Iceland Liechtenstein Norway **Civil Society** Fund

| Nadace **OSF**

VDV VÝBOR DOBRÉ VŮLE Nadace Olgy Havlové

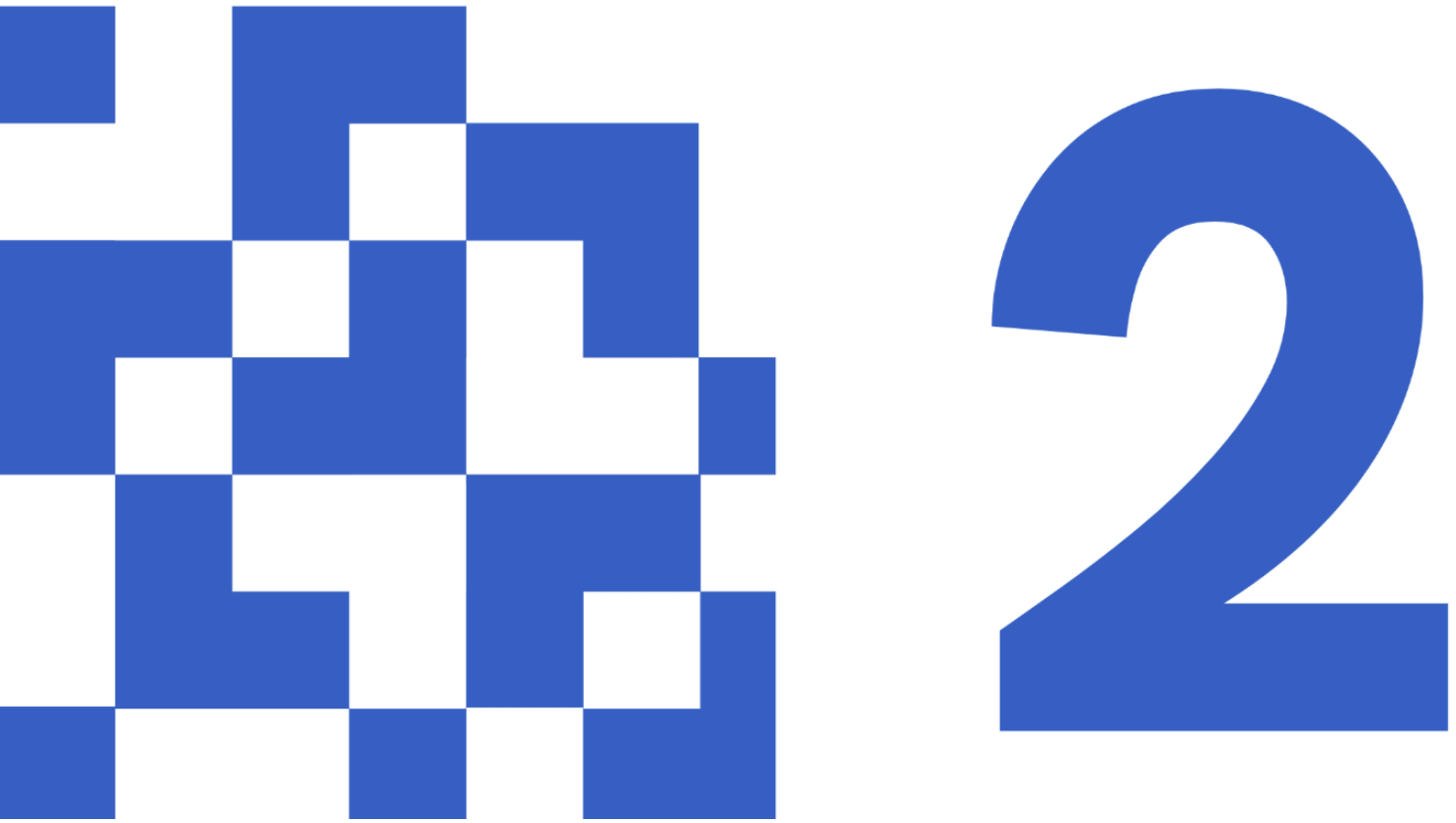
EEA Civil Society Fund

OPEN CALL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN CZECHIA

PROJECT GRANTS ON SYSTEMIC CHANGE

AVAILABLE FUNDING: €1 600 000

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 Promoter** (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: N/A • 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	€100,000–€200,000
Co-financing	Not required.
Project duration	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 2021–2028 shall be consistent with respect for these values and principles and abstain from supporting operations that may fail to do so. Their implementation shall comply with the fundamental rights and obligations enshrined in relevant standards. An overview of all open calls and other activities supported by the programme can be found on the website.

[1] Norway, Liechtenstein, Iceland.
[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 responds to the erosion of the rule of law, growing polarization, and declining trust in democratic institutions in Czechia. Public administration systematically disregards civil society expertise, disadvantaged groups — including Roma, women, and young people — remain underrepresented in public life, and the information landscape is destabilized by underfunded regional media, SLAPP lawsuits, and disinformation. Advancing digitalisation, without adequate digital literacy, risks further deepening the social exclusion of vulnerable groups.

The call therefore prioritizes **systemic and legislative changes** over ad hoc interventions. It supports **civil society as an expert stakeholder** in national decision-making, building broad strategic cross-sectoral coalitions capable of **institutionalizing participatory mechanisms**, anchoring evidence-based policymaking, and **defending democratic space** against populist pressure and disinformation in the long term.

In the area of **human rights**, the call again focuses on **structural solutions** — targeting the systemic causes of discrimination faced by Roma communities, LGBTIQ+ people, women, and newcomers from Ukraine. Strategic litigation, data-driven advocacy, and legislative reform are the primary **instruments for achieving lasting change** in areas such as gender-based violence, educational desegregation, social housing, and the just green transition.

Underpinning all three priorities is the recognition that civil society itself must be strengthened to drive these changes sustainably. The call therefore supports **initiatives that build a stable, well-funded, and publicly legitimate civil society sector** — one capable of equal, expert dialogue with political representatives and resilient enough to operate effectively even in an unfavorable or polarized environment.

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:

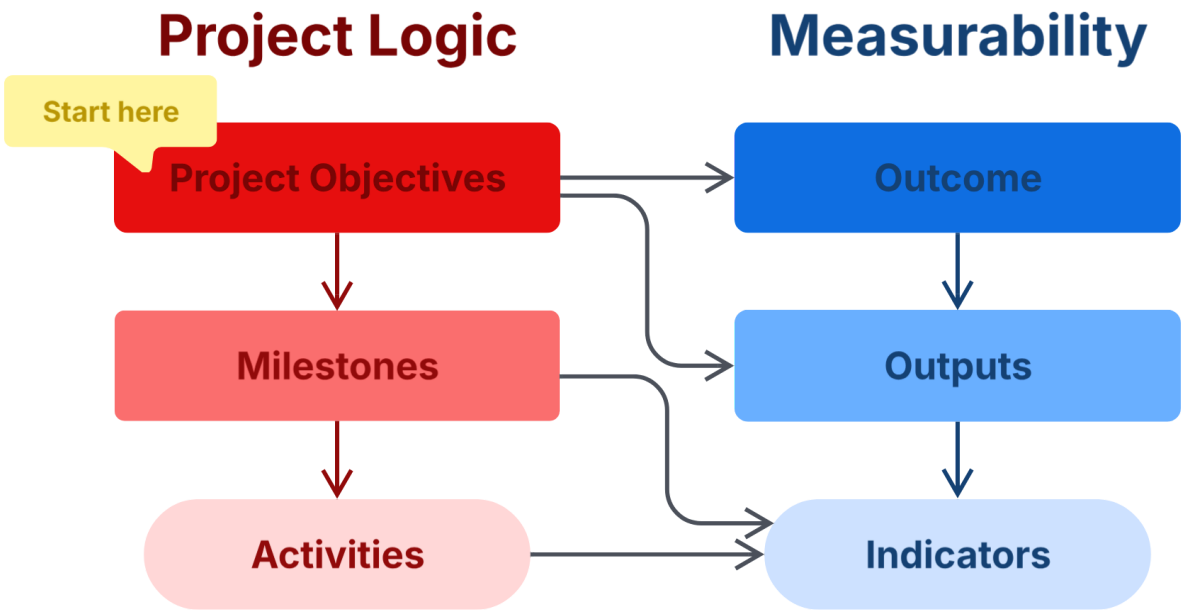
- **Outcome:** The Applicant chooses **one** of the three main programme outcomes that the project will aim to achieve.
- **Outputs**: Within the selected outcome, the applicant chooses **one or more** outputs of that outcome that they want to achieve through their project.
- **Indicators**[3]: Indicators 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).

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

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. Processing a grant application,** in the **Guide**.



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.

Consequently, the objective is to strengthen the role of CSOs as expert stakeholders who, through systematic monitoring and advocacy work, will drive lasting legislative changes to protect democracy. Support is directed toward building strategic partnerships, structurally increasing resilience to disinformation through media education, and mobilizing the public to actively defend democratic values

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 utilise 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

The goal of this call is to strategically and sustainably anchor the role of civil society in decision-making and legislative processes at both the national and local levels. Support will be provided to projects that create systemic mechanisms for participation, thereby increasing the transparency and inclusivity of decision-making. Emphasis is placed on structurally strengthening the voice of citizens through expert dialogue and legislative changes that ensure the stability of the democratic space, including capacity building for professional advocacy work that influences national and regional policies in accordance with the principles of the rule of law.

A key outcome is expected to be the systematic use of data and civil society expertise by public administration for evidence-based policymaking. The project anticipates the development of strategic cross-sectoral coalitions and partnerships addressing the systemic causes of problems, as well as a transition from ad hoc consultations to institutionalized partnerships that strengthen the legitimacy and effectiveness of democratic governance in the Czech Republic.

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 public institutions, 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 organisations with deep expertise 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 structurally disadvantaged regions, where limited access to resources and opportunities deepens skepticism and the feeling that the voices of ordinary citizens do not matter.

Expected results

As part of this call, the goal is to institutionalize and enshrine in law mechanisms that support the long-term development of active citizenship and community life in the Czech Republic, including the promotion of nationwide standards for civic education and participation. Instead of ad hoc activities, we will support projects aimed at systematically strengthening the infrastructure for volunteering. We will support the development of national platforms for citizen participation in decision-making. Special emphasis will be placed on the structural removal of barriers and the systemic empowerment of disadvantaged groups—particularly Roma women and men, women, young people, and migrants—so that their representation in democratic processes and influence on public policy-making become a permanent part of the political system.

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 exclusion of groups in vulnerable situations who are unable to effectively use the government's digital services.

Expected results

The main objective of the call is to promote structural changes in the areas of information integrity and media and digital literacy, which will lead to a long-term strengthening of Czech society's resilience to disinformation. We will support comprehensive initiatives aimed at institutionalizing standards for media and digital literacy and at promoting legislative measures against the abuse of strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP), which threaten public engagement and independent journalism. We place an emphasis on systematically strengthening the infrastructure of Roma and regional media and on creating and promoting national strategies for digital inclusion that will ensure groups in vulnerable situations—such as Roma people, people from Ukraine, and the LGBTIQ+ community—have safe and equal access to information and government digital services. Instead of ad hoc activities, we aim to build strategic coalitions and partnerships that will use data, expertise, and advocacy to promote lasting solutions for debunking myths, combating anti-gypsyism, and countering hate speech in the information space.

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 objective is to drive lasting legislative and policy changes to tackle structural discrimination and ensure equal access to human rights. Support is directed toward projects focused on systemic desegregation, the institutionalization of gender-based violence protection, and the promotion of legal standards through strategic litigation and advocacy work. By building strategic coalitions and embedding public oversight of climate policies, the initiative aims to overcome harmful stereotypes and guarantee robust human rights protection for all.

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 are hampered by shortcomings in systemic support and prevention, which particularly affect groups in vulnerable situations such as caregivers,

people with experience 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 access to education and decision-making processes.

Barriers to the integration of migrants from Ukraine, who face housing shortages 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

Our priority in this call is to promote legislative and policy changes that will systematically strengthen respect for human rights and ensure equal access to legal protection and social justice for all groups in vulnerable situations and disadvantaged groups. We will support projects aiming for systemic desegregation in education, structural solutions to the social exclusion of Roma communities, and strengthening their participation in the development of government policies. Support will also focus on building strategic partnerships, advocacy work, and data expertise that will contribute to removing systemic barriers to the integration of people with migration backgrounds, including addressing the consequences of the invasion of Ukraine. The goal is to replace insufficient systemic support with institutionalized preventive mechanisms and reforms that will improve the quality and accessibility of services in the Czech Republic.

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 the absence of relevant data, insufficient development of prevention measures, and a critical shortage of specialised services for victims, particularly in regional areas. Within the programme, gender equality is also closely linked to the issue of sexual and reproductive health and rights, as 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 of this call is to promote legislative and policy changes that will strengthen political and societal support for gender equality, sexual and reproductive health, and the human rights of LGBTIQ+ individuals. We will support projects aimed at institutionalizing protection against gender-based violence, ensuring equal access to justice, and systematically embedding specialised services for survivors and programs for perpetrators of violence. Instead of addressing isolated consequences, we aim to build strategic cross-sectoral partnerships (linking government, business, and academia) and data-driven expert advocacy that will remove structural barriers to the participation of women, including Roma women, and improve the status of LGBTIQ+ people. We will also support strategic litigation and the empowerment of disadvantaged groups.

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

Key needs and challenges to be addressed

The issue of the climate and environmental crisis has long been underfunded in the Czech Republic. Public mobilisation 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 problems 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 bring about legislative and policy changes that will ensure the implementation of environmental protection standards and climate measures into national policies in line with the goals of the European Green Deal. We will support structural solutions to energy poverty that effectively link the needs of disadvantaged regions with a nationwide just green transition. Instead of ad hoc awareness-raising activities, we aim to build strategic cross-sectoral coalitions (connecting civil society, public administration, business, and academia) and data-driven advocacy work that will promote a socially just transition to a low-emission economy with a focus on disadvantaged groups. Another key priority is the use of strategic litigation to establish legal precedents in the climate sector and to strengthen public participation in environmental decision-making processes.

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.

By fostering strategic coalitions and expert advocacy work, the initiative aims to build an agile, professional sector capable of effectively negotiating with policymakers and embedding participation mechanisms. Priority is given to projects that link regional needs with national advocacy to strengthen the sector's legitimacy and long-term sustainability, even within polarized environments

Output 3.1: Organisational development supported

This output is not a part of this call.

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 and disinformation campaigns that cast doubt on the role of independent organisations in protecting human rights and democracy. This situation is leading to a gradual narrowing of civic space, a trend exacerbated by the

absence of mechanisms for its systemic protection. A fundamental problem is the lack of stable and predictable funding for umbrella organisations and networks, which hinders their long-term strategic work and deepens the isolation of regional actors from national decision-making. The sector as a whole lacks the capacity to engage in an equal and expert dialogue with political representatives, the media, and the business community, which limits its ability to advance common interests and effectively counter attacks on the legitimacy of civic activities. Furthermore, organisations often lack data that would demonstrate their societal impact and serve as a basis for fact-based advocacy.

Expected results

In this call for proposals, we will support projects aimed at changing policies, laws, or established practices. We anticipate the formation of strategic coalitions and cross-sector partnerships that will strengthen civil society's negotiating position vis-à-vis the state and increase its resilience against attacks on democratic principles. Projects should lead to the systemic embedding of mechanisms for organisational participation in decision-making and to greater use of expert analyses in communication with stakeholders and the public. The goal is to raise awareness among donors, the media, and the general public about the irreplaceable role of the civil sector in ensuring the stability of democracy, thereby strengthening the social legitimacy and sustainability of the entire sector. The priority is to support initiatives that can link regional needs with nationwide advocacy work, thereby ensuring a favorable environment for organisations to operate regardless of their size or geographic scope.

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

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 anti-gypsyism.

- **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 fight against 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 on systemic change 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.

Under Output 3.2, the entire grant amount is to be allocated to promoting systemic changes that will support the creation of an enabling environment for civil society. Examples of such measures for strengthening organisational capacities can be found in the **Guide** in Chapter **2.6. Supported activities.**

2.6 Project grant on systemic changes details

Project grants on systemic change are intended for **experienced organisations working to promote systemic change across society.** Their purpose is to bring about **systemic change**, typically at the level of national policy, legislation, or large-scale advocacy and communication campaigns. Supported activities for example include **advocacy work, engagement with government institutions and policymakers, large-scale public awareness campaigns and related education, analysis, and networking.**

Project grants on systemic change are tied to a **specific project with a clear goal of driving social change.**

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

We strongly recommend collaboration among sector-specific coalitions and consortia to implement systemic changes. You can find more information about the systemic changes in the attachment to this call for proposals.

Call allocation	€1,600,000
Estimated number of projects supported	8–12
Project duration	36 months
Start date of project implementation	January or April 2027
Grant amount per project	€100,000–€200,000

The table below provides an overview of the relevant programme indicators. 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.

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.

Outcomes and Outputs	Indicator	Indicator Code	Disaggregation[4]
Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	CIV-001	N/A
	Number of local laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	CIV-002	N/A
Output 1.1: CSO participation in democratic processes increased	Number of CSOs participating in consultations with a public institution	CIV-004	Roma-led and Roma-based
	Number of policy advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	CIV-016	N/A
Output 1.2: Civic engagement increased	Number of people engaged in CSO activities as volunteers	CIV-010	Roma
	Number of people who completed a CSO-led training courses on civic engagement and/or community building	CIV-007	Roma
	Number of politicians and officials of public administration who participated in CSO-led training courses [on civic engagement and/or community building]	CZE-001	N/A
Output 1.3: Information integrity and media literacy increased	Number of people who completed a CSO-led training course	CIV-007	N/A
	Number of people who participated in CSO-led training courses [on digital literacy]	CIV-007	N/A
	Number of local or community-based media outlets supported	LOC-011	Roma-led and Roma-based
	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	CIV-015	Roma
	Number of identified and/or reported SLAPPs against CSOs/media	CZE-002	N/A
Outcome 2: Human rights strengthened	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	CIV-001	N/A
	Number of local laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	CIV-002	N/A
Output 2.1: Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	CIV-015	N/A
	Number of policy advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	CIV-016	N/A
	Number of strategic litigation cases initiated by the supported CSOs	CIV-018	Roma
	Number of human rights violations documented and reported by supported CSOs	CIV-020	Roma women
	Number of activities, services, and measures to improve living conditions and access to services for groups in vulnerable situations.	VAL-010	N/A
Output 2.2: Gender equality, including SRHR, and LGBTIQ+ rights supported	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	CIV-015	N/A
	Number of policy advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	CIV-016	N/A
	Number of people who completed a CSO-led training course	CIV-007	N/A
	Number of strategic litigation cases initiated by the supported CSOs	CIV-018	N/A
	Number of cases of survivors of human rights violations protected and/or supported	CIV-021	LGBTQI+ people
Output 2.3: Climate action, environmental protection, and a just green transition supported	Number of CSOs participating in consultations with a public institution	CIV-004	N/A
	Number of people who completed CSO-led training courses	CIV-007	N/A
	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	CIV-015	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	Indicator	Indicator Code	Disaggregation[4]
	Number of policy advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	CIV-016	N/A
	Number of strategic litigation cases initiated by the supported CSOs	CIV-018	N/A
Outcome 3: CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	CIV-001	N/A
	Number of local laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	CIV-002	N/A
	Number of supported CSOs with improved overall organisational strength	CIV-035	N/A
Output 3.2 An enabling environment for civil society supported	Number of communication initiatives and/or events of supported CSOs presenting data and/or analysis	CZE-003	Roma-led and Roma-based
	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	CIV-015	N/A
	Number of policy advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	CIV-016	N/A
	Number of initiatives of supported CSOs on promoting the principles of democracy	CZE-004	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 a one-time activity or initiative with one of the Donor States, consider applying for a grant under the **Call for bilateral grant**, which is open on an ongoing basis. 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;**
  - **LGBTQI+ 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

The duration of a project under the System Grants programme is 36 months. Please plan your project activities within this timeframe.The project timeline is linked to specific **milestones** that serve as indicators of ongoing progress. While the timeline provides the project with a time structure, the milestones give it substantive content. Achieving these milestones is essential for reaching the project's objectives, which will be tracked during monitoring.

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

3. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND PROJECT PARTNERS

All Applicants and Project Partner must respect the common values of **respect 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 international agreements.

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 at least **two years from the date of registration** of the organisation by the deadline of 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 if they comply with the above 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.

An organisation that receives a Project grant on systemic change is no longer eligible to apply for an Organisational grant under the programme. For more information on these limits, see Chapter **3.2 Maximum Amount of Support Under the Programme,** in the **Guide.**

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], 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 must act exclusively for the public interest, be voluntary and non-discriminatory, independent of public administration, political parties, religious institutions, or commercial organisations, and not established for profit. **An informal group cannot be a financial partner**. Members of informal groups must be **legal residents** or are 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 Bilateral Cooperation Fund 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**. Under this type of partnership, the Applicant is expected to receive the majority of the budget.
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 costs 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 final eligibility date depends on the project start date: either 31 December 2029 for projects starting in January 2027 or 31 March 2030 for projects starting in April 2027.

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 **euros** and in installments defined in the project contract. The payment model is as follows:

Project duration	**Advance payment** (up to 10 working days of signing 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 of the approval of the final narrative and financial report)
36 months	up to 40%	up to 25% + 25% (**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 report**, 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 a **Code of Ethics** and **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 deadline.

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 Applicant will be asked to correct the error. The Applicant will have 3 working days (3x24 hours) from the day that the request was submitted to make the correction.

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 €100,000 to €200,000.
- The project duration is 36 months.
- 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 a minimum of 70 out of 100 points in the basic evaluation (excluding additional points).

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) and lead to systemic change; 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,comprehensible, proportionate and linked to activities; it is economical, effective, 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 budget is clear, comprehensible, proportionate and linked to activities; it is economical, effective, efficient, and the costs are justified.	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**
	The sustainability of the project is correctly identified and justified, and the proposed activities are aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the project results.	5

	Total score	**100**
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	Projects focusing on the Inclusion and empowerment of Roma, including support for Roma-led organisations and Roma women and girls	**5**
6.2	Projects focused on challenges related to the invasion of Ukraine or involving support and integration of those arriving as a result of 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 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.

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 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 societal 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's 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 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 Selection Committee invites all shortlisted Applicants to a personal interview to discuss their motivation and readiness to implement the project in greater detail. The interview may assist the committee in compiling the final list of successful Applicant.

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 organisation 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, but no later than **20 weeks** after the call deadline.

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/or 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 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.	
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 formal review, 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 €100,000 to €200,000.	
	The proposed implementation period (duration) is 36 months.	
	5–10% of the requested grant under Outcome 1 and 2 is allocated to capacity building.	

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[8].	

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

Contact information is correctly filled out.	
You used the correct EUR exchange rate when creating the budget.	
The planned costs meet the eligibility criteria.	
The Applicant complies with the definition of independence.	

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 on the website.

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). **Please include "Consultation on Call No. 2" in the subject line of your email.** Telephone consultations are provided on Monday - Thursday, 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

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E-mail: civilsocietyfund@osf.cz

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

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www.vdv.cz

Programme manager: Alžběta Čechráková

Programme coordinators: Markéta Boučková, Jiří Marek

Technical support: Petr Svatoš, technickapomoc@osf.cz

Complaints Committee: podnety@osf.cz

8.3 Important websites

Programme Civil Society Fund: https://eeagrants.org/cs/eea-civil-society-fund-czechia
EEA Norway funds: https://eeagrants.org/
OSF Czechia: https://osf.cz/
The Committee of Goodwill - Olga Havel foundation: https://www.vdv.cz/
eGrant online database: https://egrant.nadaceosf.cz/

Table 1: Outcomes and outputs

	Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened			**Outcome 2: Human Rights strengthened**			**Outcome 3: CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened**		**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	
Project grant on systemic change	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✗	✔	✔

Call Annex

What is a systemic change?

- It is a logical process where one thinks of steps leading to the intended change. The proposals on a systemic change are based on well-founded arguments and facts and focus on the causes of the problem, not its symptoms.
- The causes can be found in poorly defined laws, lack of staff / finances or in a practice that resists the existing laws.
- The transformation of the system may occur at the national or local level.

WHAT IS AND WHAT IS NOT A SYSTEMIC CHANGE IN EXAMPLES

What IS NOT a systemic change	What IS a systemic change
A town is piloting a new project by placing bio-waste bins in one district.	A town passes a new bio-waste bill granting all its citizens an access to bio-waste bins.
Note: In this case the system is represented by the town. Piloting therefore may be the predecessor phase of the systemic change (the change is the aim) but it is not a systemic change itself.	

What IS NOT a systemic change	What IS a systemic change
Active people and ecological organisations successfully fight against incinerator construction nearby their town.	Active people and ecological organisations convince the government to stop financing incinerator constructions from the public budget.
Note: Success in one town does not mean that the incinerator will not be constructed elsewhere in the region still polluting the air. Permanent and long-term solution comes with the change in financial rules regarding incinerator constructions in the Czech Republic or other similar systemic change. Even though an activation of citizens is adequate project activity, reaching systemic change must include a dialogue with the relevant stakeholders for the system (on the local or national level).	

What IS NOT a systemic change	What IS a systemic change
A civil society organisation introduces a new service for cooperation with a school so even pupils with disabilities, who the school itself is not able to support, can study.	A coalition of parents, schools and experts convinces the parliament of the Czech Republic to pass a law thanks to which pupils with disabilities have a sufficient support guaranteed by schools.

Note:
Introducing a new service which is financed from already existing sources (such as private foundations, regions, towns) does not solve inclusion - a long-term problem of underfinanced education of pupils with disabilities. Only a change in funding and the legal entitlement of these pupils constitutes a systemic change. However, this change will have to face the attitude of parents of non-disabled pupils as well as the teachers and the public in order to guarantee the possibility of disabled pupils attending regular schools.

The examples above are taken from the following publication, which we also highly recommend as a source of inspiration and useful tips for writing project proposals:

The Handbook of the Seemingly Powerless (Štěpán Drahokoupil, Petr Machálek, Milan Štefanec / OSF Foundation 2020):
https://osf.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/5871_OSF_advokacni_prace-prirucka-druhe-vydani_WEB.pdf