Iceland Liechtenstein Norway grants

MINISTRY OF INVESTMENTS, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INFORMATIZATION OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Call for proposals

Sustainable Heritage Restoration and Revitalisation

CLD01

Culture Driven Local Development
EEA Grants 2021-2028 Slovak Republic

The purpose of this call

The purpose of this call is to identify and support projects that enable the sustainable restoration and revitalisation of cultural heritage sites through adaptive reuse and participatory approaches, ensuring their adaptation to local needs and specificities.

Basic information

Programme Operator	Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic
Announcement of call	**05.05.2026 CEST**
Start date for submission of applications	**05.05.2026 CEST**
Deadline for submission of applications	**05.10.2026 CEST, 23:59 CEST**
Eligible applicants	Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial and non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Slovakia. Natural persons shall not be eligible.
Eligible partners	Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person either in the Donor States[1], Beneficiary States[2] or a country outside the European Economic Area that has a common border with Slovakia[3], or any international organisation or

[1] Norway, Iceland, Lichtenstein
[2] Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia
[3] Ukraine

	body or agency thereof actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project. Natural persons shall not be eligible.			
Total amount available	**EUR 41,508,236**			
Minimum grant amount	**EUR 1.000.000 for projects focusing on** UNESCO World Heritage properties submitted by UNESCO site managers in Banská Štiavnica, Levoča, Spišské Podhradie, Bardejov, and Ružomberok **EUR 850,000 for all other projects**			
Maximum grant amount	**EUR 5,000,000 for projects focusing on** UNESCO World Heritage properties submitted by UNESCO site managers in Banská Štiavnica, Levoča, Spišské Podhradie, Bardejov, and Ružomberok **EUR €3,000,000 for all other projects**			
Maximum grant rate	Public sector 100 %	Non-governmental 95%	Private entities 95%	Other 95%
Minimum co-financing requirement	Public sector 0%	Non-governmental 5%	Private entities 5%	Other 5%
Duration of projects	Minimum 36 months		Maximum 48 months	

Specific objectives and expected results

Objective of the EEA Grants

The EEA Grants contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and to the strengthening of relations between Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and the Slovak Republic.

The EEA Grants promote the European green transition, democracy, rule of law and human rights and social inclusion and resilience.

Support from the EEA Grants is based on the common values and principles of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and the respect for human rights including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. All activities funded by the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 shall be consistent with respect for these values and principles.

Objective of the programme

The programme objective is to increase participation, sustainability, and diversity in arts, culture, and heritage. To achieve this, the programme uses creative placemaking and participatory planning, working with local residents, cultural operators, and other stakeholders to protect, interpret, and manage heritage in ways that reflect local needs and values. It embraces environmental responsibility, cultural meaning, social inclusion, and economic benefits. The programme also supports artistic creation, mobility, and international exchanges that broaden access to culture and build audiences, with particular attention to women, young people, minorities and people in vulnerable situations. It values cultural diversity,

ensures no one is left out. Reducing socio-economic disparities is a core goal. The programme therefore targets disadvantaged areas[4] and vulnerable or marginalised communities[5], including Roma.

The programme has two **outcomes**:

1. Revitalised and sustainably managed cultural heritage,
2. Cultural participation and artistic freedom strengthened.

Objective and focus of this call

The call responds to persistent weaknesses in the restoration, use and management of cultural heritage, including limited cooperation among owners, experts, municipalities, state authorities, cultural operators and local communities, insufficient integration of heritage into local, regional, and national development, and low involvement of communities in planning and future use.

Projects under this call shall consist of investments in the sustainable restoration, revitalisation and management of national cultural heritage sites listed on the Priority Restoration List[6], or of sites that are important for the improvement of a UNESCO World Heritage property, provided that the applicant is the UNESCO site manager, or of sites related to the heritage of a national minority or ethnic group[7] where the intended use demonstrably benefits these communities.

The call is aimed at projects that go beyond physical restoration. Supported projects shall combine responsible restoration with adaptive reuse, which will combine conservation with contemporary functions (cultural programming, local enterprise, community use). This means that the use of the site will reflect the various needs of local communities including, residents, artists, businesses, cultural institutions and other relevant stakeholders. This co-creation drives participation (sites programmed for events, learning and community use), strengthens diversity (spaces that celebrate different identities and cultures), and ensures sustainability (long-term management, maintenance and viable functions).

Projects shall be based on participatory planning and co-creation with local stakeholders and shall demonstrate how the future use of the site responds to local needs, strengthens local ownership, and ensures long-term sustainability through viable functions, sustainable management, routine maintenance, preventive conservation and risk preparedness.

Specific provisions of the call

Applicants are encouraged to establish partnerships with Donor State entities and involve them in the preparation of the application. Projects with a partner from the Donor State(s) shall receive additional points in the assessment process.

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[44] "**Disadvantage area**" shall mean priority districts[8] or disadvantage regions designated in the regional aid map pursuant to Article 107(3)(a) TFEU and represent the most disadvantaged areas of the European Union in terms of economic development. In Slovakia, under the current regional aid map, these areas comprise the following NUTS 2 regions: SK02 Western Slovakia, SK03 Central Slovakia, and SK04 Eastern Slovakia.

[5] "**Vulnerable or marginalised communities**" shall mean communities whose members face structural barriers to participation in cultural and community life due to social, economic, territorial, ethnic, cultural, disability-related or age-related disadvantage, and who are therefore at greater risk of exclusion, underrepresentation, limited access to cultural expression and weaker resilience to disinformation, hate speech and extremism. This includes, in particular, Roma from marginalised Roma communities, social, ethnic and cultural minorities, persons with disabilities, women, and young people in disadvantaged areas or in situations of vulnerability.

[6] **Priority Restoration List** - List of National Cultural Monuments Prioritized for Protection and Restoration

[7] "**National minority" or "ethnic group**" refers to a minority or ethnicity officially recognised as such in the Slovak Republic, in accordance with Article 34 of the Constitution of the Slovak Republic.

Applications concerning cultural heritage sites located in priority districts[8] shall receive additional points in the assessment process.

Projects addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine, in a manner relevant to the objectives of the call and the future use of the supported site, shall receive additional points in the assessment process.

The two highest-rank projects targeting vulnerable or marginalised communities shall be supported, provided that they fulfil the minimum quality standard[9] and comply with all eligibility and selection requirements. For the purposes of this call, projects targeting vulnerable or marginalised communities shall be identified on the basis of the description provided in the application form and the relevant selection criterion/criteria assessing inclusion, outreach and demonstrated benefits for such communities.

At least EUR 20,000,000 of the total allocation of the call shall be allocated to projects focusing on UNESCO World Heritage properties submitted by UNESCO site managers in Banská Štiavnica, Levoča, Spišské Podhradie, Bardejov, and Ružomberok.

Expected results

Supported projects are expected to contribute to ensuring that restored cultural heritage sites function as vibrant, accessible, revitalised and sustainably managed spaces that respond to the needs of residents, communities, cultural operators, and vulnerable or marginalised communities. At the same time, they are expected to contribute to strengthening professional management, participatory governance, inclusion, climate-sensitive conservation of cultural heritage, social cohesion, civic participation, and local economic vitality.

Projects supported under this call shall contribute to **Outcome 1 – Revitalised and sustainably managed cultural heritage**, and the following **Outputs**:

1.1 **Cultural heritage sites restored (adaptive reuse)**.
1.2 **Cultural heritage sustainably managed**.

The following indicators are mandatory for each Project, meaning that the target values for these indicators shall be filled in:

- number of revitalised cultural heritage sites used as local cultural or community spaces;
- number of participants that attended cultural, educational, or community activities at supported cultural heritage sites;
- number of institutions applying preventive conservation practices.
- number of cultural heritage sites restored;
- number of cultural heritage sites restored with the participation from persons in vulnerable situations;
- number of cultural heritage sites restored with climate change mitigation or adaptation measures;

[8] "**Priority districts**" shall be understood as districts designated in accordance with Act No. 271/2025 Coll. on the Support of Priority Districts and the generally binding legal regulation issued by the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic, which keeps and publishes the list of priority districts.

[9] **Minimum quality standard** shall mean 60 points on average - projects receiving less than 60 points on average shall not be supported.

number of Integrated Management and Operational Plans[10] developed;
- number of cultural or community events held in revitalised cultural heritage sites;
- number of events held in revitalised cultural heritage sites co-created with members of vulnerable groups[5].

In addition, the applicant shall set the target values for the following indicators, if relevant:

- number of cultural heritage sites restored in disadvantaged areas;
- number of cultural heritage sites restored within UNESCO World Heritage properties.

Target values for the indicators above shall be realistic, verifiable and proportionate to the scope, scale and budget of the proposed activities. The target value must not be zero.

The full list of indicators as well as the minimum target values are listed in the table below.

Tick if relevant		Project Target values
☒Outcome 1	**Revitalised and sustainably managed cultural heritage**	
☒Indicator	Number of revitalised cultural heritage sites used as local cultural or community spaces	At least 1
☒Indicator	Number of participants that attended cultural, educational or community activities at supported cultural heritage sites	At least 500
☒Indicator	Number of institutions applying preventive conservation practices	At least 1
☒Output 1.1	**Cultural heritage sites restored (adaptive reuse)**	
☒Indicator	Number of cultural heritage sites restored	At least 1
☒Indicator	Number of cultural heritage sites restored in disadvantaged areas	Minimum not set
☒Indicator	Number of cultural heritage sites restored within UNESCO World Heritage properties	At least 1 for the UNESCO site managers
☒Indicator	Number of cultural heritage sites restored with participation from persons in vulnerable situations	At least 1
☒Indicator	Number of cultural heritage sites restored with climate change mitigation or adaptation measures	At least 1
☒Output 1.2	**Cultural heritage sustainably managed**	
☒Indicator	Number of Integrated Management and Operational Plans developed	At least 1
☒Indicator	Number of cultural or community events held in revitalised cultural heritage sites	At least 10
☒Indicator	Number of events held in revitalised cultural heritage sites co-created with members of vulnerable groups	At least 3

Eligible applicants and partners

Eligible applicants

- Any entity, public or private, commercial or non-commercial and non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in Slovakia.
- Natural persons shall not be eligible

[10] **Integrated Management and Operational Plans** means concrete management and operation tools – including Management and Preventive Maintenance Plans, Programming Plans, Use and Tenancy Plans and Inclusion and Outreach Plans

Eligible partners from Slovakia	• Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in the Slovakia actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project. • Natural persons shall not be eligible
Eligible partners from Donor States	• Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person in the Donor States actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project. • Natural persons shall not be eligible
Eligible partners from other eligible countries, international organisations	• Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organisations, established as a legal person either in a country outside the European Economic Area that has a common border with Slovakia, or any international organisation or body or agency thereof actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project. • Natural persons shall not be eligible.

Partnership

Who is a partner?	A partner is an entity actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of a project. It shares with the project promoter a common economic or social goal which is to be realised through the implementation of that project. In this regard, a consultant, contractor, supplier or service provider is not considered a partner.
Partnership with Donor State entities	Partnership with a partner from the Donor State(s) is encouraged under this call. The applicant and the potential partner/s are expected to plan and agree on their responsibilities, including costs and schedule of their contributions and submit a signed letter of intent or draft partnership agreement with the project application, together with a list of joint activities and corresponding budget. A partnership agreement shall be drawn up and submitted prior to signing a project contract. Projects with a partner from the Donor State(s) will receive additional points in the assessment process.

Eligible activities

Thematic scope of activities	Projects shall aim to revitalized cultural heritage sites into inclusive, actively used cultural and community hubs that reflect local identity, respond to local needs, and contribute to sustainable local development. The thematic scope includes, in particular: a) restoration of cultural heritage site combined with viable contemporary functions, such as cultural programming, learning, community use, and, where relevant, local enterprise; b) participatory planning and co-design with local stakeholders, including residents, municipalities, cultural operators, businesses, and other relevant actors; the applicant shall demonstrate that stakeholder involvement has already started before submission of the application and

shall describe how such participation will continue during project implementation.

c) long-term sustainability of the supported site through sound management, site-specific planning instruments, preventive maintenance, and integration into broader local development strategies;
d) inclusion, accessibility, and diversity, including meaningful participation of women, young people, minorities including Roma, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable and marginalised communities s supported by inclusion and outreach measures;
e) environmentally responsible and climate-resilient approaches to conservation and reuse, including risk preparedness; and
f) where relevant, links to local entrepreneurship, creative industries, tourism, intergenerational learning, and community resilience.

Geographic scope of activities

The call shall be open to projects implemented in the entire territory of Slovakia.

Additional points shall be given to projects concerning cultural heritage sites located in priority districts.

At least 20 million of the total allocation for this call shall be allocated to projects focusing on UNESCO World Heritage properties submitted by UNESCO site managers in Banská Štiavnica, Levoča, Spišské Podhradie, Bardejov and Ružomberok.

Activities eligible for support

Mandatory activities

Each project shall include all the following activities:

a) **environmentally responsible restoration and revitalisation** of at least one eligible national cultural heritage site ensuring respect for the authenticity and integrity of the site (eligible sites are listed in part Objective and focus of this Call), combined with adaptive reuse and community-oriented activation, and, where relevant, support for traditional building crafts and skills, so that the supported site is brought into active cultural or community use and its long-term sustainability is ensured; environmentally responsible restoration measures shall be appropriate to the heritage context and include climate change mitigation and/or adaptation measures and, where relevant, heritage-sensitive climate resilience measures such as energy- and water-efficient solutions, low-impact materials, preventive conservation and maintenance, risk preparedness, fire safety and emergency planning, and water-management or landscape measures;
b) **activities supporting the future use of the site as a local cultural or community hubs (spaces),** including activities enabling cultural, educational, or community use in line with local needs and values, participatory and co-design activities to plan the future use, governance, and long-term management of the site involving relevant stakeholders, such as municipalities, cultural operators, residents, businesses, and other relevant actors; co-design shall start before submission of the application and continue throughout project implementation;
c) **activities ensuring the long-term sustainability, management, and maintenance** of the restored site, including the preparation of a site-

specific Management Plan[11] including Interpretation Plan, Programming Plan, Use and Tenancy Plan[12], and support for the preparation or application of a Preventive Maintenance Plan in cooperation with the Monuments Board of the SR through project Pro Monumenta III;

d) **activities promoting inclusion, full accessibility, diversity**, universal design and barrier removal wherever feasible while respecting its cultural and monumental values[13]**,** including the preparation of an Inclusion and Outreach Plan[14] describing how the project will ensure equal access and meaningful participation of women, young people, minorities including Roma, persons with disabilities, and other marginalised or vulnerable communitiess; where full accessibility cannot be achieved due to technical or heritage-conservation constraints, appropriate compensatory measures shall be applied;

Complementary activities

Projects may also include:

a) revitalisation of associated historic gardens, parks, and cultural landscapes;
b) year-round educational and artistic programming, guided tours, interactive displays, interpretation tools, and marketing and audience development activities aimed at attracting local residents and visitors;
c) cooperation with schools and universities, including traditional craft workshops, educational tours, student-led activities, and research cooperation;
d) cooperation with SMEs, creative industries, local businesses, and cultural operators in order to diversify income sources and embed the supported site in broader local development strategies;
e) advanced disaster risk management measures, including staff training, drills, advanced systems, and cooperation with relevant organisations, including ICOMOS, Blue Shield, and cross-border partners;
f) innovation and digital access measures, including digital platforms, web and mobile tools, virtual tours, and design solutions balancing contemporary use with heritage values; and
g) activities contributing to local economic vitality, including links to creative industries, SMEs, and sustainable tourism, where relevant.

This list is non-exhaustive.

[11] A site-specific aligned **Management Plan** shall be produced with sustainable development goals to ensure sustainability. **Interpretation plan** should define how the monument's values will be communicated to the public.

[12] **Programming Plan**, **Use and Tenancy Plan** shall be elaborated in order to embed cultural heritage sites in community life, projects are expected to prepare them with commitments from key users, and to organise **participatory workshops** that ensure representation of women, youth, minorities, and persons with disabilities. A site **Maintenance plan** is a schedule of periodic inspections and measures designed to ensure that the monument remains in good structural and technical condition. If the monument is a protected historic garden or park, it is referred to as a Historic Garden/Park Care Plan or a Historic Garden/Park Management Plan.

[13] **Barrier-Free Design in Historic Environments** (Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic) – principles of universal design applied to protected/historic sites.
Methodological Guide for Organising Cultural Events for Persons with Disabilities (Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic) – practical tips for physical and information accessibility at events.
Accessibility and usability of the built environment (European standard for physical accessibility / universal design), and its Slovak adoption **STN EN 17210**.

[14] **Inclusion and Outreach Plan** shall envisage how an equal access for vulnerable groups such as women, youth, minorities (including Roma), and persons with disabilities will be ensured

Activities not eligible for support	Not relevant.

Eligible expenditure and forms of grant

Start and final dates of eligibility of expenditure	Expenditures are eligible as of the date of the Programme Operator's decision to award the project grant, unless a later date is provided in the project contract. The Programme Operator shall in the same decision fix the final date of eligibility of expenditure which shall be no later than the date referred to under paragraph 5 of Article 8.14 of the Regulation[15] (30 April 2031).
Eligible expenditure	The categories of expenditure are as follows: **Eligible direct expenditures** • the cost of staff assigned to the project, comprising actual salaries plus social security charges and other statutory costs included in the remuneration, provided that this corresponds to the Project Promoter's and project partner's usual policy on remuneration. The corresponding salary costs of staff of national administrations are eligible to the extent that they relate to the cost of activities which the relevant public authority would not carry out if the project concerned were not undertaken; • travel and subsistence allowances for staff and participants in the project, provided that this corresponds to the usual policy of the Project Promoter and project partner on travel allowances; • cost of new or second-hand equipment[16]. Taking into account the expected duration of the project implementation, the Programme Operator has determined that the equipment constitutes an integral and necessary component for achieving the project outcomes; therefore, by way of exception to Article 8.2.3, the full purchase price of the equipment is eligible; • purchase of land and real estate under the conditions set in Article 8.8 of the Regulation; • costs of consumables and supplies, provided that they are identifiable and assigned to the project; • costs entailed by other contracts awarded by a Project Promoter or project partner for the purposes of carrying out the project, provided that the awarding complies with the applicable rules on public procurement and Regulation; and • costs arising directly from requirements imposed by the project contract for each project. **Indirect costs** are all eligible costs that cannot be directly attributed to the project. They may not include any eligible direct costs. Indirect costs shall represent a fair apportionment of the overall overheads of the Project Promoter and/or project partner(s). Project Promoters and project partners may identify their indirect costs according to one of the following methods: 15% of direct eligible staff costs or 7% of direct eligible costs.

[15] Regulation on the implementation of the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial mechanism 2021–2028.
[16] For the purposes of this call, **equipment** shall mean costs related to tangible and intangible fixed assets in accordance with the applicable accounting rules of the country in which the project promoter and/or project partner is established and with generally applicable accounting legislation.

The inclusion of an expenditure item in the project budget approved by the Programme Operator shall not be regarded as proof of its eligibility.

Project partners from Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein are strongly encouraged to make use of the option of documenting expenditures by means of a report by an independent auditor/a report issued by a competent and independent public officer in line with the 8.12.3 of the Regulation and to include the costs related to such audits in the project budget.

Project partners shall be involved in the budgeting process prior to application submission in order to determine the appropriate grant form(s) to be applied during project implementation.

Limits on certain categories of expenditure

Category of expenditure	**Limits (max. % of project eligible expenditure)**
The maximum share of eligible expenditure for **infrastructure and equipment** of the project where the project is implemented by an UNESCO site managers located in the urban environment and disadvantaged regions: Banská Štiavnica, Levoča, Spišské Podhradie, Bardejov and Ružomberok.	Up to 75% of the total eligible expenditure of the project
The maximum share of eligible expenditure for **infrastructure and equipment** of the other project	Up to 70% of the total eligible expenditure of the project.

Non-eligible expenditure

In line with the Article 8.9 of the Regulation on the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 the following costs shall not be considered eligible:

- interest on debt, debt service charges and late payment charges;
- charges for financial transactions and other purely financial costs, except costs related to accounts required by the NMFA, the National Focal Point or the applicable law and costs of financial services imposed by the project contract;
- provisions for losses or potential future liabilities;
- exchange losses;
- recoverable VAT;
- costs that are covered by other sources;
- fines, penalties and costs of litigation, except where litigation is an integral and necessary component for achieving the outcomes of the project; and
- excessive or reckless expenditure.

Forms of grant

The following forms of grant will be applicable to the below categories of expenditure.

Specific provisions on establishing the amounts to be used via flat rates, unit costs and lump sums shall be determined in the project contract.

The use of flat rates, unit costs and lump sums, their amount and the way they are calculated for a project partner shall also be agreed beforehand and later stipulates in the partnership agreement between the Project Promoter and the project partner.

For further information, please consult the Project implementation manual.

Category of expenditure	Form of grant	Method of calculation
Staff costs	Real Costs	fixed percentage of the gross employment costs
Staff costs	Flat rate for direct staff costs	20 % of the eligible direct costs other than the direct staff costs of that project
Travel costs	Flat rate for Travel Costs	A flat rate of **15%** of the direct staff costs of the Project Promoter and of each Project Partner that expects to claim this cost category shall apply to Projects with at least one donor project partner under Article 4.4 of the Regulation. A flat rate of **6%** of the direct staff costs of the Project Promoter and of each Project Partner that expects to claim this cost category shall apply to Projects without a donor project partner, but with at least one other Project Partner. [17]
Travel costs	Unit Costs	According to the Commission Decision (EC) C(2024) 5405, as amended
Costs of new or used equipment, or depreciation of equipment	Real Costs	Based on submitted invoices
Costs of consumables and supplies	Real Costs	Costs of consumables and supplies (deliveries) that can be directly attributed to the Project
Costs of consumables and supplies	Flat rate for Indirect costs	Costs for consumables and supplies (deliveries) that cannot be directly attributed to the Project (these are listed by way of example in Section D.8.7.1 of the Project Implementation Manual).
Purchase of land and buildings	Real Costs	Based on submitted invoices
Costs arising from other contract	Real Costs	Based on submitted invoices

[17] The flat rates are set out in line with the article 8.3.2 b) of the Regulation - an application of corresponding unit costs, lump sums and flat rates applicable in European Union policies for a similar type of project. Travel costs Flat rate represents the percentage of direct eligible staff costs determined in accordance with the methodology set out in Article 41 of Regulation (EU) No. 2021/1059 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on specific provisions concerning the European Territorial Cooperation (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financial instruments.

Costs arising from Project Contract	Real Costs	Based on submitted invoices
Indirect costs	Flat rate	15% of direct eligible staff costs or 7% of direct eligible costs
Preparatory costs	Real Cost	Based on submitted invoices, max. 5 % of Total eligible project costs
Preparatory costs	Lump Sum	A lump sum of EUR 19,200 shall apply to Projects with total eligible expenditure exceeding EUR 500,000.

Financing conditions and reporting

Forms of payment

Payment of the project grant shall take the form of advance payments. The first advance payment, if any, shall be due following the signature of the project contract. Further payment requests are linked to the project reporting schedule.

Reporting

Project Promoters shall report on the progress of their project via interim reports and a final report upon the completion of the project (part of payment requests). Reporting deadlines shall be set in the project contract.

	% of project grant	Condition of payment	Deadline for payment
Advance payment	Maximum 20%	Signature of project contract (first advance payment), submitted payment request (subsequent advance payments)	15 working days following the approval

State aid

State aid regime applied for the call

The Programme Operator shall ensure that the grant is awarded in compliance with the applicable state aid rules in force at the time the aid is granted. Where the grant constitutes state aid, the Programme Operator shall assess compatibility with the applicable State Aid Scheme.

The legal basis for granting the aid will be either a scheme complying with the conditions laid down in the GBER[18], or an individually notified scheme based on the same substantive conditions as the GBER, but allowing for the use of simplified cost reporting, which is not provided for under the GBER currently in force or an aid scheme notified to the Commission that has the same conditions as the GBER but allows for the use of simplified expenditure reporting. Applicants are encouraged to consult the GBER in advance. If the grant constitutes state aid, neither the applicant nor any partner receiving state aid under the Scheme may be an undertaking in difficulty. Where eligible project costs fall outside the Scheme, the relevant part of the grant may be provided as de minimis aid, if the applicable conditions are met.

[18] Commission Regulation declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market pursuant to Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty

Information requested related to state aid	Successful applicants and their partners may be requested to provide information required under the State Aid Scheme or de minimis scheme.

Submission of applications

Form and content of project applications	Project applications shall be prepared in Slovak language with a summary in English by filling in the application form, the budget, and providing further information, including the disclosure of any consultant involved in the preparation of the project application (see documents in the Annex). The Executive Summary is necessary and important due to the involvement of persons from abroad at different stages of the evaluation. The application shall clearly describe: • the cultural heritage site concerned, its current condition, heritage value, and need for intervention; • the proposed adaptive reuse concept and the future use of the site, including how it responds to local needs and values and contributes to active public use; • the project's primary target group(s) and, where relevant, secondary target group(s), including their needs, barriers to participation, and expected benefit; • the participatory planning and co-design approach, including stakeholder involvement before submission of the application and during project implementation; • the approach to long-term management, maintenance and stewardship of the site, including the planned preparation and/or use of the Management Plan, Interpretation Plan, Preventive Maintenance Plan, and, where relevant, Programming Plans and Use and Tenancy Plans; • the inclusion, accessibility and outreach approach, including equal access and meaningful participation of women, young people, minorities including Roma, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups; • the environmentally responsible and climate-resilient conservation approach, including risk preparedness, preventive conservation and maintenance, fire safety and emergency planning, where relevant; • the project management structure, implementation timetable, main risks and mitigation measures, communication approach, selected indicators and target values, and the expected sustainability of results after project completion. • Communication plan Where relevant, the application shall also describe: • the role and added value of any Donor State partner, including a list of activities with corresponding budget; and • the project's contribution to minority heritage, vulnerable or marginalised communities, or links to local entrepreneurship, creative industries, tourism, intergenerational learning, or community resilience. The following mandatory attachments shall be submitted along with Application:

1. Partnership statement, letter of intent or other similar documents proving the partner's interest in participating in the Project, if the Project is planned to be implemented in partnership,
2. Title deeds for all properties on which construction work will take place (to be assessed as part of the Project), if relevant. If the applicant or partner is not the owner of the property, attach a lease, property management agreement or other agreement declaring the relationship to the property. This agreement must be valid for the period of the duration of the project and the sustainability period.

Optional attachments may be submitted within the Application. Relevant supporting documentation demonstrating compliance with individual selection criteria, if relevant, is recommended as optional annexes, such as the evidence of the participatory process (Report on participation), relevant permits issued and others.

Please carefully consult the Project implementation manual when preparing the application.

Method of submission

Project applications shall be submitted electronically via EGRANT system accessible at direct link before the deadline specified under the Basic Information section of this call. In the EGRANT system it is necessary to register for the Call on the following link https://norway.egrant.sk/. The procedure for submitting the Application is set out in the Project Implementation Manual. Instructions for completing the Application Form are provided directly in the Application Form in the EGRANT system.

Limitations on the submission of applications

Not relevant.

Selection procedure

General information

The Programme Operator shall be responsible for project selection and the award of grants.

Administrative and eligibility checks

The Administrative Compliance Check and the Eligibility Check of the Project Application and the Applicant are adequately ensured by the technical means of the EGRANT system and are not carried out by the Programme Operator. It remains, however, that the provision of false information by the Applicant may constitute grounds for the rejection of the Project Application. In such case, the Applicant may submit an appeal against the rejection within 5 working days from the delivery of the notification through the EGRANT system. The appeal shall be addressed to eeagrants@mirri.gov.sk and reviewed by the Section of European Territorial Cooperation.

Assessment

Each application shall be evaluated by three impartial experts. Each expert shall score the application against the published selection criteria. The final score used for ranking shall be the average of the expert scores, unless the Selection

Committee decides in a justified case to disregard one significantly divergent assessment and use the average of the two closest scores.

Selection Committee

The Programme Operator shall establish a Selection Committee to recommend projects for funding. The Selection Committee shall consist of five voting members possessing the relevant expertise. The decision-making of the Selection Committee shall be governed by its Statute and Rules of Procedure, which form an annex to the call.

The Programme Operator shall provide the Selection Committee with the list of ranked project applications. The Selection Committee shall review the ranked list of project applications and shall consult the Donor Programme Partner(s) and take into account their recommendations regarding any Donor project partner(s) included in the project applications.

Any changes made by the Selection Committee to the ranking must be duly justified and recorded in the minutes. The Selection Committee shall submit the list of recommended projects to the Programme Operator.

Grant award decision

The Programme Operator shall verify that the selection process has been conducted in accordance with the Regulation and that the recommendation of the Selection Committee has been established in compliance with the rules and objectives of the programme. Following such verification the Programme Operator shall, based on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, make a decision on which projects shall be awarded a grant.

If the Programme Operator modifies the list of recommended projects by the Selection Committee, it shall inform the Selection Committee and the affected applicants and provide them with a justification.

The Programme Operator is entitled to establish a reserve list of Projects. In the event that available financial resources are released or increased, the Programme Operator is entitled to select from the reserve list of Projects the one whose project grant corresponds, to a reasonable extent, to the available financial resources. If more than one Project meets this criterion, the Programme Operator shall prioritise the Project Application that obtained the higher number of points in the expert assessment.

The Programme Operator shall notify the applicants about the results of the selection process within a reasonable time and publicise the results.

There is no legal entitlement to the project grant. The grant award decision of the Programme Operator may not be appealed.

Project contracts

Based on the grant award decision, the Programme Operator shall conclude a project contract with the Project Promoter setting out the terms and conditions of the grant and the roles and responsibilities of the parties.

Provisional timeline	
Deadline for submission of applications	05.10.2026
Administrative and eligibility checks	10/2026

Assessment of applications	11/2026 – 3/2027
Decision on the award of grants	4/2027
Signature of project contracts	4/2027
Deadline for the completion of projects	4/2031

Further information, contacts for queries and the complaint mechanism

Further information

For further information please consult the following documents:

- Regulation on the implementation of the EEA/Norway Financial Mechanism 2021-2028
- Programme Agreement
  Management System of EEA and Norway Financial Mechanism 2021-2028
- System of financing and financial management of EEA and Norway Financial Mechanism 2021-2028
- Project Implementation Manual

Contact for queries

Any queries concerning the call may be directed to the following contacts no later than 7 working days before the deadline for the submission of applications. A written response shall be sent within 7 working days of the receipt of the query.

Frequently asked questions and answers, if any, will be published on the website of the call.

The Programme Operator can be contacted for queries by:

- e-mail: eeagrants@mirri.gov.sk (the request needs to be linked to the call by call code CLD01
- phone: +421-2-2092 8464

Contact to file a complaint

To file a complaint please address it to the following e-mail/follow this link.

Contact to Donor Programme Partners (if relevant)

Iceland

RANNÍS
(The Icelandic Centre for Research)

Email: rannis@rannis.is

Phone: +354 515 5800

Website: www.rannis.is

Norway

Riksantikvaren
(Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage)

Email: eeagrants@ra.no

Phone: +47 22 94 04 00

Website: www.ra.no

Annexes to the call for proposals

Annex 1	Selection Criteria and scoring chart for assessment
Annex 2	Rules and Procedures of the Selection Committee
Annex 3	Methodology for the Participatory Processes.