Iceland Liechtenstein Norway **Civil Society Fund**

OPEN CALL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs)

IN SLOVAKIA

OPEN CALL No 2.

FOR PROJECT GRANTS

AVAILABLE FUNDING: EUR 3 380 000

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 targets Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working on strengthening democracy, the rule of law and civic engagement; information integrity and media literacy; human rights and social inclusion, including inclusion and empowerment of Roma, gender equality and LGBTQI+ rights, climate action, environmental protection and a just green transition; as well as support to migrants and refugees from Ukraine and their host communities and other thematic areas aligned with the objectives of the call.

The total allocation of the call is EUR 3 380 000.

SUMMARY OF THE CALL	
Title of the call	Call No.2 for Project Grants
Purpose of the call	See section 2.1 of this Call
Outcome(s)	1. Democratic values and rule of law strengthened 2. Human rights strengthened 3. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened
Output(s)	1.1 CSO participation in democratic processes increased 1.2 Civic engagement increased 1.2 Civic engagement increased - special focus: Addressing challenges arising from Russia's war on Ukraine 1.3 Information integrity and media literacy increased 2.1 Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported 2.1 Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported – special focus: Inclusion and empowerment of Roma 2.2 Gender equality, including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and LGBTQI+ rights supported 2.3 Climate action, environmental protection, and a just green transition supported 3.2 An enabling environment for civil society supported
Relevant project activities	Recommended activities under each Output (See section 2 of this Call)
Eligible project applicants	See section 3.1 of this Call
Project duration	Between 12 and 24 months

Project grant amount	EUR 50 000 – 70 000, up to EUR 80 000 with a Project Partner from a Donor State (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway)
Co-financing	No co-financing required
Partnerships	Applications may be submitted in partnership. Partnerships with entities from the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) are encouraged.
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

1. BACKGROUND FOR THE EEA CIVIL SOCIETY FUND IN SLOVAKIA 6

2. FOCUS OF THIS CALL 7

2.1 Purpose of this call 7

2.2 Expected results 8

2.3 OUTCOME 1: Democratic Values and the Rule of Law Strengthened 10

Output 1.1 CSO participation in democratic processes increased 10

Output 1.2: Civic engagement increased 12

Special focus under Output 1.2: Civic engagement increased: Addressing challenges arising from Russia's war on Ukraine 13

Output 1.3 Information integrity and media literacy increased 15

2.4 OUTCOME 2: Human Rights Strengthened 17

Output 2.1. Human rights strengthened: Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported 17

Output 2.1: Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported – special focus: Inclusion and empowerment of Roma 19

Output 2.2: Gender equality, including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and LGBTQI+ rights supported 21

Output 2.3: Climate action, environmental protection, and a just green transition supported 24

2.5 OUTCOME 3: Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened 26

Output 3.2: An enabling environment for civil society supported 26

3 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND PARTNERS 28

3.1 Eligible applicants 28

3.2 Eligible project partners 29

4 PROJECT CONDITIONS 30

4.1 Co-financing 30

4.2 Eligible expenditure 30

4.3 Payment of the grant 30

4.4 Other conditions 31

5 ADMINISTRATIVE, ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA 31

5.1 Administrative and eligibility criteria 31

5.1.1 Appeals 31

5.2 Selection process and criteria 32

5.2.1 The Scoring Chart 32

5.2.2 Indicative timeline for the selection process 33

6 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (mandatory attachments to application) 34

7 HOW TO APPLY 34

7.1 How to apply 34

7.2 Support to applicants and frequently asked questions (FAQ) 35
Complaints 35
8 CONTACT 37
ANNEX 1: CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANTS 37
ANNEX 2: RELEVANT GUIDELINES AND POLICIES 38
ANNEX 3: SELECTION CRITERIA (detail) 38

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 Operator** (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+[2] 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.

[2] LGBTQI+ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, and Intersex, with the "+" representing other sexual orientations and gender identities not specifically included in the acronym.

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 vulnerable** and/or **marginalised**[3] particularly **Roma**.

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 vulnerable** and/or **marginalised, are encouraged**[4]. The Fund Operator will provide support to such CSOs during the application and contracting stages to clarify project objectives, planned results, risks, and financing procedures.

CSOs should note that support for social services is only eligible when such services enhance advocacy, community participation, and/or civic engagement.

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.

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.

2. FOCUS OF THIS CALL

2.1 Purpose of this call

This call addresses several key themes covered by the EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia, as highlighted below:

- To respond to weakening rule of law, growing polarization, and a decline of trust in democratic institutions and independent media. The call therefore seeks to **create space for strengthening the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)**, which play a crucial role in protecting the public interest, holding power to account, and promoting democratic values. It supports their advocacy and watchdog activities, engagement in public policy-making, and expert analysis of legislation, with an emphasis on strategic communication, data-driven work, and increasing the transparency of public administration.
- To respond to **emerging social challenges, particularly the consequences of Russian aggression against Ukraine and the integration of refugees into Slovak society**. Supported projects will contribute to equal opportunities, social inclusion, and the building of solidarity between migrants, refugees and host communities, while also addressing disinformation and strengthening social cohesion.
- To support **independent journalism, fact-checking, and media literacy**—helping to foster a resilient society capable of critically engaging with information and safeguarding democratic public discourse.
- To address persistent inequalities and structural discrimination faced by **Roma communities, women, LGBTIQ+ people, persons with disabilities, and other groups that are marginalised**, as well as the uneven access to rights, services, and decision-making processes across society.

[3] For the purposes of this Call, "groups experiencing marginalisation" refers to individuals or communities facing structural and systemic barriers to equal access to rights, resources, and participation, while "people in vulnerable situations" refers to individuals or groups exposed to increased risk of harm or exclusion due to specific, and often temporary, circumstances.

[4] For the purposes of this Call, among others: Roma communities (including Roma women and girls and Roma LGBTQI+ persons), LGBTQI+ persons, persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees (including those displaced by conflict), people belonging to ethnic or national minorities, women experiencing structural discrimination, youth facing social exclusion, elderly people in vulnerable situations, and communities living in structurally disadvantaged or environmentally burdened regions. This list is not exhaustive.

Particular attention is given to **the inclusion and empowerment of Roma**, including support for Roma-led organisations, community organising, advocacy, and participatory approaches that strengthen Roma voices in public and political life. The Fund Operator acknowledges that some Roma groups (Roma women and girls, Roma LGBTQI+ people, Roma people with disabilities, etc.) may face overlapping barriers further exacerbating inequalities and their access to rights, services and decision-making.

- To address **gender inequality, gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and the protection of LGBTIQ+ rights**, supporting initiatives that combine advocacy, public education, access to services[5], strategic litigation, and efforts to counter harmful stereotypes and polarisation.
- Finally, to support **climate action, environmental protection, and a just green transition**, recognising the close link between environmental sustainability, social justice, and democratic participation. Projects are encouraged to promote public engagement in environmental decision-making, strengthen civic oversight of climate and environmental policies, and foster cooperation between civil society, public authorities, and other stakeholders.

Across all thematic areas, the call places strong emphasis **on strengthening Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) themselves and the enabling environment in which they operate.** This includes support for organisational development, networking, advocacy for civic space, protection of human rights defenders, and initiatives aimed at increasing public trust in civil society as a legitimate and indispensable actor in democratic governance.

The overall aim of the programme is to contribute to a **vibrant and resilient civil society protecting and promoting democracy, the rule of law, and human rights**. This includes a more inclusive society, grounded in equality, transparency, respect for human rights, environmental responsibility, and the rule of law.

2.2 Expected results

The EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia uses a **results-based management approach[6]**. 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 must contribute to the expected results outlined in this framework.

Each project must contribute to one single programme outcome. Within that outcome, a project may support one or more outputs. In addition to the outcome, a project may also contribute to the bilateral outcome—if it is implemented in partnership with a project partner from one of the donor countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway).

All projects selected under this call shall contribute to **one of the three following outcomes** and their related output(s):

- Outcome 1: Democratic values and the rule of law strengthened
  - Output 1.1: CSO participation in democratic processes increased
  - Output 1.2: Civic engagement increased.
  - Output 1.2: Civic engagement increased - special focus on "Addressing challenges arising from Russia's war on Ukraine"
  - Output 1.3: Information integrity and media literacy increased

[5] The Programme and all activities do not support the provision of social or similar services unless when the provision of a social service directly enhances advocacy, community participation, and/or civic engagement.

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

- Outcome 2: Human rights strengthened
    - Output 2.1: Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social inclusion supported
    - Output 2.1: Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social inclusion supported -special focus on "Inclusion and empowerment of Roma"
      Output 2.2: Gender equality, including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and LGBTQI+ 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: 3.2: An enabling environment for civil society supported

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

In addition, projects should also contribute to programme-level indicators from the selected outcome and output(s).[7] 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.[8]

Each project is strongly encouraged to use at least one of the programme-level indicators from the selected outcome and output(s).[9]

[7] 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.

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

[9] 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.

2.3 OUTCOME 1: Democratic Values and the Rule of Law Strengthened

Slovak society is currently facing challenges such as the erosion of the principles of the rule of law, weakened public trust in institutions, and attacks on independent media and civil society, all undermining the healthy functioning of democracy.

Under **Outcome 1: Democratic Values and the Rule of Law Strengthened**, the EEA Civil Society Fund provides space for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to enhance their role in democratic processes by supporting their capacity to monitor public affairs, advocate for change, and participate meaningfully in public debate. The fund also strengthens CSOs' ability to withstand disinformation and smear campaigns and to contribute to building an open, fair, and participatory environment. Through this support, CSOs can respond more flexibly to current societal challenges and defend public interest in developing legislation and public policies.

Common challenges across outputs within Outcome 1 include institutional and administrative barriers limiting policy influence, public distrust in institutions stemming from historical governance inefficiencies, and regional disparities in civic participation, particularly in rural areas and among various population groups. The rapid evolution of digital communication, including various AI tools, offers opportunities for direct engagement but also challenges such as increased polarisation and the superficial nature of public debates.

Output 1.1 CSO participation in democratic processes increased

Responsible Partner: Ekopolis Foundation

Financial allocation: EUR 350 000

Needs addressed: Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are an essential pillar in protecting democracy. However, their ability to effectively participate in public affairs has been weakened. CSOs play a crucial role in protecting democracy and the rule of law. However, their ability to effectively participate in public decision-making has been weakened by a range of structural and practical barriers.

These include limited and very short consultation timeframes, insufficient transparency and predictability of legislative processes, restricted access to decision-makers, and a lack of systematic feedback on CSO inputs. Smaller and regional CSOs in particular face capacity constraints, administrative burdens, and limited access to expert support needed to prepare high-quality, evidence-based policy proposals. Increasing polarisation and public attacks on civil society further reduce trust and discourage meaningful engagement.

As a result, CSO participation in democratic processes is often fragmented and reactive rather than strategic and coordinated. There is a clear need to strengthen CSO capacities for structured advocacy, watchdog activities, expert analysis, and facilitation of consultation processes in order to increase their influence on policy-making and enhance transparency and accountability of public institutions.

Expected results: The aim of this output is to increase the meaningful participation and influence of CSOs in policy formulation and public decision-making processes. Strengthened CSO engagement should contribute to greater transparency, accountability, and openness of public institutions, as well as to the stronger legitimacy of citizens' voices in democratic governance.

Projects supported under this output are expected to enhance the quality and strategic nature of advocacy and watchdog work, evidence-based positions, analyses, comments, and policy proposals. Particular emphasis is placed on strategic communication that translates expert knowledge into

accessible and credible public narratives, strengthening dialogue with policymakers and increasing public understanding of democratic processes.

In the longer term, this should contribute to more accessible participatory mechanisms, reduced barriers to civic engagement, and a more resilient democratic environment grounded in the rule of law.

Target groups of the project:

- Advocacy and watchdog CSOs
- Community organisations active in governance, transparency, and participation
- Policy-makers and public institutions at all levels
- Academic and research institutions (as partners)

Relevant activities include but are not limited to:

- Advocacy activities promoting specific policy or thematic issues
- Participation in the development and implementation of public policies and decision-making processes
- Watchdog and monitoring activities focused on policy formulation and implementation
- Civic education and training
- Awareness-raising initiatives
- Research, advocacy, and other activities promoting good governance, transparency, and anti-corruption measures
- Establishment and strengthening of CSO networks and coalitions
- Monitoring and reporting on risks to democratic processes
- Capacity-building activities for CSOs

Indicators: Each project is strongly encouraged to use at least one of these indicators:

Indicator code	Indicator
CIV-001	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation
CIV-002	Number of local laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation
ALL-013	Estimated number of people who engaged and took an action in support of the advocacy / awareness-raising campaigns
CIV-003	Number of times CSO inputs in a policy initiative focused on rule of law or democracy topics are acknowledged by public authorities
CIV-015	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs
CIV-004	Number of CSOs participating in consultations with a public institution
CIV-005	Number of consultation processes with a public institution facilitated by CSOs
ALL-012	Number of advocacy/awareness-raising campaigns carried out

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."

Output 1.2: Civic engagement increased

Responsible Partner: Ekopolis Foundation

Financial allocation: EUR 350 000

Needs addressed: Citizen participation in public life in Slovakia remains limited and uneven, weakening democratic culture and institutional resilience. Beyond electoral turnout, broader civic engagement – including participation in public consultations, community initiatives, and local governance – is often low and socially stratified.

This reflects declining trust in institutions, perceptions of opaque and unresponsive decision-making, and limited awareness of opportunities for engagement. Participatory mechanisms are frequently poorly communicated or accessible mainly to already active groups. Communities that are marginalised, young people, and citizens in under-served regions face additional barriers, including limited access to information, insufficient civic skills, socio-economic constraints, and weak local civic infrastructure.

Polarisation and disinformation further contribute to disengagement and apathy, reducing participation to sporadic or reactive mobilisation rather than sustained, informed involvement. Without targeted efforts to address these barriers, democratic processes risk becoming less inclusive, less representative, and less accountable to citizens.

Expected results: This output aims to strengthen civic engagement and active participation in public life by supporting CSOs in creating inclusive, accessible, and sustainable platforms for dialogue, cooperation, and community action.

Expected results include:

- increased active participation of citizens in civic activities, such as public consultations, local governance processes, volunteering, and community initiatives;
- improved access to both digital and physical engagement mechanisms, particularly for young people, groups that are marginalised, and communities in rural areas, under-served and/or in underdeveloped regions[10]
- higher levels of civic awareness and understanding of rights, responsibilities, and democratic processes;
- stronger and more structured links between communities and public authorities.

By fostering everyday engagement in public life and supporting sustainable participatory infrastructures, this output contributes to a more inclusive, bottom-up democratic culture and greater societal resilience.

Target groups of the project:

- Young people
- Groups that are marginalised
- Cultural and community organisations
- Communities in rural areas and under-served and/or under-developed regions

[10] Referring to districts classified as least developed under national legislation or regions with significantly below-average socio-economic indicators.

- The general public

Relevant activities include but are not limited to:

- Participation in the development of public policies and decision-making processes
- Civic education, training, and awareness-raising activities
- Community work and citizen organising to promote volunteering, civic activism, and participation
- Cultural activities that promote social change
- Research, advocacy, and other initiatives promoting good governance, transparency, and anti-corruption measures
- Joint community initiatives addressing local issues, improving the environment, and promoting social justice
- Establishment and development of infrastructure for public dialogue – both material (e.g., community spaces for CSO activities) and non-material (networks, web tools, platforms) supporting civic participation
- Capacity-building activities for CSOs

Indicators: Each project is strongly encouraged to use at least one of these indicators:

Indicator code	Indicator
CIV-001	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation
CIV-002	Number of local laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation
ALL-013	Estimated number of people who engaged and took an action in support of the advocacy / awareness-raising campaigns
CIV-003	Number of times CSO inputs in a policy initiative focused on rule of law or democracy topics are acknowledged by public authorities.
CIV-006	Number of people who participated in consultations with a public institution facilitated by CSOs (disaggregated by age)
CIV-010	Number of people engaged in CSO activities as volunteers (disaggregated by age)

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. “

Special focus under Output 1.2: Civic engagement increased: Addressing challenges arising from Russia’s war on Ukraine

Responsible Partner: Carpathian Foundation

Financial allocation: EUR 240 000

Needs addressed: A key challenge in this area is the integration of Ukrainian migrants and refugees into Slovak society. Their participation in public life and community processes remains limited, and their specific integration-related needs are not yet sufficiently addressed in a systematic and sustainable manner. Support is currently provided primarily by CSOs; however, their capacities are often stretched, and coordination mechanisms and long-term structural solutions remain underdeveloped. This creates a gap between immediate support measures and sustainable civic inclusion.

The integration of Ukrainian refugees into Slovak society faces numerous challenges across sectors, including the recognition of Ukrainian qualifications hindering employment, the education system's struggle to develop systemic tools for integrating Ukrainian children, and insufficient support for young people at universities. As a large proportion of the refugees are women caring singlehandedly for their children, there is a need for childcare support to enable their participation in the labour market and public life. Individuals with special needs and disabilities face barriers to diagnostic and educational inclusion services, while the mental health sector lacks professionals to address war-related trauma. Housing accessibility remains a significant obstacle, exacerbated by negative societal attitudes and the broader rental housing crisis, with harmful political narratives contributing to societal polarisation and affecting refugees' well-being and access to services.

There is a deficit of quality refugee-led initiatives and weak coordination among CSOs, with many organisations reducing or ceasing support due to societal negativity and diminished financial resources, and local CSOs often lack the capacity and expertise needed for refugee integration. Government policies and responses have been slow and inadequate, including at the level of local authority action plans, and a critical gap in data collection limits effective policymaking. Both refugees and service providers struggle with unclear information about entitlements and rights linked to settlement status.

Expected results: The expected results include advocacy initiatives targeting institutions responsible for refugee services, alongside the creation of comprehensive refugee integration plans through participatory, evidence-based planning, considering specific needs of refugee women, youth, people with disabilities, Ukrainian Roma and other groups facing exacerbated access to services. The expected results also encompass campaigns countering disinformation about Ukrainian refugees and the war, as well as enhanced solidarity and understanding of the situation of the refugees within host communities. In addition, the results foresee the growth and strengthened expertise of refugee-led initiatives and CSOs, together with increased CSO engagement in advocacy platforms and working groups.

Target groups:

- Ukrainian migrants and refugees living in Slovakia
- Migrant- and refugee-led initiatives and organisations
- CSOs supporting the integration, participation, and rights of Ukrainian migrants and refugees
- Informal groups and community-based initiatives working with or led by Ukrainian migrants and refugees
- Host communities in Slovakia
- Community actors facilitating dialogue, participation, and social cohesion between Ukrainian migrants, refugees and local communities
- CSOs working on information integrity and countering disinformation related to migration and social cohesion

Relevant activities include but are not limited to:

- Capacity building for CSOs, migrant- and refugee-led organisations, and informal groups supporting the rights, participation, and integration of Ukrainian migrants and refugees.
- Participation of CSOs and community actors in working groups, coordination mechanisms, and policy platforms addressing challenges related to the consequences of the war in Ukraine.
- Advocacy initiatives aimed at improving integration frameworks, access to services, and participatory mechanisms for Ukrainian migrants and refugees.

- Evidence-based and participatory initiatives contributing to the development or improvement of comprehensive refugee integration strategies at local, regional, or national level.
- Initiatives strengthening dialogue, cooperation, and trust between Ukrainian migrants and refugees and host communities.
- Campaigns promoting information integrity and countering disinformation related to migration, social cohesion, and democratic participation.
- Support for local and community-based media initiatives that enhance access to reliable information and foster informed civic engagement.

Indicators: Each project is strongly encouraged to use at least one of these indicators:

Indicator code	Indicator
CIV-001	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation
CIV-002	Number of local laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation
ALL-013	Estimated number of people who engaged and took an action in support of the advocacy / awareness-raising campaigns
CIV-003	Number of times CSO inputs in a policy initiative focused on rule of law or democracy topics are acknowledged by public authorities.
CIV-006	Number of people who participated in consultations with a public institution facilitated by CSOs (disaggregated by age)
CIV-010	Number of people engaged in CSO activities as volunteers (disaggregated by age)

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. “

Output 1.3 Information integrity and media literacy increased

Responsible Partner: Open Society Foundation Bratislava

Financial allocation: EUR 350 000

Needs addressed: Slovakia faces a fragmented information ecosystem, a rise in disinformation, and the growing influence of political propaganda, which deepens societal divisions. Mis- and disinformation, conspiracy theories, and anti-Western rhetoric are frequently leveraged by populist politicians, while allied media outlets amplify misleading narratives, often targeting journalists and civil society actors. Moreover, information disorders are not only the results of malicious campaigns but also the symptoms of a deeper erosion of the information space, in which opaque platform infrastructures, algorithmic amplification, and market-driven incentives distort the flow of information and undermine public trust.

Expected results: This element of the EEA Civil Society Fund aims to decrease the impact of disinformation and propaganda, equipping citizens with the skills needed to critically evaluate credible information from mis- and disinformation and to foster a more resilient media environment. Durable solutions must focus on revamping societal resilience—by supporting pluralistic media production, fostering critical information consumption, and reforming the governance of digital platforms and

infrastructures that shape the ecosystem as a whole. In short, the aim is to ensure information integrity, which is about the accuracy, consistency, reliability, and trustworthiness of information in the public sphere. Expected results include:

- strengthened ability of media to combat mis- and disinformation and ensuring the dissemination of accessible and accurate, consistent, reliable, and trustworthy information,
- improved the target groups' skills in media literacy,
- increased availability of tools and platforms to counter fake news and propaganda,
- developed collaborative networks among CSOs and media institutions.

Target groups:

- Journalists and independent media outlets
- CSOs engaged in combating disinformation, working on information integrity and promoting digital or media literacy
- Schools and universities
- Technology companies (as partners)
- Local and regional civic initiatives

The target audiences of project activities can include students, the general public, and groups that are vulnerable, such as seniors and residents of rural areas.

Relevant activities include but are not limited to:

- Supporting investigative journalism, independent media, and local or community-based outlets to strengthen information integrity.
- Developing and deploying tools, methodologies, and digital solutions to enhance information integrity, media pluralism, and media literacy, including mechanisms for detecting and countering disinformation.
- Implementing fact-checking initiatives, verification tools, and rapid-response mechanisms to address misleading or manipulative content.
- Carrying out public awareness-raising campaigns on information integrity, disinformation risks, and responsible information consumption.
- Promoting media and digital literacy initiatives that empower individuals of all ages to critically assess and engage with information in online and offline environments.
- Advancing information integrity and media literacy in education by integrating relevant skills into school curricula, teacher training, informal education and lifelong learning programmes, including in remote or under-served geographic areas.
- Strengthening cooperation, networking, and knowledge-sharing between CSOs, media institutions, educational institutions, and other stakeholders.
- Conducting capacity-building activities for CSOs to enhance their ability to address disinformation, promote media literacy, and support credible public discourse.
- Empowering persons in vulnerable situations—such as women, Roma communities, LGBTQI+ persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, and other groups that are marginalised —by ensuring inclusive information environments, digital safety measures, protecting the online space for persons in vulnerable situations.
- Establishing information-integrity networks and platforms to exchange findings, best practices, and lessons learned, contributing to collective resilience.

Indicators: Each project is strongly encouraged to use at least one of these indicators:

Indicator code	Indicators
CIV-001	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation
CIV-002	Number of local laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation
ALL-013	Estimated number of people who engaged and took an action in support of the advocacy / awareness-raising campaigns
CIV-003	Number of times CSO inputs in a policy initiative focused on rule of law or democracy topics are acknowledged by public authorities.
ALL-009	Number of training courses delivered by supported CSOs on information integrity
CIV-007	Number of people who participated in CSO-led training courses on information integrity
LOC-011	Number of local or community-based media outlets supported
ALL-012	Number of advocacy/awareness-raising campaigns focused on information integrity and media literacy carried out (non-Ukraine related)
ALL-012	Number of advocacy/awareness-raising campaigns focused on Ukraine-related information integrity and media literacy carried out

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. “

2.4 OUTCOME 2: Human Rights Strengthened

Common challenges across all outputs within Outcome 2 include deep-rooted structural inequalities and a persistent gap between legal frameworks and practical enforcement, with groups that are in vulnerable situations limited access to essential services due to lack of information, inconsistent outreach, and uneven policy application, while fragmented data collection and coordination hinder effective, evidence-based interventions. Environmental degradation and fragmented climate policies intensify health risks and social inequalities, underscoring the urgent need for coordinated, socially just green transitions.

Output 2.1. Human rights strengthened: Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported

Responsible Partner: Open Society Foundation Bratislava

Financial allocation: EUR 350 000

Needs addressed: The state of human rights in Slovakia is characterised by persistent structural inequalities, suboptimal enforcement of anti-discrimination legislation, and constrained access to essential public services for groups that are vulnerable, which impede the realisation of equality and social justice. National surveys and information from local CSOs point to significant discrimination in education, employment, health, and housing, with inconsistent application of anti-discrimination measures at all levels creating notable gaps between the legal framework and practice.

Expected results: This output focuses on empowering CSOs dedicated to human rights, as well as national, ethnic, and other minorities, persons with disabilities, low-income communities, and other groups in vulnerable situations across Slovakia. The goal is to promote a more inclusive society based on respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. This includes:

- enhanced knowledge and skills of target groups that are marginalised, contributing to their empowerment
- enhanced legal enforcement and oversight through structured partnerships between CSOs and various authorities, ensuring more effective responses to discrimination cases,
- strengthened capacity of CSOs to systematically address incidents of discrimination,
- improved advocacy efforts through legal support for CSOs and regular engagement with policymakers,
- increased evidence-based policymaking through collaboration with academic/research institutions and governmental and public agencies, and
- increased public awareness of rights through CSOs-led educational programs and information campaigns.

Target groups:

- Roma people
- Women
- LGBTQI+ persons
- Persons with disabilities
- Ethnic and other minority groups
- Low-income and groups in otherwise vulnerable situations across Slovakia
- Human rights organisations

Relevant activities include but are not limited to:

- Research and analyses supporting advocacy and policy development
- Advocacy activities promoting specific issues or policy changes
- Participation in policy-making and decision-making processes
- Civic education, training, and awareness-raising activities
- Strategic litigation
- Monitoring and oversight of policy development and implementation (watchdog activities)
- Research, advocacy, and other initiatives promoting good governance, transparency, and anti-corruption measures
- Legal assistance, psychological support, and other forms of help for human rights defenders
- Conducting outreach to target groups and ensuring their representation, with a focus on people who experience social or economic disadvantages
- Capacity-building activities for CSOs
- Provision of information, training, direct consultations, and support to groups that are vulnerable in the field of human rights

Indicators: Each project is strongly encouraged to use at least one of these indicators:

Indicator code	Indicators
CIV-001	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation
ALL-013	Estimated number of people who engaged and took an action in support of the advocacy / awareness-raising campaigns

CIV-003	Number of times CSO inputs in a policy initiative focused on human rights are acknowledged by public authorities.
CIV-015	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs
ALL-012	Number of advocacy/awareness-raising campaigns carried out
ALL-009	Number of training courses delivered by supported CSOs
CIV-007	Number of people who participated in CSO-led training courses on information integrity (disaggregated by age)

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. “

Output 2.1: Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported – special focus: Inclusion and empowerment of Roma

Responsible Partner: Carpathian Foundation

Financial allocation: EUR 600 000

Needs addressed: Roma communities in Slovakia continue to face persistent and structural discrimination, deeply rooted anti-Roma racism, and long-term social and economic exclusion. These inequalities are reflected in segregated education, substandard housing conditions, limited access to quality healthcare and employment, and disproportionate exposure to poverty and indebtedness.

Despite the existence of national strategies and action plans, implementation gaps, weak coordination between institutions, and insufficient involvement of Roma communities in decision-making processes continue to hinder sustainable change. Roma-led organisations and grassroots initiatives often operate with limited financial stability, insufficient organisational capacity, and reduced access to public funding and policy platforms.

Roma women and girls, Roma LGBTQI+ people, Roma persons with disabilities, and other groups experiencing overlapping vulnerabilities face compounded discrimination and additional barriers in accessing rights, services, and participation opportunities. Their voices remain underrepresented both within mainstream civil society and in public institutions.

There is also a need to strengthen trust and constructive dialogue between Roma communities, public authorities, and the majority population, and to address harmful stereotypes, prejudice, and disinformation contributing to social polarisation.

Addressing these needs requires long-term, participatory and rights-based approaches that empower Roma communities, strengthen Roma-led organisations, and foster partnerships across sectors to promote equal opportunities, social justice, and sustainable social cohesion.

Expected results: As a result of the support:

- Roma communities, including groups experiencing overlapping vulnerabilities, have increased capacity and opportunities to participate meaningfully in public and community decision-making processes.
- Roma-led organisations and grassroots initiatives are organisationally stronger, more sustainable, and better positioned to advocate for the rights and interests of Roma communities.
- Public institutions and other relevant stakeholders demonstrate improved responsiveness to the needs and rights of Roma communities, including through more inclusive policies and practices.
- Cooperation and trust between Roma communities, civil society actors, public authorities, and the majority population are strengthened.
- Awareness of anti-Roma discrimination and structural inequalities is increased, contributing to reduced prejudice and improved conditions for equal opportunities and social inclusion.

Primary target groups include:

- Roma-led Civil Society Organisations (CSOs);
- CSOs working with and for the inclusion and empowerment of Roma;
- CSOs partnering with informal groups working with and for the inclusion and empowerment of Roma;
- Roma women and girls;
- Roma community actors and grassroots leaders.

Secondary target groups may include:

- Public institutions at local, regional and national level;
- Majority population groups and other relevant stakeholders whose engagement is necessary to promote inclusion, reduce anti-Roma discrimination, and strengthen social cohesion.

Relevant activities include but are not limited to:

- Supporting Roma participation in public consultations, advocacy initiatives, policy-making processes, working groups, and multi-stakeholder platforms, with particular focus on Roma women and girls.
- Strengthening the advocacy capacity, sustainability, and outreach of Roma-led CSOs, CSOs working with and for Roma inclusion and empowerment, and informal Roma community groups, including through targeted capacity-building activities.
- Building the capacities of Roma-led CSOs and CSOs working with and for Roma inclusion and empowerment to improve coordination, effectiveness, and long-term impact.
- Developing, implementing, and monitoring Roma inclusion policies using participatory, evidence-based approaches, including through participatory workshops and community-driven processes.
- Empowering Roma communities to advocate for equal access to services and to design their own community advocacy strategies.
- Conducting advocacy initiatives targeting public institutions responsible for services, as well as the public, to advance inclusion and empowerment of Roma and counter prejudice.
- Combating antigypsyism through legal measures, strategic litigation, anti-discrimination initiatives, and campaigns promoting positive narratives about Roma contributions to society.

- Implementing initiatives promoting inclusion, empowerment, and positive public perceptions of Roma, including activities addressing stereotypes and supporting intercultural understanding.

Indicators: Each project is strongly encouraged to use at least one of these indicators:

Indicator code	Indicator
CIV-015	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs
ALL-012	Number of advocacy/awareness-raising campaigns carried out
ALL-009	Number of training courses delivered by supported CSOs
CIV-007	Number of people who participated in CSO-led training courses (disaggregated by age)
CIV-001	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation
ALL-013	Estimated number of people who engaged and took an action in support of the advocacy / awareness-raising campaigns
CIV-003	Number of times CSO inputs in a policy initiative focused on human rights are acknowledged by public authorities.
CIV-024	Number of supported CSOs working on Roma inclusion and empowerment
CIV-025	Number of supported CSOs working on Roma women and girls inclusion and empowerment

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. “

Output 2.2: Gender equality, including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and LGBTQI+ rights supported

Responsible Partner: Open Society Foundation Bratislava

Financial allocation: EUR 350 000

Needs addressed: Despite progress in certain areas, gender inequality remains a persistent structural challenge in Slovakia. Women continue to face unequal economic participation, gender pay gaps, underrepresentation in decision-making positions, and a disproportionate burden of unpaid care work. Gender-based violence, including domestic and sexual violence, remains a serious concern, while access to comprehensive support services and preventive measures varies across regions.

Access to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), including accurate information and quality services, continues to be shaped by regional disparities, social stigma, and polarised public debate. Civil society organisations working in these areas often operate in a challenging environment characterised by disinformation, public polarisation, and increasing pressure on human rights defenders.

LGBTQI+ persons continue to face discrimination, hate speech, social exclusion, and limited legal recognition. These challenges may be more pronounced for individuals living outside larger urban centres and for those belonging to groups that are marginalised.

Certain people and communities experience overlapping and intersecting forms of discrimination. Roma women and girls, Roma LGBTQI+ persons, Roma youth, and Roma persons with disabilities may face compounded barriers in accessing rights, services, protection mechanisms, and participation

opportunities. At the same time, Roma-led and community-based organisations addressing gender equality and LGBTQI+ rights often face limited access to sustainable funding and policy dialogue platforms.

Addressing these needs requires strengthening rights-based approaches, improving access to protection and services, and ensuring that gender equality and LGBTQI+ rights initiatives are inclusive of people experiencing structural marginalisation and intersecting forms of discrimination.

Expected results: Projects supported under this output are expected to contribute to the strengthened protection and realisation of gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and LGBTQI+ rights in Slovakia.

As a result of the support:

- Women and LGBTQI+ persons have improved access to protection mechanisms, quality services, and rights-based information, including in the areas of gender-based violence and SRHR.
- Civil society organisations working on gender equality, SRHR, and LGBTQI+ rights are stronger, more resilient, and better positioned to advocate for policy improvements and safeguard fundamental rights.
- Public institutions and relevant stakeholders demonstrate increased responsiveness to gender equality and LGBTQI+ rights concerns, including through more inclusive policies and practices.
- Awareness of structural discrimination, gender-based violence, and barriers affecting LGBTQI+ persons is increased, contributing to a more informed and inclusive public discourse.
- Initiatives supported under this output are more inclusive of people experiencing intersecting forms of discrimination, including Roma women and girls and Roma LGBTQI+ persons, thereby contributing to more equitable access to rights, services, and participation.

Target groups of the project:

- CSOs working on gender-based violence;
- CSOs working on gender equality and LGBTIQ+ rights;
- CSOs working with and for Roma women and girls;
- Roma-led CSOs;
- CSOs working with and for inclusion and empowerment of Roma;
- CSOs partnering with informal groups working with and for inclusion and empowerment of Roma;
- Roma women and girls;
- Roma community actors;
- LGBTIQ+ persons, including Roma LGBTIQ+ persons.

Secondary target groups may include:

- Public institutions at local, regional and national level;
- Relevant service providers and professionals (e.g., healthcare, social services, education, justice);
- Wider communities and the general public, where engagement contributes to preventing discrimination and strengthening inclusive practices.

Relevant activities include but are not limited to:

- Conducting research, analyses, and evidence-gathering activities to inform advocacy, policy development.
- Implementing advocacy initiatives targeting public institutions and the general public to advance policy changes, address discrimination, and improve services related to gender-based violence, SRHR, and LGBTIQ+ rights.
- Participating in policy-making and decision-making processes, including CSO engagement in working groups, platforms, and multi-stakeholder dialogues on gender equality, gender-based violence (GBV), SRHR, and LGBTIQ+ issues.
- Carrying out civic education, training, and capacity-building activities for CSOs, especially those working on anti-discrimination, countering gender-based violence, SRHR, and LGBTIQ+ inclusion.
- Conducting information and awareness-raising activities and campaigns addressing prejudice, stigmatisation, and discrimination, and promoting gender equality.
- Engaging in watchdog, monitoring, and oversight activities related to the development, implementation, and evaluation of public policies.
- Providing legal aid, psychological support, and other forms of assistance to human rights defenders and individuals facing discrimination or rights violations.
- Delivering mentoring, empowerment, outreach, and representation activities for socially excluded groups, including women, LGBTIQ+ persons, and other communities that are marginalised.
- Strengthening networking and collaboration among CSOs, including partnerships with local providers of health and social services to improve access to and quality of SRHR-related services.
- Organising community forums, roundtables, participatory workshops, and other inclusive events that foster dialogue on gender equality and gather feedback to inform improved policies and services.
- Pursuing strategic litigation to address systemic discrimination, promote equality, and strengthen rights protections.

Indicators: Each project is strongly encouraged to use at least one of these indicators:

Indicator code	Indicator
CIV-015	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs
ALL-012	Number of advocacy/awareness-raising campaigns carried out
CIV-018	Number of strategic litigation cases focused on GBV filed in court by supported CSOs
CIV-001	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation
ALL-013	Estimated number of people who engaged and took an action in support of the advocacy / awareness-raising campaigns
CIV-003	Number of times CSO inputs in a policy initiative focused on human rights are acknowledged by public authorities.
CIV-023	Number of supported CSOs working on gender equality (or women's/girls' rights)
CIV-026	Number of supported CSOs working on LGBTIQ+ rights

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."

Output 2.3: Climate action, environmental protection, and a just green transition supported

Responsible Partner: Ekopolis Foundation

Financial allocation: EUR 350 000

Needs addressed: Slovakia is facing increasing environmental and climate-related challenges, including biodiversity loss, air pollution, water management pressures, soil degradation, and the growing impacts of climate change such as extreme weather events and heatwaves. These challenges disproportionately affect certain regions and communities, particularly those with limited economic resources or reduced access to public services.

While national and European climate and environmental frameworks provide strategic direction, gaps remain in implementation, transparency, and public participation in environmental decision-making processes. Access to timely information, meaningful consultation, and effective remedies in environmental matters is uneven across regions. Civil society organisations working in environmental protection and climate action often face limited capacity, financial instability, and restricted access to policy dialogue platforms.

The transition towards a low-carbon and environmentally sustainable economy also raises social and economic concerns. Communities dependent on carbon-intensive industries or located in environmentally burdened areas may experience uncertainty, economic vulnerability, and reduced trust in public institutions. Without inclusive and participatory approaches, climate policies risk reinforcing existing social inequalities.

People and communities experiencing marginalisation may be disproportionately exposed to environmental risks while having limited opportunities to influence environmental policies or benefit from green transition measures. At the same time, cooperation between civil society, public authorities, the private sector, and local communities remains uneven and requires strengthening to ensure a balanced and socially just transition.

Addressing these needs requires improving access to environmental rights, strengthening civic engagement in environmental governance, and ensuring that climate action and environmental protection efforts contribute to social cohesion and equal opportunities.

Expected results: As a result of the support:

- Civil society organisations working on climate action, environmental protection, and just transition are stronger, more resilient, and better positioned to engage in environmental governance and policy dialogue.
- Public institutions and relevant stakeholders demonstrate increased transparency, accountability, and responsiveness in environmental and climate-related decision-making processes.
- Communities, including people experiencing marginalisation or living in environmentally burdened areas, have improved opportunities to participate meaningfully in environmental decision-making and to influence policies affecting their living conditions.
- Awareness of environmental rights, climate-related risks, and the social implication of the green transition is increased, contributing to more informed public discourse.

- Climate action and environmental protection measures increasingly reflect principles of social fairness, equal opportunities, and long-term sustainability.

Target groups of the project:

- Individual activists
- Local communities affected by industrial activity and climate change
- Local civic initiatives and movements
- Green and environmental CSOs
- Policymakers and public institutions
- Private-sector and industrial actors

Relevant activities include but are not limited to:

- Research and analyses supporting advocacy and policy development
- Advocacy activities promoting specific issues or policy changes
- Participation in policy-making and decision-making processes
- Civic education and training activities
- Information and awareness-raising initiatives
- Fieldwork and community organising to foster civic activism, volunteering, and citizen engagement
- Watchdog and monitoring activities related to public-policy development and implementation
- Research, advocacy, and other activities promoting good governance, transparency, and anti-corruption
- Outreach and representation of target groups that are marginalised
- Capacity-building activities for CSOs
- Partnerships between CSOs and actors from the public and private sectors

Indicators: Each project is strongly encouraged to use at least one of these indicators:

Indicator code	Indicator
CIV-015	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs
CIV-005	Number of consultation processes with a public institution facilitated by CSOs
ALL-012	Number of advocacy/awareness-raising campaigns focused on climate action and environmental protection carried out
CIV-018	Number of strategic litigation cases focused on climate action and environmental protection filed in court by supported CSOs
CIV-001	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation
ALL-013	Estimated number of people who engaged and took an action in support of the advocacy / awareness-raising campaigns
CIV-003	Number of times CSO inputs in a policy initiative focused on human rights are acknowledged by public authorities.

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."

2.5 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.

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 330 000

Needs addressed: Civil society organisations (CSOs) in Slovakia operate in an increasingly complex and at times restrictive environment. Public trust in institutions and democratic actors has declined, polarisation has intensified, and civil society organisations working on human rights, anti-corruption, inclusion, gender equality, environmental protection, and other public interest issues have faced reputational attacks, disinformation campaigns, and political pressure.

The legal and regulatory framework governing civil society requires stability, transparency, and predictability. However, administrative burdens, evolving reporting requirements, and uncertainty in public funding mechanisms can limit the sustainability and long-term planning capacity of CSOs, particularly smaller and grassroots organisations operating outside major urban centres.

Financial sustainability remains a significant challenge. Many organisations rely on short-term project funding, which restricts their ability to invest in organisational development, staff retention, strategic planning, and internal governance systems. CSOs working in sensitive thematic areas or with groups experiencing marginalisation may face additional obstacles in accessing diverse funding sources.

Capacity gaps persist in areas such as strategic communication, digital security, financial management, advocacy skills, coalition-building, and risk management. At the same time, cooperation and coordination within the civil society sector can be uneven, limiting collective responses to emerging threats to democratic values and civic space.

Addressing these needs requires strengthening the structural conditions in which civil society operates, enhancing organisational resilience and sustainability, and safeguarding an environment in which CSOs can function independently, transparently, and effectively in line with democratic principles and the rule of law.

Expected results: Projects supported under this output are expected to contribute to a stronger, more sustainable, and more secure operating environment for CSOs in Slovakia.

As a result of the support:

- CSOs demonstrate increased organisational resilience, sustainability, and strategic capacity, including in areas such as governance, financial management, communication, and risk management.
- Cooperation, coordination, and mutual support within the civil society sector are strengthened, contributing to more coherent and collective responses to emerging challenges.
- Public awareness of the role and legitimacy of civil society in democratic governance is increased, contributing to improved trust and understanding between CSOs and the wider public.
- Legal, regulatory, or administrative frameworks affecting civil society are more transparent, predictable, and conducive to independent civic action.
- CSOs, including those working in sensitive thematic areas or with people experiencing marginalisation, are better protected against undue pressure, disinformation, and reputational attacks.

Target groups of the project:

- Advocacy organisations
- Human rights defenders
- Organisations working to develop civil society infrastructure, including networks, platforms, and umbrella associations
- Secondary target groups:
    - Public officials and institutions at all levels
    - Academic institutions and media as key partners

Relevant activities include but are not limited to:

- Research and analyses supporting advocacy and policy development
- Advocacy activities promoting specific causes or policy changes
- Participation of CSOs in policy-making and decision-making processes
- Capacity-building activities for CSOs
- Building networks and cooperation within the civil society sector
- Partnerships between CSOs and public or private sector actors
- Support for intercultural dialogue
- Mentoring and organisational development support
- European and cross-border cooperation
- Policy dialogues and consultations with stakeholders to improve legal frameworks for CSOs
- Strengthening CSO platforms and associations
- Optimising existing donor platforms and developing new, user-friendly tools to improve CSO access to funding

Indicators: Each project is strongly encouraged to use at least one of these 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[11] 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 recommends involving no more than two partner organisations in order 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[12], Beneficiary States[13] 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

[11] Proselytism is the practice of attempting to convert people to another religion or belief system; any effort to persuade someone to change their beliefs.
[12] Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.
[13] Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.

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.[14].

4 PROJECT CONDITIONS

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

Project duration	Between 12 and 24 months
Project grant amount	EUR 50 000 – 80 000 If the applicant submits a project in partnership with an organisation from one of the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, or Norway), the maximum grant amount may be increased to EUR 80 000, provided that the additional funds are used exclusively for activities directly related to the participation of the Donor State partner.
Indicative start of project implementation	October 2026
Final date of eligibility of expenditure (depending on the start of project implementation)	No later than 30 April 2031

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.

Further details are provided in the Guidelines for Applicants and Cost Eligibility Guidance.

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 after signing the Project Contract (up to 10 working days after the signature date of the project contract); intended to cover the first 6 months of activities.

[14] Please see further details on sub-contracting in the Guidelines for Applicants

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 project grants have an implementation period of up to 24 months, interim payments are typically disbursed around months 8, 14 and 20 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 enhances 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 of the EEA Civil Society Fund Slovakia**. 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 of 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. Relevance, Purposefulness, Added Value, and Participatory Dimension	**30**
1.1. Relevance of the project in relation to the focus of the call, alignment with the selected Outcome and Output, and clarity of problem analysis	12
1.2. Understanding of the needs of direct and indirect target groups and appropriateness of the proposed response	8
1.3. Quality and depth of participatory approaches involving relevant target groups in project design, implementation and/or evaluation	5
1.4. Expected impact and sustainability of project results, including potential for longer-term systemic change or strengthened rights	5
2. Project Implementation Approach and Partnership Quality	**30**
2.1. Appropriateness, feasibility, coherence and internal logic of planned activities in relation to the defined results, including risk analysis and mitigation measures	20
2.2. Quality and feasibility of communication and visibility measures	5
2.3. Quality of the partnership with a project partner from Iceland, Liechtenstein and/or Norway, including clarity of roles, added value, active involvement, and substantive cooperation (if applicable)	5
3. Value for Money – Budget and Cost Efficiency	**20**

3.1. Cost-effectiveness and adequacy of proposed expenditure, including proportionality of management and coordination costs	10
3.2. Coherence between the budget and proposed activities and efficient allocation of resources	10
4. Profile, Capacity, and Experience of the Applicant (and Partner)	**20**
4.1. Alignment of the applicant's (and partner's) activities with the shared values and principles of the EEA Civil Society Fund Slovakia	10
4.2. Organisational and professional competence, governance systems, and capacity to implement the project.	5
4.3. Applicant's head office located outside of the Bratislava self-governing region (NUTS 3 / SK010)	5
Total score	**100**

To be eligible for funding, a project must achieve **a minimum score of 85 points**. However, achieving this score does **not** automatically guarantee that the project will receive funding. Projects that receive 0 points in any of the subheadings may be rejected.

5.2.2 Indicative timeline for the selection process[15]

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).
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 projects	October 2026

[15] 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.

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(s) 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**. After this deadline, no further applications will be accepted under this call. Those interested are encouraged to monitor the EEA Civil Society Fund Slovakia on an ongoing basis, as a second call for project grants is planned.

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 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 page 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 Regarding Deadlines: 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
Consortium Lead
Ekopolis Foundation
Komenského 21, 974 01 Banská Bystrica
Tel.: +421 48 470 1092
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

Consortium Partner
Open Society Foundation - Bratislava
Baštová 5, 811 03 Bratislava
Tel.: +421 948 681 150
www.osf.sk
Program Manager: Viktória Németh Križanová, krizanova@eea-csf.sk,
Financial Controller: Martin Mlynek, mlynek@eea-csf.sk

Consortium Partner
Carpathian Foundation Slovakia
Letná 27, 040 01 Košice
E-mail: info@karpatskanadacia.sk
Tel.: +421 948 506 118
www.karpatskanadacia.sk
Program Manager: Nora Čéplőová, ceploova@eea-csf.sk
Financial Controller: Zuzana Némethová, nemethova@eea-csf.sk

Telephone consultations are available every Wednesday from 9:00 AM 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 platform in Slovak language 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**.