Iceland Liechtenstein Norway **Civil Society** Fund

| Nadace **OSF**

VDV VÝBOR DOBRÉ VŮLE Nadace Olgy Havlové

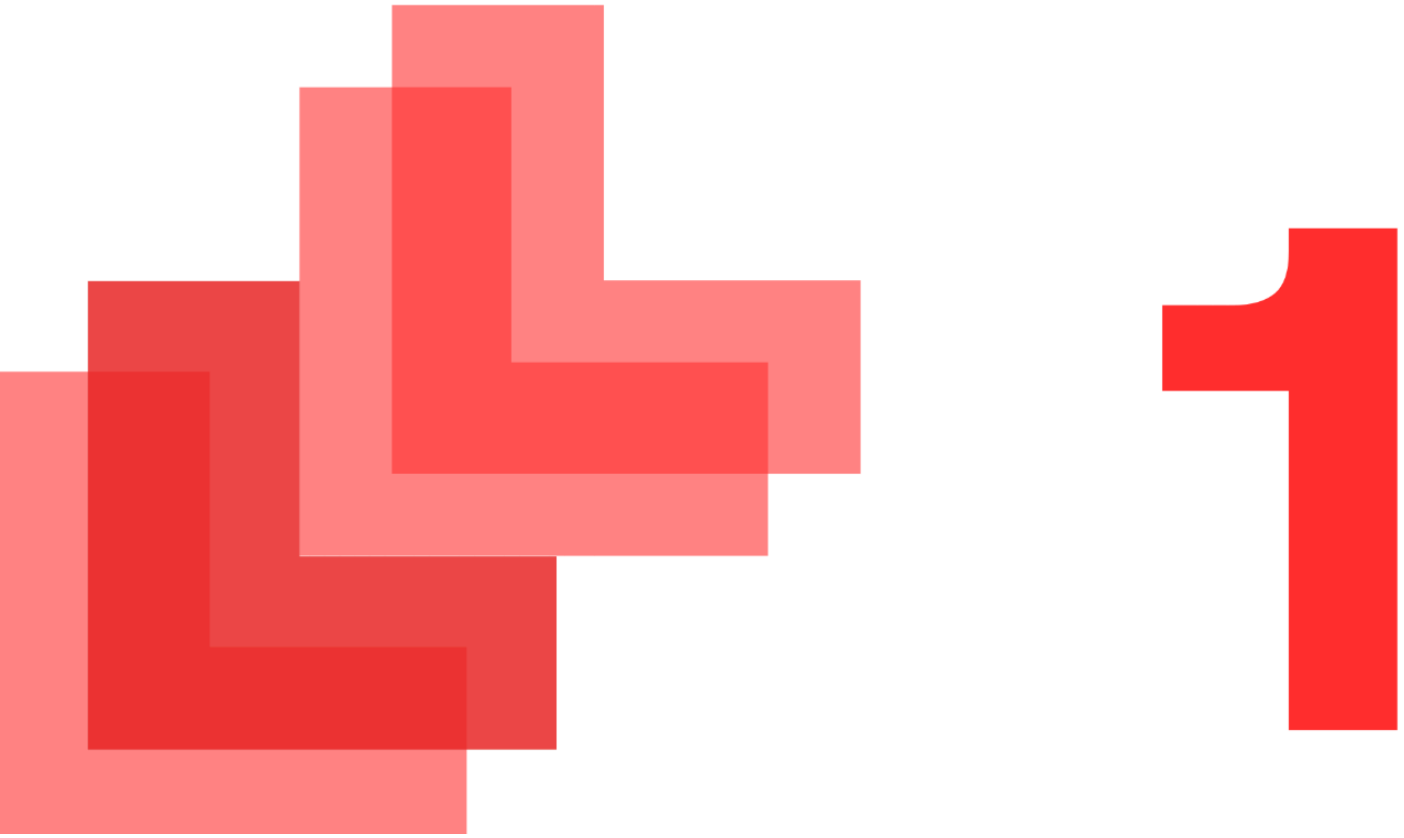
EEA Civil Society Fund

OPEN CALL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN CZECHIA

PROJECT GRANTS

AVAILABLE FUNDING: €5 960 000

DEADLINE: 15 September 2026



SUMMARY OF THE CALL

This summary is intended solely for quick reference and does not include all binding rules. Before submitting your application, please review the full text of the call for proposals and consult the relevant sections of the Guide for Applicants and Project Promoters (hereinafter referred to as the "Guide"), where you will find detailed rules and conditions. The Guide is available for download on the programme's website.

Background for the EEA Civil Society Fund	The programme focuses on supporting democracy, the protection of human rights and the development of civil society organisations with the aim of strengthening their resilience and long-term sustainability. The programme's financial allocation in the Czech Republic is €20.3 million.
Focus of this call	**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 **Outcome 3: Strengthened civil society organisations promoting democracy, the rule of law and human rights** ● Output 3.1: Organisational development supported ● Output 3.2: An enabling environment for civil society supported
Country specific focus areas	● addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine ● inclusion and empowerment of Roma, including support for Roma-led organisations and Roma women and girls ● countering gender-based violence
Target groups	Civil society organisations, disadvantaged groups (particularly Roma communities, LGBTQI+ people, people at risk of violence, and migrants), public administration and the general public.
Grant amount	€25,001–€100,000 for projects under Outcomes 1 and 2; €25,001–€80,000 for projects under Outcome 3.
Co-financing	Not required.
Project duration	18, 24 or 36 months.
Project start date	January or April 2027 (depending on the Applicant's preference).
Eligible Applicants	A non-profit civil society organisation, independent of any public or commercial entity, with at least two years of active history.
Eligible Partners	Any formal or informal, public, commercial or private entity that respects common values 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. Organisations from the Czech Republic, Donor States, and Beneficiary States are eligible.
Deadline	15 September 2026, 13:00

1. BACKGROUND FOR THE EEA CIVIL SOCIETY FUND

The objective of the EEA Civil Society Fund is to contribute to a **vibrant and resilient civil society that protects and promotes democracy, the rule of law, and human rights**. The program will strengthen civil society and increase its sustainability. **Support to civil society is a key priority for the EEA and Norway Grants**, funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The overall objectives of EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2021-2028 is to contribute to the reduction of social and economic disparities in the European Economic Area (EEA) and to strengthen bilateral relations between the Donor States[1] and the Beneficiary States[2].

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 Czechia is **€20.3 million** (i.e. **half a billion CZK**).

In the **Czech Republic**, the programme is managed by a consortium of **OSF Czechia and the Committee of Good Will – Olga Havel Foundation**. **OSF Czechia** focuses on **developing a vibrant civil society and strengthening democratic values in the Czech Republic**. Through its programmes, it systematically supports transparency in public administration, quality education, and the active engagement of citizens in public affairs. **The Committee of Good Will – Olga Havel Foundation** (hereinafter "OHF") is primarily dedicated to helping people with disabilities, abandoned children, and seniors in difficult life situations. Its goal is the **consistent advocacy of human rights for disadvantaged groups and the creation of conditions for their full integration into society**. The programme in the Czech Republic will include **open calls** aimed at strengthening the following areas:

- democratic values and rule of law;
- human rights;
- development of civil society organisations;
- bilateral cooperation.

The programme encourages cooperation between civil society organisations in the Czech Republic and organisations from the three Donor States—Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway. **Regional initiatives** are intended for activities that support regional exchange, knowledge sharing, and networking across civil society in the Beneficiary states, with these activities being planned jointly by the Fund operators in all Beneficiary States countries, Donor representatives, or Donor contact points. The Fund for regional civil society initiatives **is not intended for direct project applications** from organisations, as is the case with other types of grants.

The EEA Civil Society Fund provides support for CSOs throughout Czechia. Applications from CSOs based in all regions, particularly in under-served geographic areas, are encouraged. The Fund Operator will provide support to such CSOs during the application and project implementation. Among the country-specific focus areas of the programme in the Czech republic are the **inclusion and empowerment of Roma, addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine, and the countering of gender-based violence**.

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 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 standards. An overview of all open calls and other activities supported by the programme can be found on the website.

[1] Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway

[2] Bulgaria, Czechia, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.

2. FOCUS OF THIS CALL

2.1 Purpose of this call

This call aims to **strengthen democracy, human rights, and the long-term resilience of civil society** in Czechia in response to growing polarization, declining trust in institutions, shrinking civic space, and increasing social exclusion. The programme addresses systemic barriers that limit meaningful participation in democratic processes, particularly for disadvantaged and underrepresented groups such as Roma communities, women, young people, migrants, and LGBTIQ+ individuals.

Key challenges include weak engagement between public institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs), limited use of expert knowledge and community data in policymaking, low civic participation, underdeveloped community infrastructure in disadvantaged regions, and increasing pressure on independent media and democratic actors. The programme also responds to the spread of disinformation, hate speech, and anti-democratic narratives—particularly in connection with the invasion of Ukraine—as well as low levels of media and digital literacy that deepen social and digital exclusion.

At the same time, the programme recognizes the structural vulnerabilities of the civil society sector itself, including chronic underfunding, limited organizational capacities, burnout, weak regional networks, and insufficient public awareness of the sector's contribution to democracy and social cohesion.

The call therefore seeks to support initiatives that strengthen civic engagement, human rights, information integrity, gender equality, climate justice, and democratic participation, while building stronger, more sustainable, and better-connected civil society organizations capable of driving systemic change and protecting democratic values across the country.

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

2.2 Results-based management

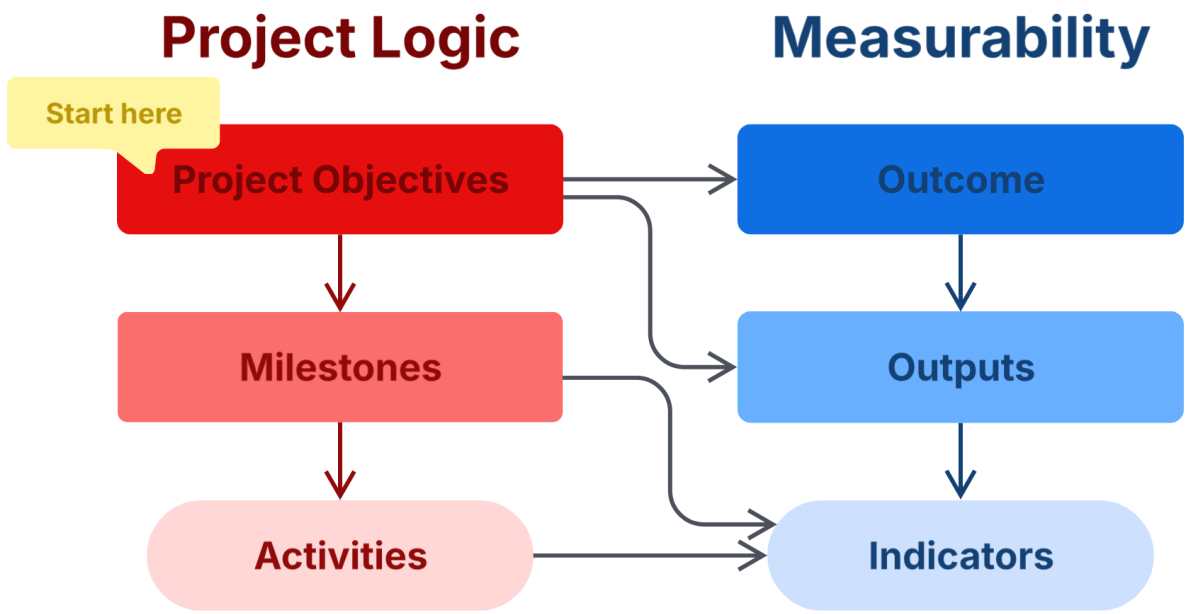
The EEA Civil Society Fund in Czechia focuses primarily on achieving concrete social change and measurable results. The programme uses a so-called results framework that helps keep this focus, and that defines what is eligible for support. Each project must be consistent with the programme's results framework at these three levels, supplemented by project milestones:

- **Outcome**: The Applicant chooses **one** of the three main programme Outcomes that the project will aim to achieve.
- **Outputs**: Within the selected outcome, the Applicant chooses **one or more** outputs of that outcome that they want to achieve through their project.
- **Indicators**[3]: Indicators are a means to quantifiably measure progress and help to indicate the extent to which an outcome or output has been achieved. The Indicators are used to monitor progress and measure results at the programme level for this call. Each project is required to use at least one of the programme-level indicators from the selected outcome and output(s).

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

Project Milestones

In addition to outcomes, outputs, and indicators, Applicants set **milestones** to divide the project into distinct implementation phases. For information on how to work with milestones in the application form, see Chapter **5. Preparing the Project Proposal**, in the **Guide**.



[3] For a detailed explanation of the indicators and how to demonstrate them, see **Annex 1: Indicator Library**.

2.3 Outcomes and outputs

The EEA Civil Society Fund in the Czech Republic focuses primarily on achieving concrete social change and measurable results. The programme has a clearly defined framework of outcomes and outputs that determines which activities and projects are eligible for support. When evaluating grant applications, one of the key assessment criteria is whether and to what extent the project contributes to achieving the expected outcomes and outputs established for each area of support.

Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened

The outcome addresses the growing erosion of democratic participation, public trust, and social cohesion in the Czech Republic. Increasing polarization, disinformation, exclusion from decision-making processes, and declining confidence in democratic institutions weaken the resilience of society and limit meaningful civic engagement, particularly among disadvantaged and underrepresented groups. At the same time, independent media, civil society actors, and local communities face structural barriers that reduce their capacity to contribute effectively to democratic governance and informed public debate.

The goal is a more inclusive, participatory, and resilient democratic environment in which civil society, communities, and independent media play an active role in shaping public discourse and decision-making. The aim is to strengthen democratic values, civic engagement, information integrity, and public accountability, while improving media and digital literacy and ensuring broader participation in public life across all regions and communities.

Output 1.1: CSO participation in democratic processes increased

Key needs and challenges to be addressed

Current democratic processes face systemic barriers that hinder the effective involvement of civil society in decision-making. Public administration often lacks **mechanisms for open participation and does not systematically utilize civil society organisations as intermediaries between the state and citizens.** A fundamental problem is the **neglect of the expertise and data of organisations**, including Roma organisations, in the legislative process. This situation is exacerbated by low mutual trust and insufficient knowledge of how institutions function. Furthermore, participation is often perceived by public administration and political representatives as an ineffective burden or a disruption of established procedures, which leads to **resistance to deeper public involvement in the management of public affairs**.

Expected results

Our goal is to **increase the participation of civil society organisations in democratic processes, strengthen the voice of citizens, and contribute to greater transparency in decision-making**. Support will focus on educating citizens and public officials about the role and functioning of the state and the opportunities for civil society organisations to participate in democratic processes at the local, regional, and national levels. We will support cooperation between civil society organisations and **public administration, as well as advocacy activities**. Another goal is for public administration to make **greater use of the data, expertise, and experience of civil society organisations** and to strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation in addressing specific issues.

Output 1.2: Civic engagement increased

Key needs and challenges to be addressed

Civic life in the Czech Republic is hampered by growing **social divisions, low trust in government agencies, and a lack of interest on the part of political representatives in community development**. Furthermore, many people are unsure of how to effectively engage in public affairs, and the **potential of volunteers and expert organisations remains untapped**. A major challenge is the low participation of the Roma community, women, young people, and other groups in collective decision-making. Civil society organisations themselves are often isolated and struggle to attract a new generation. These problems are most evident in under-served geographic areas, where limited access to resources and opportunities deepens skepticism and the feeling that the voices of ordinary citizens do not matter.

Expected results

The primary objective is to **develop and empower active citizens and communities, while simultaneously increasing the interest of political representatives and local governments** in this field, including their active involvement in community development. We will support education on civic engagement and the various ways people can get involved in the work of civil society organisations and their own communities. The goal is also to strengthen volunteering and pro bono services for civil society organisations and to promote the increased participation of women, Roma men and women, and other minorities, including young people and migrants.

Output 1.3: Information integrity and media literacy increased

Key needs and challenges to be addressed

The media landscape in the Czech Republic is facing instability, exacerbated by **political challenges to public service media and a critical lack of support for regional newsrooms**. Independent journalists face pressure from strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP), which are intended to silence criticism. Society as a whole is **vulnerable to disinformation and hate speech**, which **reinforces polarisation and prejudice** against minorities, including the Roma and LGBTIQ+ communities. The state's resilience is also weakened by low digital literacy and a lack of skills for safe internet use. Furthermore, rapid digital transformation without accompanying measures widens the gap between people and leads to the e**xclusion of groups in vulnerable situations** who are unable to effectively use the government's digital services.

Expected results

The priority in this area is **media and digital literacy education for citizens**. The goal is not only to combat myths and prejudices against disadvantaged groups (the Roma communities, migrants, arrivals from Ukraine, LGBTIQ+ people, etc.), but above all to systematically strengthen media and digital literacy in society so that it becomes stronger and more resilient to disinformation. We will also support projects that specifically **target groups in vulnerable situations, promote the use of government online services, and thereby foster digital inclusion.** Media projects may also address the issue of strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP) and focus on strengthening and developing Roma and regional media.

Outcome 2: Human Rights strengthened

This outcome area addresses persistent inequalities, discrimination, and gaps in access to rights, services, and opportunities that undermine social justice and democratic inclusion in Czechia. Structural barriers continue to affect vulnerable and marginalized groups, including Roma communities, women, LGBTIQ+ people, migrants and newcomers from Ukraine, young adults leaving institutional care, informal caregivers, and people experiencing mental health or social exclusion challenges. These issues are compounded by chronic underfunding, limited political support, rising polarization and disinformation, and insufficient preventive and community-based services.

The goal is a more inclusive and rights-based society in which vulnerable groups have equal access to protection, participation, and opportunities, and are empowered to actively shape public life and decision-making. The outcome seeks to strengthen human rights, gender equality, social justice, and environmental participation through greater public engagement, stronger advocacy and accountability mechanisms, improved support systems and services, and increased societal resilience against discrimination, exclusion, and harmful stereotypes.

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

Key needs and challenges to be addressed

The protection of human rights and social justice in the Czech Republic is hampered by **shortcomings in systemic support and prevention**, which particularly affect groups in vulnerable situations such as caregivers, people with a history of addiction, and young adults. Capacities of key services in the areas of **mental health and social housing** are critically limited, which exacerbates the persistent social exclusion of Roma communities in terms of access to education and decision-making processes. **Barriers to the integration of refugees from Ukraine**, who face a lack of housing and difficulties in finding work commensurate with their qualifications, pose a significant challenge. Moreover, these human rights issues are compounded by chronic **underfunding and societal prejudices**. The overall situation is exacerbated by growing societal fatigue from crises and the spread of disinformation, which undermine the legitimacy of organisations defending the rights of these disadvantaged groups.

Expected results

The primary objective is to ensure the **protection of human rights and equal access to legal protection and fundamental rights for all groups in vulnerable situations**. Our support will also focus on addressing the social exclusion of Roma communities, their lower levels of participation, and unequal access to education, as well as improving the status and living conditions of people from Ukraine and other migrants. We will also support projects that address the insufficient systemic support for groups in vulnerable situations and focus on preventive measures, increasing the availability and accessibility of services, and improving the quality of the services themselves.

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

Key needs and challenges to be addressed

Organisations advocating for **gender equality and the rights of LGBTIQ+ people in the Czech Republic face chronic underfunding and political pressures** that stigmatise their work and undermine public discourse. Despite majority support from society, systemic changes face a lack of political will, as evidenced by the **absence of legislation** on marriage equality and the unratified Istanbul Convention. In gender equality rankings, the Czech Republic lags behind the rest of the EU, which most severely impacts groups in vulnerable situations such as Roma women and single mothers. **Gender-based violence** is one of the most striking manifestations of gender inequality. Key challenges in this area include **a lack of relevant data, insufficient development of prevention measures, and a critical shortage of specialised services for victims**, particularly in regional areas. Within the programme, the issue of **sexual and reproductive health and rights** is also closely linked to gender equality issues, since the right to make decisions about one's own body is a fundamental prerequisite for the equal status of women and LGBTIQ+ people in society.

Expected results

The main objective is to strengthen political and social **support for gender equality, including sexual and reproductive health and the human rights of LGBTIQ+ individuals.** We will support projects that build on **cooperation between public administration, business, academia, and the media in these areas, as well as the advocacy work of civil society organisations**. We also place an emphasis on combating extremism rooted in gender-based prejudice, supporting women's participation in democratic processes, and **improving the social status and living conditions of LGBTIQ+ people**.

We will also focus on preventing and countering all forms of gender-based violence and the general rise of violence in society, the development of services for victims and programs for perpetrators. The emphasis is on ensuring that projects do not merely address the consequences, but focus on **systemic change, advocacy, and empowerment** so that these communities can have a **stronger voice in Czech society**.

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

Key needs and challenges to be addressed

Czech climate advocacy faces chronic underfunding. Public mobilization is hindered by **limited media attention and the delegitimization of environmental issues by political actors**. A key challenge is the lack of expert capacity in the regions and the **prioritization of local issues over long-term climate protection**. Furthermore, the uneven distribution of the costs of the green transition increases the risk of **energy poverty**, which, combined with a lack of intergenerational dialogue among activists, complicates a just transition to **sustainability**.

Expected results

The main objective is to **raise public awareness and engagement, and to strengthen cooperation between civil society organisations, public administration, business, academia, and the media in the field of environmental protection and climate change**. We will support projects that educate and involve citizens, popularise environmental issues, and contribute to addressing the impacts of the climate crisis.

A priority is a **just green transition**, such as promoting measures against energy poverty, strengthening environmental initiatives in the regions, fostering intergenerational dialogue, and **mitigating impacts on disadvantaged groups**.

Outcome 3: CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened

This outcome addresses insufficient, non-systemic funding that has long weakened the institutional capacities of Czech civil society organisations, limiting their strategic growth, digitalization, and professional human resources management while increasing burnout risks for leaders. This situation is exacerbated by low public awareness and a lack of impact data, which undermines the sector's legitimacy.

To address these challenges, support is directed toward strengthening internal stability, professionalization, cybersecurity, and employee well-being to build a more resilient and sustainable civil society sector. Ultimately, the goal is a more agile civil society, empowered by effective data use and robust networks that can successfully defend democratic values and participate in public policy-making, even within adverse or polarized environments.

Output 3.1: Organisational development supported

Key needs and challenges to be addressed

The civil society sector in the Czech Republic is grappling with long-term financial uncertainty and complex bureaucracy, forcing organisations to focus on **short-term survival rather than strategic development**. A lack of resources is reflected in outdated technology, poor cybersecurity, and an overall **digital debt**. People are facing burnout and fatigue from the crises of recent years, while the **sector is aging and failing to sufficiently motivate the younger generation or systematically utilise expert volunteers**. Furthermore, organisations often lack key skills in fundraising, PR, and data analysis. This prevents them from effectively measuring and communicating their impact, leading to low public awareness of their true significance and making it difficult to build a stable base of Donors and supporters.

Expected results

The primary objective is to strengthen the **internal capacities of civil society organisations, for example, in the areas of strategy, management, fundraising, communication, and digitalisation.** Priority will be given to **human resources development, the sustainability of organisational leadership, and the well-being of their employees**. We will also support education and the development of knowledge, skills, and know-how, as well as community building and the involvement of volunteers and experts in the work of civil society. Last but not least, we will support **umbrella organisations and civil society networks** that have a systemic collective impact.

Output 3.2: An enabling environment for civil society supported

Key needs and challenges to be addressed

The civil society sector in the Czech Republic faces **growing pressure from populist politicians who question the role of independent organisations in protecting human rights and democracy**. The situation is exacerbated by social polarisation and disinformation, which undermine public trust in the value of civic engagement. Moreover, the organisations themselves often do not view the protection of democratic principles as part of their core mission and lack the data to convincingly demonstrate their impact. **A critical problem is the lack of stable funding for umbrella networks and platforms, which leads to the isolation of regional associations from national developments**. The sector as a whole then lacks the capacity to conduct effective dialogue with policymakers, the media, and the business community, which limits its ability to advance shared interests and defend democratic space from further erosion.

Expected results

In this area, we will emphasise **defending the civic sector against attacks by populists and maintaining a favorable environment for the work of organisations**. We will focus on connecting organisations at national, regional, and local levels, developing cooperation between the civic sector, public administration, business, and the media, and increasing awareness of civil society's role in promoting democratic principles among the public, media, Donors, and the employees of civic organisations themselves**. A priority will also be increasing the use of data and research in organisational communication**.

2.4 Country-specific focus areas of the Civil Society Fund programme

The EEA Civil Society Fund in the Czech Republic focuses on three country-specifics focus areas, which are:

- **Addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine**

Project activities focused on the integration and support of those arriving as a result of the invasion of Ukraine, as well as projects in the field of information integrity that combat disinformation related to the invasion of Ukraine. Support is targeted at projects implemented in the Czech Republic.

- **Inclusion and empowerment of Roma, including support for Roma-led organisations and Roma women and girls**

The programme also focuses on supporting **Roma-led organisations** in which Roma are directly involved in decision-making and leadership positions, and for **Roma-based organisations**. The main goal of this support is to empower these organisations and their leaders to become active and confident actors who defend the interests of their communities, support Roma women and girls, participate in decision-making processes, and combat antigypsyism.

- **Countering gender-based violence**

The main objective of the support is **countering gender-based violence and to empower women and girls, as well as other groups in vulnerable situations**, and to promote systemic changes in the areas of prevention, victim protection, and prosecution of perpetrators. The programme aims to create conditions in which groups in vulnerable situations can safely exercise their rights, participate in decision-making processes, and are not exposed to gender stereotypes and extremism.

In addition to these country-specific focus areas, the Civil Society Fund also facilitates access to funding for CSOs in regions, especially in under-served geographic areas.

We focus on supporting organisations operating in regions, particularly those facing long-term socioeconomic challenges. These are typically areas with limited access to opportunities, higher unemployment rates, and specific social needs within local communities.

2.5 Capacity building

A key priority of the EEA Civil Society Fund is to develop the **long-term sustainability and capacity of the civil society sector** in the Czech Republic.

A mandatory part of every application for project grants focusing on **Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened** and **Outcome 2: Human Rights strengthened** is to **allocate 5–10% of the requested grant amount to activities focused on the own development and sustainability** of the Project Promoter or Project Partner. A Project Partner may only draw on this item if it is itself a civil society organisation as defined in Chapter 3.1 Eligible Applicants of this Call.

Such activities include, for example, strategic planning, digital transformation, cybersecurity, or employee well-being and training. Examples of such measures for strengthening organisational capacities can be found in the **Guide** in Chapter **2.6 Supported activities**.

While the capacity component is complementary to projects focusing on Outcomes 1 and 2, **Outcome 3: Strengthened CSOs promoting democracy, the rule of law, and human rights** focuses on capacity building and organisational development to its full extent.

2.6 Types of project grants

Under this **call for proposals,** you may apply for one of the **grant types** listed below. For each grant type, an overview of relevant programme indicators is provided. Select those that best align with your **activities** and set **target values** for them. If your application is approved, these values will become binding **contracted targets**, and you will be required to **report on their progress** regularly.

The project must aim to achieve a single outcome (or, in the case of a bilateral partnership, a bilateral outcome) through selected outputs with specific target values for selected indicators.

Detailed explanations of the indicators and illustrative list of **sources of verification** can be found in **Annex 1: Indicator Library**, which is also available on the programme website.

An overview of the outcomes and outputs applicable to the Project grants can be found in Table 1 at the end of this call for proposals.

General project grant

It is intended for general project grants focused on **democratic values**, civic **engagement, information integrity, media literacy, protection of human rights and just green transition.**The aim of this type of grant is to enable organisations to develop existing practices, introduce innovative approaches, and carry out sustainable activities in the areas of democracy, human rights, and civic engagement.

Call allocation	€3,100,000
Estimated number of project supported	31–47
Project duration	18, 24 or 36 months
Start date of project implementation	January or April 2027
Grant amount per project	€25,001–€100,000

Overview of indicators by selected output:

Outcomes and Outputs	Code	Indicator	Disaggregation[4]
Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened	**CIV-001**	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	N/A
	CIV-002	Number of local laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	N/A
Output 1.1: CSO participation in democratic processes increased	**CIV-004**	Number of CSOs participating in consultations with a public institution	Roma-led and Roma-based
	CIV-016	Number of policy advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
Output 1.2: Civic engagement increased	**CIV-010**	Number of people engaged in CSO activities as volunteers	Roma
	CIV-007a	Number of people who completed a CSO-led training courses on civic engagement and/or community building	Roma
	CZE-001	Number of politicians and officials of public administration who participated in CSO-led training courses [on civic engagement and/or community building]	N/A
Output 1.3: Information integrity and media literacy increased	**CIV-007**	Number of people who participated in CSO-led training courses	N/A
	CIV-007b	Number of people who completed a CSO-led training courses [on digital literacy]	N/A
	LOC-011	Number of local or community-based media outlets supported	Roma-led and Roma-based
	CIV-015	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	Roma
	CZE-002	Number of identified and/or reported SLAPPs against CSOs/media	N/A
Outcome 2: Human rights strengthened	**CIV-001**	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	N/A
	CIV-002	Number of local laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	N/A
Output 2.1: Human rights, including	**CIV-015**	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A

[4] Disaggregation means that you divide the overall target figure into the specific subgroups listed under your selected indicator. This allows you to accurately demonstrate who received the support.

Outcomes and Outputs	Code	Indicator	Disaggregation[4]
anti-discrimination, and social justice supported	**CIV-016**	Number of policy advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-018	Number of strategic litigation cases initiated by the supported CSOs	Roma
	CIV-020	Number of human rights violations documented and reported by supported CSOs	Roma women
	VAL-010	Number of activities, services, and measures to improve living conditions and access to services for groups in vulnerable situations.	N/A
Output 2.2: Gender equality, including SRHR, and LGBTIQ+ rights supported	**CIV-015**	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-016	Number of policy advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-007	Number of people who completed a CSO-led training courses	N/A
	CIV-018	Number of strategic litigation cases initiated by the supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-021	Number of cases of survivors of human rights violations protected and/or supported	N/A
Output 2.3: Climate action, environmental protection, and a just green transition supported	**CIV-004**	Number of CSOs participating in consultations with a public institution	N/A
	CIV-007	Number of people who participated in CSO-led training courses	N/A
	CIV-015	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-016	Number of policy advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-018	Number of strategic litigation cases initiated by the supported CSOs	N/A

Project grant on organisational development

These grants are intended for projects focused on the internal development and stability of organisations – helping them become more professional, focused on digitalisation, financially stable, and supported by a stronger base of supporters.
This support is designed for CSOs that want to take a step back and invest in themselves so they can operate more effectively, professionally, and sustainably in the future.

Call allocation	€1,160,000
Estimated number of project supported	15–22
Project duration	18 or 24 months
Start date of project implementation	January or April 2027
Grant amount per project	€25,001–€80,000

Overview of indicators by selected output:

Outcomes and Outputs	Code	Indicator	Disaggregation
Outcome 3: CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights strengthened	**CIV-001**	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	N/A
	CIV-002	Number of local laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	N/A
	CIV-035	Number of supported CSOs with improved overall organisational strength	N/A
Output 3.1: Organisational development supported	**CIV-036**	Number of supported CSOs with a new or improved organisational policy [on sustainability]	Roma-led and Roma-based
	CIV-040	Number of CSO staff who have completed a training course	N/A
	CIV-037	Number of supported CSOs with upgraded IT systems	N/A
Output 3.2 An enabling environment for civil society supported	**CZE-003**	Number of communication initiatives and/or events of supported CSOs presenting data and/or analysis	Roma-led and Roma-based
	CIV-015	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-016	Number of policy advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
	CZE-004	Number of initiatives of supported CSOs on promoting the principles of democracy	N/A

Project grant focusing on empowerment of Roma

This grant is intended for projects, which focus on the inclusion, empowerment, and participation of the Roma communities , with an emphasis on Roma women and girls. This call for proposals is primarily intended for Roma and pro-Roma organisations that focus on combating discrimination, desegregation, and building a new generation of Roma leaders. The grant thus directs support toward organisations that strive to increase the involvement of Roma women and men in decision-making processes, combat prejudice and myths, and promote equal access to human rights and education.

Call allocation	€1,100,000
Estimated number of projects supported	11-17
Project duration	18, 24 or 36 months
Approximate start date of project implementation	January or April 2027
Grant amount per project	€25,001-€100,000

Overview of indicators by selected output:

Outcomes and Outputs	Code	Indicator	Disaggregation
Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened	**CIV-001**	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	N/A
	CIV-002	Number of local laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	N/A
Output 1.1: CSO participation in democratic processes increased	**CIV-004**	Number of CSOs participating in consultations with a public institution	Roma-led and Roma-based
	CIV-016	Number of policy advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
Output 1.2: Civic engagement increased	**CIV-010**	Number of people engaged in CSO activities as volunteers	Roma
	CIV-007a	Number of people who completed a CSO-led training courses on civic engagement and/or community building	Roma
	CZE-001	Number of politicians and /officials of public administration trained / who participated in CSO-led training courses [on civic engagement and/or community building]	N/A
Output 1.3: Information integrity and media literacy increased	**CIV-007**	Number of people who participated in CSO-led training courses	N/A
	CIV-007b	Number of people who participated in CSO-led training courses [on digital literacy]	N/A
	LOC-011	Number of local or community-based media outlets supported	Roma-led and Roma-based
	CIV-015	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	Roma
	CZE-002	Number of identified and/or /reported SLAPPs against CSOs/media?	N/A
Outcome 2: Human rights strengthened	**CIV-001**	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	N/A
	CIV-002	Number of local laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	N/A

Outcomes and Outputs	Code	Indicator	Disaggregation
Output 2.1: Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported	**CIV-015**	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-016	Number of policy advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-018	Number of strategic litigation cases initiated by the supported CSOs	Roma
	CIV-020	Number of human rights violations documented and reported by supported CSOs	Roma women
	VAL-010	Number of activities, services, and measures to improve living conditions and access to services for groups in vulnerable situations	N/A
Output 2.2: Gender equality, including SRHR, and LGBTIQ+ rights supported	**CIV-015**	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-016	Number of policy advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-007	Number of people who participated in CSO-led training courses	N/A
	CIV-018	Number of strategic litigation cases initiated by the supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-021	Number of cases of survivors of human rights violations protected and/or supported	N/A

Project grant on addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine

Support is targeted at organisations that strive to increase the involvement of arrivals from Ukraine in social activities, combat disinformation related to the invasion, and promote equal access to human rights, decent housing, and education. Support is targeted at projects implemented in the Czech Republic.

Call allocation	€600,000
Estimated number of projects supported	6–10
Project duration	18, 24 or 36 months
Approximate start date of project implementation	January or April 2027
Grant amount per project	€25,001–€100,000

Overview of indicators by selected output:

Outcomes and Outputs	Code	Indicator	Disaggregation
Outcome 2: Human rights strengthened	**CIV-001**	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	N/A
	CIV-002	Number of local laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	N/A
Output 2.1: Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported	**CIV-015**	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-016	Number of policy advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-018	Number of strategic litigation cases initiated by the supported CSOs	Roma
	CIV-020	Number of human rights violations documented and reported by supported CSOs	Roma women
	VAL-010	Number of activities, services, and measures to improve living conditions and access to services for groups in vulnerable situations	N/A

2.7 Bilateral cooperation

If the Applicant submits a project in cooperation with a Project partner from one of the Donor States, it fulfills not only the thematic Outcome 1-3 but also the **Bilateral Outcome: Strengthened bilateral cooperation between civil societies**, which involves **strengthened cooperation between organisations in the Czech republic and organisations in Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway**.

The achievement of the projects' objectives will be tracked through **the bilateral survey** completed by the Project Promoter at the end of the project. **See Amendment 1: Indicators Library.** If your primary goal is an initiative with one of the Donor States, consider applying for a grant under the ongoing **Call for bilateral initiatives**. You can find the details directly in the text of the call.

2.8 Target groups

Main target groups of the programme:

- **Civil society organisations**
  - **that focus on the programme's areas;**
  - **led by Roma women and men;**
  - **small and regional;**
  - **networks** (platforms, associations, coalitions).

Final beneficiaries of support:

- **Disadvantaged groups and groups working to promote their rights**
  - **Roma women and men;**
  - **migrants**, with a current focus on those arriving as a **result of the invasion of Ukraine;**
  - **LGBTIQ+ people;**
  - **girls and women;**
  - **groups at risk of violence and gender-based violence;**
  - **groups from under-served geographic areas;**
  - **groups in vulnerable situations**: seniors, people at risk of poverty and the climate crisis, children from vulnerable families, and people with disabilities;
  - **young people.**
- **Staff, board members, and volunteers.**

Indirect target groups:

- **public administration actors and politicians** : state and municipal officials, policymakers
- **media and journalists**: media outlets, journalists
- **the general public**: citizens, the community, community leaders, the private sector, and employees.

2.9 Supported activities

You are not limited by the programme in your choice of project activities. It is important that you choose activities that are relevant, realistic, and feasible for you or your Project Partner.

Here are examples of supported activities under the EEA Civil Society Fund. Other possible activities can be found in the **Guide** in Chapter **2.6 Supported activities**.

Advocacy, watchdog, and legislative activities

- advocacy and lobbying activities;
- watchdog activities and monitoring of policy development and implementation;
- strategic litigation.

Public Participation and Policy-making

- engaging the public in decision-making processes and public policy development;
- strategic planning and planning processes with the public;
- tools and processes for the participation of disadvantaged groups in decision-making.

Research, Analysis, and Data

- surveys, studies, research, and analyses assessing the current state of affairs;
- needs assessments and proposals for optimal solutions;
- social innovation and the development of social entrepreneurship.

Education, Mentoring, and Awareness-Raising

- consultations, mentoring, and education;
- civic education and professional training;
- education of employees.

Communication, campaigns, and PR

- PR activities and campaigns to support advocacy work and systemic change;
- campaigns to strengthen civic participation, promote human rights, and combat discrimination;
- activities that strengthen the legitimacy and credibility of civil society organisations.

Developing and strengthening internal capacities

- strategic planning, leadership development;
- financial sustainability and fundraising;
- monitoring and evaluation processes.

The aim of these grants is **not to fund social services** as such, but primarily advocacy activities, Roma empowerment and those arriving as a result of the invasion of Ukraine to participate, monitoring human rights violations, and promoting systemic change at all levels. Social services may be supported only if they are necessary for enhancing advocacy, community participation, and/or civic engagement.

2.10 Project Timeline

Depending on the type of grant, you have the option to implement a project lasting **18, 24, or 36 months**, primarily based on the needs and timeline of your planned activities. Define the ideal duration so that the project is not unnecessarily "dragged out" (for cost-effectiveness), but at the same time provides sufficient time for the planned change to become a reality and be sustainable.

The project schedule is linked to specific **milestones** that serve as indicators of ongoing progress. While the schedule provides the project with a timeline, milestones give it substantive content. Their fulfilment is essential to achieving the project's objectives, which will be tracked during the monitoring process.

In the project grant application form, you specify a total of **3-5 milestones**, regardless of the project's duration.

3. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND PROJECT PARTNERS

All Applicants and Project Partners must respect the common values **for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities**—and act in accordance with the fundamental rights and obligations enshrined in relevant instruments and standards.

3.1 Eligible Applicants

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 the Czech Republic**, which meet the condition of **two years from the date of registration** of the organisation by the deadline for the call, and fall within the following definition:

A non-profit organisation with a non-commercial purpose, independent of local, regional and central government, public entities, political parties and commercial organisations.

Eligible Applicants for grants are CSOs that are registered as:

- **Association (Spolek);**
- **Institute (Zapsaný ústav);**
- **Public Benefit Corporation (Obecně prospěšná společnost);**
- **Foundation and endowment fund (Nadace a nadační fond);**
- **Interest association of legal entities (Zájmová sdružení právnických osob);**
- **Legal entity established by a registered church or religious society (charities)** under the Act No. 3/2002 Coll. on Freedom of Religion and the Status of Churches and Religious Societies (**Účelové zařízení registrované církve a náboženské společnosti**). These entities are eligible provided that they comply with the above values and principles and if the activities funded do not directly or indirectly promote religious doctrine, mission, or proselytism related to a specific faith (beyond basic religious or cultural awareness raising).

Religious institutions and political parties, social partners, informal groups or profit-distributing entities are not eligible Applicants.

For more information on Applicant eligibility, please refer to the **Guide** in Chapter **4. Eligibility of Applicant and Project Partners**.

3.2 Eligible Project Partners

Projects may be implemented in partnership with Project Partners. Project Partners must be **actively involved** in the project and **contribute effectively** to its implementation. The following entities are eligible to be Project Partners:

- Any **public or private entity**, commercial or non-commercial, as well as CSOs, established as a legal person either in the **Donor States**[5] or **Beneficiary States**[6];
- An international **intergovernmental organisation**[7] or body or agency thereof;
- **Informal, ad hoc and self-help organisations**, including "grassroots" organisations that are not registered legal entities (hereinafter referred to as "informal groups"). An informal group acts exclusively for the public interest, is voluntary and non-discriminatory, is independent of public administration, political parties, religious institutions, or commercial organisations, and is not established for profit. **An informal group cannot be a financial partner**. Organisations whose members of **informal groups must be legal residents** or be based in either the **Donor or Beneficiary States** and must be represented by a person with legal residence in the Czech Republic who signs the partnership agreement on behalf of the group.

Within the EEA Civil Society Fund, projects that plan to cooperate with partners from individual Donor States are welcome. Mutual contact and cooperation are facilitated by contact organisations in Donor States. Links to these organisations can be found on the programme website in the Bilateral fund section.

Two types of partnership

Project Partners may participate as financial or non-financial partners. An organisation may also be a non-financial Project Partner in any number of projects, even within a single grant round. **In the case of financial partners, a maximum of 3 partners may be involved**, provided that the maximum grant amount available under the programme is not exceeded. The total amount of funding for a single organisation under the entire programme may not exceed **€150,000**, regardless of whether it acts as a beneficiary or a financial partner. An exception is made for project grants on systemic change, where the limit is increased to **€200,000**. Support received from the funds for bilateral relations and from small project emergency grants is not included in these limits. There is no limit on the number of non-financial partners in funded projects.

For projects implemented with financial partners, it is expected that the Applicant organisation will be the recipient of the majority share of the grant.

1. **Financial partnership** – This type of Project Partner receives part of the grant via the Project Promoter for the implementation of substantive project activities based on a **Partnership Agreement**.
2. **Non-financial partnership** – This Project Partner participates in activities (e.g., consultations, expert guarantee) but receives no financial contribution for its participation.

There is no limit on the duration of registration of a Project Partner.

For more information on partnerships, see the **Guide** in Chapter **4.2.1 Partnership Conditions**.

[5] Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.
[6] Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.
[7] International intergovernmental organisations are those with international membership, scope, or presence (intergovernmental organisations established by treaty or international NGOs such as the ICRC or MSF) with presence or registration in the Czech Republic, Donor States, or Beneficiary States.

4. PROJECT CONDITIONS

Detailed rules on financing and eligibility are described in the **Guide** in Chapter **10. Financial management**.

4.1 Co-financing

The grant rate of the project is 100%; co-financing is not required.

4.2 Eligible expenditure

Detailed rules on eligible expenditure are described in the Guide for Applicants and Project Promoters.
The following Simplified Cost Options **are made available** in this call:

- **Lump sum**: When reporting using the lump-sum method, you will not submit any financial documents, but you will provide evidence that you have achieved the milestones you set.
- **Flat rate**: When reporting costs using the flat-rate method, you will report only direct costs. Indirect costs amounting to **7%** are then automatically calculated from the total amount of eligible direct costs, and you do not need to provide any further documentation for these costs.

Specific provisions on establishing the amounts to be used via flat rates, and lump sums shall be determined in the project contract. **Unit cost and other types of flat rates are not available in this call**. For further information, please consult the Guide for Applicants and Project Promoters.

Expenditures are eligible if they are **declared during the period between the first and last day of project implementation** (the project implementation period is specified in the grant agreement and corresponds to the eligibility period).

The Applicant shall submit a project budget via the eGrant online database. Please note that the inclusion of an expenditure item in a project budget approved by the Fund Operator shall not be considered as confirmation of the eligibility of that expenditure item.

4.3 Payment of the grant

The grant will be paid in installments defined in the project contract. The payment model is based on project duration.

Project duration	**Advance payment** (up to 10 working days after the signature date of the project contract unless a later date has been set in the project contract.)	**Interim payments** (up to 10 working days of the approval of interim narrative and financial report)	**Final payment – retained amount** (up to 10 working days after the date of approval of the final narrative report and final financial report)
18 and 24 months	**up to 60%**	**up to 30%** (**one** interim payment)	**remaining amount**
36 months	**up to 40%**	**up to 50%** (25% for each of **two** interim payments)	**remaining amount**

The advance payment is used to pre-finance the initial costs of the project. All interim and final payments are conditional to approval of the **narrative and financial interim/final reports**, which must be submitted every 12 months during the project's implementation.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE, ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

The evaluation of project applications reflects the principles of the programme: it is transparent and does not tolerate any manifestations of corruption.

During the review of administrative and eligibility criteria and substantive evaluation of an application, there must be no conflict of interest between the evaluator and the Applicant. All evaluators and members of the Selection Committee are bound by **Code of Ethics** a **Declaration of no conflict of interest**, in which they declare the objectivity of their evaluation and exclude any conflict of interest.

5.1 Review of administrative and eligibility criteria

The review of administrative and eligibility criteria serves as the first and most critical screening step in the evaluation process of a grant application.

These are **objectively verifiable requirements** that an application must meet in order to proceed to the substantive evaluation. Verification of these criteria is based on clearly identifiable facts and does not involve an assessment of the substantive content or quality of the project itself. A list of these requirements can be found in Chapter 7. Checklist.

The OSF Czechia and OHF consortium will begin reviewing these criterias on the working day following the call's deadline and will complete the review no later than **10 working days** after the deadline.

The consortium will inform the Applicant of the result of the review of administrative and eligibility criteria (i.e., whether the application has advanced to the expert evaluation phase or has been excluded from further evaluation, stating the reasons for the rejection) no later than **20 working days** after the call closes.

If the Consortium excludes an application from further evaluation due to failure to meet administrative, elimination and eligibility criteria, the Applicant has the option to file a written **appeal** and request a reconsideration of the decision within **5 working days** of being notified of the review result. The appeal is then reviewed by an independent **Complaints Committee**. The Applicant is notified by email within **5 working days** of the date the appeal is received.

Administrative criteria

An application may contain a **maximum of two fields that are not filled in with logical text**; in such a case, the organisation will be asked to correct the error. Logical text in a grant application refers to a continuous textual statement (in complete sentences) that directly and clearly answers the question posed. If there are more fields left unfilled in this manner, the application will be excluded from the evaluation process.

If a partner organization is involved, a **Partnership Declaration** must be included.

The Applicant will have 3 working days (3x24 hours) from the day that the request was submitted to make the correction of the abovementioned criteria.

The eGrant system automatically verifies the accuracy of other administrative criteria and will not allow an application with incorrect values to be submitted:

- The requested grant amount is within €25,001 to €100,000 (for Outcomes 1 and 2) or from €25,001 to €80,000 (for Outcome 3).
- The project duration is 18, 24, or 36 months (18 or 24 months for project grants for organisational development).
- 5–10% of the requested grant is allocated to capacity building (applies to outcomes 1 and 2).

Elimination and eligibility criteria

An application is automatically rejected if it meets any of the disqualification criteria, which include **missing the deadline, submitting the application outside the eGrant system, completing the application in a language other than Czech, or failing to meet the eligibility criteria for the Applicant or Project Partner.**

Applicants may submit **only one application** in this call for proposals. If an Applicant submits more than one grant application via eGrant, **only the first application received will be accepted for evaluation**. Other applications will be automatically **excluded from further evaluation**.

The eligibility criteria and elimination criteria, cannot be supplemented by the Applicant after the deadline, and failure to meet even one of these criteria results in the automatic exclusion of the application from further evaluation.

5.2 Content evaluation

Applications that meet the administrative, eligibility criteria and elimination criteria will be assessed by at least **two impartial experts (evaluators**), who will prepare a numerical and narrative evaluation. The final score is the arithmetic mean of the scores given by both evaluators.

If the evaluations of individual evaluators differ by more than **30% from the higher score**, the project is assigned to a third evaluator. In such cases, the project's score is calculated as the **arithmetic mean of the two evaluations whose scores are closest**. Evaluation by a third evaluator is not required if even the highest possible score from the third evaluator would not be sufficient to reach the minimum threshold.

Evaluation criteria and additional points

The evaluation criteria provide a framework for scoring the quality of a project. Evaluators assess, in particular, **alignment with the call's focus** (relevance), the **logical coherence of activities** (coherence), the **feasibility of implementation, and the appropriateness of the budget**.

An application can receive a maximum of **100 points** in the basic evaluation. An exception is made for projects receiving bonus points, which can achieve a score of up to **115 points**.

Evaluators will recommend an application for further evaluation if it scores the minimum threshold in the basic evaluation (excluding additional points):

- **a minimum of 70 out of 100 points** in the case of a General project grant, a Project grant for capacity building, or a Project grant focused on addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine
- **a minimum of 60 out of 100 points** in the case of a Project grant focused on empowering Roma

Evaluation criteria		Max. score
1	**Project focus**	**10**
1.1	The content of the project corresponds to the objectives of the call and the focus of the selected outcome.	10
2	**Project description**	**50**
2.1	The initial situation (the problem being addressed and its causes) is described in detail. The project objectives correspond to the identified problem(s); they are SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound).	20
2.2	The activities are sufficiently described and will lead to the fulfilment of the planned milestones and selected outputs in the required quality; their selection corresponds to the project objectives and the selected result. The selected indicator(s) will be fulfilled by the planned activities and are realistic. The timetable is realistic. The possible involvement of partners or cooperating organisations is meaningful. The Applicant has identified relevant risks that could potentially jeopardize the implementation of the project and has considered measures that would be used to eliminate or mitigate these risks.	20
2.3	The target group(s) are clearly defined and sufficiently characterised; their selection corresponds to the focus of the project and the planned activities. The method and degree of involvement are chosen realistically, and the method of addressing them is adequate.	10
3	**Project budget**	**20**
3.1	(Outcomes 1 and 2) The budget is clear and comprehensible, linked to activities; it is economical and efficient, and the costs are justified. The proposed method of using the portion of the grant earmarked for organisational development is effective and contributes to the sustainability of the Applicant or Project Partner. (Outcome 3) The proposed method of using the grant for organisational development is effective and contributes to the sustainability of the Applicant or Project Partner.	20
4	**Experience of the Applicant, Project Partner, and their capacity**	**15**
4.1	The Applicant has the necessary experience in project management (taking into account the size and nature of the project).	5
4.2	The composition and size of the project implementation team correspond to the project's objectives and activities; the planned roles within the team correspond to the project's needs in terms of expertise, competencies, and experience. The Applicant and/or Project Partner has experience in implementing activities in the target community/location and has already established contacts with the target group.	10
5	**Project sustainability**	**5**
5.1	The sustainability of the project is correctly identified and justified, and the proposed activities are aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the project results.	
	Total score	**100**

Evaluation criteria		Max. score
6	**Additional points**	**15**
	Additional points for meeting the programmes focus areas If an application meets multiple criteria under sections 6.1-6.4 at the same time, the total number of additional points awarded is capped at a maximum of 10 points.	
6.1	Roma-led and Roma-based[8] organisations (applicable only to the project grant focusing on empowerment of Roma , see Chapter Project grant focusing on empowerment of Roma women and men)	**5**
	Projects focusing on the empowerment of Roma (applicable to all other project grants)	
6.2	Projects focused on challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine or involving support and integration of arrivals from Ukraine. (not applicable to projects submitted under the dedicated focus grant on addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine, see Chapter Project grant focused on addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine).	**5**
6.3	Projects focused on countering gender-based violence.	**5**
6.4	Projects implemented by organisations registered in under-served geographic areas. (Karlovy Vary, Ústí nad Labem, and Moravian-Silesian regions)	**5**
	Additional points for bilateral cooperation In the case of multiple partners per project, advantage will only be applied once.	
6.5	Projects involving Donor Project Partners - Iceland, Liechtenstein, or Norway.	**5**
	Maximum total score	**115**

Within the EEA Civil Society Fund, projects that address the programme priorities, as well as projects implemented by organizations based in structurally disadvantaged regions or involving partner organizations from the donor countries, will receive additional points during the application evaluation process.

[8] The definitions of Roma led and Roma based organizations can be found in the Guide under the "Definitions" section.

5.3 Selection Decision

The Selection Committee plays a crucial role in the evaluation process. Its composition reflects the programme's specialised focus and thematic areas; members are nominated by the OSF/OHF and selected to ensure an **expert perspective on all programme areas**. The Selection Committee assesses the application from a professional standpoint, within the context of the programme and the broader social situation.

Scores from impartial experts serve as a general guideline for the committee in ranking applications. The committee is required to review projects based on their ranking, but it has the authority to **identify any inconsistencies in the evaluation and correct them**. The Selection Committee has the right to reconsider the evaluators' opinions in cases where **the score does not correspond to the actual quality and relevance of the project**, or if a lower-ranked project is assessed as higher quality in terms of fulfilling the programme's objectives.

The Selection Committee assesses the Applicant independence, its adherence to the objective of the programme and common values 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, and the benefits of the organisation's actions and activities for the Czech civil society sector. If any non-compliance is found, the committee may reject the project.

The outcome of the Selection Committee's deliberations is a **ranking list of grant applications**, in which it recommends **projects for funding, projects for funding with modifications, projects for the reserve list, or projects for rejection**. During the evaluation, the Committee may give preference to projects addressing country-specific focus areas.

The programme's **Steering Committee** subsequently confirms the final list of proposed projects for support along with the reserve list of projects. In justified cases, it may overturn the Selection Committee's decision; however, in such cases, it must provide a justification to both the Applicant and the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO).

The list of proposed projects for support is finally approved by the Board of Trustees of the OSF Czechia or the OHF. The Applicant **cannot appeal the Board of Trustees's final decision** regarding the support or rejection of a project.

5.4 Information on evaluation results

The final list of evaluation results for accepted applications is publicly available and will be posted on the programme website and the websites of individual Consortium partners. Applicants will be informed of the evaluation results within **10 working days** of the final decision, and no later than **20 weeks** after the call deadlin

6. HOW TO APPLY

Only grant applications submitted with any required **annexes** in electronic form via the **eGrant online database** by the **deadline for this** call for proposals will be evaluated.

THE PROJECT MUST BE FORMULATED CONCISELY, CLEARLY, AND PRECISELY.

The Applicant should carefully consider the **logical structure of the project** (i.e., the sequence of needs, objectives, outputs, and activities), clearly present the **baseline situation** or **conclusions of analyses** carried out during the preparation of the project, define and quantify the **target groups** of the project, and describe the **method of implementation of the project**, including the **schedule**, detailed **budget**, **organisational arrangements**, and its **sustainability**.

The application and its annexes, if any, are to be prepared in **Czech** (except for the project title and a Partnership Declaration in the case of a foreign partner).

The application and attachments, if any, can be filled out gradually in the eGrant database; we recommend submitting the application well before the final deadline. Submitting the application at the last minute may cause difficulties due to system overload. It will not be possible to submit the application at a later date.

Applicants may submit only one application in this call for proposals. If an Applicant submits more than one grant application via eGrant, only the **first** application received will be accepted for evaluation. Other applications will be automatically excluded from further consideration.

Detailed instructions for completing the application in the eGrant database are provided in the **Guide** in Chapter **6. Submitting an application in the eGrant system.**

7. CHECKLIST

The complete **project application** must be submitted exclusively through the **eGrant online database** by filling out the appropriate form. In the case of a partnership, the application must also include a **Partnership Declaration** (in Czech or English, depending on the language of Project Partner). You can find the Partnership Declaration template on the programme website, or you can download it directly from the eGrant online database in Section 7: Attachments. Before submitting the application, use this checklist to verify that the application meets the key criteria.

The following table contains **eligibility criteria and elimination criteria,** which are of an exclusionary nature and are assessed on a **YES/NO** basis. If you answer NO to any of the points below, your application **does not meet** the basic conditions of the programme and will be automatically excluded from the further evaluation process regardless of the quality of its content. **The following criteria must be fully met.**

Eligibility criteria	The Applicant has been registered in the Czech Republic for more than 2 years.	
	The Applicant has a valid legal form.	
	Both the Applicant and the Project Partner comply with the common values 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.	
Elimination criteria	The application is completed in Czech	
	The application is submitted via the eGrant online database by the specified deadline.	

The following points constitute **administrative criteria**. These criteria are assessed as part of a review of administrative and eligibility criteria, and Applicants may be asked by the programme team to provide additional information. If these deficiencies are not addressed within the specified timeframe, the application will be excluded from the evaluation process.

Administrative criteria	A **Partnership Declaration** is attached to the application (in the case of collaboration with a Project Partner).	
	A request may contain a **maximum of 2 text fields** that are not filled with logical text; if there are more, the request will be rejected.	
	The requested grant amount is within €25,001–€100 000 (outcome 1 and 2) or €25,001–€80 000 (outcome 3).	
	The proposed implementation period (duration) is 18, 24 or 36 months.	
	5–10% of the requested grant is allocated to capacity building (applies to outcomes 1 and 2).	

We recommend that you pay attention to the following points:

The Applicant has all mandatory information up to date in the public register.	
Organisations participating in the project comply with the Children's Rights Policy And In Particular Vulnerable Adults[9].	
The Applicant complies with the definition of independence.	
Contact information is correctly filled out.	
You used the correct EUR exchange rate when creating the budget.	
The planned costs meet the eligibility criteria.	

[9] Available at https://osf.cz/en/the-open-society-funds-principles/.

8. CONTACT AND SUPPORT FOR APPLICANTS

Detailed information for Applicants on the conditions, completion, and submission of grant applications is provided in **The Guide for Applicants and Project Promoters**. Before completing the application, we recommend reading the **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** on the programme website. All current information about the programme is also published there.

8.1 Consultations

Consultations on the processing of applications are provided by email or telephone by the programme team throughout the duration of the call. Questions can be sent by email no later than 5 working days before the deadline for submitting applications **15 September 2026 at 13:00**. **Please include "Consultation on Call No. 1" in the subject line of your email.** Telephone consultations are provided on Mondays - Thursdays, but no later than 3 working days before the deadline for submitting applications.

Information webinars and open consultations

We organize information webinars for Applicants and online group consultation sessions where you can learn detailed information about the Call.
Webinar dates are going to be specified and updated on the programme's website.

8.2 Applicant support

Consortium leader
OSF Czechia
Tel.: 778 976 644
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www.osf.cz
Programme manager: Diana Soták Gregorová
Programme coordinators: Lucie Rott Beneschová; Rosa-Marie Pokorná, Markéta Ševčík

Consortium partner
The Committee of Goodwill - Olga Havel Foundation
Tel.: 605 754 826
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Programme manager: Alžběta Čechráková
Programme coordinators: Markéta Boučková, Jiří Marek

Technical support: Petr Svatoš, technickapomoc@osf.cz
Complaints Committee: podnety@osf.cz

8.3 Overview of Important Links

Civil Society Fund Programme: www.civilsocietyfund.cz
EEA and Norway Grants: https://eeagrants.org/
OSF Czechia: https://osf.cz/
Committee of Good Will – Olga Havel Foundation https://www.vdv.cz/
eGrant Online Database: https://egrant.nadaceosf.cz/

	Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law			**Outcome 2: Human Rights strengthened**			**Outcome 3: CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened**		**Bilateral Outcome**
	Output 1.1	Output 1.2	Output 1.3	Output 2.1	Output 2.2	Output 2.3	Output 3.1	Output 3.2	
General project grant	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✗	✗	✔
Project grant for capacity building	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✔	✔	✔
Project grant focusing on empowerment of Roma	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✗	✗	✗	✔
Project grant focused on addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine	✗	✗	✗	✔	✗	✗	✗	✗	✔