Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway

Civil Society Fund

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN POLAND

CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON COUNTERING DISINFORMATION

AVAILABLE FUNDING: EUR 2,928,000

PROJECT APPLICATIONS SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

6 OCTOBER 2026 (12:00 CEST)

SUMMARY OF THE CALL	
Title of the call	Call for proposals on countering disinformation
Purpose of the call	The purpose of the call is to support the activities of civil society organisations working to strengthen democratic values and the rule of law and to protect human rights in the following areas: - strengthening social resilience to disinformation, - enhancing capacity of social organisations and citizens to navigate the information environment in an informed manner.
Outcomes and outputs	Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened Output 1.3 Information integrity and media literacy increased **Outcome 3: CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened, including** Output 3.1: Organisational development supported
Supported types of activities	Supported activities include: ● activities aimed at strengthening the resilience of civil society organisations against disinformation attacks, ● activities aimed at networking and the exchange of experiences, ● advocacy activities, ● watchdog and interventional activities, ● fact-checking activities, ● public awareness actions and campaigns. This is not an exhaustive list and that further details can be found in section 2.4
Eligible Applicants	The following types of entities registered in Poland may apply: ● associations, including ordinary associations, ● foundations, ● unions of associations, ● social cooperatives, ● rural housewives' circles, ● legal entities of churches registered in the National Court Register (KRS). Further details can be found in section 3.1
Project duration	From 12 to 24 months
Partnerships	Applications may be submitted in partnership with up to three entities. Partners may come from Poland, the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway), the Beneficiary States and Ukraine, as well as from international organisations.
Grant amount for a thematic project	from EUR 25,001 to EUR 80,000
Additional partnership funds allocated for partner(s) from the Donor States	up to EUR 16,000

Additional funds allocated for capacity building	up to EUR 16,000
Co-financing	N/A
Call available in the following languages	Polish English
Project applications submission deadline	6 October 2026, 12:00 CEST
Indicative start of project implementation	January 2027
Final date of eligibility of expenditure	31 December 2029

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1. ABOUT THE EEA CIVIL SOCIETY FUND IN POLAND

The EEA Civil Society Fund is a grant programme that will support civil society organisations in Poland until 2032.

Organisations working close to people and their everyday problems play a very important role in safeguarding social cohesion in Poland. Without them, it will not be possible to build resilience in the social dimension – the resilience of a democratic society in which citizens participate in public life and feel a sense of agency and responsibility for one another and for the wider community. We particularly need such attitudes and activities in the uncertain and crisis-ridden times in which we live.

We believe that well-designed activities carried out by civil society organisations will help make Poland not only more resilient to crises, but also a country in which all social groups benefit from the development that we have experienced since the democratic breakthrough of 1989.

In view of the challenges currently facing Poland, we consider initiatives aimed at strengthening social ties, reducing polarisation and radicalisation, protecting human rights, and building communities in which everyone feels they belong, and in which the needs and rights of all are recognised and respected, to be particularly important. These are precisely the kinds of activities that we will support through the EEA Civil Society Fund.

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

The Fund will be operated by a consortium selected through an open call, composed of five experienced and diverse organisations: the Stefan Batory Foundation, the Education for Democracy Foundation, the Shipyard Foundation, the Rural Development Foundation, and Civil Society Norway. Together, we will use our knowledge, skills, and energy to distribute the funds entrusted to us (EUR 83,471,033) in a transparent manner so that they generate the most sustainable results possible. We approach this task with a strong sense of responsibility, but also with joy at the thought that thanks to these grants hundreds of civil society organisations across Poland will be able not only to work on a larger scale, but also to strengthen themselves as institutions.

This is possible because three countries – Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein – in agreement with the European Union, have once again decided to allocate part of their resources under the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism (the 'Grants') to the development of 15 less affluent EU Member States, including Poland. The overall objectives of the Grants are to reduce social and economic disparities and to strengthen bilateral relations between the Donor States and the Beneficiary States.

The transfer of these funds forms part of a broader agreement under which Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, which are not EU Member States, benefit from access to the internal market of the EU; in practice, this means that their economic cooperation with the European Union is easier.

In each of the 15 countries benefiting from this support, including Poland, 10% of the allocated funds are earmarked specifically for strengthening civil society organisations so that they can carry out their work more effectively and help ensure that civil society in these countries is stronger and more resilient in the face of present and future crises. This is exactly the role of the EEA Civil Society Fund, including the one operating in Poland.

Like the entire EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2021–2028, the Fund is based on the 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 financed through

the Fund must respect these values and the fundamental rights and obligations enshrined in the relevant instruments and standards.

The Fund supports activities in relation to three outcomes:

- 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

It also supports bilateral cooperation between civil society organisations in Poland and entities from the Donor States of the EEA Grants – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – as well as regional cooperation with entities from the Beneficiary States and Ukraine.

A total of 13 calls for proposals will be launched under the Fund.

Information on calls and other activities supported under the Programme will be published on the website of the EEA Civil Society Fund in Poland.

2. THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON COUNTERING DISINFORMATION

2.1 PURPOSE AND NEEDS ADRESSED BY THE CALL

The purpose of the call is to support the activities of civil society organisations working to strengthen democratic values and the rule of law and to protect human rights in the following areas:

- strengthening social resilience to disinformation,

- enhancing capacity of social organisations and citizens to navigate the information environment in an informed manner.

Democracy relies on access to reliable information, critical evaluation of that information, and responsible public debate. However, these foundations are currently under threat from disinformation, manipulation, and the increasing volume of content being generated, including through AI-based tools. Consequently, public trust, social cohesion, and the quality of decision-making processes are deteriorating.

By 'disinformation', we mean the deliberate dissemination or amplification of false, manipulated or misleading content, including via digital tools, with the aim of influencing social, political or economic processes, regardless of its source or the entity responsible for its creation and dissemination.

That is why the EEA Civil Society Fund supports initiatives that strengthen social resilience to disinformation and enhance the ability of civil society organisations and citizens to navigate the information environment in an informed manner.

Supporting cooperation between civil society organisations, the media, experts and groups vulnerable to information manipulation is particularly important to us. Effectively countering disinformation requires the exchange of experiences, joint action, the development of crisis response tools, and the strengthening of competences related to verifying information and the critical use of the media. It also requires the ability to build effective narratives and messages around the scope of one's activities.

We also support fact-checking activities, public awareness campaigns, initiatives to counter hate speech, and advocacy activities, research and watchdog activities aimed at creating transparent and effective public policies in the field of countering disinformation.

We believe that the resilience of a democratic society today depends not only on the quality of its institutions, but also on the quality of the information landscape. Therefore, supporting efforts to counter disinformation is an investment in social security, public trust and the sustainability of democracy.

The total funds allocated for the call for proposals on countering disinformation come to EUR 2,928,000.

This call is to be read in conjunction with the **Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters** available on the Fund's website under the Calls section/ Countering Disinformation Call.

The Stefan Batory Foundation is responsible for the call for proposals on countering disinformation.

2.2 EXPECTED RESULTS

Like the funds in other countries, the EEA Civil Society Fund in Poland is based on a results-based management approach. This means that both its design and its implementation – including the outcomes and outputs – are directed towards achieving clearly defined results as clearly as possible.

Each project for which funds are provided under this call must fall under this single outcome and output:
Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened

- Output 1.3: Information integrity and media literacy increased

Results, under this single outcome and output, are measured through the use of programme-level indicators, facilitating the assessment of whether they have been achieved at the level of the programme as a whole. The lists of such indicators are provided in the next subsection.

When submitting an application, the Applicant may, but is not required to, state one or more of these indicators and thereby declare to which of them the project will contribute. When none of the programme-level indicators suit the project's specific expected results, the Applicant proposes its own indicators.

For each selected indicator, the Applicant is required to provide a target value to be achieved by the end of the project. Target values should be ambitious, yet realistic. In line with the selection criteria, additional points will not be awarded to projects merely due to planning of high indicator targets. The assessment will focus primarily on whether the planned results are relevant, coherent, and realistic, and how well these expected results align with and contribute to the programme results framework. During implementation, indicators become reporting tools. This means that, in addition to narrative and financial reporting, Project Promoters are expected to report against indicators (quantitative results).

2.3 TYPES OF SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

The following types of activities are supported in the call for proposals on countering disinformation:

a) activities aimed at strengthening the resilience of civil society organisations against disinformation attacks targeting those organisations or the groups they serve (including capacity building through training and workshops led by specialists engaged in countering disinformation, the development of response strategies and crisis communication tools, as well as carrying out interventional activities and actions to pre-empt disinformation campaigns);

b) activities aimed at establishing and strengthening relationships (networking) and the exchange of experiences between civil society organisations, journalists, publishers and editorial teams, including e.g., joint cross-sectoral and cross-editorial initiatives aimed at countering disinformation and teaching audiences critical thinking, communicating the results of research and expert analyses, and developing cooperation between entities involved in countering disinformation and civil society organisations at risk of disinformation attacks;

c) **advocacy activities** concerning legislation or national public policies aimed at countering disinformation and at introducing critical thinking and the critical use of media into the education system; collecting data and conducting research to produce reports and analyses used in advocacy activities;

d) **watchdog and interventional activities:** monitoring the actions and decisions of public institutions and economic operators that influence the development of public policies and legislation on countering of disinformation;

e) **fact-checking activities** aimed at improving the quality of public debate and **publicising their results**;

f) **public awareness initiatives and campaigns** to raise awareness of the phenomenon of disinformation and the need for critical thinking in everyday life, including **critical use of media** and awareness of the challenges associated with AI-generated content.

g) **communication activities** promoting the results of analyses of disinformation phenomena, developing counter-narratives and strategic communication aimed at disseminating reliable information, countering information manipulation and strengthening audience resilience against disinformation.

The list of activities is not exhaustive – other activities may also be implemented provided they are suited to the call's objectives.

Priority will be given to projects in which civil society organisations working to counter disinformation share their knowledge and experience with civil society organisations at risk of disinformation attacks and establish or strengthen their cooperation with them.

Target groups

This call is addressed to civil society organisations that:

- specialise in carrying out activities to counter disinformation

or

- are (or may be) the target of disinformation campaigns due to the nature of their activities.

As mentioned above, Outcome 1 has been assigned relevant deliverables and results, which are then measured through programme-level indicators that make it easier to verify whether they have been achieved at the level of the whole Fund. When submitting an application, the Applicant may, but is not required to, state one or more of these indicators and thereby declare to which of them the project will contribute. When none of these indicators suits the project's specific expected results, the Applicant proposes its own indicators.

Indicators for Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened
Number of national, regional or local laws, policies or regulations proposed by or commented on by civil society organisations
Output 1.3: Information integrity and media literacy increased
Number of training courses on disinformation delivered by supported CSOs
Number of people who have completed a CSO-led training course on disinformation
Number of advocacy/awareness-raising campaigns carried out
Number of advocacy/awareness-raising campaigns addressing the consequences of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine carried out

2.4 CONDITIONS OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON COUNTERING DISINFORMATION

Projects are not eligible for funding if their sole component is:

1. trainings for the general public, or debates or conferences,

2. the preparation and dissemination of an article, a series of articles, or multimedia and educational materials,

3. fact-checking activities,

4. the collection and analysis of data, and the preparation and publication of reports.

Trainings open to the general public will only be funded if they form a logical complement to other types of activities within the project, such as networking or watchdog and/or advocacy activities. Training sessions on critical thinking aimed at schools will not be funded under this call for proposals.[1]

2.5 CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Under the call for proposals on countering disinformation, **up to EUR 16,000**, may be allocated to capacity-building activities of the Project Promoter and/or Partner(s), provided that they are civil society organisations.

Grants may be used, among other things, for:

- recruiting employees, collaborators and volunteers;
- strengthening team competences and other forms of professional development for persons working for the organisation, including volunteers;
- strengthening the organisation's resilience to crises, including preparedness for functioning in such situations;
- building and engaging a membership base;
- developing an overall organisational strategy or functional strategies relating to selected management areas such as marketing, fundraising or human resources;
- research into target groups and the organisation's surrounding community;
- building a social base and embedding the organisation in its local environment;
- devising, implementing and/or improving standards of activities and services offered by the organisation;
- improving internal standards of organisational management, for example in people management, communication, financial management and accounting;
- fundraising through different methods and from different sources;
- preparing a strategy for economic activity and/or paid public benefit activity;
- relationship-building, outreach, promotion and communication;
- increasing accountability and transparency;
- ensuring legal compliance;
- strengthening the capacity to conduct or take part in consultations, monitoring and advocacy activities;
- strengthening inter-organisational and cross-sectoral cooperation, partnerships and networking;
- evaluations, organisational audits, financial audits, and other processes of reflection and assessment;

[1] Educational activities aimed at children, young people and teaching staff may be eligible for funding through the EEA Civil Society Fund's call for thematic projects.

- implementation of new technologies and digitalisation activities, for example devising and implementing a digital strategy, automating fundraising administration, and ensuring digital security;
- purchase of fixed assets, including equipment and furnishings, or minor renovations justified by required work standards or the need to increase the scale or quality of activities;
- testing new solutions and implementing pilot initiatives that help build the knowledge, experience and know-how needed to develop statutory activities;
- planning and implementing other change processes within the organisation.

Capacity-building activities should be planned on the basis of a needs assessment of the Applicant and, where relevant, the Partner(s), provided that they are civil society organisations, and should focus on solving selected and concrete problems that are major obstacles to the organisation's development. They may also support the launch of new activities or services, or their expansion into new target groups or new geographical areas. When giving reasons for the choice of activities, the Applicant should demonstrate how they will increase the organisation's capacity to pursue its mission effectively.

Capacity-building activities may be carried out independently or with the support of external specialists.

3. Applicants and Partners

3.1 APPLICANTS

Applicants, i.e. entities that may submit applications on their own or act as lead partners in partnerships seeking grants, must be civil society organisations established in Poland.

The following types of entities registered in Poland may apply: associations, including ordinary associations, foundations, unions of associations, social cooperatives, country housewives' associations, and faith-based organisations. Detailed conditions concerning the various legal forms are described in the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters.

All Applicants, regardless of legal form, must meet the following criteria:

- they are registered in the National Court Register (KRS), the register of ordinary associations, or the register of country housewives' associations maintained by the President of the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture;
- at the time of submitting the project outline, they have been registered for at least 12 months in the case of medium-sized grants and 24 months in the case of large grants;
- before signing the project contract, they will be able to provide financial statements or, if they are not required to prepare such statements, a summary statement of income and expenditure for the most recent reporting year;
- they are independent of local, regional and central government, public entities, political parties and commercial entities;
- they are non-profit, and if they engage in economic activity, any profit generated is used to support their mission and values;
- they do not act only for the commercial or professional interests of their members;
- they act in the public interest, respect human rights, and are guided in their work by democratic values, in particular the universal values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and the protection of human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities;
- they are not subject to bankruptcy proceedings, liquidation, compulsory administration, suspension of activity, or proceedings of a similar nature;
- they have no arrears in public-law liabilities towards the tax authorities or the Social Insurance Institution, or they have an instalment arrangement in place;
- none of the members of the organisation's management body has been convicted of an intentional criminal offence prosecuted by public indictment or of a fiscal offence;

- they are voluntary in nature, formed voluntarily by groups or natural persons, and, where the organisation is membership-based, membership is not compulsory for any group or person.

The activities described in the application must be consistent with the Applicant's statute, regulations (if the organisation does not have a statute) or another document defining the Applicant's mission, objectives and methods of operation. These activities may not consist of religious worship or practice, including the preaching and spreading of faith, political party activity, or election campaigning.

In addition, the grant may not be used to carry out economic activity or paid public benefit activity. No fees may be charged to participants within projects, meaning, for example, that tickets may not be sold for events organised under the project, and publications prepared under the project may not be sold for a fee.

3.2 PARTNERS

Projects may be implemented in cooperation with up to three Partners. Partners must share the objectives of the project, actively participate in its preparation and implementation, and contribute their knowledge and experience.

The following types of entities may act as Project Partners:

- civil society organisations and public and private entities, both commercial and non-commercial, from Poland, from the other Beneficiary States (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia), from the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway), or from Ukraine;
- international organisations, and their managing or representative bodies[2];
- informal groups meeting the following conditions:
    - they work for the public good;
    - membership is voluntary and non-discriminatory;
    - they are independent of local, regional and national authorities and other public authorities, as well as political parties, religious institutions and commercial entities;
    - they are represented by one person legally residing in Poland, who signs the partnership declaration and partnership agreement on behalf of the group.

Informal groups shall be eligible as project partners, in accordance with Article 7.2. Where informal groups participate as project partners, the Project Promoter shall be the formal recipient of the project grant covering the activities of the project partner. The project agreement and partnership agreement shall in these cases contain provisions to this effect.

The involvement of Partners, as well as their role and tasks, must be confirmed in a written declaration, required at the full application stage, and in a partnership agreement, required before the project contract is signed. Templates for the partnership declaration and partnership agreement will be made available on the Fund's website under the Calls section / Countering Disinformation Call.

Within the EEA Civil Society Fund, special importance is attached to cooperation with entities from the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) – referred to as **bilateral cooperation**. In the case of partnerships involving an entity from the Donor States, Beneficiary States and Ukraine, both the declaration and the partnership agreement must be in English.

[2] International organisations are defined as entities established for the purpose of multilateral cooperation between states in accordance with the provisions of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, i.e. by virtue of treaties or other instruments of international law. International non-governmental organisations, as legal entities established under national law for the purpose of carrying out non-profit activities in the public interest in at least two countries, may be partners only if they have their registered office in a Donor State, a Beneficiary State or Ukraine.

Organisations that develop projects in partnership with entities from Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway may apply for **additional funds** (not included in the basic grant amount) **to cover the costs of the Partner(s) from these countries' participation and bilateral cooperation** in the project. This amount is independent of the number of Partners from the Donor States and may amount to up to **EUR 16,000**.

NOTE: Planning additional funds for bilateral cooperation in the call for proposals does not preclude the costs of this cooperation from being financed from the basic grant amount if its costs exceed the limit described above.

Projects involving a donor project partner will be required to **report on results under the programme's Bilateral Outcome:** ***Strengthened bilateral cooperation in the civil society sector***. This will include, inter alia, responding to a survey administered by the Financial Mechanism Office (on behalf of the Donors) assessing various quality dimensions of the partnership, in order to support the assessment of bilateral cooperation results.

Entities from countries other than Poland, as well as international organisations, may participate as Partners in any number of projects throughout the Programme.

Project partnerships should not be confused with sub-contracting. Project Partners work towards a common community objective, actively engage in implementation, and contribute to achieving the planned results. Sub-contracting, by contrast, serves the delivery of one or more specific tasks, such as services or equipment needed to carry out an activity within the project, and must always be based on an appropriate contract.

3.3 LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS

Under this call, each eligible entity may submit **only one project**. In addition, it may act as a Partner **in one application** submitted by another organisation. If an organisation is not applying for a grant itself, it may be a Partner **in two applications** submitted by other organisations.

More information on limits relating to the number of applications submitted, and grants awarded is available in the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters.

4. PROJECT CONDITIONS

4.1 FINANCING

The grant rate is 100%.

4.2 ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

Detailed rules on eligible expenditure are described in the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters.

The inclusion of an expenditure item in the project budget approved by the FO cannot be regarded as confirmation of that item's eligibility.

The project budget consists of actual direct costs, indirect costs calculated as a flat rate of 7% of eligible direct costs. The types of costs covered by the flat-rate allocation must be specified by the Applicant in the budget.

Applicants provide the project budget broken down into the following categories:

- **Category A (mandatory)** – project implementation costs, including any costs of the Partner(s), except for cooperation with entities from the Donor States;
- **Category B (optional)** – partnership cooperation costs with entities from the Donor States;
- **Category C (optional)** – capacity-building costs (the final decision on whether support is granted is taken at the full application stage).

- **Category D** – a flat-rate allocation for indirect costs amounting to 7% of eligible direct costs (the sum of categories A, B and C)

The budget is drawn up in EUR; all budget currency conversions must use a fixed exchange rate of EUR 1 = PLN 4.000.

Detailed rules governing the budget are set out in the project contract and the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters.

On the Fund's website, under the Calls section / Application Support, a supplementary spreadsheet has been made available; it does not constitute an attachment to the application and is not submitted with it. It may serve as a tool to support budget preparation, in particular for performing working calculations, verifying adopted assumptions, and organizing data before their final entry into the system.

Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters available.

4.3 PAYMENT OF THE GRANT

The grant will be paid in euro (EUR) to a dedicated bank account maintained in Polish zloty (PLN).

The disbursement of the grant is conditional upon the Project Promoter (as an institution) submitting a blank Bill of Exchange together with a promissory note declaration. The Bill of Exchange is signed for the full value of the grant.

The grant will be paid in instalments defined in the project contract:

Advance payment: up to 50% of the grant will be transferred to the Project Promoter within 15 working days of signing the project contract.

Interim payments: the number of interim payments depends on the assessment of the Applicant's financial condition. The interim payments may, in total, account for at least 45% of the grant. These payments will be made after approval of interim project reports submitted by the Project Promoter and after at least 70% of the previously received funds have been spent. Each interim payment will be transferred within 15 working days following the approval of the relevant interim narrative report and interim financial report.

Final payment: this will be at least 5% of the grant. The final amount of the final payment will be determined on the basis of the approved final project report and may be reduced by any unspent funds or expenditure deemed ineligible. If the amount to be recovered exceeds the value of the final payment, the Project Promoter will be required to return the funds and the final payment will not be made.

The final payment will be made up to 15 working days after approval of the final narrative report and the final financial report.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE, ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

5.1 ADMINISTRATIVE AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

During the formal evaluation stage, the Operator verifies whether:

- the application was submitted through the Online Application System in Polish;
- the application was submitted by the deadline set out in the call;
- the Applicant is an eligible entity under the call;
- all sections of the form have been completed correctly;
- the project duration is between 12 and 24 months;
- the grant amounts requested for project implementation, bilateral cooperation with entities from Donor States, and capacity building do not exceed the amounts indicated in the project outlines;

- the Applicant has not submitted more applications as Lead and/or Partner than permitted;
- in projects implemented in partnership, the Partner(s) meet the eligibility criteria;
- in projects implemented in partnership, the Partner(s) have not declared participation in more projects than allowed under the call;
- in the case of projects implemented in partnership, a partnership declaration(s) specifying Partner's roles and tasks in the implementation of the Project have been attached;
- in the case of projects carried out in partnership, the distribution of the grant between the Applicant and the Partner(s) (if applicable) does not imply that any Partner will receive a higher amount from the grant than the Applicant;
- the Applicant has submitted all required declarations.

The Applicant's eligibility will be verified on the basis of the declarations submitted in the application.

Template for the administrative and eligibility assessment form is available on the Fund's website under the Calls section / Countering Disinformation Call

If a minor technical error occurs whilst completing the form (e.g. incorrect completion of form fields), the Applicant may correct it during the formal assessment stage within 3 working days of the date on which the Operator sends an email notification of the error. If the error is not corrected within this time limit, the application will be rejected on formal grounds.

5.2 APPEALS

Applicants whose project application is rejected on formal grounds will receive an email from the Fund Operator informing them accordingly together with the administrative assessment form. If the Applicant wishes to appeal the decision, it has five working days from the date on which the rejection notice is sent by the Fund Operator to do so. Appeals submitted after this deadline will not be considered. Appeals will be reviewed by the Fund Operator within ten working days of receipt. The decision on whether to accept or reject an appeal against the administrative assessment is taken by the Fund Director.

5.3 SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications that meet the administrative and eligibility criteria will be assessed by three independent experts. The experts assess applications in accordance with the selection criteria set out below.

The assessment is based on the following criteria:

Consistency of the project with the objective of the Fund and the requirements of the call	yes/no
Experience and resources of the Applicant and Partner(s), if applicable	0 to 4
Quality of the needs assessment	0 to 4
Alignment with the priority	0/1
Quality of results chain	0 to 4
Quality of activities	0 to 4
Timeline and budget	0 to 4
Cross-cutting issues	0 to 2

Project management	0 to 2
Interview with Applicant	0 to 2
Recommendation on funding capacity-building activities	yes/no
Maximum total score	**27**

The assessment of the part of the application concerning capacity-building plans does not affect the numerical score of the application or the decision to award the project implementation grant. It affects only the recommendation as to whether the capacity-building part of the grant should be awarded.

Descriptions of all criteria are provided in the Application selection assessment form, which is available on the Fund's website under the Call section / Countering Disinformation Call

Experts use the following scales:

Criteria assessed on a scale of 0–4

- 0 means very poor/insufficient
- 1 means weak
- 2 means average
- 3 means good
- 4 means very good/ideal

Criteria assessed on a scale of 0–2

- 0 means the additional criterion is not met
- 1 means it is met partially
- 2 means it is met to a significant degree or in full

Criteria assessed on a scale of 0/1

- 0 means the additional criterion is not met
- 1 means the additional criterion is met

Applicants whose projects are rated the highest, and whose total requested grant amounts exhaust 125% of the allocation planned for the call, are selected for interviews with experts. Projects that receive less than 70% of the total available scores at the time will not be selected for an interview.

6. TIMELINE OF THE CALL

5 August 2026	Launch of the call for proposals on countering disinformation
August-September 2026	Information and support activities for Applicants
6 October 2026	Deadline for submission of project applications
Till 16 October 2026	Administrative assessment of project applications
Till 6 November	Announcement of the list of Applicants invited to interviews with experts

Till 4 December 2026	Interviews with Applicants
11 December 2026	End of selection assessment of project applications
Till 18 December 2026	Meeting of the Selection Committee
Till 23 December 2026	Decision on applications to receive funding, taken by the Steering Committee
Till 30 December 2026	Publication on the Fund's website of the list of applications awarded funding
From 1 January 2027	Start of project implementation

7. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

For applications submitted in partnership, the partnership declaration is a mandatory annex, using the required template available on the Fund's website under the Calls section / Countering Disinformation Call.

8. HOW TO APPLY

Project applications may be submitted **only through the Online Application System** available at: www.wnioski.fso.org.pl. Applications sent by regular post or email will not be considered.

The user guide for the System is available both in the System and on the Fund's website under the Calls section / Countering Disinformation Call.

The deadline for submission of project applications is **6 October 2026 at 12:00 noon**. Late submission will result in rejection of the application.

Applications may be submitted only in Polish.

8.1 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions should be sent using the contact details provided in the CONTACT section. Answers to the most frequently asked questions will be published on the Fund's website.

8.2 SUPPORT FOR APPLICANTS

The Fund website contains materials useful when preparing applications: the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters, the project application forms together with instruction, templates of the administrative and selection assessment forms, and the partnership declaration template.

Applicants may also make use of:

- webinars explaining the rules of the call (webinar dates and recordings will be published on the Fund's website);
- email and telephone support provided by the Fund team. This support may concern procedural and technical issues related to application submission (telephone numbers and email addresses of persons responsible for support are provided in the CONTACT section);

- support in finding a foreign partner from a Donor State and/or a Beneficiary State, as well as from Ukraine (more information is available in the 6. International partnerships chapter of the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters).

9. CONTACT

If you have questions or doubts related to applying for a grant, please contact the Batory Foundation team by email (fso_eog@batory.org.pl) or by phone (+48 730 012 950, +48 730 005 622). If your question or doubt concerns partnerships with entities from the Donor States, Beneficiary States and Ukraine – please contact the international cooperation team by email (fso_partner@batory.org.pl).

If you encounter any of the following:

- a breach of the principles of good governance (openness, transparency, accountability, zero tolerance for corruption) in the EEA Civil Society Fund;
- a breach of the values upheld by the Fund (respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities);
- irregularities in the implementation of projects financed by the Fund or in the use of Fund grant resources,

please report this to: skargi@fso.org.pl.

A complaint should include the following information:

- a description of the violation, as precise as possible;
- your preferred form of contact for investigation into the matter (email or telephone).

The Fund Operator will respond within 30 days of receiving the complaint. If the Fund Operator's response proves unsatisfactory, the matter may be referred to the Complaints Committee established by the Fund Operator, which will respond within 30 days of receiving the complaint.

Independently of the above, the matter may be reported directly to the Financial Mechanism Office in Brussels. Please note that the FMO examines only complaints concerning the Fund Operator. In all other matters, the Fund Operator and the Complaints Committee are responsible for examining complaints.

The Fund Operator guarantees anonymity and confidentiality of personal data at every stage of the complaint handling process. The subject of the complaint will be disclosed only to those employees of the Fund Operator whose involvement is necessary to resolve the matter, and, where necessary, to members of the Complaints Committee and/or the FMO. The data will not be shared with third parties.

More information on the protection of personal data processed during the complaint handling process may be obtained by emailing: rodo@fso.org.pl.