Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway

Civil
Society Fund

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN POLAND

CALL FOR THEMATIC PROJECTS
OUTCOMES 1 AND 2
MEDIUM-SIZED AND LARGE GRANTS

AVAILABLE FUNDING: EUR 17,250,920

PROJECT OUTLINE SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

29 JULY 2026 (12:00 CEST)

SUMMARY OF THE CALL	
Title of the call	Call for thematic projects
Purpose of the call	The purpose of the call is to support the activities of civil society organisations working to strengthen democratic values and the rule of law and to protect human rights.
Outcomes and outputs	**Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened** Output 1.1 CSO participation in democratic processes increased Output 1.2 Civic engagement increased Output 1.3 Information integrity and media literacy increased **Outcome 2: Human rights strengthened** Output 2.1: Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported Output 2.2: Gender equality, including SRHR, and LGBTIQ+ rights supported Output 2.3: Climate action, environmental protection, and a just green transition supported
Special focus	Addressing social challenges in Poland arising from Russia's war against Ukraine
Supported types of activities	Supported activities differ across outputs and include: • advocacy activities, • watchdog activities, • educational activities, • activities engaging citizens/residents, • activities aimed at reducing social polarisation, • public awareness actions and campaigns, • interventional activities. This is not an exhaustive list and that further details can be found in section 2.4
Eligible Applicants	The following types of entities registered in Poland may apply: • associations, including ordinary associations; • foundations; • unions of associations; • social cooperatives; • rural housewives' circles; • legal entities of churches registered in the National Court Register (KRS). Further details can be found in section 3.1
Project duration	From 6 to 24 months
Partnerships	Applications may be submitted in partnership with up to three entities. Partners may come from Poland, the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway), the Beneficiary States and Ukraine, as well as from international organisations.

Grant amount for a thematic project	Medium-sized grants: from EUR 10,000 to EUR 25,000 Large grants: from EUR 25,001 to EUR 80,000
Additional partnership funds allocated for partner(s) from the Donor States	Medium-sized grants: up to EUR 5,000 Large grants: up to EUR 16,000
Additional funds allocated for capacity building	Medium-sized grants: up to EUR 5,000 Large grants: up to EUR 16,000
Co-financing	N/A
Call available in the following languages	Polish English
Project outline deadline	29 July 2026, 12:00 CEST
Full application deadline	17 November 2026, 12:00 CEST
Indicative start of project implementation	February 2027
Final date of eligibility of expenditure	31 July 2029

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1. ABOUT THE EEA CIVIL SOCIETY FUND IN POLAND

The EEA Civil Society Fund is a grant programme that will support civil society organisations in Poland until 2032.

Organisations working close to people and their everyday problems play a very important role in safeguarding social cohesion in Poland. Without them, it will not be possible to build resilience in the social dimension – the resilience of a democratic society in which citizens participate in public life and feel a sense of agency and responsibility for one another and for the wider community. We particularly need such attitudes and activities in the uncertain and crisis-ridden times in which we live.

We believe that well-designed activities carried out by civil society organisations will help make Poland not only more resilient to crises, but also a country in which all social groups benefit from the development that we have experienced since the democratic breakthrough of 1989.

In view of the challenges currently facing Poland, we consider initiatives aimed at strengthening social ties, reducing polarisation and radicalisation, protecting human rights, and building communities in which everyone feels they belong, and in which the needs and rights of all are recognised and respected, to be particularly important. These are precisely the kinds of activities that we will support through the EEA Civil Society Fund.

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

The Fund will be operated by a consortium selected through an open call, composed of five experienced and diverse organisations: the Stefan Batory Foundation, the Education for Democracy Foundation, the Shipyard Foundation, the Rural Development Foundation, and Civil Society Norway. Together, we will use our knowledge, skills, and energy to distribute the funds entrusted to us (EUR 83,471,033) in a transparent manner so that they generate the most sustainable results possible. We approach this task with a strong sense of responsibility, but also with joy at the thought that thanks to these grants hundreds of civil society organisations across Poland will be able not only to work on a larger scale, but also to strengthen themselves as institutions.

This is possible because three countries – Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein – in agreement with the European Union, have once again decided to allocate part of their resources under the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism (the 'Grants') to the development of 15 less affluent EU Member States, including Poland. The overall objectives of the Grants are to reduce social and economic disparities and to strengthen bilateral relations between the Donor States and the Beneficiary States.

The transfer of these funds forms part of a broader agreement under which Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, which are not EU Member States, benefit from access to the internal market of the EU; in practice, this means that their economic cooperation with the European Union is easier.

In each of the 15 countries benefiting from this support, including Poland, 10% of the allocated funds are earmarked specifically for strengthening civil society organisations so that they can carry out their work more effectively and help ensure that civil society in these countries is stronger and more resilient in the face of present and future crises. This is exactly the role of the EEA Civil Society Fund, including the one operating in Poland.

Like the entire EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2021–2028, the Fund is based on the 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 financed through

the Fund must respect these values and the fundamental rights and obligations enshrined in the relevant instruments and standards.

The Fund supports activities in relation to three outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened
- Outcome 2: Human rights strengthened
- Outcome 3: CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened

It also supports bilateral cooperation between civil society organisations in Poland and entities from the Donor States of the EEA Grants – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – as well as regional cooperation with entities from the Beneficiary States and Ukraine.

A total of 13 calls for proposals will be launched under the Fund.

Information on calls and other activities supported under the Programme will be published on the website of the EEA Civil Society Fund in Poland: https://eeagrants.org/en/eea-civil-society-fund-poland

2. THE CALL FOR THEMATIC PROJECTS

2.1 PURPOSE OF THE CALL

The purpose of the first call for thematic projects is to support, through grants, the activities of civil society organisations working to strengthen democratic values and the rule of law and to protect human rights.

Particular priority will be given to country-specific concerns:

- Addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine,
- Countering gender-based violence;
- Inclusion and empowerment of refugees and migrants

Country-specific concerns addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine and (partly) inclusion and empowerment of refugees and migrants are incorporated on the call level by introducing special focus Addressing social challenges in Poland arising from Russia's war against Ukraine.

The total funds allocated for the call for thematic projects come to EUR 17,250,920.

This call is to be read in conjunction with the **Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters** available on the Fund's website under the 'Calls' tab / '1st Call for Thematic Projects'.

2.2 NEEDS ADDRESSED BY THE CALL

Poland has faced multiple crises in recent years: the effects of the war in Ukraine, now ongoing for more than four years; an unstable economic situation; international developments that undermine the balance of power in Europe and the international support system for organisations and institutions working for human rights, democracy and climate protection; the consequences of the dismantling of democratic checks and balances and violations of the rule of law. In this context, a key challenge is to maintain and strengthen mechanisms related to respect for the rule of law and human rights, as well as to develop dialogue and cooperation between democratic authorities and citizens, which are prerequisites for building social resilience. Representatives of civil society have an important role to play in monitoring the actions of authorities and public administration, reminding public actors of democratic standards and standards of public debate and helping shape them, safeguarding human rights, and encouraging people living in Poland to participate actively in public life in its many forms and areas.

2.2.1 Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened

Although the level of engagement in public affairs and democratic processes in Poland has been gradually increasing, it remains relatively low compared with other European countries. In addition, Poland is still dealing with the consequences of violations of the rule of law and the risk of violation of the rule of law, including the functioning of institutions that are fundamental to the legal system.

There are also significant disparities among public institutions in terms of how open they are to residents' voices in public policymaking. A continuing challenge is to disseminate participatory approaches at all levels of the State – from central government to municipalities and individual public institutions – both in terms of how to use different forms of participation and how to reach diverse groups and convince them that their voice can genuinely help change the world around them. Civic participation tools can be used in many thematic areas – from spatial planning and social policies to climate adaptation. The active involvement of communities in co-creating solutions reduces the risk of conflict, supports relationship-building and contributes in a very tangible way to local resilience.

Support is also needed for creating spaces for discussion and dialogue in the search for solutions to common challenges. In the face of growing polarisation, there is also a need to increase the visibility of civil society organisations as important actors in public life. These challenges are addressed through **Output 1.1 Participation of civil society organisations in democratic processes** and **Output 1.2 Civic engagement**.

The purpose of **Output 1.3 Media literacy and countering disinformation** is to respond to the challenges posed by disinformation and populist rhetoric in Polish society, particularly in the context of economic pressures and numerous security threats. Disinformation is used as a tool targeting different social groups and organisations working to protect and promote their rights. Civil society organisations themselves face serious challenges linked to increasingly sophisticated disinformation campaigns directed against them. In this situation, there is an urgent need for cooperation within the civil society sector and for effective fact-checking initiatives and media literacy programmes that can increase society's resilience to false information. Independent local media initiatives that perform essential work to safeguard information integrity also require support, as they often face attempts to restrict their activities and serious funding challenges.

2.2.2 Outcome 2: Human rights strengthened

Polish society remains highly stratified, while at the same time becoming increasingly diverse. Too little attention is still paid to social inequality, which requires systemic solutions. The system of social services is difficult to access and, in many cases, does not respond adequately to the needs of different groups, especially minority groups that often remain without appropriate support. One of the key challenges is to strengthen social cohesion, especially with respect to people with migration and refugee experience. In recent years, Poland has become a destination country for migration, making the rights of migrants and refugees, humanitarian assistance, integration and access to services increasingly urgent issues. In this context, education and awareness-raising on human rights are of central importance. These challenges are addressed by **Output 2.1 Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported**.

The purpose of **Output 2.2 Gender equality, including SRHR, and LGBTIQ+ rights supported**, is to support gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights, counter gender-based and/or sexual identity-based violence, and protect the rights of LGBTIQ+ people. Minority groups, including LGBTIQ+ people and especially transgender people, remain exposed in Poland to attacks and hate-based disinformation campaigns. There is a significant need for watchdog and advocacy work and adequate support for people whose rights have been violated.

At the same time, adapting to climate change remains a challenge. Although experts and civil society organisations possess the necessary knowledge and experience, a large part of Polish society lacks access to reliable sources and trustworthy information on possible scenarios for a just green transition. Combined

with the difficult economic situation, this increases vulnerability to disinformation in this area. These challenges are addressed by **Output 2.3 Climate action, environmental protection, and a just green transition supported**.

Russia's war against Ukraine has caused the largest humanitarian crisis in Europe since the Second World War, and Poland has suddenly become a frontline country. The war in Ukraine has affected virtually every sphere of the functioning of the state and society. One of the key challenges is to build social cohesion in a situation where many people who have come to Poland struggle to function well in society. The situation is further aggravated by widespread Russian propaganda and disinformation, which have exposed the vulnerability of Polish society to such content and the limited ability to critically assess information. This contributes to growing hostility towards refugees from Ukraine and to declining support for Ukraine's fight to preserve its independence. The proximity of the war and the growing sense of threat also make it increasingly urgent to strengthen the readiness of civil society organisations and local communities to respond to and function during crises. For these reasons special focus **Addressing social challenges in Poland arising from Russia's war against Ukraine** has been launched.

2.3 EXPECTED RESULTS

Like the funds in other countries, the EEA Civil Society Fund in Poland is based on a results-based management approach. This means that both its design and its implementation – including the outcomes and outputs – are directed towards achieving clearly defined results as far as possible.

Each project for which funds are provided under this call must fall under one of the outcomes and one related output:

Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened

- Output 1.1 Participation of civil society organisations in democratic processes
- Output 1.2 Civic engagement
- Output 1.3 Media literacy and countering disinformation

Outcome 2: Human rights strengthened

- Output 2.1 Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported
- Output 2.2 Gender equality, including SRHR, and LGBTIQ+ rights supported
- Output 2.3 Climate action, environmental protection, and a just green transition supported

Each outcome and output has been assigned relevant deliverables and results, which are then measured through programme-level indicators that make it easier to verify whether they have been achieved at the level of the whole Fund. The lists of such indicators for Outcomes 1 and 2 are provided in the next subsection.

When submitting an application, the Applicant may, but is not required to, state one or more of these indicators and thereby declare to which of them the project will contribute. When none of the programme-level indicators suits the project's specific expected results, the Applicant proposes its own indicators.

For each selected indicator, the Applicant is required to provide a target value to be achieved by the end of the project. Target values should be ambitious, yet realistic. In line with the selection criteria, additional points will not be awarded to projects merely due to planning of high indicator targets. The assessment will focus primarily on whether the planned results are relevant, coherent, and realistic, and how well these expected results align with and contribute to the programme results framework. During implementation, indicators become reporting tools. This means that, in addition to narrative and financial reporting, Project Promoters are expected to report against indicators (quantitative results).

2.4 OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

Below is a description of the individual outcomes and outputs, including examples of the types of activities that may be supported. **The lists of activities are not exhaustive** – other activities may also be implemented provided they are suited to the given output.

When applying, the Applicant must select the output under one of the outcomes that best reflects the nature of the project.

2.4.1 Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened

Output 1.1 Participation of civil society organisations in democratic processes

Types of supported activities:

- **advocacy activities** aimed at adopting or amending legislation and national public policies concerning democratic processes, protection of the rule of law and constitutional order;
- **watchdog activities**: monitoring actions and decisions of public institutions relevant to the proper functioning of democratic processes, protection of the rule of law and constitutional order; monitoring the integrity of electoral processes and monitoring the activities of public office holders and candidates for public office;
- **activities aimed at increasing the involvement of civil society organisations in public policymaking at different levels**, including educational activities on tools and procedures that facilitate such involvement, and strengthening expert capacities within organisations;
- **activities aimed at improving the quality of work of dialogue bodies involving civil society organisations and the quality of consultation processes** connected with law-making at different levels;
- **activities aimed at building, updating and systematising knowledge** on participation of civil society in democratic processes at local, regional, national and European level.

Priority will be given to:

- projects combining both watchdog and advocacy activities relating to actions and decisions of public institutions relevant to the proper functioning of democratic processes, protection of the rule of law and constitutional order;
- projects increasing both the extent and the quality of engagement of civil society representatives and organisations in policymaking at national level and strengthening the expert capacities of civil society organisations to take part in such processes.

Output 1.2 Civic engagement

Types of supported activities:

- **educational activities** for civic competences and different forms of social activity and democratic practice, including civic participation, participation in public debate, volunteering, community action, self-organisation and communication across differences;
- **activities mobilising** citizens to engage in neighbourhood, youth, intergenerational and other joint community initiatives, including activities that strengthen community resilience to current and future crises, as well as participation in watchdog activities;
- **public actions and campaigns** mobilising people to engage in public affairs and social activity, including volunteering, voting, and participation in public debate;
- **civic participation**: initiating, conducting and improving the quality of processes that engage citizens/residents representing diverse perspectives and lead to jointly developed proposals for feasible solutions; actions to make public and social institutions more open to citizens/residents;
- **activities aimed at reducing social polarisation**: focused on reducing conflicts, hostility, tensions and extreme attitudes, including initiating and facilitating processes that enable citizens/residents to communicate on public matters despite their differences.

Priority will be given to:

- projects whose key element is **communication between people holding opposing views on socially important issues** (for example worldview, political or constitutional issues);
- projects that involve from the beginning **local government units or institutions of such that are ready to take into account and/or implement** recommendations or solutions developed through a participatory process;
- projects whose key element is the **use of methods or tools designed to engage citizens/residents that are new to Poland or new for a given type of participant**.

Output 1.3 Media literacy and countering disinformation

Types of supported activities:

- **media literacy and other activities raising awareness of the critical use of media**, including awareness of AI-generated content and message manipulation and disinformation, targeted at groups particularly vulnerable to disinformation;
- raising awareness of disinformation and the need for critical thinking in everyday life; **public actions and multi-channel campaigns**
- initiatives **countering hate speech and acts of hate online**;
- **fact-checking activities** aimed at improving the quality of public debate and **publicising their results**;
- **educational and networking activities relating to critical thinking and disinformation** for professional groups particularly exposed to disinformation in their work and for organisations and institutions working to counter disinformation;
- **networking and experience-sharing activities among civil society organisations, journalists, publishers and editorial teams**, including cross-sectoral and cross-editorial initiatives aimed at countering disinformation, teaching audiences critical thinking, and communicating the results of research and expert analysis.

Priority will be given to projects countering disinformation among young people, especially young men, and projects countering disinformation regarding health.

Target groups

Outcome 1 is addressed in particular to:

- civil society organisations that carry out advocacy and/or watchdog activities relating to democratic processes, including the rule of law;
- civil society organisations that support civic activity, including joint community actions and citizen participation in decision-making processes;
- civil society organisations that support dialogue across divides;
- civil society organisations that specialise in media literacy, countering disinformation, or are themselves targets of disinformation campaigns.

This is not an exhaustive list, and other organisations whose activities fall within this outcome are also invited to apply.

As mentioned above, Outcome 1 has been assigned relevant deliverables and results, which are then measured through programme-level indicators that make it easier to verify whether they have been achieved at the level of the whole Fund. When submitting an application, the Applicant may, but is not required to, state one or more of these indicators and thereby declare to which of them the project will contribute. When none of these indicators suits the project's specific expected results, the Applicant proposes its own indicators.

Indicators for Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened
Number of national, regional or local laws, policies or regulations proposed by or commented on by civil society organisations
Number of new or improved participatory mechanisms or dialogue bodies established to enhance citizen engagement in decision-making
Output 1.1: CSO participation in democratic processes increased
Number of publicly communicated CSO-led initiatives advocating changes in policies or laws at local, regional, or national level;
Number of civil society organisations participating in consultations with a public institution
Output 1.2: Civic engagement increased
Number of CSO-implemented initiatives engaging citizens in local, regional or national decision-making processes
Number of publicly communicated and implemented CSO initiatives promoting citizen participation in local, regional, or national community development processes
Number of training courses on civic engagement delivered by supported CSOs
Number of persons who have completed a CSO-led training course
Output 1.3: Information integrity and media literacy increased
Number of training courses on disinformation delivered by supported CSOs
Number of people who have completed a CSO-led training course on disinformation
Number of advocacy/awareness-raising campaigns carried out
Number of advocacy/awareness-raising campaigns addressing the consequences of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine carried out

2.4.2 Outcome 2: Human rights strengthened

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

Types of supported activities:

- **educational activities** on human rights and equal treatment, including training and workshops combined with networking for professional groups that work with discriminated groups; equality and anti-discrimination education that encourages concrete action in aid of human rights and social justice; initiatives countering hate speech, acts of hate and violence;
- **public actions and campaigns** intended to influence public opinion, mobilise support for human rights, encourage reactions to manifestations of discrimination and prejudice-motivated violence, and promote attitudes of acceptance and respect; information activities increasing knowledge about discriminated and vulnerable groups and countering prejudice against them;
- **watchdog activities** concerning respect for human rights: monitoring, documenting and publicising cases of human rights violations and breaches of the rule of law with respect to human rights, as well as manifestations of intolerance and discrimination in public life and everyday life;
- **advocacy activities** aimed at improving law and practice: creating local, regional or national partnerships with public institutions involving all stakeholders in developing and modifying protection and support systems for vulnerable groups and groups facing discrimination and violence; preparing and/or commenting on proposed regulations granting legal protection to all vulnerable groups and groups facing discrimination and violence; networking organisations representing vulnerable groups or groups facing discrimination in order to jointly influence public policies; strategic litigation;

- **interventional activities** relating to human rights violations, discrimination and violence: legal and psychological support for people experiencing discrimination, different forms of prejudice-motivated violence, and persecution because of their human rights work; activities aimed at prosecuting and punishing perpetrators of hate crimes;
- **increasing the participation in social life of people from discriminated groups, vulnerable groups and groups facing marginalisation**: support for self-help, self-organisation and self-advocacy; creation of community support networks for people in vulnerable groups and facing discrimination; enabling them to participate actively in local community life and in advocacy aimed at more inclusive public policies at local, regional and national level; networking and cooperation among people in vulnerable groups and people close to them in order to jointly undertake watchdog and advocacy work and participate in decision-making concerning issues such as improved access to social services and changes in how these are provided; dissemination of rights among and/or by persons in vulnerable groups; strengthening the participation of people in vulnerable groups in the work of civil society organisations; creating resilience systems that ensure safety for vulnerable groups;
- **improving the quality of services** for vulnerable groups and strengthening the qualifications and competences of those working with them; introducing new working methods and service delivery standards in organisations and public services; involving service users in the design and audit of services and in testing new solutions.

Priority will be given to projects involving watchdog activities and/or strategic litigation for the protection of the rights of people with migrant and refugee experience.

Output 2.2 Gender equality, including SRHR, and LGBTIQ+ rights supported

Types of supported activities:

- **educational activities** on human rights, equal treatment and sexual and reproductive health and rights, including training and workshops combined with networking for professional groups working with groups that are discriminated against and vulnerable groups, including in access to adequate healthcare; equality and anti-discrimination education encouraging concrete action for the rights of LGBTIQ+ people, reproductive rights, and equal rights for women and men; sexuality education; initiatives countering hate speech, acts of hate and violence based on gender and gender identity;
- **public actions and campaigns** intended to influence public opinion, mobilise reactions to discrimination against women and LGBTIQ+ people, homophobia, hate speech and violence based on gender and gender identity, and promote attitudes of acceptance and respect; activities to disseminate information on gender equality, reproductive rights, sexual health, and the rights of LGBTIQ+ people, and countering prejudice and online violence;
- **watchdog activities** concerning respect for human rights: monitoring, documenting and publicising cases of human rights violations and breaches of the rule of law with respect to gender equality, reproductive rights and the rights of LGBTIQ+ people, as well as discrimination in public life and everyday life;
- **advocacy activities** aimed at improving law and practice with respect to equality, countering violence based on gender and gender identity, reproductive rights and the rights of LGBTIQ+ people: creating local or national partnerships with public institutions involving all stakeholders in developing and modifying protection and support systems for groups at risk of violation of their rights, discrimination and violence; collecting data and conducting research for use in reports and analyses supporting advocacy; preparing and/or commenting on draft regulations providing legal protection for groups at risk of discrimination and violence; networking organisations working in these areas in order to jointly influence public policies; strategic litigation;
- **interventional activities** relating to human rights violations, including reproductive rights violations, discrimination and violence: support, including legal and psychological support, for people experiencing discrimination, violence based on gender and gender identity, prejudice-

motivated violence, and persecution because of their human rights work; activities aimed at prosecuting and punishing perpetrators of hate crimes and perpetrators of sexual and domestic violence; short-term shelter for people who have experienced violence based on gender and gender identity, prejudice-motivated violence, or persecution because of their human rights work.

Priority will be given to projects **countering violence based on gender and gender identity**, both in terms of support for people experiencing violence and advocacy aimed at improving law and its implementation.

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

Types of supported activities:

- **educational activities** on environmental protection, climate change, a just green transition, and the environmental consequences of human activity, including industry, and countering disinformation in these areas; training for professional groups able to influence the implementation of climate and environmental law;
- **public actions and campaigns** intended to influence public opinion, mobilise support for a just green transition, and encourage engagement in activities for environmental protection and related decision-making processes; activities to disseminate information on climate change and climate adaptation;
- **engaging citizens in local and regional initiatives for a just green transition and in decision-making processes** on environmental protection and climate adaptation; actions to make public and social institutions more open to citizens; creating local or regional partnerships with public institutions involving all stakeholders in developing and modifying environmental protection and climate adaptation systems;
- **watchdog activities**: monitoring legislative processes, actions and decisions of public institutions that affect the state of the natural environment and how a just green transition is effected; monitoring the activities of economic entities that may affect the natural environment; documenting and publicising breaches of environmental law; documenting and publicising breaches of human rights and the rule of law with respect to environmental protection;
- **advocacy activities** aimed at creating regional, national and European public policies on environmental protection and climate adaptation, changing legislation and practice with respect to environmental protection; collecting data and carrying out research for use in reports and analyses supporting advocacy; preparing and/or commenting on draft regulations serving environmental protection and climate adaptation; networking organisations working in these areas in order to jointly influence public policies; strategic litigation.

Priority will be given to advocacy projects engaging local communities and based on evidence gathered through watchdog activities (evidence-based advocacy).

Target groups

Outcome 2 is addressed in particular to:

- civil society organisations that carry out advocacy and watchdog activities focused on human rights;
- civil society organisations that work on human rights and provide support to vulnerable groups and groups facing violence and discrimination (Outputs 2.1 and 2.2);
- civil society organisations that work on climate, environmental protection and a just green transition (Output 2.3);

This is not an exhaustive list, and other organisations whose activities fall within this outcome are also invited to apply.

As mentioned above, Outcome 2 has been assigned relevant deliverables and results, which are then measured through programme-level indicators that make it easier to verify whether they have been achieved at the level of the whole Fund. When submitting an application, the Applicant may, but is not

required to, state one or more of these indicators and thereby declare to which of them the project will contribute. When none of these indicators suits the project's specific expected results, the Applicant proposes its own indicators.

Indicators for Outcome 2: Human rights strengthened
Number of national, regional or local laws, policies or regulations proposed by or commented on by CSOs
Estimated number of entities (public institutions, businesses, CSOs, etc.) who engaged and took action in support of the advocacy / awareness-raising campaigns
Output 2.1: Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported
Number of cases of non-Ukrainian survivors of human rights violations protected and/or supported
Number of human rights violations documented and reported by supported CSOs
Number of supported CSOs working on migrants', refugees' and asylum-seekers' rights
Number of cases of Ukrainian survivors of human rights violations protected and/or supported
Output 2.2: Gender equality, including SRHR, and LGBTIQ+ rights supported
Number of cases of victims of domestic and gender-based violence (DGBV) supported
Number of cases of SRHR rights violations documented and reported by supported CSOs
Number of cases of LGBTQI+ rights violations documented and reported by supported CSOs
Number of supported CSOs working on gender equality or women's/girls' rights
Output 2.3: Climate action, environmental protection, and a just green transition supported
Number of cases of environmental rights violations documented and reported by supported CSOs
Number of CSOs participating in consultations with a public institution on environmental issues

2.5. SPECIAL FOCUS: ADDRESSING SOCIAL CHALLENGES IN POLAND ARISING FROM RUSSIA'S WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

Russia's war against Ukraine has caused the largest humanitarian crisis in Europe since the Second World War, and Poland has suddenly become a frontline country. The war in Ukraine has affected virtually every sphere of the functioning of the state and society. One of the key challenges is to build social cohesion in a situation where many people who have come to Poland struggle to function well in society. The situation is further aggravated by widespread Russian propaganda and disinformation, which have exposed the vulnerability of Polish society to such content and the limited ability to critically assess information. This contributes to growing hostility towards refugees from Ukraine and to declining support for Ukraine's fight to preserve its independence. The proximity of the war and the growing sense of threat also make it increasingly urgent to strengthen the readiness of civil society organisations and local communities to respond to and function during crises. For these reasons, we have identified special focus.

Special focus has a horizontal character. Firstly, Applicant is deciding whether the project proposal is Addressing social challenges in Poland arising from Russia's war against Ukraine. And only on the second step Applicant is choosing proper output under which proposal will be submitted.

Proposals can be submitted in each of the outputs. Submitting application under special focus does not result in additional scores during the substantive evaluation of the application.

We strongly recommended to choose this option (to declare if proposal is covering special focus) if proposal main purpose is to address one or more mention above challenges.

Types of supported activities:

- **are increasing the participation of refugees from Ukraine in community life in Poland:** activities supporting self-organisation, mutual assistance, self-reliance and mental wellbeing of refugees in Poland; specialist support facilitating functioning in Poland, including legal, civic and public service advice; self-advocacy and advocacy concerning the development of integration strategies and policies at local, regional and national level;
- **educational activities and exchange of experience concerning social resilience:** exchange of experience with Ukrainian civil society on preparedness for crises; networking and exchange among organisations experienced in working in crises; strengthening the competences of civil society organisations and local communities to respond to and function during crises;
- **introduce public actions and campaigns:** countering disinformation relating to the war in Ukraine and the presence of refugees in Poland; collecting data, preparing analyses and reports on disinformation and Russian propaganda; awareness-raising on disinformation and Russian propaganda; research and other activities ensuring reliable information on the situation of refugees from Ukraine in Poland and the situation in Ukraine;
- **conduct interventional activities:** short-term shelter for refugees from Ukraine who find themselves in particularly difficult living or material circumstances, have experienced discrimination, and whose rights have been violated; preventive and remedial action in local communities where discrimination and hatred against refugees from Ukraine have been observed;
- **conduct activities aimed at reducing social polarisation:** integration activities involving the host society and within the refugee community; activities preventing peer violence; countering discrimination and acts of hate against refugees from Ukraine.

The lists of activities are not exhaustive – other activities may also be implemented as long as they are suited to the special focus characteristic.

Special focus has its own priorities (in this case outputs' priorities are not taken into account).

Priority will be given to:

- projects involving exchange of experience with Ukrainian civil society on preparedness for crises;
- projects involving preventive and remedial action in local communities where manifestations of discrimination and hatred against refugees from Ukraine have been observed.

Special focused is addressed in particular to civil society organisations that provide support for refugees, build social cohesion, counter disinformation and strengthen social resilience. This is not an exhaustive list, and other organisations whose activities fall within special focus are also invited to apply.

2.6 CONDITIONS OF THE CALL FOR THEMATIC PROJECTS

The provision of social services is possible only where such services are necessary to strengthen advocacy activities, participation in community life, or civic engagement.

Material assistance is not allowed. Material assistance is understood as the transfer to individuals or entities of funds, goods or other benefits of an economic nature, in particular relief payments, allowances, social scholarships, contributions to living costs, purchases of goods, or payment of liabilities.

Other restrictions concerning the types of activities eligible under specific outputs are described in the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters.

2.7 CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Under the call for thematic projects, **up to EUR 5,000 in the case of medium-sized grants, or up to EUR 16,000 in the case of large grants**, may be allocated to capacity-building activities of the Project Promoter and/or Partner(s), provided that they are civil society organisations.

Grants may be used, among other things, for:

- recruiting employees, collaborators and volunteers;
- strengthening team competences and other forms of professional development for persons working for the organisation, including volunteers;
- strengthening the organisation's resilience to crises, including preparedness for functioning in such situations;
- building and engaging a membership base;
- developing an overall organisational strategy or functional strategies relating to selected management areas such as marketing, fundraising or human resources;
- research into target groups and the organisation's surrounding community;
- building a social base and embedding the organisation in its local environment;
- devising, implementing and/or improving standards of activities and services offered by the organisation;
- improving internal standards of organisational management, for example in people management, communication, financial management and accounting;
- fundraising through different methods and from different sources;
- preparing a strategy for economic activity and/or paid public benefit activity;
- relationship-building, outreach, promotion and communication;
- increasing accountability and transparency;
- ensuring legal compliance;
- strengthening the capacity to conduct or take part in consultations, monitoring and advocacy activities;
- strengthening inter-organisational and cross-sectoral cooperation, partnerships and networking;
- evaluations, organisational audits, financial audits, and other processes of reflection and assessment;
- implementation of new technologies and digitalisation activities, for example devising and implementing a digital strategy, automating fundraising administration, and ensuring digital security;
- purchase of fixed assets, including equipment and furnishings, or minor renovations justified by required work standards or the need to increase the scale or quality of activities;
- testing new solutions and implementing pilot initiatives that help build the knowledge, experience and know-how needed to develop statutory activities;
- planning and implementing other change processes within the organisation.

Capacity-building activities should be planned on the basis of a needs assessment of the Applicant and, where relevant, the Partner(s), provided that they are civil society organisations, and should focus on solving selected and concrete problems that are major obstacles to the organisation's development. They may also support the launch of new activities or services, or their expansion into new target groups or new geographical areas. When giving reasons for the choice of activities, the Applicant should demonstrate how they will increase the organisation's capacity to pursue its mission effectively.

Capacity-building activities may be carried out independently or with the support of external specialists.

3. APPLICANTS AND PARTNERS

3.1 APPLICANTS

Applicants, i.e. entities that may submit applications on their own or act as lead partners in partnerships seeking grants, must be civil society organisations established in Poland.

The following types of entities registered in Poland may apply: associations, including ordinary associations; foundations; unions of associations; social cooperatives; country housewives' associations, and faith-based organisations. Detailed conditions concerning the various legal forms are described in the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters.

All Applicants, regardless of legal form, must meet the following criteria:

- they are registered in the National Court Register (KRS), the register of ordinary associations, or the register of country housewives' associations maintained by the President of the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture;
- at the time of submitting the project outline, they have been registered for at least 12 months in the case of medium-sized grants and 24 months in the case of large grants;
- before signing the project contract, they will be able to provide financial statements or, if they are not required to prepare such statements, a summary statement of income and expenditure for the most recent reporting year;
- they are independent of local, regional and central government, public entities, political parties and commercial entities;
- they are non-profit, and if they engage in economic activity, any profit generated is used to support their mission and values;
- they do not act only for the commercial or professional interests of their members;
- they act in the public interest, respect human rights, and are guided in their work by democratic values, in particular the universal values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and the protection of human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities;
- they are not subject to bankruptcy proceedings, liquidation, compulsory administration, suspension of activity, or proceedings of a similar nature;
- they have no arrears in public-law liabilities towards the tax authorities or the Social Insurance Institution, or they have an instalment arrangement in place;
- none of the members of the organisation's management body has been convicted of an intentional criminal offence prosecuted by public indictment or of a fiscal offence;
- they are voluntary in nature, formed voluntarily by groups or natural persons, and, where the organisation is membership-based, membership is not compulsory for any group or person.

The activities described in the application must be consistent with the Applicant's statute, regulations (if the organisation does not have a statute) or another document defining the Applicant's mission, objectives and methods of operation. These activities may not consist of religious worship or practice, including the preaching and spreading of faith, political party activity, or election campaigning.

In addition, the grant may not be used to carry out economic activity or paid public benefit activity. No fees may be charged to participants within projects, meaning, for example, that tickets may not be sold for events organised under the project, and publications prepared under the project may not be sold for a fee.

3.2 PARTNERS

Projects may be implemented in cooperation with up to three Partners. Partners must share the objectives of the project, actively participate in its preparation and implementation, and contribute their knowledge and experience.

The following types of entities may act as Project Partners:

- civil society organisations and public and private entities, both commercial and non-commercial, from Poland, from the other Beneficiary States (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia), from the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway), or from Ukraine;
- international organisations, and their managing or representative bodies;
- informal groups meeting the following conditions:
    - they work for the public good;
    - membership is voluntary and non-discriminatory;
    - they are independent of local, regional and national authorities and other public authorities, as well as political parties, religious institutions and commercial entities;
    - they are represented by one person legally residing in Poland, who signs the partnership declaration and partnership agreement on behalf of the group.

Informal groups shall be eligible as project partners, in accordance with Article 7.2. Where informal groups participate as project partners, the Project Promoter shall be the formal recipient of the project grant covering the activities of the project partner. The project agreement and partnership agreement shall in these cases contain provisions to this effect.

The involvement of Partners, as well as their role and tasks, must be confirmed in a written declaration, required at the full application stage, and in a partnership agreement, required before the project contract is signed. Templates for the partnership declaration and partnership agreement will be made available on the Fund's website under the 'Calls' tab / '1st Call for Thematic Projects'.

Within the EEA Civil Society Fund, special importance is attached to cooperation with entities from the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) – referred to as **bilateral cooperation**. In the case of partnerships involving an entity from the Donor States, Beneficiary States and Ukraine, both the declaration and the partnership agreement must be in English. Furthermore, projects involving a donor project partner will be required to **report on results under the programme's Bilateral Outcome: *Strengthened bilateral cooperation in the civil society sector***. This will include, inter alia, responding to a survey administered by the Financial Mechanism Office (on behalf of the Donors) assessing various quality dimensions of the partnership, in order to support the assessment of bilateral cooperation results.

Organisations that develop projects in partnership with entities from Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway may apply for **additional funds** (not included in the basic grant amount) **to cover the costs of the Partner(s) from these countries' participation and bilateral cooperation** in the project. This amount is independent of the number of Partners from the Donor States and may amount to:

- up to **EUR 5,000** for **medium-sized grants**,
- up to **EUR 16,000** for **large grants**.

NOTE: Planning additional funds for bilateral cooperation in the call for proposals does not preclude the costs of this cooperation from being financed from the basic grant amount if its costs exceed the limit described above.

Entities from countries other than Poland, as well as international organisations, may participate as Partners in any number of projects throughout the Programme.

Project partnerships should not be confused with sub-contracting. Project Partners work towards a common community objective, actively engage in implementation, and contribute to achieving the planned results. Sub-contracting, by contrast, serves the delivery of one or more specific tasks, such as services or equipment needed to carry out an activity within the project, and must always be based on an appropriate contract.

3.3 LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS

Under this call, each eligible entity may submit **only one project**. In addition, it may act as a Partner **in one application** submitted by another organisation. If an organisation is not applying for a grant itself, it may be a Partner **in two applications** submitted by other organisations.

Attention! This is one of three calls for thematic projects we have planned across the entire Fund and there is a limit in number of grants each organization can receive and/or be partner in.

In total, across the entire Fund, each organization is eligible:

- to be a Project Promoter (lead partner) in a maximum of two thematic projects (in which case you may not be a partner in any additional projects)
- or be a Project Promoter (lead partner) in one project and a Partner in a maximum of two projects
- or to be a Partner in a maximum of three projects.

As mentioned above, this rule does not apply to Partners from Donor States, other Beneficiary States, as well as Ukraine and international organisations – these entities may be partners in any number of projects.

More information on limits relating to the number of applications submitted and grants awarded is available in the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters.

4. PROJECT CONDITIONS

4.1 FINANCING

The grant rate is 100%.

4.2 ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

Detailed rules on eligible expenditure are described in the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters.

The inclusion of an expenditure item in the project budget approved by the FO cannot be regarded as confirmation of that item's eligibility.

At the **project outline stage**, a detailed budget is not required. Applicants provide only overall amounts broken down into the following categories:

- **Category A (mandatory)** – project implementation costs, including any costs of the Partner(s), except for cooperation with entities from the Donor States;
- **Category B (optional)** – partnership cooperation costs with entities from the Donor States;
- **Category C (optional)** – capacity-building costs (the final decision on whether support is granted is taken at the full application stage).

Although only three overall amounts are required, applicants are encouraged, for their own planning purposes, to have a project budget prepared by the project outline stage using the tools provided for the different full application budget options (see below). Each tool generates the corresponding preliminary budget at the outline stage based on the selected option.

A detailed project budget is required only at the **full application stage**. The Applicant must choose one of the options described below using simplified cost options in the form of flat rates. The types of costs covered under the flat rate must be declared by the applicant in the budget.

- **Option 1** – a budget structure consisting of actual direct costs and indirect costs calculated as a flat rate of 7% of eligible direct costs. **This option is available regardless of the total budget size.**
- **Option 2** – a budget structure consisting of actual direct costs, with direct personnel costs identified separately, and indirect costs calculated as a flat rate of 15% of eligible direct personnel

costs. **This option is available only for projects with a total grant budget (i.e. the sum of all budget categories) exceeding EUR 25,000.**

- **Option 3** – a budget structure consisting of direct personnel costs and all other costs (direct and indirect) calculated as a flat rate of 100% of eligible direct personnel costs. **This option is available only for projects with a total grant budget (i.e. the sum of all budget categories) up to EUR 25,000.**
- **Option 4** – a budget structure consisting of direct personnel costs and all other costs (direct and indirect) calculated as a flat rate of 40% of eligible direct personnel costs. **This option is available only for projects with a total grant budget (i.e. the sum of all budget categories) exceeding EUR 25,000.**

Detailed rules governing the selected option are set out in the project contract and the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters.

At the stage of submitting the full application, the Applicant prepares the budget in accordance with the selected option. Below are supporting spreadsheets that do not constitute attachments to the application and are not submitted with it. They may serve as a tool to support budget preparation, in particular for performing working calculations, verifying adopted assumptions, and organizing data before their final entry into the system. Spreadsheets will be available on the Fund's website under the 'Calls' tab / 'Applicant Support'.

When completing the application form in the Online Application System, the Applicant selects the relevant budget option.

4.3 PAYMENT OF THE GRANT

The grant will be paid in euro (EUR) to a dedicated bank account maintained in Polish zloty (PLN).

In all versions of the budget, both project outline and full application, currency conversions must use a fixed exchange rate of EUR 1 = PLN 4.000.

The grant will be paid in instalments defined in the project contract:

Advance payment: up to 50% of the grant will be transferred to the Project Promoter within 15 working days of signing the project contract.

Interim payments: the number of interim payments depends on the assessment of the Applicant's financial condition. The interim payments may, in total, account for at least 45% of the grant. These payments will be made after approval of interim project reports submitted by the Project Promoter and after at least 70% of the previously received funds have been spent. Each interim payment will be transferred within 15 working days following the approval of the relevant reports.

Final payment: this will be at least 5% of the grant. The final amount of the final payment will be determined on the basis of the approved final project report and may be reduced by any unspent funds or expenditure deemed ineligible. If the amount to be recovered exceeds the value of the final payment, the Project Promoter will be required to return the funds and the final payment will not be made.

The final payment will be made up to 15 working days after approval of the final project report.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE, ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

5.1 ADMINISTRATIVE AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

At the project outline stage, the Fund Operator will verify whether:

- the application was submitted through the Online Application System in Polish;
- the application was submitted by the deadline set out in the call;

- the Applicant is an eligible entity under the call;
- all sections of the form have been completed correctly;
- the project duration is between 6 and 24 months;
- the requested project grant and capacity-building grant, if any, do not exceed the applicable limits;
- the Applicant has not submitted more applications as Lead and/or Partner than permitted;
- in projects implemented in partnership, the Partner(s) meet the eligibility criteria;
- in projects implemented in partnership, the Partner(s) have not declared participation in more projects than allowed under the call;
- the Applicant has submitted all required declarations.

At the full application stage, the Fund Operator will verify whether:

- the application was submitted through the Online Application System in Polish;
- the application was submitted by the deadline set out in the call;
- all sections of the form have been completed correctly;
- the project duration is between 6 and 24 months;
- the Applicant has not changed the selected output;
- the Applicant has not changed whether the project falls under the special focus,
- the Applicant has not increased the requested grant amount;
- the requested project grant and capacity-building grant, if any, do not exceed the amounts indicated in the project outline;
- the Applicant is not a Partner in more applications than permitted;
- for projects implemented in partnership, the declaration(s) of the Partner(s) defining their role and tasks in the project have been attached;
- for projects implemented in partnership, the Partner(s) have not declared participation in more projects than allowed under the call;
- for projects implemented in partnership, the division of the grant between the Applicant and the Partner(s), if applicable, does not provide for any Partner to receive a larger amount of grant funds than the Applicant;
- the Applicant has submitted all required declarations.

If a minor technical error occurs whilst completing the form (e.g. incorrect completion of form fields), the Applicant may correct it during the formal assessment stage within 3 working days of the date on which the Operator sends an email notification of the error. If the error is not corrected within this time limit, the application will be rejected on formal grounds.

5.2 APPEALS

Applicants whose project outline or full application is rejected on formal grounds will receive an email from the Fund Operator informing them accordingly together with the administrative assessment form. If the Applicant wishes to appeal the decision, it has five working days from the date on which the rejection notice is sent by the Fund Operator to do so. Appeals submitted after this deadline will not be considered. Appeals will be reviewed by the Fund Operator within ten working days of receipt. The decision on whether to accept or reject an appeal against the administrative assessment is taken by the Fund Director.

5.3 SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications that meet the administrative and eligibility criteria will be assessed by at least two independent experts in the case of medium-sized grants, or by at least three independent experts in the case of large grants. The experts assess applications in accordance with the selection criteria set out below.

At the **project outline stage**, the assessment is based on the following criteria:

Consistency of the project with the objective of the Fund and programme's expected results (outcome(s) and output) and (if applicable) with the special focus	yes/no
Experience and resources of the Applicant and Partner(s), if applicable	0 to 4
Quality of the needs assessment	0 to 4
Suitability for the priority or priorities of the selected output or the special focus	0 to 2
Quality of results chain and activities	0 to 4
Maximum total score	**14**

Descriptions of all criteria are provided in the project outline selection assessment form available on the Fund's website under the 'Calls' tab / '1st Call for Thematic Projects'.

At the **full application stage**, the assessment is based on the following criteria:

Consistency with the project outline	yes/no
Experience and resources of the Applicant and Partner(s), if applicable	0 to 4
Quality of the needs assessment	0 to 4
Suitability for the priority or priorities of the selected output or the special focus	0 to 2
Quality of results chain	0 to 4
Quality of activities	0 to 4
Timeline and budget	0 to 4
Cross-cutting issues	0 to 2
Project management	0 to 2
Quality of capacity-building activities	yes/no
Maximum total score	**26**

The assessment of the part of the application concerning capacity-building plans does not affect the numerical score of the application or the decision to award the project implementation grant. It affects only the recommendation as to whether the capacity-building part of the grant should be awarded.

Descriptions of all criteria are provided in the full application selection assessment form available on the Fund's website under the 'Calls' tab / '1st Call for Thematic Projects'.

Experts use the following scales:

Criteria assessed on a scale of 0–4

- 0 means very poor/insufficient
- 1 means weak
- 2 means average

- 3 means good
- 4 means very good/ideal

Criteria assessed on a scale of 0–2

- 0 means the additional criterion is not met
- 1 means it is met partially
- 2 means it is met to a significant degree or in full

In order to be eligible for funding, an application must be awarded at least 60% of the maximum possible score.

6. TIMELINE OF THE CALL

29 maja 2026	Launch of the call for thematic projects
czerwiec-lipiec 2026	Information and support activities for Applicants
29 lipca 2026	Deadline for submission of project outlines
Do 18 sierpnia 2026	Administrative assessment of project outlines
do 15 października 2026	Selection assessment of project outlines and announcement of results; opening of the full application stage
do 17 listopada 2026	Deadline for submission of full applications
do 27 listopada 2026	Administrative assessment of full applications
do 7 stycznia 2027	Selection assessment of full applications
do 19 stycznia 2027	Meeting of the Selection Committee
do 26 stycznia 2027	Decision on applications to receive funding, taken by the Steering Committee
do 29 stycznia 2027	Publication on the Fund website of the list of applications awarded funding on the Fund's website under the 'Calls' tab / '1st Call for Thematic Projects'.
od 1 lutego 2027	Start of project implementation

7. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

For applications submitted in partnership, the partnership declaration in the required template (available on the Fund's website under the 'Calls' tab / '1st Call for Thematic Projects') is a mandatory annex at the full application stage.

8. HOW TO APPLY

Applications are submitted in two stages. During the first stage, Applicants submit **project outlines**. Organisations whose outlines are selected for the second stage then submit **full applications**.

Project outlines and full applications may be submitted **only through the Online Application System** available at: http://wnioski.fso.org.pl/. Applications sent by regular post or email will not be considered.

The user guide for the System is available both in the System and on the Fund's website under the 'Calls' tab / '1st Call for Thematic Projects'.

The deadline for submission of project outlines is **29 July 2026 at 12:00 noon**. Late submission will result in rejection of the application.

Applications may be submitted only in Polish.

8.1 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions should be sent using the contact details provided in the CONTACT section. Answers to the most frequently asked questions will be published on the Fund website at www.fso.org.pl.

8.2 SUPPORT FOR APPLICANTS

The Fund website contains materials useful when preparing applications: the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters, the project outline and full application forms together with instructions, templates of the administrative and selection assessment forms, and the partnership declaration template.

Applicants may also make use of:

- webinars explaining the rules of the call (webinar dates and recordings will be published on the Fund's website);
- in-person information meetings dedicated the rules of the call and project preparation (dates and locations will be announced on the Fund's website);
- email and telephone support provided by the Fund team. This support may concern procedural and technical issues related to application submission (telephone numbers and email addresses of persons responsible for support are provided in the CONTACT section);
- support in finding a foreign partner from a Donor State and/or a Beneficiary State, as well as from Ukraine (more information is available in the 6.3 International partnerships chapter of the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters).

9. CONTACT

If you have questions or doubts related to applying for a grant, please contact the Fund Operator team.

If your question or doubt concerns:

- Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened – please contact the Shipyard Foundation team by email (fundusz@stocznia.org.pl) or by phone (+48 22 100 55 94);

- Outcome 2: Human rights strengthened – please contact the Batory Foundation team by email (fso_eog@batory.org.pl) or by phone (+48 730 009 820, +48 730 003 186, +48 730 005 386, + 48 530 591 763);
- Output 2.U: Addressing social challenges in Poland arising from Russia's war against Ukraine – please contact the Education for Democracy Foundation team by email (fundusz@fed.org.pl) or by phone (+48 535 755 666);
- partnerships with entities from the Donor States, Beneficiary States and Ukraine – please contact the international cooperation team by email (fso_partner@batory.org.pl).

If you encounter any of the following:

- a breach of the principles of good governance (openness, transparency, accountability, zero tolerance for corruption) in the EEA Civil Society Fund;
- a breach of the values upheld by the Fund (respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities);
- irregularities in the implementation of projects financed by the Fund or in the use of Fund grant resources,

please report this to: skargi@fso.org.pl.

A complaint should include the following information:

- a description of the violation, as precise as possible;
- your preferred form of contact for investigation into the matter (email or telephone).

The Fund Operator will respond within 30 days of receiving the complaint. If the Fund Operator's response proves unsatisfactory, the matter may be referred to the Complaints Committee established by the Fund Operator, which will respond within 30 days of receiving the complaint.

Independently of the above, the matter may be reported directly to the Financial Mechanism Office in Brussels. Please note that the FMO examines only complaints concerning the Fund Operator. In all other matters, the Fund Operator and the Complaints Committee are responsible for examining complaints.

The Fund Operator guarantees anonymity and confidentiality of personal data at every stage of the complaint handling process. The subject of the complaint will be disclosed only to those employees of the Fund Operator whose involvement is necessary to resolve the matter, and, where necessary, to members of the Complaints Committee and/or the FMO. The data will not be shared with third parties.

More information on the protection of personal data processed during the complaint handling process may be obtained by emailing: rodo@fso.org.pl.