Iceland Liechtenstein Norway **Civil Society Fund**

OPEN CALL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs)

IN SLOVAKIA

ROLLING CALL No. 7

FOR BILATERAL INITIATIVES

AVAILABLE FUNDING: EUR 80 000

1st DEADLINE: 31 August 2026 23:59 CEST

The EEA Civil Society Fund is part of the contribution of **Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway** to 15 EU Member States under the EEA and Norway Grants, including Slovakia. The aims of the EEA and Norway Grants are to reduce **social and economic disparities** in the European Economic Area (EEA) and to strengthen **bilateral relations** between the Donor States and Beneficiary States.

The EEA Civil Society Fund aims **to support a vibrant and resilient civil society protecting and promoting democracy, the rule of law, and human rights.** The EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia has a total allocation of EUR 9,7 million. A consortium of Ekopolis Foundation, Open Society Foundation Bratislava, and Carpathian Foundation operates the EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia on behalf of the Donor States.

This Call focuses **on strengthening bilateral cooperation between civil society organisations (CSOs) in Slovakia and entities in the Donor States**. Both Slovak and donor state entities are eligible applicants. It supports the establishment and development of strategic partnerships through networking, exchange of experience, transfer of know-how and joint capacity-building activities.

Total allocation for this call is EUR 80 000.

Title of the call	Call No. 7 for Bilateral Cooperation
Purpose of the call	See section 2.1 of this Call
Outcome	Bilateral Outcome: Strengthened bilateral cooperation in the civil society sector
Relevant activities	For recommended bilateral activities, see section 2 of this Call
Eligible applicants and eligible partners	See sections 3.1 and 3.2. of this Call
Duration of bilateral initiative	Up to 12 months
Grant amount per initiative	Up to EUR 25 000
Co-financing	No co-financing required
Partnerships	Applications must be submitted by a partnership consisting of at least one eligible applicant and one eligible partner from Slovakia and from the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway).
Call available in the following language(s)	Slovak, English
Questions deadline	No later than 5 working days before cut-off dates for inclusion in the evaluation
Application deadline	31.08.2026, 23:59 CEST – first cut-off date (rolling call – see section 5.2)

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1. BACKGROUND FOR THE EEA CIVIL SOCIETY FUND IN SLOVAKIA

Support to civil society is a key priority for the EEA and Norway Grants, funded by **Iceland, Liechtenstein** and **Norway**. The overall objectives of EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2021-2028 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 and the 15 EU Member States including Slovakia.

The EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2021-2028 are based on the **common values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities**. All organisations and activities funded by the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2021-2028 shall be consistent with respect for these values and principles and abstain from supporting operations that may fail to do so. Their implementation shall comply with the fundamental rights and obligations enshrined in relevant instruments and standards.

10% of the overall funding of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 has been set aside for support to civil society through the EEA Civil Society Fund. The allocation for the EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia is **EUR 9.7 million.**

Through an open tender process for Slovakia, the secretariat of the Donor States – the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) – has selected **a consortium of three organisations to be the Fund Operator** (FO): **Ekopolis Foundation, Open Society Foundation Bratislava (OSF) and Carpathian Foundation Slovakia (CF)**. Each organisation in the FO is responsible for specific Outputs defined in relevant Outcomes. Ekopolis Foundation acts as the lead partner of the consortium. It is the contracting party to the Donors, responsible for the overall programme management.

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

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

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

Within the key areas, the EEA Civil Society Fund aims to support the promotion of democratic values, civil society participation in decision-making processes, civic engagement, information integrity and media literacy, the protection of human rights, the fight against discrimination and for social justice. The programme places particular emphasis on gender equality, including sexual and reproductive

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

health and rights, the promotion of LGBTIQ+[2] rights, as well as climate action, environmental protection and a just green transition. Another important focus is on developing organizational capacities and creating an enabling environment for the effective functioning of the civil sector.

Part of the programme's support is specifically dedicated to addressing **urgent societal challenges**, such as **addressing challenges arising from Russia's war on Ukraine, countering gender-based violence** and **empowering groups that are vulnerable** and/or **marginalised**[3] particularly **Roma**.

The EEA Civil Society Fund provides support for CSOs throughout Slovakia**. Applications from CSOs based in under-served geographic areas and led by target groups that are vulnerable** and/or **marginalised, are encouraged**[4]. The Fund Operator will provide support to such CSOs during the application and contracting stages to clarify project objectives, planned results, risks, and financing procedures.

CSOs should note that support for social services is only eligible when such services enhance advocacy, community participation, and/or civic engagement.

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

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

2. FOCUS OF THIS CALL

2.1 Purpose of this call

For the purposes of this call, support is provided to **bilateral initiatives (hereinafter referred to as "initiatives")** funded from the Fund for Bilateral Relations. This Call aims **to strengthen bilateral relations between civil society organisations (CSOs) in Slovakia and CSOs** and other **relevant entities in the Donor States: Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway**.

Bilateral cooperation under the Programme refers to **structured networking, exchange, mutual learning**, and the sharing and transfer of knowledge, experience, **and best practices** between eligible entities in Slovakia and the Donor States.

In terms of content, the proposed bilateral initiatives must be in alignment with the focus of the EEA Civil Society Fund, specifically with one of the three Outcomes as specified in Section 1 of this call above.

[2] LGBTQI+ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, and Intersex, with the "+" representing other sexual orientations and gender identities not specifically included in the acronym.

[3] For the purposes of this Call, "groups experiencing marginalisation" refers to individuals or communities facing structural and systemic barriers to equal access to rights, resources, and participation, while "people in vulnerable situations" refers to individuals or groups exposed to increased risk of harm or exclusion due to specific, and often temporary, circumstances.

[4] For the purposes of this Call, among others: Roma communities (including Roma women and girls and Roma LGBTQI+ persons), LGBTQI+ persons, persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees (including those displaced by conflict), people belonging to ethnic or national minorities, women experiencing structural discrimination, youth facing social exclusion, elderly people in vulnerable situations, and communities living in structurally disadvantaged or environmentally burdened regions. This list is not exhaustive.

Bilateral cooperation must be **mutually beneficial and grounded in a strategic, long-term perspective that fosters partnerships with potential for sustainability**. It shall build on **complementary expertise and comparative advantages** of the partners and contribute indirectly to the objective of the Programme and directly to the Programme outcomes.

The involvement of at least one Donor State entity is a mandatory condition for an activity to qualify as bilateral. International organisations may also participate where relevant.

The Call is financed through the Fund for Bilateral Relations, with a total allocation of **EUR 80,000** available on a rolling basis.

2.2 Expected results

The EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia operates under a **results-based management framework**. All supported activities must demonstrably contribute to defined programme outcomes.

Bilateral initiatives funded under this call are required to achieve the Bilateral Outcome "*Strengthened bilateral cooperation in the civil society sector*." By delivering results at this level, initiatives contribute indirectly to the broader programme objective of fostering a vibrant and resilient civil society that safeguards democracy, the rule of law and human rights. Applicants are not required to measure or report against this overarching objective.

The Bilateral Outcome forms a **distinct component** of the programme's results framework. It focuses on developing structured, sustainable and mutually beneficial cooperation between Slovak civil society organisations and entities from the Donor States, namely Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. The call **prioritises the quality, strategic relevance and potential sustainability of partnerships** rather than the volume of activities.

Successful initiatives are expected to:

- establish or deepen structured partnerships with potential for sustainability between Slovak CSOs and Donor State entities;
- generate measurable improvements in mutual trust, expertise exchange and added value that would not have been achievable without bilateral cooperation; and
- strengthen the professional capacities of participating organisations through peer learning and the transfer of specialised know-how.

All initiatives must be implemented in **partnership between at least one eligible entity from Slovakia and from Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway**.

Detailed definitions and guidance on indicator measurement are provided in Annex 1 of the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters. Annex 2 contains further guidance on the results-based management approach. Applicants may also define additional initiative-level outcome and output indicators tailored to their specific intervention logic; these are not part of the programme's overall results framework.

2.3 Bilateral Outcome: Strengthened bilateral cooperation in the civil society sector

Responsible Partner: Ekopolis Foundation

Financial allocation: EUR 80 000

Needs addressed: Civil society organisations in Slovakia and the Donor States operate in dynamic social, political, and regulatory environments that require continuous professional development, innovation, and cross-border collaboration. Despite existing cooperation frameworks, there remains a need for deeper, structured, and results-oriented partnerships that go beyond ad hoc exchanges.

The Call addresses the need to:

- Strengthen institutional and professional capacities of civil society actors through peer learning and transfer of know-how.
- Facilitate access to thematic expertise, innovative methodologies, and tested practices between Slovakia and the Donor States.
- Build long-term, trust-based partnerships that enhance the quality, relevance, and sustainability of projects.
- Support early-stage partnership development, including matchmaking and preparatory activities, to prepare for the future joint cooperation.
- Increase mutual understanding between civil society actors in Slovakia and the Donor States and reinforce their role in democratic participation and social cohesion.

The focus of bilateral cooperation is on quality, strategic relevance and potential sustainability rather than on the number of activities implemented.

Expected results: Bilateral initiatives supported under this Call are expected to produce measurable improvements in the quality and intensity of bilateral cooperation. In particular, the following results are anticipated:

- New or strengthened structured partnerships between Slovak organisations and entities from the Donor States.
- Increased exchange of expertise, methodologies, and good practices relevant to the Programme objective/outcomes.
- Enhanced professional capacities of participating organisations and experts.

Each bilateral activity must include an appropriate communication strategy to disseminate results and demonstrate the benefits of bilateral cooperation both in Slovakia and in the Donor States. Project promoters and partners implementing the initiative are expected to proactively identify and communicate cases of good practice and noteworthy results through relevant channels and in coordination with Donor Contact Points.

Target groups of the initiative:

- Civil society organisations (CSOs) in Slovakia and partner organisations from the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway)
- Experts and activists in the non-governmental sector

- Public and educational institutions engaged in bilateral exchange
- Community initiatives that directly benefit from knowledge transfer and international cooperation

Relevant activities:

The Call supports targeted, results-oriented bilateral activities that directly contribute to partnership development and knowledge exchange. Eligible activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Matchmaking seminars and partnership-building meetings.
- Travel grants for preparatory visits aimed at establishing or strengthening project partnerships prior to open calls.
- Study visits, short-term internships, and staff exchanges.
- Joint seminars, workshops, conferences, and expert events related to Programme priorities.
- Capacity-building activities implemented in cooperation with Donor State entities.
- Exchange of know-how, tools, and methodologies relevant to civil society development and project implementation.

It is strongly recommended that the Donor Contact Points and relevant CSOs in the Donor States are consulted at an early stage in the planning and implementation of bilateral initiatives to ensure strategic alignment and effective partnership development.

Indicators:

Each initiative is strongly encouraged to use indicators BIL-001 and/or BIL-002.

Indicator code[5]	Indicator
BIL-001	Number of exchange programmes or study visits organised between bilateral partners
BIL-002	Number of participants in exchange programmes / study visits (disaggregation by Beneficiary State / Donor State)

For a detailed explanation of the indicators and how to measure them, see Annex 1 of the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters under the EEA Civil Society Fund Slovakia entitled „Indicators Library of EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia."

3 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND PARTNERS

3.1 Eligible applicants

All eligible applicants must abide by the common values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities, and comply with the fundamental rights and obligations enshrined in relevant instruments and standards.

[5] Detailed definitions and measurement guidance for each indicator are available via the hyperlink provided in the preceding table.

The applicant is the entity responsible for the overall initiation, preparation and implementation of the initiative.

Eligible applicants are CSOs that are established in Slovakia or any of the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway) and fall within the following definition:

> *A non-profit voluntary organisation with a non-commercial purpose, independent of local, regional and central government, public entities, political parties and commercial organisations. Religious institutions and political parties, social partners or profit-distributing cooperatives are not eligible applicants.*

Eligible candidates must meet the following general conditions:

- Are non-profit, being organisations that have not been created nor operate to generate personal profit. Although it may have paid staff and may engage in revenue-generating activities, it does not distribute profits to its members nor to its board. Where revenue-generating activities are undertaken, these do not represent the purpose of the non-profit organisation, but are a means to support its mission and values;
- Have members who do not have any direct commercial interest in the outcome of the work of the organisation or of its activities, and the organisation does not pursue the commercial or professional interests of its members. This definition therefore excludes trade- and professional chambers and associations, where the aims and purposes of the association is to further the specific interests of its members only;
- Are voluntary in nature, formed voluntarily by groups or individuals, and where the organisation is membership based, membership is not compulsory for any group or individual.
- Any applicant must agree to the principles and procedures of the Programme's *Policy for the Protection of Vulnerable Persons and Children under the EEA Civil Society Fund Slovakia* and commit to complying with them by signing the Declaration of Honour when submitting the application.

Legal Entity Checklists and National Registers

To be eligible, applicants must be registered under one of the following legislative acts in their respective countries:

A. Slovakia

- Civic Association according to the Act No. 83/1990 Coll. on the Association of Citizens;
- Foundation according to the Act No. 34/2002 Coll. on Foundations;
- Non-profit Organisation Providing Public Beneficial Services according to the Act No. 83/1990 Coll.
- Non-investment Fund according to the Act No. 34/2002 Coll. on Non-investment Funds;
- Non-profit Organisation according to the Act No. 116/85 Coll. on terms for activities of organisations with international aspect;

- Association of Legal Entities under the Act no. 40/1964 Coll. - Civil Code;
- Slovak Red Cross under the Act no. 460/2007 Coll. on the Slovak Red Cross.

B. Entities Registered in Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway)

Applicants from Donor States must document their status as a **legal entity** in their respective country and demonstrate compliance with the eligibility criteria outlined above. These applicants are required to submit:

1. A current official extract from their local registry.
2. A high-quality unofficial English translation of the extract.
3. A declaration of honour confirming their non-profit, independent, and voluntary status.

Religious institutions and political parties, social partners, profit-distributing cooperatives or informal groups are not eligible applicants. Faith-based organisations are eligible if they meet the principles identified above and if the funded activities do not directly or indirectly promote a religious doctrine, mission or proselytism[6] related to the beliefs of a particular faith.

3.2 Eligible partners

All eligible partners must abide by the common values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities, and comply with the fundamental rights and obligations enshrined in relevant instruments and standards.

An applicant shall submit a grant application jointly with partner organisation(s) that share the applicant's economic and social objectives to be achieved through the initiative.

Any supported bilateral initiative must contribute to the Bilateral Outcome of the Programme, with emphasis on quality, sustainability and added value of partnerships. The partnership requirements depend on the applicant's origin:

- If the applicant is a **Slovak organisation**, the initiative must involve at least one eligible partner from a Donor State.
- If the applicant is a **non-profit organisation from a Donor State**, the initiative must involve at least one eligible Slovak partner.

. The Fund Operator recommends involving no more than two partner organisations in order to ensure effective coordination and meaningful collaboration.

Unless explicitly stipulated, the following entities are eligible to be partners of the initiative:

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

- Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as CSOs, established as a legal person either in the Donor States[7], Beneficiary States[8] or Ukraine;
- An international organisation or body or agency thereof;
- A commercial entity may participate as an eligible partner; however, it cannot receive financial support from the Programme.
    - Entities registered as "social enterprises" (as defined by Act No. 112/2018 Coll. on the Social Economy and Social Enterprises) are eligible to participate as partners of the initiative with financial support from the Programme.
- Informal, ad hoc and self-help organisations (including grassroots organisations) that are not registered legal entities (hereinafter referred to as "informal groups"). Informal groups are considered eligible partners of the initiative provided that:
    - their members are legal residents or based in either the Donor States, Beneficiary States or a country outside the European Economic Area that has a common border with Slovakia;
    - they are not established or operating with the purpose of personal profit;
    - membership in the group is voluntary and non-discriminatory;
    - their purpose aligns with the objective of the EEA Civil Society Fund;
    - they are independent of local, regional and national government and other public authorities, as well as of political parties, religious institutions and commercial organisations; and
    - they are represented by one single person, with legal residency in Slovakia, who signs the partnership agreement on behalf of the group. An informal group cannot not be a direct recipient of the grant.

A partnership shall not be mistaken for sub-contracting. Partners always share a common economic or social goal through the implementation of the initiative, and are actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of the initiative. In contrast, sub-contracting is aimed at one or several specific deliverables, e.g. services or equipment to realise a specific activity within the initiative. Sub-contracting shall always be carried out based on an appropriate service or purchase contract.[9].

4 CONDITIONS FOR BILATERAL INITIATIVES

For the purposes of this call, any references to "project" shall be understood as referring to the bilateral initiative, unless stated otherwise in contractual or financial provisions. Detailed rules are described in the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters.

Duration of the initiative	Up to 12 months
Max. grant amount	Up to EUR 25 000
Indicative start of implementation	November 2026
Final date of eligibility of expenditure	No later than 30 April 2031

[7] Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.
[8] Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.
[9] Please see further details on sub-contracting in the Guidelines for Applicants

(depending on the start of implementation)	

4.1 Co-financing

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

4.2 Eligible expenditure

Eligible expenditure is regulated by the **Cost Eligibility Guidance**, which sets out the rules on grant modalities, cost categories, and Simplified Cost Options. As bilateral initiatives are classified as small grants, they are subject to all specific conditions and restrictions applicable to this category as defined in the Guidelines for Applicants and call documentation.

4.3 Payment of the grant

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

Payment Type	Limits	Conditions
Advance payment	40% - 50% of the total budget	Paid after signing the Contract (10 working days after the signature); intended to cover the first 6 months of activities.
Interim payment	up to 45% of the total budget	Paid after approval of the semi-annual interim report (within 10 working days after approval). For 12-month initiatives, typically around 8th month of implementation.
Final payment (retention)	15% - 20% of the total budget	Paid after approval of the final report (within 10 working days after approval).

For more information on payments, please refer to the *Cost Eligibility Guideline in the EEA Civil Society Fund Programme.*

4.4 Other conditions

- The Programme and all activities **do not support the provision of social or similar services** unless when the provision of a social service **directly enhances advocacy, community participation, and/or civic engagement**.
- Organizations applying for support under the EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia are required to commit to complying with the principles and requirements set out in the **Policy on the Protection of Vulnerable Persons and Children of the EEA Civil Society Fund Slovakia**. Applicants shall confirm their commitment by familiarizing themselves with the Policy when submitting their Application. Recipients of support will be contractually bound to comply with the Policy. Please note that this document is only available in Slovak.

5 ADMINISTRATIVE, ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

5.1 Administrative and eligibility criteria

Administrative compliance is checked against the following criteria:

- Compliance with the submission deadline given on the front page and in chapter 7 of this call text. Applications cannot be submitted after the deadline.
- Applications are developed and submitted using the official application forms and templates published as part of this Call for Proposals as per chapter 7 of this call text. Applications include all relevant supporting documents and attachments as per chapter 6 and Annex 1 of this call text.
- The duration of the bilateral initiative is in accordance with the information specified in the relevant call for applications – see section 5.2 below on the implementation period.
- The amount requested is in accordance with the information specified in the relevant call for applications – see section 4 on **financing and expenditure eligibility**.

Grant applications that fail to meet all of these criteria may be rejected and will, in that case, not be assessed further.

The Fund Operator may request additional information/documents from the applicant to determine compliance with administrative and eligibility criteria. The applicant will be given **5** working days to provide the missing documentation.

5.1.1 Appeals

The Fund Operator shall inform applicants of the approval or rejection of their application by e-mail within 5 working days following the decision of the relevant **Board of Trustees**.

Applicants whose applications are rejected due to failure to meet the administrative or eligibility criteria will be informed of the reasons for rejection and will have the opportunity to submit an appeal within 10 working days from the day following the delivery of the notification.

Appeals shall be submitted electronically to **csf@eea-csf.sk** and must clearly justify the grounds for reassessment based on procedural or factual errors. Appeals shall be reviewed by the **Steering Committee** in consultation with the Programme Manager responsible for the relevant call within 15 working days of their receipt. The **Steering Committee** may uphold or amend the original decision. The decision on the appeal is final, and the applicant shall be informed of the outcome by e-mail.

The list of approved and rejected initiatives under the respective call shall be published on the Programme website within 10 working days following the decision of the relevant **Board of Trustees**.

5.2 Selection process and criteria

All applications will be assessed according to the following steps and criteria.

Applications that meet the administrative and eligibility criteria outlined in chapters 5.1 and 5.2 of this call will be assessed by at least two impartial experts appointed by the Fund Operator. At least one expert will be independent of the Fund Operator.

5.2.1 The Scoring Chart

The experts will independently score the application for a bilateral initiative according to the selection criteria in the grid below. The selection criteria are divided into headings and subheadings. Each subheading is given a score. The application can be given an overall score of maximum 100 points. **Further guidance on requirements for each criterion is provided Annex 3 to this Call**.

Criteria Group / Criterion	**Maximum Points**
1. Relevance, Purpose, Added Value and Participatory Dimension	**35**
1.1 Relevance of the project in relation to the focus of the call, alignment with the selected result and output, and clarity of problem analysis	15
1.2 Understanding the needs of direct and indirect target groups and the appropriateness of the proposed solution	10
1.3 Quality and depth of participatory approaches involving relevant target groups in the design, implementation and/or evaluation of the project	5
1.4 Expected impact and sustainability of project results, including the potential for long-term systemic change or sustainability of the partnership	5
2. Project Implementation Approach and Quality of Partnership	**35**
2.1 Appropriateness, feasibility, coherence and internal logic of planned activities in relation to defined results, including risk analysis and mitigation measures	15
2.2 Quality and feasibility of communication and visibility measures	5
2.3 Quality of partnership with the project partner from Iceland, Liechtenstein and/or Norway, including clarity of roles, added value, active involvement and substantive cooperation	15
3. Value for Money – Budget and Cost-Effectiveness	**15**
3.1 Cost-effectiveness and appropriateness of proposed expenditures	10
3.2 Alignment between the budget and proposed activities and efficient allocation of resources	5
4. Profile, Capacity and Experience of the Applicant (and Partner)	**15**
4.1 Alignment of the applicant's activities with the shared values and principles of the EEA Civil Society Fund programme	10
4.2 Organisational and professional competence, management systems and capacity to implement the project	5
Total Points	**100**

To be eligible for funding, an application for bilateral initiative must achieve **a minimum score of 85 points**. However, achieving this score does **not** automatically guarantee that the initiative will receive funding.

5.2.2 Indicative timeline for the selection process[10]

June 2026	Announcement of call
Cut-off dates for inclusion in the evaluation: 31.08.2026 23:59 (CEST) 30.10.2026 23:59 (CET) Etc.	Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, and the cut-off date for inclusion in the evaluation is every two calendar months, until the allocated funds are exhausted.
Days 1–5 following the submission deadline (up to 5 working days)	Application is checked against administrative and eligibility criteria
Days 6–15 following the submission deadline (up to 10 working days)	Independent experts assess application External experts: Assessment by 2/3 evaluators
Days 16–20 following the submission deadline (up to 5 working days)	Fund Operator will prepare and submit the ranking list for approval to Programme Director / statutory OSF/CF and Board of Trustees
Days 20-25 following the submission deadline (up to 5 working days)	Fund Operator will publish evaluation results, notify applicants of approval/rejection decision, and send draft contracts to successful applicants
The decision on the awarding of grants is made by the Programme Director (statutory representative of the Ekopolis Foundation) or an authorised delegate. The decision is finally approved by the Board of Trustees of the relevant consortium partner.	
Days 26 – 35 following the submission deadline (up to 10 working days)	Announcement of applications awarded funding on the programme's website
November 2026 (provided that the application was submitted by 31.08.2026)	Provisional start of initiatives, generally no earlier than two calendar months from the application submission deadline.

6 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (mandatory attachments to application)

Since the initiative will be implemented in partnership, **a partnership declaration (letter of intent)** between the Promoter and each of its partners shall be submitted as a supporting document to the application.

By signing the **partnership declaration**, the applicant and partner(s) jointly declare that they have been **sufficiently informed** of the conditions and obligations that will arise in connection with the implementation of the initiative if financial support is granted to the initiative.

[10] Should a large number of applications be received, the schedule will be adjusted to stay as close to the set deadlines as possible, without compromising the quality of the evaluation process.

These conditions include, inter alia:

- provisions on the roles and responsibilities of the parties;
  - provisions on the financial arrangements between the parties including, but not limited to, financial reporting obligations, means for proof of expenditure, payment flows and the expenditure for which partners can be reimbursed from the budget;
  - currency exchange rules for such expenditure and reimbursement;
  - provisions on the forms of grants for all costs in the initiative and their calculation method;
  - requirements for the submission of proof of expenditure and/or proof of conditions fulfilled where unit costs or lump sums are used;
  - provisions on audits of the initiative;
  - a detailed budget, which foresees flexible rules for shifts between budget headings; and
  - provisions on dispute resolution.

If one of the parties to the agreement is an entity from the Donor States or an international organisation or body or agency thereof, the partnership declaration shall be in English and shall be based on the provided template.

In addition, the Promoter shall include in their application the following:

- Statutes of partners – if this is not freely available online
- Hourly rate calculation attachment (if applicable)
- For organizations registered outside of Slovakia:
  - A current official extract from their local registry.
  - A high-quality unofficial English translation of the extract (official translation not needed).
  - A declaration of honour confirming their non-profit, independent, and voluntary status.

All required documents must be submitted together with the application to the e-mail address specified in this Call.

7 HOW TO APPLY

7.1 How to apply

Applications must be developed and submitted using the official application forms and templates published as part of this Call for Proposals. Use of these specific forms is mandatory for the submission to be considered eligible.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis from the announcement of the call, whereby the deadline for inclusion in the evaluation is every two calendar months, until the allocated funds are exhausted. The first deadline for applications to be included in the evaluation is **August 31, 2026, at 23:59 CET** (further deadlines for ongoing calls can be found in section 5.2 of this call).
The application, including all annexes, must be submitted by e-mail in PDF format to csf@eea-csf.sk.

7.2 Support to applicants and frequently asked questions (FAQ)

The **Fund Operator** ensures equal opportunities for all applicants by continuously publishing vital information and updates on the program website. We encourage you to regularly consult the **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** section. Should you not find the answer to your inquiry there, the following support options are available:

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

Important Notice Regarding Deadlines: As this is a rolling call for proposals, inquiries may be submitted at any time. However, if you require a response prior to a specific submission deadline, your inquiry must be received at least **5 working days** in advance. Inquiries received after this timeframe will be addressed during the preparation phase for the subsequent evaluation round.

Complaints

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

1. Submission and Processing (Fund Operator)

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

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

2. Complaints to the FMO

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

- **Process:** The FMO is not subject to the process described in the table above.

- **Confidentiality:** Complaints sent to the FMO are shared with the Fund Operator **only if the complainant wishes** for the FMO to do so.

8 CONTACT

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

Fund Operator
Consortium Lead
Ekopolis Foundation
Komenského 21, 974 01 Banská Bystrica
Tel.: +421 48 470 1092

General e-mail contact address: csf@eea-csf.sk
Director: Peter Medveď, medved@eea-csf.sk
Financial Manager: Lívia Haringová, haringova@eea-csf.sk
Program Manager: Veronika Záhradníková, zahradnikova@eea-csf.sk
Financial Controller: Jarmila Bibová, bibova@eea-csf.sk

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

ANNEX 1: CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANTS

CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANTS	Yes/No
Administrative criteria	
Submission deadline: Compliance with the deadline given on the front page and in Chapter 7 of the call text.	
Submission method and language: Applications must be submitted electronically via e-mail as per Chapter 7 of the call text.	
Required documents: Applications must include all relevant supporting documents and attachments as per Chapter 6 and Annex 1 of the call text.	
Initiative duration: The duration of the initiative must be in accordance with the information specified in the relevant call for applications (see section 4 on the implementation period).	
Requested amount: The amount requested must be in accordance with the information specified in the relevant call for applications (see section 4).	
Eligibility criteria	
Organisation eligibility: See section 3 on eligible applicants and partners.	
Financial and time limits: The requested grant amount and proposed implementation period must be within the permissible limits provided in the call.	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS	
• Partnership declaration(s) /Letter of Intent • Statutes of partners if not freely available online	

- Hourly rate calculation attachment (if applicable)
- For organizations registered outside of Slovakia, an official extract from the relevant registry must be submitted in the original language, accompanied by a high-quality unofficial English translation and a declaration of honour confirming their status as outlined in chapter 4 and 6 of the call text.

ANNEX 2: APPLICATION FORM, RELEVANT GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

1. **The Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters** of the EEA Civil Society Fund Programme (hereinafter referred to as the "Guidelines") provide comprehensive information about the programme, its objective and expected results, outcomes, and outputs, as well as the rules and procedures related to the submission, assessment, implementation, and financing of projects. They serve as a practical guide for Applicants as well as for Project Promoters.
   Annex 1. Indicators Library of EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia. This document is available only in Slovak language as *Príloha 1. Knižnica indikátorov EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia*. Relevant indicators in English are linked in the 'Indicators' subsection within Section 2.3
   Annex 2: Result based management for the EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia

2. The **Cost Eligibility Guidance** for the EEA Civil Society Fund — defines the principles, rules, and criteria determining the eligibility of costs, including categories of eligible expenditures and simplified cost reporting methods.
   Annex 1: Unit cost calculation for personnel costs under Simplified Costs Options (SCOs)

3. **Policy on the Protection of Vulnerable Persons and Children** for the EEA Civil Society Fund in Slovakia.
4. **Application Form for Bilateral Initiatives**: mandatory form containing basic information about the initiative, partners, planned activities, and budget in both language versions (SK/ENG).

All of the mentioned materials are accessible on the Programme website.

ANNEX 3: SELECTION CRITERIA (detail)

The expert assessment of grant applications under the EEA Civil Society Fund Slovakia ensures a professional, objective, independent, and transparent assessment of applications against predefined assessment criteria, resulting in a ranked list that serves as the basis for decision-making by the Selection Committee.

Only applications that meet administrative and eligibility requirements are evaluated, with each eligible application assessed independently by at least two expert evaluators using both quantitative and qualitative criteria; a third evaluator is involved in cases of significant scoring discrepancies.

The assessment outcomes, including scores and recommendations on application content and budget, inform funding decisions, while applications scoring below 85 points do not advance further; detailed rules and procedures are provided in the Annex 3.