Iceland Liechtenstein Norway **Civil Society Fund**

OPEN CALL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs)

IN SLOVAKIA

OPEN CALL No 5.

For Organisational Grants

AVAILABLE FUNDING: 1 920 000 EUR

DEADLINE: September 11th, 2026, 23:59 CEST

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 overall objectives 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 the Beneficiary States.

The EEA Civil Society Fund aims to contribute to **a vibrant and resilient civil society protecting and promoting democracy, the rule of law, and human rights**. The total allocation of the EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia is EUR 9.7 million. The Programme is operated by a consortium of three organisations – Ekopolis Foundation, Open Society Foundation Bratislava (OSF), and Carpathian Foundation Slovakia (CF) – acting as the Fund Operator on behalf of the Donor States.

This Call is launched under **Outcome 3: Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights strengthened**, specifically under **Output 3.1: Organisational development supported**.

The purpose of this Call is to provide long-term organisational grants to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Slovakia in order to strengthen their internal capacities, sustainability, strategic development, and ability to fulfil their mission over the long term.

Organisational grants are designed to support the overall development and stability of CSOs, rather than to fund isolated project activities. Through multi-year support, this call seeks to **enhance organisational resilience**, professionalisation, financial sustainability, governance quality, **and thematic excellence of CSOs that actively contribute to the protection and promotion of democratic values, human rights, equality, and civic participation.**

By strengthening the organisational foundations of CSOs, the Call contributes to improving the conditions under which civil society operates and ensures that organisations can continue to function independently, effectively, and strategically in a changing an often-challenging environment.

The total allocation available under this Call is EUR 1 920 000.

SUMMARY OF THE CALL	
Title of the call	**Open Call No. 5 for Organisational Grants**
Purpose of the Call	See section 2.1 of this Call
Outcome	3. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened
Output	3.1 Organisational development supported
Type of support	Multi-year organisational grant supporting the overall development, resilience, and sustainability of the Project Promoter
Eligible project applicants	See section 3.1 of this Call
Project duration	Between 30 and 36 months, not exceeding 31.12. 2029
Project grant amount	EUR 100 000 – 120 000

Co-financing	No co-financing required
Partnerships	Applications **shall not** be submitted in partnership
Call available in the following language(s)	Slovak, English
Application deadline	September 11th, 2026, 23:59 CEST

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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 are 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 (hereafter referenced as the Programme) 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 Slovakia (CF)**. Each organisation in the FO is responsible for specific Outputs defined in relevant Outcomes. Ekopolis Foundation acts as the lead partner of the consortium. It is the contracting party to the Donors, responsible for the overall Programme management.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. FOCUS OF THIS CALL

2.1 Purpose of this Call

The purpose of this Call is to provide organisational grants to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Slovakia under Output 3.1: *Organisational development supported*, within Outcome 3 of the EEA Civil Society Fund Slovakia Programme.

The Call supports the strengthening of internal capacities, sustainability, and long-term resilience of CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights. Through multi-year institutional support, it enhances organisational stability, governance, strategic development, financial sustainability, and professional capacity.

Organisational grants support the overall development and functioning of the Project Promoter, rather than isolated or short-term project activities. Supported organisations are expected to strengthen their institutional foundations and long-term capacity to fulfil their mission in line with the values and objective and expected results of the Programme.

In line with the selection criteria (Section 5.2), particular consideration will be given to established CSOs operating in under-served regions to ensure a balanced geographical distribution of support

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

This Call is implemented under Outcome 3 of the EEA Civil Society Fund Slovakia Programme.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Slovakia operate in a context characterised by long-term underfunding, limited access to resources, and increasing public and political pressure on their legitimacy and role in society. These factors weaken their ability to systematically promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, including gender equality and LGBTIQ+ rights.

Outcome 3 therefore focuses on strengthening organisational capacities, resilience, and long-term strategic orientation of CSOs, while contributing to a more enabling environment in which they can operate freely and effectively. Strengthened organisations are expected to become more sustainable, credible, and impactful actors, and reliable partners in democratic processes.

Output 3.1: Organisational development supported

Under Output 3.1, this Call supports organisational development of CSOs through **two complementary areas of focus**, each managed by one of the Fund Operator partners:

Area A: Organisational development supported (Organisational Capacity Building for Internal Development)

(managed by Ekopolis Foundation)

This area focuses on strengthening the internal functioning, governance, operational systems, and sustainability of CSOs.

It supports organisational development in areas such as (this is a non-exhaustive list):

- strategic planning and organisational development,
- governance structures and internal decision-making,
- financial stability and diversification of funding,
- human resources development and team stability,
- internal procedures, digitalisation, and operational systems,
- organisational resilience and risk management.

The objective is to ensure that CSOs have stable, professional, and sustainable internal foundations enabling them to operate effectively in the long term.

Needs addressed:

CSOs in Slovakia operate in a context characterised by:

- increasing societal polarisation and pressure on democratic values,
- financial instability and dependency on short-term project funding,
- limited funding for internal organisational development,
- administrative burden and growing professionalisation requirements,
- staff burnout, high turnover and limited resources for HR development.

Many CSOs lack sufficient space and resources for strategic planning, governance development, financial management strengthening, digitalisation, internal systems improvement, and staff well-being.

Without targeted organisational support, even highly relevant and impactful organisations risk stagnation, reduced effectiveness, or institutional weakening.

Expected results:

By the end of the grant period, supported organisations are expected to demonstrate progress in the organisational area(s) they have chosen to strengthen through their organisational grant:

- improved strategic clarity and updated organisational strategies,
- strengthened governance and internal decision-making structures,

- improved financial planning and diversification of funding sources,
- strengthened human resource systems (including staff development and retention),
- improved internal processes, digital tools, and operational efficiency,
- enhanced organisational resilience and sustainability.

Target groups:

The primary target group are established CSOs in Slovakia that:

- actively promote democracy, rule of law, human rights, equality, civic participation or environmental justice,
- demonstrate a track record of activities in one or more Programme themes,
- seek to strengthen their internal organisational foundations to increase long-term impact.

The call targets established CSOs, with a particular encouragement for those operating in under-served regions, to ensure a balanced geographical distribution of support.

Eligible activities:

Eligible activities may include (but are not limited to):

- development, formulation, initial implementation or revision of strategic plans,
- governance review and strengthening of boards or internal structures,
- financial sustainability planning,
- fundraising strategy development and implementation,
- HR development, staff training, mentoring and organisational coaching,
- digitalisation and improvement of internal systems,
- development of internal policies (e.g. safeguarding, ethics, gender equality),
- organisational communication strategy and brand strengthening,
- well-being measures aimed at preventing burnout and improving team stability,
- strengthening organisational systems, policies, and staff capacities for effective compliance with legal and administrative requirements.

Area B: Organisational Capacity Building for Strategic Thematic Work

(managed by Open Society Foundation Bratislava)

This area focuses on strengthening the professional, thematic, and advocacy capacities of CSOs whose work directly contributes to the Programme's objective.

It supports organisational development in areas such as:

- strategic development of thematic programmes,
- strengthening advocacy capacity and policy engagement,
- evidence-based work and results measurement,
- coalition-building and sectoral cooperation,
- leadership development and professionalisation.

The objective is to enhance the long-term impact, credibility, and public positioning of CSOs active in promoting democracy, the rule of law, and human rights.

Needs addressed:

While many CSOs in Slovakia have strong thematic expertise, they often lack stable support to:

- further deepen and professionalise their core thematic work,
- scale up proven models and approaches,
- strengthen and sustain advocacy results,
- build stronger alliances and knowledge transfer mechanisms,
- systematically measure and communicate results.

Short-term project cycles frequently prevent organisations from consolidating and further developing their strongest competencies.

Expected results:

By the end of the grant period, supported organisations are expected to demonstrate progress in one or more of the following result areas

- strengthened and expanded their core thematic expertise,
- increased the quality and results of their advocacy or programmatic work,
- enhanced cooperation and knowledge-sharing within civil society,
- improved monitoring and evaluation practices,
- expanded or consolidated networks and partnerships relevant to their thematic focus.

Target groups:

CSOs that:

- aim to strengthen their long-term thematic positioning, public visibility, and capacity to influence policy or democratic processes (the "outward-looking" focus).
- demonstrate a clear intent to deepen their role as key actors within their specific thematic field or geographic region.
- particular consideration will be given to organisations operating in under-served regions or working directly with marginalised and vulnerable groups, ensuring that professional capacity is built where it is most needed.

Eligible activities:

Eligible activities may include (but are not limited to):

- strategic development of thematic programmes,

- scaling up successful advocacy or service models[2]
- policy analysis and expert development,
- strengthening coalitions and thematic platforms,
- development of evidence-based advocacy tools,
- results measurement systems,
- leadership development in thematic areas.

2.3 Expected results

The EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia uses **a results-based management approach**. This means that the Programme is designed and implemented with a focus on achieving defined results within its results framework. To be eligible for support, all projects must contribute to the expected results established at outcome and output level.

This call contributes to:

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

Output 3.1: Organisational development supported

The Project Promoter is expected to ensure that the organisational grant contributes to strengthening its organisational capacity, sustainability, and long-term operational resilience in line with the objective of Output 3.1 and Outcome 3.

To monitor progress, projects shall report on programme-level indicators relevant to Outcome 3 and Output 3.1. Indicators are used to measure progress towards the expected results and complement narrative reporting. **Each project, whether falling under 'Area A' or 'Area B', is expected to use at least one of the indicators listed for Output 3.1**, as applicable, and report in accordance with the Programme's reporting requirements.

Indicators:

Projects, whether falling under 'Area A' or 'Area B', are expected to **use at least one of the programme-level indicators relevant to Output 3.1**, as applicable to their organisational profile.

Indicator code	Indicator
CIV-039	Number of supported CSOs that have completed a training course
CIV-040	Number of CSO staff who have completed a training course (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. "

As part of the Programme's results-based management approach, all Project Promoters receiving an organisational grant will be required to participate in an organisational development assessment. This assessment will be conducted as a mandatory self-assessment at the beginning and at the end of the

[2] The provision of social services can only be supported if these services are necessary for enhancing advocacy, community participation, and/or civic engagement (Program Implementation Agreement, Chapter 1, Section 1.6)

grant period. Its purpose is not only to support results measurement, but also to inform the design and prioritisation of the organisational capacity-building plan, and to serve as a basis for ongoing dialogue, organisational learning, and strengthening. The detailed methodology and self-assessment tools will be shared with selected applicants at a later stage, will form part of the project contract, and guidance on their use will be provided by the Fund Operator.

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[3] related to the beliefs of a particular faith.

Additional eligibility criteria for organisational grants:

h) The applicant must have had **legal personality for at least 60 months** prior to the deadline for submission of applications.
(This requirement will be verified by the Fund Operator through the relevant public registry.)
i) The applicant must have had an **average annual turnover of at least EUR 200,000** over the last three financial years for which accounting documents are available.
(The applicant shall provide official financial statements for each of these years – 2023, 2024, 2025 as part of the application package.)
j) The applicant must be implementing, or over the **last five years** have **implemented projects with a cumulative budget exceeding EUR 200,000** as a lead partner or project partner, within at least one of the following topics:

- promoting civic participation in democratic processes;
- promoting information and media literacy;
- protecting human rights, including combating discrimination and promoting social justice;
- promoting gender equality, including SRHR (sexual and reproductive health and rights) and LGBTIQ+ rights;
- promoting climate action, environmental protection and a just green transition;
- promoting inclusion and empowerment of Roma.
(For each project, the applicant must specify in the application: project title, donor, contract number, total project budget, amount received by the applicant, project duration, main activities and key results.)

k) The applicant must have a **valid multi-annual organisational work plan and/or strategy** effective at the time of application.
(Detailed guidelines are provided in section 4.1.)
l) The applicant must be **compliant with its payment obligations with regards to taxes, social security contributions and health insurance payments**.
(The applicant must submit valid certificates proving no outstanding liabilities towards the Tax Office, the Social Insurance Agency and health insurance companies. These certificates must not be older than 3 months and are mandatory attachments to the application.)

In addition to the applicant eligibility requirements defined in this section, all applications must also satisfy the administrative eligibility criteria detailed in **Section 5.1**, which are verified during the initial compliance check.

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

3.2 Eligible project partners

Organisational grants **shall not** include project partners.

4. PROJECT CONDITIONS

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

Project duration	Between 30 and 36 months
Project grant amount	EUR 100 000 – 120 000
Indicative start of project implementation	January 2027
Final date of eligibility of expenditure (depending on the start of project implementation)	no later than 30 April 2031

4.1 Project application

Applications must be submitted through the designated e-grant system and shall include all required information and **supporting documents** as specified in this Call.

The application shall present a clear and coherent description of the organisation, its mission, strategic direction, and organisational development needs, as well as the planned use of the organisational grant to strengthen its long-term capacity, sustainability, and effectiveness in line with Output 3.1 and Outcome 3 of the Programme. As part of the application, **applicants are required to submit a multi-annual organisational strategy[4] covering at least the first year of the grant** (01/2027-12/2027), as well as **annual work plans for the duration of the project implementation.**

The application consists of:

A multi-annual organisational strategy covering at least the period by the end of the year 2027, submitted as a separate annex. The strategy may include the elements of the annual work plans and must be consistent with it. Furthermore, the strategy may include any other information that the applicant deems necessary or useful. Applicants are expected to be as specific as possible; prioritize concrete, data-driven objectives and actionable measures over generic descriptions. The format of the document is not prescribed. The length of the annex **shall not** exceed 10 A4 pages.
Respective annual work plans for the duration of the project implementation[5] including description of activities (who – what – when – how) and strategic priorities, justification of how each activity

[4] For this Call, the required multi-annual organisational strategy may take the form of an already existing and valid internal strategic document of the organisation, provided it reflects the organisation's current mission, priorities, and development direction. In case the applicant does not have such a document in place, it may develop a new organisational strategy specifically for the purpose of this application.
[5] Applicants are highly encouraged to develop annual work plans that are, where possible, evidence-based and informed by relevant data. The level of detail may vary across the implementation period. Applicants may, for example, present a more detailed work plan for the first year of implementation, while outlining broader strategic directions and indicative activities for subsequent years. Given the multi-annual nature of organisational grants, work plans for later stages of implementation (years 2 and 3) may be further refined and adjusted during the project period, in line with organisational learning, evolving needs, and contextual developments.

contributes to achieving the objective of a submitted project proposal, methodology for monitoring and evaluation of results;

Organisation's overall financial outlook for the duration of the project implementation including projected total income and expenditure for each year, along with a brief description of income sources and expenses. This also includes information on any financial reserves the organisation maintains, as well as an overview of its long-term assets.

Additional information: the context in which the organisation operates, including the main issues or societal challenges it addresses; the organisation's current mission and core activities; the vision and objectives to be achieved during the grant period in line with the organisational strategy; a description of how the grant will contribute to that, a description of the organisational and financial management capacity of the applicant; an assessment of organisational development needs (using a SWOT analysis);a description of the expected sustainability of the achieved results beyond the grant period.

The entire application process is carried out through the e-grant system, as described in Chapter 6. The application form allows applicants to upload attachments. Only documents directly relevant to the application should be included.

4.2 Co-financing

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

4.3 Eligible expenditure

Given the nature of organisational grants, the budget is not based on isolated project activities but on the applicant's overall strategic development needs. Applicants must submit their financial requirements as a **General Organisational Budget** (see Section 4.1), ensuring that the requested grant contributes directly to the implementation of the organisation's strategic objectives and long-term sustainability. Detailed cost eligibility rules tailored for organisational support are further specified in the Cost Eligibility Guidance.

4.4 Payment of the grant

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

Payment Type	Amount / Timing	Conditions
Advance payment	20% - 30 % of the total project budget	Paid after signing the Project Contract (10 working days after the signature); intended to cover the first 12 months of activities.
Final payment (retention)	20 % - 25% of the total project budget	Paid after approval of the final project report (within 10 working days after approval).

Interim payment will be specified in project contract individually for each project promoter based on cashflow requirements. For more information on payments, please refer to the *Cost Eligibility Guideline in the EEA Civil Society Fund Programme.*

4.5 Other conditions

- The Programme **does not support the provision of social or similar services as a primary objective.** Such activities may only be eligible where they are necessary for enhancing advocacy, civic engagement, and/or community participation, and do not substitute public service provision.
- Organizations applying for support under the EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia are required to commit to complying with the principles and requirements set out in the **Policy on the Protection of Vulnerable Persons and Children**. Applicants shall confirm their commitment by familiarizing themselves with the Policy when submitting their Application. Recipients of

support will be contractually bound to comply with the Policy. Please note that this document is only available in Slovak.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

5.1 Administrative eligibility criteria

The assessment of administrative compliance includes a verification of the general eligibility criteria for applicants and partners as set forth in **Section 3** of this Call; failure to meet those foundational requirements will result in the rejection of the application.

Administrative compliance is checked against the following criteria:

- Compliance with the submission deadline given on the front page and in chapter 6 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 6 of this call text.
- Applications include all relevant supporting documents and attachments as per chapter 5 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. Organisational Relevance, Work-plan Relevance, Strategic Orientation and Added Value	**35**
1.1. Relevance of the multi-annual organisational work-plan to the objectives and focus pursued under Output 3.1 and Outcome 3	15
1.2. Quality of the submitted organisational strategy, organisational needs analysis and justification of proposed development priorities	10
1.3. Long-term strategic orientation and sustainability beyond the grant period	10
2. Quality and Feasibility of the Work-plan	**25**
2.1. Coherence, feasibility and clarity of proposed activities and implementation timeline	15
2.2. Appropriateness of monitoring, evaluation and learning mechanisms	5
2.3. Risk assessment and mitigation measures	5
3. Applicant's Financial Management	**10**
3.1. The extent to which the applicant demonstrates sound financial management	5
3.2. Proportionality and necessity of the proposed resource allocation in relation to the organisational work plan and strategic priorities	5
4. Organisational Capacity and Institutional Alignment	**30**
4.1. Alignment of the applicant's mission and activities with the values and principles of the EEA Civil Society Fund Slovakia	10
4.2. Organisational and professional capacity to implement the proposed organisational development plan (including governance structures, transparency, staffing, and relevant experience)	15
4.3 The extent to which the applicant contributes to a balanced geographical distribution of support, in particular by being based and operating outside the Bratislava Self-Governing Region (NUTS 3 / SK010), thereby addressing the needs of underserved regions.	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 a score of **0** under any of the subheadings may be rejected.

5.2.2 Indicative timeline for the selection process[6]

Steps	Indicative timeline
Announcement of call	June 15th, 2026
Application deadline	September 11th, 2026, 23:59 (CEST)
Administrative / Eligibility Check	Fund Operator conducts administrative compliance check, incl. completion of missing documentation and assignment to 2 evaluators (up to 15 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 55 working days).
Publish results	Fund Operator publishes selection results, notifies applicants of approval/rejection decision, and sends draft contracts to successful applicants (up to 5 working days). Announcement of applications awarded funding on the programme's website
Provisional start of project	January 2027

6. HOW TO APPLY

6.1 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: **September 11th, 2026.**

6.2 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.

[6] 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.

- **Telephone Consultations:** The consortium partners are available to answer questions via telephone every Wednesday between 9:00 and 15:00 (contact information is listed in the dedicated section).
- **Written Inquiries:** Inquiries may be submitted via email or through the FAQ portal on our website. Responses from all meetings and consultations are regularly integrated into a comprehensive FAQ subpage on the EEA CSF Slovakia program page.

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

Complaints

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

1. Submission and Processing (Fund Operator)

Stage	Action
Submission	Complaints are submitted directly to the **Complaints Committee** via the website link or email.
Registration	The responsible Programme Manager records the complaint in the programme database without delay.
Review	The Complaints Committee reviews the submission and adopts a resolution within **10 working days**.
Notification	The Programme Director informs the Programme Manager of the resolution, who then informs the complainant in writing within **5 working days**.

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

2. Complaints to the FMO

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

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

7. CONTACT

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

Fund Operator
Ekopolis Foundation
Komenského 21, 974 01 Banská Bystrica
Tel.: +421 48 470 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

Fund Operator
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 Mlýnek – mlynek@eea-csf.sk

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

ANNEX 1: CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANTS

CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANTS	Yes/No
Administrative criteria	
Submission deadline: Compliance with the deadline given on the front page and in Chapter 6 of the call text.	
Submission method and language: Applications must be submitted electronically via the e-grant platform in the Slovak language as per Chapter 6 of the call text.	
Required documents: Applications must include all relevant supporting documents and attachments as per Chapter 4 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 – mandatory attachments to the application	
• Multi-annual organisational strategy document as described in section 4.1 of this Call. • Official financial statements for the years 2023, 2024, 2025 as described in section 3.1 i) of this Call. • Valid certificates proving no outstanding liabilities towards the Tax Office, the Social Insurance Agency and health insurance companies. These certificates must not be older than 3 months as described in section 3.1 l) of this Call.	

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.

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.