Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway

Civil Society Fund

OPEN CALL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs)

IN SLOVAKIA

OPEN CALL No 4.

To be the Project Promoter for the Pre-Defined Project (PDP) 3 “Supporting the Cohesion of the Civil Sector”

AVAILABLE FUNDING: EUR 80 000

DEADLINE: 31 May 2026 23:59 CET

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 Slovakia. The aims of the EEA and Norway

Grants 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 EEA Civil Society Fund aims **to support a vibrant and resilient civil society protecting and promoting democracy, the rule of law, and human rights.** The EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia has a total allocation of EUR 9,7 million. A consortium of Ekopolis Foundation, Open Society Foundation Bratislava, and Carpathian Foundation operates the EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia on behalf of the Donor States.

This call is to select a **Project Promoter to manage the pre-defined project (PDP) 3 "Supporting the Cohesion of the Civil Sector".** The project aims to support Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and initiatives that strengthen cohesion, coordination, and data-informed cooperation within the civil society sector in Slovakia, thereby contributing to a more enabling environment for civil society.

The total allocation for the selected project promoter to implement the pre-defined project under this call is **EUR 80 000.**

SUMMARY OF THE CALL	
Title of the call	Call No.4 to be the Project Promoter for the Pre-Defined Project (PDP) 3 "Supporting the Cohesion of the Civil Sector"
Purpose of the call	See section 2.1 of this Call
Outcome(s)	3. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened
Output(s)	3.2 An enabling environment for civil society supported
Relevant project activities	Recommended activities under the Output (See section 2 of this Call)
Eligible project applicants	See section 3.1 of this Call
Project duration	Between 30 and 36 months
Project grant amount	Maximum of EUR 80 000
Co-financing	No co-financing required
Partnerships	Applications may be submitted in partnership
Call available in the following language(s)	Slovak, English
Questions deadline	No later than 5 working days before the deadline for application
Application deadline	31 May 2026 23:59 CET

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents.....2

1. BACKGROUND FOR THE EEA CIVIL SOCIETY FUND IN SLOVAKIA 3
2. FOCUS OF THIS CALL 4
2.1 Purpose of this Call 4
2.2 Expected results 4
2.3 OUTCOME 3: Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened 5
Output 3.2: An enabling environment for civil society supported 5
Needs Addressed: 5
Expected Results: 6
Relevant Activities: 6
Mandatory Core Activities 6
Additional Activities (Optional) 7
3. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND PARTNERS 7
3.1 Eligible applicants 7
3.2 Eligible project partners 8
4. PROJECT CONDITIONS 9
4.1 Co-financing 10
4.2 Eligible expenditure 10
4.3 Payment of the grant 10
4.4 Other conditions 10
5. ADMINISTRATIVE, ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA 10
5.1 Administrative and eligibility criteria 11
5.1.1 Appeals 11
5.2 Selection process and criteria 11
5.2.1 The Scoring Chart 11
5.2.2 Indicative timeline for the selection process 12
6. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (mandatory attachments to application) 13
7. HOW TO APPLY 14
7.1 How to apply 14
7.2 Support to applicants and frequently asked questions (FAQ) 14
Complaints 14
8. CONTACT 15
ANNEX 1: CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANTS 15
ANNEX 2: RELEVANT GUIDELINES AND POLICIES 16
ANNEX 3: SELECTION CRITERIA (detail) 17

1. BACKGROUND FOR THE EEA CIVIL SOCIETY FUND IN SLOVAKIA

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 15 EU Member States including Slovakia.

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 and Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 has been set aside for support to civil society through the EEA Civil Society Fund. The allocation for the EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia is **EUR 9.7 million.**

Through an open tender process for Slovakia, the secretariat of the Donor States – the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) – has selected **a consortium of three organisations to be the Fund Operators** (FO): **Ekopolis Foundation, Open Society Foundation Bratislava (OSF) and Carpathian Foundation (CF)**. Each organisation in the FO is responsible for specific Outputs defined in relevant Outcomes. Ekopolis Foundation acts as the lead partner of the consortium. It is the contracting party to the Donors, responsible for the overall programme management.

The objective of the EEA Civil Society Fund 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 Slovakia will include **seven calls**, contributing to the following outcomes[1]:

- Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened
- Outcome 2: Human rights strengthened
- Outcome 3: Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened
- Bilateral Outcome: Strengthened bilateral cooperation in the civil society sector
- Regional Outcome: Strengthened regional cooperation in the civil society sector

Within the key areas, the EEA Civil Society Fund aims to support the promotion of democratic values, civil society participation in decision-making processes, civic engagement, information integrity and media literacy, the protection of human rights, the fight against discrimination and for social justice. The programme places particular emphasis on gender equality, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, the promotion of LGBTIQ+ rights, as well as climate action, environmental protection and a just green transition. Another important focus is on developing organizational capacities and creating an enabling environment for the effective functioning of the civil sector.

[1] Outcomes are the higher-level changes that occur through the achievement of various outputs. Their effects on the target group should continue in the future. Projects are expected to make a measurable contribution to the applicable outcome. See more information in Annex 2.

Part of the programme's support is specifically dedicated to addressing **urgent societal challenges**, such as **addressing challenges arising from Russia's war on Ukraine, countering gender-based violence** and **empowering groups that are marginalised**, particularly **Roma**.

The bilateral outcome of strengthened bilateral cooperation is about cooperation between civil society in Slovakia and in the three Donor States; Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

The EEA Civil Society Fund provides support for CSOs throughout Slovakia**.** Applications from CSOs based in under-served geographic areas and led by target groups that are marginalised are encouraged.

An overview of all open calls as well as other activities supported by the programme can be found on the website https://eeagrants.org/sk/civil-society-fund-slovakia.

2. FOCUS OF THIS CALL

2.1 Purpose of this Call

The purpose of this call is **to select one Project Promoter** to **implement the pre-defined project** (PDP3) **"Supporting the Cohesion of the Civil Sector"** under the EEA Civil Society Fund Slovakia.

The project is intended to **strengthen cohesion, shared understanding, and cooperation across the civil society sector** in Slovakia. To achieve this, it is expected to **combine two mutually reinforcing dimensions: analytical work at sector level and structured opportunities for dialogue and exchange.**

One important component of the project should be the development of a **sector-relevant study** that explores **the current position of civil society in Slovakia**, including shared narratives, structural challenges, and risks affecting democracy, the rule of law, and human rights. The study is expected to provide an evidence-informed foundation for reflection and future cooperation within the sector.

In parallel, the project should create inclusive spaces for dialogue, networking, and coordinated reflection among civil society actors. This is expected to include **the organisation of national-level gatherings** (ideally at least two during the project period are recommended), designed to strengthen relationships, build trust, and encourage more coherent collective positioning.

The sequencing and methodological linkage between the analytical component and the gatherings may be proposed by the applicant. What is important is that both dimensions meaningfully inform each other and contribute to a more cohesive, strategically grounded, and value-based civil society sector.

All activities should be anchored in the core values of the EEA Civil Society Fund – democracy, rule of law, human rights, equality, and civic participation – and contribute to strengthening solidarity, shared understanding, and the collective capacity of civil society in Slovakia.

2.2 Expected results

The EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia uses a **results-based management approach**[2]. This means it is designed and managed with a focus on achieving specific results. The programme has a results framework that guides what can be supported. To be eligible for support, all projects – including this pre-defined project – must contribute to the expected results outlined in this framework.

[2] See Annex 2 of the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters

The pre-defined project in this call is defined to contribute to **the following outcome** and its related output:

- Outcome 3: CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened
  - Output: 3.2: An enabling environment for civil society supported

In addition to the outcome, the project may also contribute to the bilateral outcome—if it is implemented in partnership with a donor project partner.

The selected Project Promoter is expected to **ensure that the pre-defined project is aligned** with these main expected results, and report on them narratively.

To track progress, project 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 are used to monitor progress and measure results at the programme level for this call.[4]

All programme-level indicators marked as relevant for the expected results of PDP3 are mandatory. The Project Promoter is required to collect data and report against each of these indicators in accordance with the Programme's reporting requirements.[5]

2.3 OUTCOME 3: Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened

Civil society organisations (CSOs) in Slovakia face long-term underfunding, limited access to resources, and in recent years, increasing public and political questioning of their legitimacy and role in society. These factors weaken their ability to systematically promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, including gender equality and LGBTIQ+ rights. This outcome therefore supports the development of internal capacities, organisational resilience, and strategic long-term orientation of CSOs, as well as the creation of an enabling environment in which they can operate freely and effectively. The grants will enable organisations to develop stable teams, sustainable operational models, enhance their strategies, and ensure partnerships with other actors. Strengthened organisations will thus become a more powerful voice of civil society and reliable partners in the democratic process.

Output 3.2: An enabling environment for civil society supported

Responsible Partner: Ekopolis Foundation

Financial allocation: EUR 80 000

[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] For more information on indicators, please see the Annex 1 of the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters.

[5] Project applicants can design and use their own additional outcome-level and output-level indicators to help track their specific results. These project-level indicators are not part of the programme's overall results framework. For more information, see Annex 2 of the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters.

Needs Addressed:

Civil society in Slovakia is facing fragmentation, declining trust, contested public narratives, and growing pressure on civic space. While individual organisations remain active, the sector lacks sufficiently structured and **trust-based spaces for collective reflection and coordinated action.**

Many organisations operate in thematic silos, with limited opportunities to exchange data, align narratives, and develop shared strategic responses. **The absence of systematic analytical work** and **common framing** weakens the sector's ability to articulate its role in society and to **defend democratic values coherently.**

There is a clear need for:

- structured and inclusive national-level gatherings that foster dialogue and cooperation,
- a shared analytical foundation grounded in data and qualitative insights,
- deliberate work with narratives that clarify the role and contribution of civil society in safeguarding democracy.

Without intentional efforts to strengthen cohesion and shared evidence-based positioning, the sector risks further fragmentation and reduced collective impact.

Expected Results:

The project is expected to strengthen Output 3.2 by enhancing sector-wide cohesion and collective capacity within civil society.

More specifically, **it is expected that:**

- A high-quality study is produced, analysing shared narratives, structural challenges, and opportunities for coordinated action within the civil society sector.
- At least two national gatherings are organised, bringing together diverse CSOs and relevant stakeholders in structured dialogue.
- The findings of the study are actively used to inform discussions, shared priorities, and coordinated communication approaches.
- Participating CSOs demonstrate improved cooperation, strengthened networking, and enhanced strategic positioning in public discourse.
- The sector shows increased capacity to articulate shared values and defend civic space.

As a result, civil society in Slovakia will be more cohesive, analytically grounded, and better equipped to act collectively in defence of democracy, the rule of law, and human rights.

Relevant Activities:

The project must include the following mandatory core activities:

Mandatory Core Activities

1. **Development and publication of a sector-wide study**, including:
    a. analysis of shared narratives regarding the role of civil society,

b. identification of key structural challenges,
c. evidence-based recommendations for coordinated action.

2. **Organisation of at least two national civil society gatherings**, which:
   a. are inclusive and representative across thematic and regional lines,
   b. provide structured space for dialogue and networking,
   c. meaningfully integrate and build upon the findings of the study.

The proposal must clearly describe how the study and gatherings are interconnected and mutually reinforcing.

Additional Activities (Optional)

Applicants may propose complementary activities, such as:

- thematic working groups linked to the study findings,
- coordinated communication or awareness-raising initiatives,
- structured multi-stakeholder dialogues,
- knowledge-sharing and peer-learning mechanisms,
- European or bilateral cooperation activities.

All additional activities must remain aligned with the two core elements and the objective of strengthening sector cohesion and evidence-based collective action.

Indicators: The project is required to **use all the following indicators**:

Indicator code	Indicator
CIV-004	Number of CSOs participating in consultations with a public institution
CIV-028	Number of membership-based organisations supported
CIV-029	Number of member organisations in membership-based organisations supported
CIV-001	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation
CIV-035	Number of supported CSOs with improved overall organisational strength

For a detailed explanation of the indicators and how to measure them, see Annex 1 of the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters under the EEA Civil Society Fund Slovakia entitled „ Indicators Library of EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia. “

3. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND PARTNERS

3.1 Eligible applicants

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.

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 Slovakia 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.

Eligible candidates must meet the following general conditions:

- Are non-profit, being organisations that have not been created nor operate 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 activities, and the organisation does not pursue the commercial or professional interests of its members. This definition therefore excludes trade- and professional chambers and 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.
- Any applicant must agree to the principles and procedures of the Programme's *Policy for the Protection of Vulnerable Persons and Children under the EEA Civil Society Fund Slovakia* and commit to complying with them by signing the Declaration of Honour when submitting the application.

More specifically, eligible applicants must be registered in Slovakia under one of the following legislative acts:

a) Civic Association according to the Act No. 83/1990 Coll. on the Association of Citizens;
b) Foundation according to the Act No. 34/2002 Coll. on Foundations;
c) Non-profit Organisation Providing Public Beneficial Services according to the Act No. 213/1997 Coll.
d) Non-investment Fund according to the Act No. 34/2002 Coll. on Non-investment Funds;
e) Non-profit Organisation according to the Act No. 116/85 Coll. on terms for activities of organisations with international aspect;
f) Association of Legal Entities under the Act no. 40/1964 Coll. - Civil Code;
g) Slovak Red Cross under the Act no. 460/2007 Coll. on the Slovak Red Cross.

Religious institutions and political parties, social partners, profit-distributing cooperatives or informal groups 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[6] related to the beliefs of a particular faith.

3.2 Eligible project partners

All eligible partners 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.

An applicant may submit a grant application individually or jointly with partner organisations that share the applicant's economic and social objectives to be achieved through the project. The Fund Operator

[6] Proselytism is the practice of attempting to convert people to another religion or belief system; any effort to persuade someone to change their beliefs

recommends involving no more than two partner organisations to ensure effective coordination and meaningful collaboration.

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[7], Beneficiary States[8] or Ukraine;
- An international organisation or body or agency thereof;
- A commercial entity may participate as an eligible partner; however, it cannot receive financial support from the Programme.
    - Entities registered as "social enterprises" (as defined by Act No. 112/2018 Coll. on the Social Economy and Social Enterprises) are eligible to participate as project partners with financial support from the Programme.
- 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 Slovakia;
    - 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 Slovakia, who signs the partnership agreement on behalf of the group. An informal group cannot not be a direct recipient of the project grant.

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.[9].

4. PROJECT CONDITIONS

Detailed rules for projects are described in the **Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters.**

Project duration	Between 30 and 36 months
Project grant amount	EUR 80 000
Indicative start of project implementation	October 2026
Final date of eligibility of expenditure	no later than 30 April 2031

[7] Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.
[8] Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.
[9] Please see further details on sub-contracting in the Guidelines for Applicants

(depending on the start of project implementation)	

4.1 Co-financing

The grant rate of the project is 100%, no co-financing is required.

4.2 Eligible expenditure

Eligible expenditure is regulated by the Cost Eligibility Guidance, which sets out the applicable rules on grant modalities, eligible cost categories, and any relevant Simplified Cost Options as defined in the project contract and call documentation.

Applicants are required to prepare and submit their project budget directly within the e-grant system. The system provides structured budget tables and embedded guidance for completion; however, there is no separate or downloadable budget template. Approval of the submitted budget does not in itself constitute confirmation of cost eligibility.

4.3 Payment of the grant

The grant will be paid in euro (€), in instalments defined in the project contract:

Payment Type	Limits	Conditions
Advance payment	20% - 30% of the total project budget	Paid up to 10 days after signature the Project Contract; intended to cover the first 6 months of activities.
Interim payment	up to 55% of the total project budget	Paid after approval of interim project reports (within 10 working days after acceptance). Given that PDP projects have an implementation period of up to 36 months, interim payments are typically disbursed around months 8, 14, 20, 26 and 32 of implementation.
Final payment (retention)	15% - 20% of the total project budget	Paid after approval of the final report (within 10 working days after approval).

For more information on payments, please refer to the *Cost Eligibility Guideline in the EEA Civil Society Fund Programme.*

4.4 Other conditions

- The Programme and all activities **do not support the provision of social or similar services** unless when the provision of a social service **directly enhance advocacy, community participation, and/or civic engagement**.
- Organizations applying for support under the EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia are required to commit to complying with the principles and requirements set out in the **Policy on the Protection of Vulnerable Persons and Children**. Applicants shall confirm their commitment by familiarizing themselves with the Policy when submitting their Application. Recipients of support will be contractually bound to comply with the Policy. Please note that this document is only available in Slovak.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE, ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

5.1 Administrative and eligibility criteria

Administrative compliance is checked against the following criteria:

- Compliance with the submission deadline given on the front page and in chapter 7 of this call text. Applications cannot be submitted after the deadline.
- Applications are submitted electronically via e-grant system in Slovak language as per chapter 7 of this call text.
- Applications include all relevant supporting documents and attachments as per chapter 6 and Annex 1 of this call text.
- The duration of the project is in accordance with the information specified in the relevant call for applications – see section 5.2 below on the project implementation period.
- The amount requested is in accordance with the information specified in the relevant call for applications – see section 4 on project financing and expenditure eligibility.

Grant applications that fail to meet all these criteria may be rejected and will, in that case, not be assessed further.

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

5.1.1 Appeals

The Fund Operator notifies the applicants about approval / rejection decisions by e-mail within 5 working days from the decision of a respective Board of Trustees.

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 10 working days to appeal the decision, counted from the day after the notification.

Appeals must be submitted through the e-grant system and must clearly justify the grounds for reconsideration, based on procedural or factual errors. Appeals are reviewed by the Steering Committee, in consultation with the Programme Manager of the respective call, within 15 working days of receipt. The Steering Committee may uphold or reverse the original decision. The outcome of the appeal is final and is communicated to the applicant via the e-grant system.

The Project Managers shall also ensure a list of supported and rejected projects in a respective call is published at the Programme website within 10 working days after the Board of Trustees issues its decision.

5.2 Selection process and criteria

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

Applications that meet the administrative and eligibility criteria outlined in chapters 5.1 and 5.2 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.

5.2.1 The Scoring Chart

The experts will independently score the project application according to the selection criteria in the grid below. The selection criteria are divided into headings and subheadings. Each subheading is given a score. The application can be given an overall score of maximum 100 points. **Further guidance on requirements for each criterion is provided Annex 3 to this Call**.

Group of Criteria / Criterion	Maximum Score

1. Understanding, Contextual Relevance, and Added Operational Value	**35**
1.1. Quality of the applicant's understanding of the predefined project's objectives, activities, intervention logic, target groups, and expected results	15
1.2. Understanding of the needs of target groups and the appropriateness of the proposed approach to addressing those needs within the predefined framework	10
1.3. Added value through proposed methodological approaches, measures, or refinements within the predefined scope	5
1.4. Sustainability of project results beyond the implementation period	5
2. Implementation Methodology and Feasibility	**25**
2.1. Quality, feasibility, and coherence of the proposed implementation plan, including work planning, sequencing, risk management, and monitoring arrangements	20
2.2. Quality and feasibility of proposed communication and visibility measures	5
3. Budget and Cost Efficiency	**20**
3.1. Cost-effectiveness and adequacy of proposed expenditure in relation to assigned implementation tasks	10
3.2. Coherence between the budget structure and the proposed implementation methodology	10
4. Organisational Capacity and Institutional Alignment	**20**
4.1. Alignment of the applicant's (and partner's) activities with the values and principles of the EEA Civil Society Fund Slovakia	10
4.2. Organisational and professional capacity to implement the predefined project, including relevant experience and staffing	10
Total score	**100**

To be considered for funding, projects will be evaluated and ranked based on the established award criteria. The Fund Operator reserves the right not to award the grant if none of the submitted applications is deemed to meet the required quality standards. Projects that receive a score of 0 under any of the subheadings may be rejected.

5.2.2 Indicative timeline for the selection process[10]

Steps	Indicative timeline
Announcement of call	March 26th, 2026
Applications are accepted	May 31st, 2026, 23:59 (CET)
Administrative / Eligibility Check	Fund Operator conducts administrative compliance check, incl. completion of missing documentation and assignment to 2 evaluators (up to 10 working days).

[10] Should a large number of applications be received, the schedule will be adjusted to stay as close to the set deadlines as possible, without compromising the quality of the evaluation process.

Expert Assessment and Evaluation	Expert assessment and assessment of eligible applications by 2–3 external assessors, followed by consolidation of results, preparation of ranking and decision-making documentation, and completion of internal approval procedures, leading to final funding decisions. (up to 50 working days).
Publish results	Fund Operator publishes selection results, notifies applicants of approval/rejection decision, and sends draft contracts to successful applicants (up to 5 working days). Announcement of applications awarded funding on the programme's website
Provisional start of project	October 2026

6. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (mandatory attachments to application)

If the project will be implemented in partnership, a partnership declaration (letter of intent) between the Project Promoter and each of its partners shall be submitted as a supporting document to the application.

By signing the **partnership declaration**, the applicant and project partner jointly declare that they have been **sufficiently informed** of the conditions and obligations that will arise in connection with the implementation of the project if financial support is granted to the project.

These conditions include, inter alia:

- provisions on the roles and responsibilities of the parties;
  - 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;
  - currency exchange rules for such expenditure and reimbursement;
  - provisions on the forms of grants for all costs in the project and their calculation method;
  - requirements for the submission of proof of expenditure and/or proof of conditions fulfilled where unit costs or lump sums are used;
  - provisions on audits of the project;
  - a detailed budget, which foresees flexible rules for shifts between budget headings; and
  - 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 the provided template.

In addition, the Project Promoter shall include in their application the following:

- Statutes of foreign partners – if this is not freely available online (if applicable)
- Hourly rate calculation attachment (if applicable)

These documents are referenced in the online application and must be uploaded as attachments within the e-grant system. Separate submissions will not be accepted.

7. HOW TO APPLY

7.1 How to apply

Applications must be submitted electronically to e-grant system. The date and time of receipt recorded by the e-grant system will determine whether the deadline has been met.

Only applications submitted through the e-grant system will be accepted. Submissions by email or post will not be accepted.

It is recommended that applicants familiarize themselves with the e-grant system in advance. Technical support is available at **podpora@egrant.sk**.

The deadline for applications to be included in the evaluation is **May 31, 2026,** at 23:59 CET.

7.2 Support to applicants and frequently asked questions (FAQ)

The **Fund Operator** ensures equal opportunities for all applicants by continuously publishing vital information and updates on the program website. We encourage you to regularly consult the **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** section. Should you not find the answer to your inquiry there, the following support options are available:

- **Information Webinars and Sessions:** The Fund Operator along with consortium partners will host online sessions to outline funding priorities, provide guidance on completing application forms, and explain the full project lifecycle. Dates for these sessions will be announced on the programme website in due course.
- **Telephone Consultations:** The consortium partners are available to answer questions via telephone every Wednesday between 9:00 and 15:00 (contact information is listed in the dedicated section).
- **Written Inquiries:** Inquiries may be submitted via email or through the FAQ portal on our website. Responses from all meetings and consultations are regularly integrated into a comprehensive FAQ subpage on the EEA CSF Slovakia program page.

Important Notice: Inquiries must be received at least **5 working days** before the submission deadline.

Complaints

Any complaints related to this call may be submitted via email to **staznosti@eea-csf.sk** or through the "staznosti" (complaints) link available at www.eea-csf.sk. Applicants should follow the procedure outlined below:

1. Submission and Processing (Fund Operator)

Stage	Action
Submission	Complaints are submitted directly to the **Complaints Committee** via the website link or email.
Registration	The responsible Programme Manager records the complaint in the programme database without delay.
Review	The Complaints Committee reviews the submission and adopts a resolution within **10 working days**.

Notification	The Programme Director informs the Programme Manager of the resolution, who then informs the complainant in writing within **5 working days**.

Total Response Time: The complainant will receive a written response within **20 working days**.

2. Complaints to the FMO

Complaints may also be submitted in English to the **Financial Mechanism Office (FMO)**.

- **Process:** The FMO is not subject to the process described in the table above.
- **Confidentiality:** Complaints sent to the FMO are shared with the Fund Operator **only if the complainant wishes** for the FMO to do so.

8. CONTACT

Web CSF – Slovakia: EEA CSF Slovakia / www.eea-csf.sk

Fund Operator
Ekopolis Foundation
Komenského 21, 974 01 Banská Bystrica
Tel.: +421 48 470 1091
www.ekopolis.sk
Director: Peter Medveď, medved@eea-csf.sk
Financial Manager: Lívia Haringová, haringova@eea-csf.sk
Program Manager: Veronika Záhradníková, zahradnikova@eea-csf.sk
Financial Controller: Jarmila Bibová, bibova@eea-csf.sk

Telephone consultations are available every Wednesday from 9:00 to 15:00 at the phone numbers provided.

ANNEX 1: CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANTS

CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANTS	Yes/No
Administrative criteria	
Submission deadline: Compliance with the deadline given on the front page and in Chapter 7 of the call text.	
Submission method and language: Applications must be submitted electronically via the [e-grant link] in the [language(s) accepted] as per Chapter 7 of the call text.	
Required documents: Applications must include all relevant supporting documents and attachments as per Chapter 6 and Annex 1 of the call text.	
Project duration: The duration of the project must be in accordance with the information specified in the relevant call for applications (see section 4 on the project implementation period).	
Requested amount: The amount requested must be in accordance with the information specified in the relevant call for applications (see section 4).	
Eligibility criteria	
Organisation eligibility: See section 3 on eligible applicants and partners.	
Financial and time limits: The requested grant amount and proposed implementation period must be within the permissible limits provided in the call.	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS	
• Partnership declaration(s) /Letter of Intent (if applicable) • Statutes of foreign partners if not freely available online (if applicable) • Hourly rate calculation attachment (if applicable)	

ANNEX 2: RELEVANT GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

1. **The Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters** of the EEA Civil Society Fund Programme (hereinafter referred to as the "Guidelines") provide comprehensive information about the programme, its objective and expected results, outcomes, and outputs, as well as the rules and procedures related to the submission, assessment, implementation, and financing of projects. They serve as a practical guide for Applicants as well as for Project Promoters.
   Annex 1. Indicators Library of EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia. This document is available only in Slovak language as *Príloha 1. Knižnica indikátorov EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia*
   Annex 2: Result based management for the EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia

2. The **Cost Eligibility Guidance** for the EEA Civil Society Fund — defines the principles, rules, and criteria determining the eligibility of costs, including categories of eligible expenditures and simplified cost reporting methods.
   Annex 1: Unit cost calculation for personnel costs under Simplified Costs Options (SCOs)

3. **Policy on the Protection of Vulnerable Persons and Children for** the EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia.

All of the mentioned materials are accessible on the Programme website.

ANNEX 3: SELECTION CRITERIA (detail)

The expert assessment of grant applications under the EEA Civil Society Fund Slovakia ensures a professional, objective, independent, and transparent assessment of applications against predefined assessment criteria, resulting in a ranked list that serves as the basis for decision-making by the Selection Committee.

Only applications that meet administrative and eligibility requirements are evaluated, with each eligible application assessed independently by at least two expert evaluators using both quantitative and qualitative criteria; a third evaluator is involved in cases of significant scoring discrepancies.

The assessment outcomes, including scores and recommendations on project content and budget, inform funding decisions, while applications scoring below 85 points do not advance further; detailed rules and procedures are provided **in the Annex 3**.