Reporting).

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).

4.4 PAYMENT OF THE GRANT

The grant will be paid in euro (€), to the Project Promoter's HUF account, and therefore be automatically converted into forint. The actual exchange rate used by the Project Promoter'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 Project Promoter, i.e. any loss resulting from the exchange differences cannot be claimed on the project.

In exceptional cases, where some of the costs of the project are incurred in EUR, the Project Promoter may request payment of part of the grant in EUR. This must be specified in the grant contract. If certain costs are incurred in a currency other than HUF and not in EUR, the InforEuro exchange rate will be used.

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 project promoter 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 project promoter.

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

5. HOW TO APPLY

The deadline for applications is **5 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.

[7] For the calculation of the monetary value of the voluntary work, the Government Decree 350/2011, § 4 (5) shall be used as a basis: the value of 1 hour of voluntary work is 1/160th of the actual - officially established - minimum wage. Deviations from this rule may only be justified in case of voluntary work requiring special skills and expertise and representing a high market value.

5.1 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions may be submitted no later than 3 wokring 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 this call. 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.

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.
- No more applications have been submitted by one project promoter or project partner than explicitly authorised in the call text.
- The application form is completed with relevant responses to all questions

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 1 year prior to the deadline of this call.
- The applicant's statutory data, including its latest annual report is up-to-date in the registry of civil society organisations or in the company register (as relevant).

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 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	**Relevance and Alignment With the Call's Objectives**	**9**
1.1	Alignment with innovative/creative approaches ● The extent to which the project uses new, engaging, creative or multimedia methods to strengthen CSOs or civic participation. Clear justification for why the chosen creative method(s) suit the target issues and communities	3
1.2	Relevance to capacity development of smaller or rural CSOs ● The proposal identifies existing gaps and clearly responds to the needs of under-resourced or rural CSOs. ● The project strengthens operational, strategic or participatory capacities of these organisations.	3
1.3	Contribution to participatory democracy and community involvement ● The extent to which the project enhances citizens' participation, community co-design, or collaboration with local governments.	3
2	**Quality of the Methodology and Proposed Activities**	**9**
2.1	Clarity, feasibility and coherence of activities ● Activities are realistic, well-sequenced and clearly contribute to the planned results. ● Use of proven methods (e.g., creative labs, travelling exhibitions, cross-sector partnerships, participatory tools).	3

2.2	Level of innovation ● Demonstrates new ways of engaging communities, CSOs or youth. ● Creative use of digital tools, artistic methods, multimedia or participatory approaches.	3
2.3	Inclusion and accessibility ● The project targets marginalised groups (e.g., Roma communities, women, persons with disabilities, youth) or underserved areas. ● Plans to remove participation barriers are clearly explained	3
3	**Capacity of the Applicant(s)**	**9**
3.1	Organisational experience and expertise ● The applicant demonstrates relevant experience in creative methodologies, CSO capacity-building, community engagement or participatory processes.	3
3.2	Quality of partnerships ● Strength and relevance of partnerships with CSOs, creatives, academics, think tanks, local governments or informal groups. ● Balanced, meaningful roles for partners; clear value added.	3
3.3	Ability to reach rural communities and smaller CSOs ● Evidence of local roots or credible strategies for outreach to rural regions and disadvantaged groups.	3
4.	**Impact, Sustainability and Knowledge Sharing**	**9**
4.1	Expected impact on CSO capacity and community engagement ● Clear, realistic and measurable outcomes. ● Expected benefits for small or emerging CSOs.	3
4.2	Monitoring and impact measurement plan ● Robust plan for collecting evidence of change and measuring progress (e.g., participant feedback, usage of tools, increased CSO capacity).	3
4.3	Sustainability and long-term value ● Likelihood that tools, methods, networks or partnerships will continue after funding ends. ● Clear plan for sharing and disseminating results (e.g., toolkits, open-source platforms, regional events).	3
5.	**Financial plans**	**6**
5.1	Cost-effectiveness ● Reasonable budget aligned with activities and outputs. ● Demonstrates efficient use of resources, especially in reaching rural or difficult-to-reach communities.	6

	Total score	**42**

An application must score at least **28** points to be recommendable for funding

Criterion 1. (Relevance) and 3 (Capacity) 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. T 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 activities for potential applicants

5 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	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 Project Promoter.

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

- Annex 1: project summary, expected results and indicators, agreed budget (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 Project Promoter 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 Project Promoter'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 Project Promoter 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

- Annex 8: (in case of projects implemented in partnership): Partnership Agreement signed by all partners, sent electronically.

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

Projects can start at the earliest on the date of publishing the grant decision, which is expected to be in mid-July 2026 (however, if the grant contract is not signed for any reason, the costs incurred will be the responsibility of the organisation).

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 Project Promoter from the designated managing foundation at least 15 days before** the change is planned to take effect.

9. MONITORING AND REPORTING

Each Project Promoter will be assigned a grant manager, staff member of the Fund Operator consortium, who will keep regular contact with the Project Promoter 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.

The assigned grant managers will visit the Project Promoters on site at least once a year during implementation and may at other times to review developments, needs and provide support as and when necessary.

Project Promoters must submit **annual reports (calendar year) electronically via the form provided by the Fund Operator**:

- A narrative report must be submitted no later than 31 January of the following year and must provide an overview of the Project Promoter'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 payment of the grant shall be contingent upon the full completion of the planned activities proven by the above supporting documents. **The lump sum of any activity not or partially implemented will be deducted from the grant amount!**

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 (including copies of financial documents). Project Promoters will have 8 days to rectify any omissions (with the possibility of an

extension of 8 days if necessary). Once verification is completed, the grant manager forwards the report to the director of the Fund Operator for approval and for transfer of the due grant instalment.

More information on reporting will be found in the Guidelines for Project Promoters.

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.

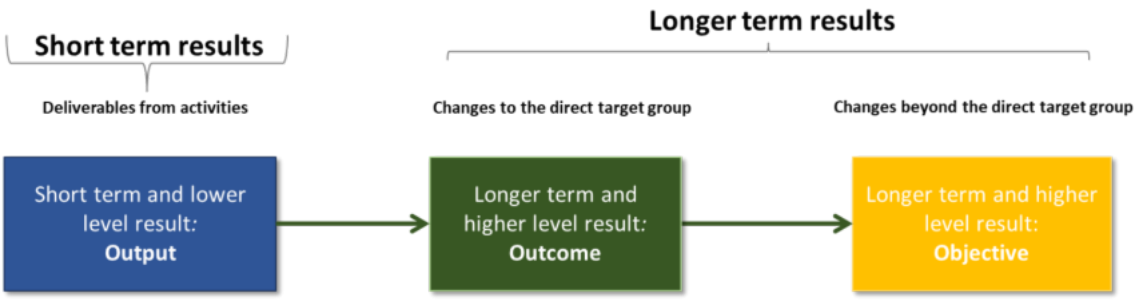
In results-based management, focus is first and foremost on the overall results to be achieved. For the Civil Society Fund, this means focus is on the overall objective. The overall objective is, "A vibrant and resilient civil society protecting and promoting democracy, the rule of law and human rights".

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:

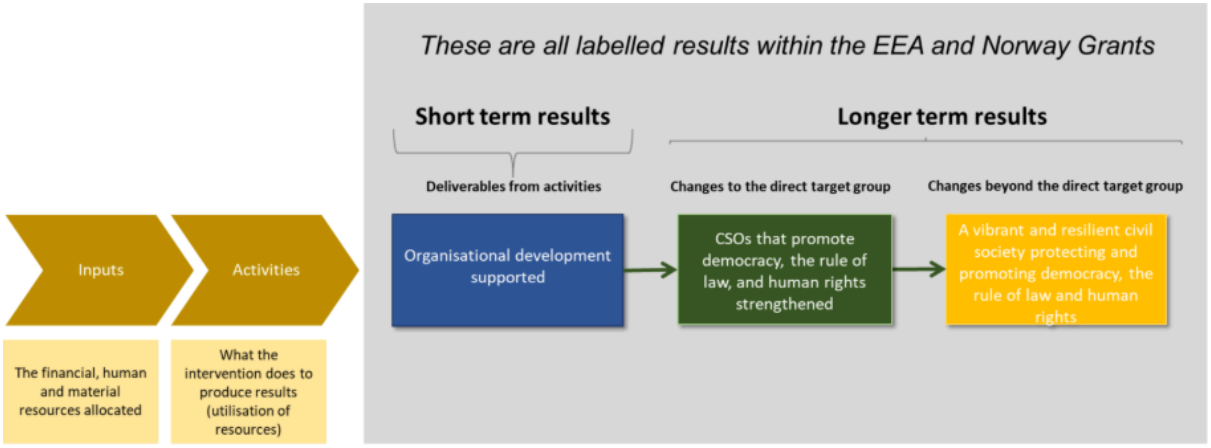


Here is one of the result chains for the Civil Society Fund:

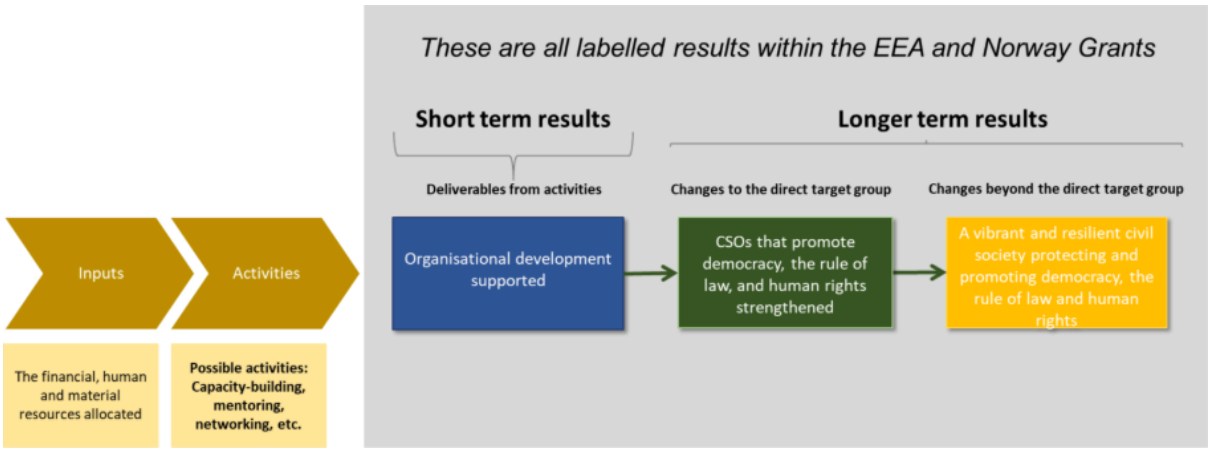


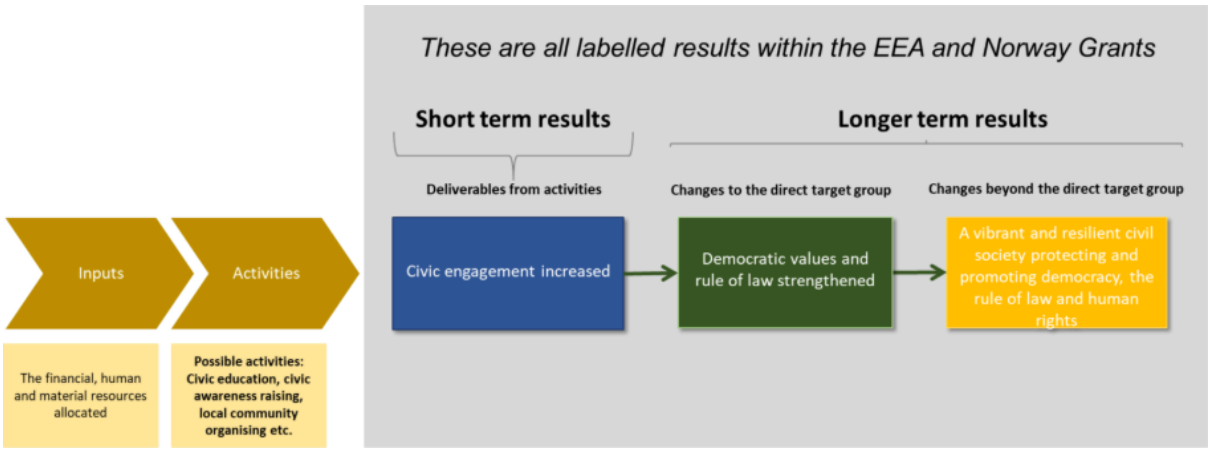
To achieve the outputs, it is necessary to implement activities using the available resources which can be called inputs.

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.

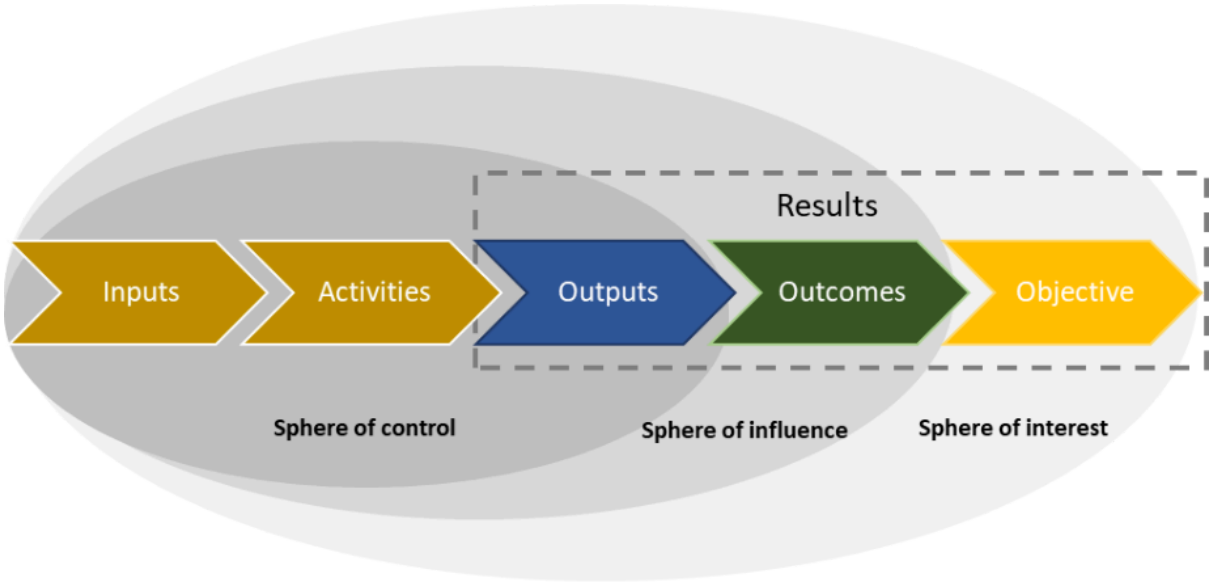




There are assumptions for how one level in the result chain connects to the next. For example, it is an assumption that if civil society organisations are supported to develop their organisations, then they will be stronger as civil society organisationss. For each assumption it is useful to either provide 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.