Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway

Civil Society Fund

CALL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs)

IN BULGARIA

ROLLING CALL FOR SMALL GRANTS

AVAILABLE FUNDING: EUR 4 150 000

Applications are assessed twice within each six-month session.

The cut-off for the first evaluation round is 29 September 2026, 23:59 EET

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 **Bulgaria**. 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 **Bulgaria** has a total allocation of EUR 23 464 968**.** A consortium of Open Society Institute – Sofia, in partnership with Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation, Trust for Social Achievement and Frivillighet Norge/Civil Society Norway operates the EEA Civil Society Fund in **Bulgaria** on behalf of the Donor States.

The rolling call for small grants has a total allocation of EUR 4 150 000 and targets Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working in the areas of:

1. Democracy and participation (total allocation for this focus area: EUR 1 500 000).

2. Human rights and social justice (total allocation for this focus area: EUR 1 000 000)

3. Organisational development (total allocation for this focus area: EUR 650 000)

4. Addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine (total allocation for this focus area: EUR 1 000 000)

SUMMARY OF THE CALL	
Title of the call	**Rolling Call for Small Grants**
Responsible Consortium Partner of the Fund Operator	Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation (WCIF)
Purpose of the call	To support small, potentially scalable projects that contribute to a more vibrant and resilient civil society protecting and promoting democracy, the rule of law and human rights, in line with the below listed focus areas. For detailed description see section 2.1 of this Call
Focus areas	1. Focus on democracy and participation 2. Focus on human rights and social justice 3. Focus on organisational development 4. Focus on addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine
Outcome(s)	For Focus area 1: Outcome 1 "Democracy and rule of law strengthened" For Focus area 2: Outcome 2 "Human rights strengthened" For Focus area 3: Outcome 3 "CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened" For Focus area 4 on Ukraine focus: Outcome 1 "Democracy and rule of law strengthened"; Outcome 2 "Human rights strengthened"; Outcome

	3 "CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened"
Output(s)	**For projects with focus on democracy and participation:** Output 1.1: CSO participation in democratic processes increased Output 1.2: Civic engagement increased Output 1.3: Information integrity and media literacy increased **For projects with focus on human rights and social justice:** 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 **For projects with focus on organisational development**: Output 3.1: Organisational development supported Output 3.2: An enabling environment for civil society supported **For projects with focus on addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine:** Output 1.2: Civic engagement increased Output 1.3: Information integrity and media literacy increased 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 Output 3.1: Organisational development supported
Relevant project activities	Recommended activities under each focus area and output (See section 2 of this Call)
Eligible project applicants	Independent CSOs registered in Bulgaria as non-profit legal entities, including those registered as chitalishta. For detailed description see section 3.1 of this Call.
Project duration	Between 6 and 12 months
Project grant amount	Between EUR 10 000 and EUR 25 000
Co-financing	No co-financing required
Method of financing:	Flat rate of 100% of eligible direct personnel to cover all other remaining costs of the project. For detailed description see section 4.3 of this Call.

Total funding for the call	EUR 4 150 000
Partnerships	Possibility of involving project partners (maximum 2 partners recommended)
Call available in the following language(s)	English and Bulgarian
Questions deadline	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.
Application deadline	Applications may be submitted on a rolling basis through eight six-month sessions. Each session is divided into two three-month submission periods. For detailed description see section 4.

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1. BACKGROUND FOR THE EEA CIVIL SOCIETY FUND IN BULGARIA

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 Beneficiary States.

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 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 Bulgaria is EUR 23,46 million.

Through an open tender process, the secretariat of the Donor States – the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) – has selected a consortium led by Open Society Institute – Sofia, in partnership with Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation, Trust for Social Achievement and Frivillighet Norge/Civil Society Norway as Fund Operator of the EEA Civil Society Fund in Bulgaria. The Fund Operator manages the EEA Civil Society Fund in Bulgaria on behalf of the Donor States. This includes the selection, contracting and follow-up of projects.

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 Bulgaria will include seven open calls, contributing to the following outcomes [1]:

- 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

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 health and rights, the promotion of LGBTIQ+ rights, as well as climate action, environmental protection and a just green transition. Another important focus is on developing organisational 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 marginalised, particularly Roma.

The programme encourages cooperation between civil society in Bulgaria and in the three Donor States: Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

The EEA Civil Society Fund provides support for CSOs throughout Bulgaria. Applications from CSOs based in under-served geographic areas and led by target groups that are marginalised are encouraged.

The programme uses a results-based management approach. This means it is designed and managed with a focus on achieving results. The programme has a results framework[2] that guides what can be supported. To be eligible for support, all projects must contribute to the expected results outlined in this results framework.

An overview of all open calls as well as other activities supported by the programme can be found on the website www.civilsocietyfund.bg

2. FOCUS OF THIS CALL

2.1 Purpose of this call

The purpose of this rolling call is to support small, potentially scalable projects[3] that reinforce the resilience of **civil society, protecting and promoting democracy, the rule of law and human rights** in Bulgaria, **by making a measurable contribution to one of the three programme outcomes** outlined above.

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[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 the document Results Based Management for the EEA CSF on the programme website www.civilsocietyfund.bg

[2] The results framework of the programme outlines the predefined outcomes, outputs, and indicators that will be used to monitor project implementation.

[3] Scalability refers to the potential of a given project – its approach, results, or lessons learned – to be further developed, replicated, or scaled up over time, including through future funding opportunities.

A strong civil society is essential for Bulgaria's democratic and social development, with CSOs playing a central role in advancing human rights, transparency, and civic participation. Yet many organisations, especially smaller, community-based, youth-led, or those working on gender-based violence prevention, survivor support, LGBTIQ+ rights, and intersectional discrimination affecting Roma communities, migrants, and refugees, struggle to access funding or test small but meaningful innovations. Even more established CSOs face similar constraints due to scarce and unpredictable funding mechanisms. To address these structural barriers, this rolling call introduces a simplified application and selection process designed to increase predictability and lower access thresholds, particularly for smaller and less experienced CSOs and those working in underserved areas or with underserved groups. Importantly, the rolling call is conceived as a longer-term and stable funding opportunity, offering CSOs a more predictable and continuous pathway to support.

In addition to the thematic focus areas of democracy and participation, human rights and social justice, and organisational development, the call includes a **country-specific focus area: "Addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine."** This priority will be supported through Output 1.2 ("Civic engagement increased"), Output 1.3 ("Information integrity and media literacy increased"), 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") and through activities under Ouput 3.1 ("Organisational development supported"). Within these outcomes and outputs, the call encourages applications from CSOs working with refugees and migrants, as well as those addressing information integrity and disinformation, combating all forms of discrimination and supporting social justice and gender equality, as well as environmental protection activities. Informal groups working on the rights of Ukrainian migrants and refugees may participate as project partners.

Finally, civil society in Bulgaria and in the Donor States often faces similar challenges related to funding, participation, and advocacy. For this reason, the programme treats the bilateral cooperation as an integral tool for strengthening democratic culture, broadening civic perspectives, and building resilience on both sides. All projects, regardless of the outcome selected, are encouraged to include bilateral cooperation activities.

All projects selected under this call must contribute to a single outcome and a single output. **When applying, please select the focus area, the outcome and the output [4] that is most relevant to your project.**

The focus areas of the call, organised by outcomes and outputs, are described below.

2.2 Overview of the focus areas

All projects selected under this call shall contribute to one of the four focus areas and shall be aligned with the selected outcome and output:

Focus on democracy and participation (**Outcome 1: "Democratic values and the 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

Focus on human rights and social justice (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

[4] Outputs are the products, goods and services directly delivered by projects to the target group. They should be directly observable and measurable and able to be directly attributed to the activities of a project or programme.

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

Focus on organisational development (Outcome 3: "CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened")

- Output 3.1: Organisational development supported 8
- Output 3.2: An enabling environment for civil society supported

This call includes a country-specific focus on addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine (**Outcome 1: "Democratic values and the rule of law strengthened"; Outcome 2: "Human rights strengthened"; Outcome 3: "CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened").** This focus area shall primarily be achieved through the following outputs:

For Outcome 1:

- Output 1.2 "Civic engagement increased"
- Output 1.3 "Information integrity and media literacy increased"

For Outcome 2:

- 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

For Outcome 3:

- Output 3.1: Organisational development supported

Under these outcomes and outputs, the call encourages applications from CSOs working on Ukrainian migrants' and refugees' rights, including CSOs working with refugees and migrants and CSOs working on information integrity and disinformation.

2.3 Expected results

The EEA Civil Society Fund in Bulgaria uses a results-based management approach. This means it is designed and managed with a focus on achieving specific results. The programme has a results framework that guides what can be supported. To be eligible for support, all projects must contribute to the expected results outlined in the results framework.

For the current call, each applicant has to choose one of the four focus areas.

Each project contributes to a single programme outcome. Within that outcome, a project must support one output.

Each project is expected to align with these main expected results, and report on them narratively and quantitatively.

To track progress, projects should also contribute to programme-level indicators from the selected outcome and output [5] Indicators are a means to quantifiably measure progress. Alongside narrative reports and other sources of information, indicators are used to help *indicate* the extent to which an outcome or output has been achieved. Indeed, during implementation, indicators become reporting

[5] By achieving results under the selected outcome and related output(s), projects will contribute indirectly to the programme's high-level objective to contribute to a vibrant and resilient civil society protecting and promoting democracy, the rule of law, and human rights. However, project applicants are not required to measure results at this higher objective level, but simply to provide information on how their project contributes to achieving these results.

tools. **The indicators listed in the tables below 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 or output. [6] During implementation, the agreed indicators will become a reporting tool. Project Promoters will be responsible for collecting and analysing data to report on the indicators and with narrative against the selected output and outcome

In the application form, applicants are required to indicate if their project will report against one or more of the programme level result framework indicators. **In the project application form, applicants should clearly indicate which indicator(s) their project will contribute to, and the corresponding project-level target(s).** As per the selection criteria, projects will not be awarded additional points for high targets. Rather, projects will be assessed on whether the results are relevant, coherent and realistic.

Applicants could find detailed explanation of the indicators and how to demonstrate them on the program's website[7].

2.3.1 Focus on democracy and participation – OUTCOME 1: "Democratic values and the rule of law strengthened"

Bulgarian society continues to face challenges related to the erosion of trust in public institutions, limited transparency in decision-making, and persistent pressure on independent media and civil society actors. These factors weaken democratic culture and hinder meaningful public participation in shaping policies that affect citizens' lives.

Under the thematic focus democracy and participation, the EEA Civil Society Fund provides space for civil society organisations (CSOs) to reinforce their role in democratic processes. The programme supports CSOs in participation in public consultations, monitoring public institutions, advocating for policy improvements, and contributing expert knowledge to public debates. It also strengthens their capacity to counter disinformation and improve information integrity.

Common challenges across the outputs under Outcome 1 include administrative and institutional barriers that limit CSOs' participation in policy processes, low levels of public trust in institutions due to long-standing governance issues, and uneven civic participation across regions—particularly in rural areas and among marginalised groups. The rapid expansion of digital communication creates new opportunities for engagement but also brings risks such as increased polarisation, the spread of disinformation, and the fragmentation of public debate.

Output 1.1 CSO participation in democratic processes increased

Total financial allocation for this output within the rolling call: EUR 500 000

Needs addressed: Civil society organisations (CSOs) are an essential pillar in protecting democracy; however, their ability to effectively participate in public affairs has been weakened. The adoption of the Law on Transparency in Interest Representation introduces new registration and reporting requirements for CSOs engaged in advocacy, creating additional administrative obligations that may affect smaller organisations.

This output supports projects focused on advocacy, watchdog activities, participation in policymaking, and expert contributions to legislative processes, with particular emphasis on strategic

[6] Project applicants can design and use their own additional outcome-level and output-level indicators to help track their specific results. These project-level indicators are not part of the programme's overall results framework. For more information, see the Results Framework.

[7] www.civilsocietyfund.bg

communication and the preparation of data-based positions, comments, and proposals that provide a sound basis for dialogue with public institutions.

The aim is to increase the meaningful participation of CSOs in democratic processes at national and local levels. The output seeks to empower CSOs to contribute to the development, revision, and monitoring of laws, policies, and regulations; to engage in structured dialogue with public institutions; and to advocate for democratic values and the rule of law through evidence-based initiatives.

Expected results:

Enhanced public access to government information and decision-making; fostered stronger dialogue between CSOs and policymakers, addressed key issues such as the need to protect and expand existing tools for civic participation, tackled corruption, and reduced bureaucratic hurdles that hinder CSO engagement.

Target groups of the project include but are not limited to [8]:

- CSOs engaged in policy advocacy, democratic governance, or rule-of-law initiatives
- Grassroots and community-based organisations seeking to impact local decision-making
- Networks, coalitions, and platforms promoting civic participation
- Citizens and community members participating in consultations or advocacy initiatives
- Public institutions engaging with CSOs in policymaking processes
- Youth groups, volunteers, and emerging civic leaders

Relevant activities include but are not limited to:

- Participation in the development, revision, or monitoring of national and local laws, policies, or regulations
- Evidence-based advocacy initiatives promoting democratic values, transparency, and the rule of law
- Facilitating CSO participation in consultations, public hearings, or institutional working groups
- Development of policy briefs, analyses, monitoring reports, or recommendations
- Monitoring and reporting on risks to democratic processes
- Coalition-building and joint advocacy efforts among CSOs
- Public campaigns raising awareness of democratic processes, civic rights, and institutional accountability

Focus on democracy and participation		
OUTCOME 1: "Democratic values and the rule of law strengthened"		
Outcome indicators		
1	Number of national laws, policies or regulations proposed by or commented on by CSOs	Disaggregation: n/a
2	Number of local laws, policies or regulations proposed by or commented on by CSOs	Disaggregation: n/a
Output 1.1 CSO participation in democratic processes increased		
Output indicators		
3	Number of CSOs participating in consultations with a public institution	Disaggregation: n/a
4	Number of advocacy campaigns, and/or outputs on democratic values and rule of law carried out/delivered by supported CSOs	Disaggregation: n/a

[8] The target groups listed are illustrative rather than exhaustive. A list of predefined target groups can be found in the application form. Applicants may choose from the list and/or identify and use other target groups in their projects that are not included in the list.

5	Number of documented monitoring, investigation or watchdog activities of CSOs related to upholding democratic values and processes	Disaggregation: n/a

Output 1.2 Civic engagement increased

Total financial allocation for this output within the rolling call: EUR 600 000

Needs addressed: Many communities in Bulgaria experience low levels of civic participation, limited opportunities to engage with local and national institutions, and a lack of accessible mechanisms for citizens to contribute to public decisions. Marginalised groups, young people, and residents of smaller or remote settlements often face additional barriers to participation. At the same time, CSOs often lack the resources to facilitate structured consultations, organise public gatherings, or support emerging young activists. Strengthening civic engagement is essential for improving dialogue between citizens and institutions, increasing trust, and ensuring that diverse voices are represented in public processes.

The aim is to encourage meaningful citizen participation in public life at local, regional, and national levels, while supporting CSOs in mobilising communities, facilitating dialogue, and creating opportunities for constructive civic action. The output also seeks to empower individuals and groups – especially those underrepresented in public processes – to voice their needs, contribute to policy discussions, and hold institutions accountable. At the same time, it promotes a culture of active citizenship, solidarity, and shared responsibility for public affairs.

The expected results include a measurable increase in the number of people participating in consultations with public institutions facilitated by CSOs, as well as greater participation in public gatherings organised by supported CSOs. The output also aims to strengthen the knowledge, skills, and confidence of young activists to engage in civic processes, advocate for community needs, and take on leadership roles.

Target groups of the project include but are not limited to [9]:

- Citizens and community members, including those with limited prior civic involvement
- Young people and youth groups
- Marginalised or underserved communities (e.g., Roma, migrants, refugees, people with disabilities, rural populations)
- Women-led groups
- Local activists, informal civic groups, and volunteers
- CSOs working to promote civic participation and community engagement

Relevant activities include but are not limited to:

- Community mobilisation initiatives, local campaigns, and participatory events
- Public discussions, town-hall meetings, citizen panels, co-creation sessions, round tables and community forums
- Activities that strengthen cooperation between citizens and local authorities
- Volunteer mobilisation, training, and coordination
- Civic education workshops, awareness-raising activities, and informational materials
- Tools and platforms enabling citizen input, monitoring, or participation in public processes
- Activities countering apathy, disengagement, or disinformation that hinder civic involvement

[9] The target groups listed are illustrative rather than exhaustive. A list of predefined target groups can be found in the application form. Applicants may choose from the list and/or identify and use other target groups in their projects that are not included in the list.

- Participation activities such as local activations, deliberation, public debates, or structured dialogue with public bodies, including activities for cross-country learning and transfer of practices. 12

Focus on democracy and participation		
OUTCOME 1: "Democratic values and the rule of law strengthened"		
Outcome indicators		
1	Number of national laws, policies or regulations proposed by or commented on by CSOs	Disaggregation: n/a
2	Number of local laws, policies or regulations proposed by or commented on by CSOs	Disaggregation: n/a
Output 1.2 Civic engagement increased		
Output indicators		
3	Number of people who participated in consultations with a public institution facilitated by CSOs	Disaggregation: Age
4	Number of people who participated in public gatherings led by supported CSOs	Disaggregation: n/a
5	Number of young Roma activists who self-report improved knowledge and skills in civic engagement, advocacy, or leadership	Disaggregation: Gender

Output 1.3 Information integrity and media literacy increased

Total financial allocation for this output within the rolling call: EUR 400 000

Needs addressed: The spread of disinformation, declining trust in media, and limited access to reliable local information continue to affect public debate in Bulgaria. Many communities – especially outside major cities – lack strong, independent local media outlets. At the same time, citizens of all ages often have limited media literacy skills, making it difficult to critically assess information, recognise manipulation, or navigate the digital environment safely. CSOs, local and community-based media need support to strengthen information integrity, promote fact-based communication, and build citizens' capacity to engage responsibly with media content.

The aim is to strengthen information integrity at the local and community level by supporting independent or community-based media entities and CSOs, encouraging CSO-led initiatives that promote media literacy and counter disinformation, and improving citizens' knowledge and skills to critically evaluate information.

The expected results include a rise in CSO-led initiatives aimed at strengthening information integrity or media literacy. In addition, the output seeks to improve the media literacy skills of training participants, with a particular focus on enabling them to self-report enhanced knowledge, critical thinking abilities, and confidence in navigating the information environment.

Target groups of the project include but are not limited to [10]:

- Local and community-based media entities
- CSOs engaged in countering disinformation and digital literacy
- Citizens and community members with limited media literacy skills
- Young people, including students and youth groups
- Marginalised or underserved communities vulnerable to disinformation
- CSOs working on media literacy, fact-checking, or information integrity
- Journalists, local reporters, and community communicators
- Educators, youth workers, and trainers involved in media literacy initiatives

[10] The target groups listed are illustrative rather than exhaustive. A list of predefined target groups can be found in the application form. Applicants may choose from the list and/or identify and use other target groups in their projects that are not included in the list.

Relevant activities include but are not limited to:

- CSO-led initiatives that promote information integrity, fact-checking, or investigative journalism
- Media literacy trainings, workshops, or campaigns targeting citizens, youth, or vulnerable groups
- Development of educational materials, toolkits, or digital resources on media literacy 13
- Activities that help communities recognise and counter disinformation
- Partnerships between CSOs and media outlets to improve the quality and accessibility to quality news and information
- Mentoring or capacity-building for journalists, youth leaders, or community communicators
- Outreach activities that raise awareness about the importance of trustworthy information
- Empowering persons in vulnerable situations—such as women, Roma communities, LGBTQI+ persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, and other marginalised groups – by ensuring inclusive, accessible, and protective information environments.
- Establishing information-integrity networks and platforms to exchange findings, best practices, and lessons learned, contributing to collective resilience.

Focus on democracy and participation		
OUTCOME 1: "Democratic values and the rule of law strengthened"		
Outcome indicators		
1	Number of national laws, policies or regulations proposed by or commented on by CSOs	Disaggregation: n/a
2	Number of local laws, policies or regulations proposed by or commented on by CSOs	Disaggregation: n/a
Output 1.3 Information integrity and media literacy increased		
Output indicators		
3	Number of local or community-based media outlets supported	Disaggregation: n/a
4	Number of CSO-led initiatives with media aimed at strengthening information integrity or media literacy	Disaggregation: n/a
5	Number of training participants self-reporting improved know-how of media literacy after the training	Disaggregation: Gender

2.3.2 Focus on human rights and social justice – OUTCOME 2: "Human rights strengthened"

Bulgaria's human rights landscape remains marked by persistent discrimination, weak enforcement of existing protections, and growing societal polarisation. CSOs play a critical role in safeguarding rights, advocating for equality, and supporting individuals and communities facing exclusion—particularly Roma communities, women and girls, LGBTIQ+ people, and those affected by gaps in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Despite their longstanding engagement, many organisations face backlash, limited institutional support, and emerging challenges linked to bioethics, reproductive technologies, and evolving social norms. At the same time, environmental and climate-related pressures increasingly intersect with social justice concerns, requiring coordinated action across sectors. Through this outcome, the Programme strengthens CSOs' capacity to advance human rights, gender equality, SRHR, LGBTIQ+ rights, and environmental justice, ensuring that vulnerable groups are protected and that rights-based approaches remain central to Bulgaria's democratic development.

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

Total financial allocation for this output within the rolling call: EUR 350 000

Needs addressed: Bulgaria continues to face persistent challenges related to discrimination, unequal access to rights, and barriers to justice for many individuals and communities. Roma communities,

LGBTIQ+ people, women and girls, migrants and refugees, and persons with disabilities often experience structural exclusion, prejudice, and limited access to services or protection. At the same time, public awareness of human rights standards remains uneven, and CSOs working in this field frequently operate with limited resources and face social pressure or misinformation. Strengthening human rights protection and advancing social justice therefore requires targeted support for organisations that advocate for equality, monitor rights violations, and provide direct assistance to affected individuals.

The aim is to support CSOs in promoting and protecting human rights, combating discrimination, and advancing social justice. The output seeks to empower organisations to participate in policy development, raise public awareness, provide support to survivors of rights violations, and contribute to a more inclusive and equitable society.

The expected results include the active involvement of CSOs in the development or revision of national laws and policies, increased public engagement in advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns, and improved protection and support for survivors of human rights violations. Projects are also expected to contribute to a higher number of awareness-raising campaigns on human rights issues, including Roma inclusion and empowerment, as well as strategic litigation cases filed by supported CSOs to address systemic discrimination or rights violations.

Target groups of the project include but are not limited to [11]:

- Individuals and communities experiencing discrimination or unequal treatment
- Roma communities, LGBTIQ+ people, women and girls, migrants and refugees, and persons with disabilities
- Survivors of human rights violations, including gender-based violence or hate-motivated incidents
- Local communities in underserved or marginalised areas
- CSOs working on human rights, equality, anti-discrimination, or social justice
- Professionals and frontline workers (e.g., social workers, educators, community mediators) involved in rights-based support

Relevant activities include but are not limited to:

- Participation in the development, monitoring, or revision of national laws, policies, or institutional practices related to human rights and anti-discrimination
- Advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns promoting equality, inclusion, and social justice, including campaigns focused on Roma empowerment
- Legal assistance, counselling, and support services for survivors of human rights violations
- Strategic litigation aimed at addressing systemic discrimination or protecting fundamental rights
- Monitoring, documenting, and reporting human rights violations or discriminatory practices
- Community-based initiatives that promote equal treatment, access to services, and social inclusion
- Capacity-building for CSOs working with marginalised groups or engaged in rights-based advocacy
- Partnerships between CSOs, public institutions, and community actors to address discrimination and promote equal opportunities

Focus on human rights and social justice
OUTCOME 2: “Human rights strengthened

[11] The target groups listed are illustrative rather than exhaustive. A list of predefined target groups can be found in the application form. Applicants may choose from the list and/or identify and use other target groups in their projects that are not included in the list.

Outcome indicators		
1	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	Disaggregation: n/a
2	Estimated number of people who engaged or took an action in support of the advocacy / awareness-raising campaigns	Disaggregation: Age
Output 2.1 Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported		
Output indicators		
3	Number of cases of survivors of human rights violations protected and/or supported	Disaggregation: Roma/non-Roma
4	Number of awareness-raising campaigns on human rights issues carried out	Disaggregation: n/a
5	Number of strategic litigation cases filed in court by the supported CSOs	Disaggregation: n/a
6	Number of advocacy and or awareness-raising campaigns carried out related to Roma inclusion and empowerment	Disaggregation: n/a

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

Total financial allocation for this output within the rolling call: EUR 350 000

Needs addressed: Gender inequality, discrimination, and barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) remain persistent challenges in Bulgaria. Women and girls – particularly Roma women and girls – continue to face unequal opportunities, gender-based violence, and limited access to essential services. LGBTIQ+ people experience stigma, social exclusion, and gaps in legal protection. Public understanding of gender equality and SRHR is often shaped by misinformation, stereotypes, and polarised narratives, which hinder constructive dialogue and policy progress. CSOs working in these areas frequently operate with limited resources and face social pressure, making targeted support essential for advancing equality and protecting fundamental rights.

The aim is to support CSOs in promoting gender equality, advancing SRHR, and protecting the rights of LGBTIQ+ people. The output seeks to strengthen civil society participation in policy development, expand public awareness and engagement, and improve access to support, information, and services for individuals and communities affected by discrimination or inequality.

The expected results include the active involvement of CSOs in developing or revising national laws and policies related to gender equality and SRHR, increased public engagement in advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns, and a higher number of campaigns addressing gender equality issues. Projects are also expected to deliver training courses that improve knowledge and skills related to gender equality and to support initiatives specifically targeting Roma women and girls, contributing to their empowerment and inclusion.

Target groups of the project include but are not limited to [12]:

- Women and girls experiencing discrimination, unequal treatment, or gender-based violence
- Roma women and girls facing intersecting forms of exclusion
- LGBTIQ+ individuals and communities
- Young people in need of SRHR information and support
- CSOs working on gender equality, SRHR, or LGBTIQ+ rights
- Professionals and frontline workers (e.g., educators, social workers, health mediators)
- Wider public audiences engaged through awareness-raising campaigns

Relevant activities include but are not limited to:

- Participation in the development, monitoring, or revision of laws, policies, or institutional practices related to gender equality, SRHR, or LGBTIQ+ rights

[12] The target groups listed are illustrative rather than exhaustive. A list of predefined target groups can be found in the application form. Applicants may choose from the list and/or identify and use other target groups in their projects that are not included in the list.

- Advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns addressing gender equality, SRHR, or the rights of LGBTIQ+ people
- Training courses, workshops, and capacity-building activities on gender equality, SRHR, or anti-discrimination 16
- Community-based initiatives supporting Roma women and girls, including empowerment, leadership, or access-to-services programmes
- Legal assistance, counselling, and support services for individuals facing discrimination, gender-based violence, or rights violations
- Monitoring and documenting cases of discrimination or barriers to SRHR
- Partnerships between CSOs, institutions, and community actors to promote equality and improve access to services

Focus on human rights and social justice		
OUTCOME 2: "Human rights strengthened		
Outcome indicators		
1	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	Disaggregation: n/a
2	Estimated number of people who engaged or took an action in support of the advocacy / awareness-raising campaigns	Disaggregation: Age
Output 2.2 Gender equality, including SRHR, and LGBTIQ+ rights supported		
Output indicators		
3	Number of awareness-raising campaigns on gender equality issues carried out	Disaggregation: n/a
4	Number of training courses delivered by supported CSOs related to gender equality	Disaggregation: n/a
5	Number of supported initiatives on Roma women and girls	Disaggregation: n/a

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

Total financial allocation for this output within the rolling call: EUR 300 000

Needs addressed: Bulgaria faces significant environmental challenges, including air pollution, waste management issues, loss of biodiversity, and the impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities. Many local areas—particularly those affected by industrial activity, energy transition processes, or environmental degradation—lack the resources and support needed to respond effectively. Public awareness of climate action and environmental protection remains uneven, and misinformation or low trust in institutions can hinder constructive engagement. CSOs play a crucial role in monitoring environmental commitments, advocating for sustainable policies, mobilising communities, and promoting a just green transition that ensures no group is left behind.

The aim is to support CSOs in advancing climate action, protecting the environment, and promoting a fair and inclusive green transition. The output seeks to strengthen civil society participation in environmental policymaking, increase public engagement in sustainability initiatives, and enhance the capacity of communities to respond to environmental challenges.

The expected results include active CSO participation in the development or revision of national laws and policies related to climate action and environmental protection, increased public engagement in advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns, and greater involvement of citizens in grassroots green initiatives in communities affected by environmental challenges. Projects are also expected to deliver awareness-raising campaigns, produce monitoring reports and watchdog investigations, and generate evidence-based publications developed in collaboration with environmental scientists or subject-matter experts.

Target groups of the project include but are not limited to [13]:

- Communities affected by environmental degradation, pollution, or climate-related risks 17
- Citizens engaged in local environmental or sustainability initiatives
- Youth groups, volunteers, and informal community movements
- CSOs working on climate action, environmental protection, or green transition issues
- Environmental experts, scientists, and practitioners collaborating with CSOs
- Local authorities and institutions involved in environmental governance

Relevant activities include but are not limited to:

- Participation in the development, monitoring, or revision of environmental laws, policies, or strategies
- Advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns on climate action, environmental protection, or the just green transition
- Grassroots green initiatives in communities affected by environmental challenges (e.g., clean-up actions, community gardens, biodiversity protection, local monitoring)
- Monitoring reports, investigations, or watchdog activities tracking environmental commitments, pollution levels, or green transition measures • Evidence-based publications, analyses, or policy briefs developed with contributions from environmental scientists or subject-matter experts
- Educational activities, workshops, and trainings on climate literacy, sustainability, or community-level environmental action
- Partnerships between CSOs, local authorities, and community actors to promote sustainable practices and inclusive transition processes

Focus on human rights and social justice		
OUTCOME 2: "Human rights strengthened		
Outcome indicators		
1	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	Disaggregation: n/a
2	Estimated number of people who engaged or took an action in support of the advocacy / awareness-raising campaigns	Disaggregation: Age
Output 2.3 Climate action, environmental protection, and a just green transition supported		
Output indicators		
3	Number of participants engaged in grassroots green initiatives in local communities affected by environmental challenges	Disaggregation: Age
4	Number of awareness-raising campaigns carried out on climate action, environmental protection and a just green transition	Disaggregation: n/a
5	Number of monitoring reports, investigations, or watchdog activities by CSOs that track changes related to climate action, environmental protection, or just green transition commitments	Disaggregation: n/a
6	Number of evidence-based publications produced and disseminated by supported CSOs on climate action, environmental protection, or just green transition that involve contributions from environmental scientists or subject-matter experts	Disaggregation: n/a

[13] The target groups listed are illustrative rather than exhaustive. A list of predefined target groups can be found in the application form. Applicants may choose from the list and/or identify and use other target groups in their projects that are not included in the list.

2.3.3 Focus on organisational development – OUTCOME 3: "CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened"

Civil society in Bulgaria plays a vital role in defending democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, yet many organisations operate under growing pressure, limited resources, and limited public trust. Legislative threats, restrictions on access to public spaces, and misinformation campaigns undermine their autonomy and credibility. At the same time, many CSOs lack the organisational capacity, funding stability, and peer-learning opportunities needed to work effectively and sustainably. Through this outcome, the programme strengthens both the internal resilience of CSOs and the broader enabling environment, ensuring that organisations can advocate independently, engage citizens, and uphold democratic values.

Output 3.1 Organisational development supported

Total financial allocation for this output within the rolling call: EUR 400 000

Needs addressed: Many civil society organisations (CSOs) in Bulgaria – especially smaller, community-based, or newly established ones—face structural challenges that limit their long-term sustainability. These include insufficient organisational systems, limited financial stability, difficulties in attracting and retaining qualified staff, and a lack of opportunities for professional development. CSOs working on Roma inclusion and empowerment often face additional barriers due to limited access to funding and capacity-building resources. Strengthening organisational development is essential for enabling CSOs to operate effectively, respond to community needs, and participate meaningfully in public life. Civil society organizations need new skills, resources and stakeholders to face the growing challenges from artificial intelligence (AI), the new information environment, including AI driven misinformation, reduced visibility in algorithmic systems, limited resources, and risks to data privacy and security.

The aim is to support CSOs in improving their organisational strength, enhancing their public communications and outreach, strengthening their internal systems and governance, and building the skills and capacities of their staff. The output seeks to help organisations diversify funding opportunities, improve working conditions, develop skills to navigate biased and opaque technologies, balance the opportunities of AI with ethical and regulatory uncertainties, strengthen the ability to deliver high-quality, sustainable activities – including those focused on Roma inclusion and empowerment.

The expected results include measurable improvements in the overall organisational strength of supported CSOs, increased capacity to identify and utilise funding opportunities, enhanced public communications and outreach and strengthened internal processes that contribute to long-term sustainability. Projects are also expected to improve working conditions within CSOs, enhance the skills of employees, equip organizations with necessary knowledge skills, software and hardware to bridge the technology gap; prepare the staff to work utilizing the resources that the AI provides, respond to the misinformation and expand the number of organisations working on Roma inclusion and empowerment that benefit from targeted support.

Target groups of the project include but are not limited to [14]:

- Small, emerging, or community-based CSOs
- CSOs working on Roma inclusion and empowerment
- CSOs seeking to strengthen internal governance, management, or financial systems
- Staff members, volunteers, and board members of supported organisations

[14] The target groups listed are illustrative rather than exhaustive. A list of predefined target groups can be found in the application form. Applicants may choose from the list and/or identify and use other target groups in their projects that are not included in the list.

- Organisations aiming to diversify funding sources or improve sustainability

Relevant activities include but are not limited to:

- Organisational assessments, strategic planning, and improvements to governance or management structures 19
- Capacity-building activities that strengthen financial management, fundraising, project development, or monitoring and evaluation
- Training programmes and professional development for CSO staff and volunteers
- Initiatives that improve working conditions, staff well-being, or internal policies (e.g., HR systems, safety procedures, inclusion policies)
- Support for CSOs working with underserved groups to strengthen their organisational capacity
- Development of internal tools, procedures, or digital systems that enhance organisational efficiency
- Development and implementation of communication strategies, including strengthening internal and external communication efforts, improving visibility and outreach, and collaboration with communication experts to enhance messaging, public engagement, awareness campaigns and advocacy impact
- Development and implementation of strategies for resource mobilisation and diversification of funding, focused on organizational sustainability (individual donors support, crowdsourcing, development of membership, etc.)
- Development of measures for better protection of CSOs staff and volunteers from harassment, threats, smear campaigns and repression (including legal, digital and physical protection measures)
- Development of possibilities to incentivize open and accountable AI as well as capacity-sharing across CSOs
- Mentoring, coaching, or peer-learning exchanges between CSOs

Focus on organisational development		
OUTCOME 3: "CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened"		
Outcome indicators		
1	Number of supported CSOs with improved overall organisational strength	Disaggregation: n/a
2	Number of supported CSOs that have increased their capacity to utilise opportunities to apply for funding	Disaggregation: n/a
Output 3.1: Organisational development supported		
Output indicators		
3	Number of supported CSOs working on Roma inclusion and empowerment	Disaggregation: n/a
4	Number of jobs with improved working conditions	Disaggregation: n/a
5	Number of employees from supported CSOs with improved skills	Disaggregation: Age

Output 3.2 An enabling environment for civil society supported

Total financial allocation for this output within the rolling call: EUR 250 000

Needs addressed Civil society organisations (CSOs) in Bulgaria continue to operate in an environment marked by fluctuating levels of public trust, administrative and regulatory challenges, and limited opportunities to contribute to policies affecting civic space. Many organisations lack the resources or expertise to engage effectively in policy advocacy, monitor changes in the enabling environment, or respond to emerging restrictions, including smear campaigns and targeted disinformation campaigns aimed at specific groups of organisations At the same time, public understanding of the role of civil

society remains uneven, and misinformation can undermine CSOs' legitimacy. Strengthening the enabling environment requires targeted support for organisations to advocate for fair, transparent, and predictable legal and regulatory frameworks, and to promote a civic space where participation and public oversight are valued.

The aim is to support CSOs in strengthening the enabling environment for civic engagement and civil society operations. The output seeks to enhance organisational capacity to engage in policy advocacy, monitor civic space developments, and produce evidence-based contributions that impact legislation, policies, and public attitudes toward civil society.

The expected results include an increased number of CSO-led policy advocacy outputs addressing legal and regulatory frameworks governing civil society operations, as well as legislation or policies affecting civic space and fundamental rights. Supported organisations are expected to demonstrate improved organisational strength and enhanced capacity to identify and utilise funding opportunities. Projects should also contribute to improvements in the civic space index and generate public advocacy outputs aimed at strengthening the enabling environment for civic engagement.

Target groups of the project include but are not limited to [15]:

- CSOs working to protect and expand civic space
- Organisations engaged in policy advocacy, watchdog activities, or rights-based monitoring
- CSOs seeking to strengthen their organisational resilience and sustainability
- Staff, volunteers, and board members of supported organisations
- Networks, coalitions, and platforms promoting civic participation and civil society rights

Relevant activities include but are not limited to:

- Policy advocacy initiatives addressing legal and regulatory frameworks affecting CSOs, civic space, or fundamental rights
- Monitoring, analysis, and reporting on developments related to civic space, including administrative or legislative changes
- Public advocacy outputs aimed at improving the enabling environment for civic engagement
- Capacity-building activities that strengthen CSOs' ability to apply for funding, manage resources, and sustain operations
- Development of evidence-based publications, policy briefs, or analyses that inform public debate and institutional decision-making
- Coalitions and cross-sectoral partnerships, building, networking, and joint advocacy efforts among CSOs
- Training and professional development for CSO staff to enhance skills relevant to organisational resilience and advocacy
- Activities focused on achieving stronger public recognition and support for civil society and action against hostile rhetoric
- Capacity building for engagement and dialogue with civil society at EU level

Focus on organisational development		
OUTCOME 3: "CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened"		
Outcome indicators		
1	Number of supported CSOs with improved overall organisational strength	Disaggregation: n/a
2	Number of supported CSOs that have increased their capacity to utilise opportunities to apply for funding	Disaggregation: n/a
Output 3.2: An enabling environment for civil society supported		

[15] The target groups listed are illustrative rather than exhaustive. A list of predefined target groups can be found in the application form. Applicants may choose from the list and/or identify and use other target groups in their projects that are not included in the list.

Output indicators		
3	Number of policy advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs on legal and regulatory frameworks governing civil society operations and/or on legislation or policies affecting civic space and fundamental rights	Disaggregation: n/a
4	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs aimed at influencing the enabling environment for civic engagement	Disaggregation: n/a

2.3.4 Focus on addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine

Total financial allocation for the rolling call: 1,000,000

Output	**Total budget in the rolling call**
Output 1.2 Civic engagement increased	200,000
Output 1.3 Information integrity and media literacy increased	200,000
Output 2.1 Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported	300,000
Output 2.2 Gender equality, including SRHR, and LGBTIQ+ rights supported	100,000
Output 2.3 Climate action, environmental protection, and a just green transition supported	100,000
Output 3.1 Organisational development supported	100,000

Needs addressed: The Russian invasion of Ukraine has had a profound impact on Bulgaria, triggering large-scale displacement, intensifying disinformation campaigns, exposing energy vulnerabilities, and deepening societal polarisation. A key challenge in this area is the difficulty Ukrainian migrants and refugees face in integrating into society, as their needs are often overlooked and their participation in public affairs remains insufficient. Support in these areas is primarily provided by civil society organisations; however, their capacities are limited, and the lack of systemic measures at the state level presents further obstacles. Many refugees face barriers in accessing education, health care, psychosocial support, legal assistance, and integration services. At the same time, Russian-backed disinformation and polarising narratives have increased mistrust, fuelled negative attitudes toward refugees, and undermined democratic values and social cohesion. CSOs – particularly Ukrainian-led organisations and those working with migrants and refugees – play a crucial role in addressing these challenges but often lack stable resources, organisational capacity, and access to funding. Strengthening civic engagement, information integrity, human rights protection, and CSO resilience is essential for mitigating the consequences of the war and supporting Bulgaria's democratic and social stability.

The aim is to support CSOs in responding to the multidimensional consequences of the invasion of Ukraine by strengthening civic participation, countering disinformation, protecting human rights, promoting gender-responsive and inclusive policy approaches, advancing environmental and energy justice, and enhancing organisational resilience. The Programme aims to empower CSOs – including Ukrainian-led groups, refugee-supporting organisations, and those working on information integrity – to participate in policymaking, deliver essential services, advocate for rights, and foster social cohesion.

Expected results: Projects under this focus area are expected to contribute to the indicators across Outcome 1, Outcome 2, and Outcome 3.

The expected results include advocacy initiatives targeting institutions responsible for refugee services, alongside the creation of comprehensive refugee integration plans through participatory, evidence-based planning. They also encompass campaigns countering disinformation about Ukrainian refugees and the war, as well as enhanced solidarity and understanding within host communities. In addition, the results foresee the growth and strengthened expertise of refugee-led initiatives and CSOs, together with increased CSO engagement in advocacy platforms and working groups.

Target groups of the project include but are not limited to [16]:

- Migrants and refugees from Ukraine living in Bulgaria 22
- CSOs led by migrants and refugees from Ukraine
- CSOs supporting migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers
- Host communities in Bulgaria
- Community actors
- Journalists, local media, and fact-checking organisations
- Survivors of human rights violations, including women, children, and vulnerable groups
- Youth activists, volunteers, and community leaders
- CSOs working on climate action, energy justice, and environmental protection

Relevant activities include but are not limited to

- Capacity building for CSOs working on Ukrainian migrants' and refugees' rights
- CSO participation in working groups relating to challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine.
- CSO participation in advocacy platforms relating to challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine.
- Advocacy initiatives targeting institutions responsible for refugee services.
- Evidence-based and participatory initiatives to create comprehensive refugee integration plans.
- Campaigns for information integrity and/or countering disinformation.
- Support for local or community-based media outlets to increase information integrity.
- Health and psychosocial support, including overcoming language and information barriers
- Legal assistance and integration services
- Strategic litigation addressing systemic discrimination
- Community-led initiatives on energy efficiency and just transition
- Awareness campaigns on environmental protection and energy dependencies
- Improving working conditions and staff well-being

Focus on addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine		
OUTCOME 1: "Democratic values and the rule of law strengthened"		
Outcome indicators		
1	Number of national laws, policies or regulations proposed by or commented on by CSOs	Disaggregation: n/a
2	Number of local laws, policies or regulations proposed by or commented on by CSOs	Disaggregation: n/a
Output 1.2 Civic engagement increased		
Output indicators		
3	Number of people who participated in consultations with a public institution facilitated by CSOs	Disaggregation: Age
4	Number of people who participated in public gatherings led by supported CSOs	Disaggregation: n/a
Output 1.3 Information integrity and media literacy increased		
Output indicators		
3	Number of local or community-based media outlets supported	Disaggregation: n/a
4	Number of CSO-led initiatives with media aimed at strengthening information integrity or media literacy	Disaggregation: n/a

[16] The target groups listed are illustrative rather than exhaustive. A list of predefined target groups can be found in the application form. Applicants may choose from the list and/or identify and use other target groups in their projects that are not included in the list.

5	Number of training participants self-reporting improved know-how of media literacy after the training	Disaggregation: Gender
OUTCOME 2: "Human rights strengthened		
Outcome indicators		
1	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	Disaggregation: n/a
2	Estimated number of people who engaged or took an action in support of the advocacy / awareness-raising campaigns	Disaggregation: Age
Output 2.1 Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported		
Output indicators		
3	Number of cases of survivors of human rights violations protected and/or supported	Disaggregation: Roma/non-Roma
4	Number of awareness-raising campaigns on human rights issues carried out	Disaggregation: n/a
5	Number of strategic litigation cases filed in court by the supported CSOs	Disaggregation: n/a
Output 2.2 Gender equality, including SRHR, and LGBTIQ+ rights supported		
Output indicators		
3	Number of awareness-raising campaigns on gender equality issues carried out	Disaggregation: n/a
4	Number of training courses delivered by supported CSOs related to gender equality	Disaggregation: n/a
Output 2.3 Climate action, environmental protection, and a just green transition supported		
Output indicators		
3	Number of participants engaged in grassroots green initiatives in local communities affected by environmental challenges	Disaggregation: Age
4	Number of awareness-raising campaigns carried out on climate action, environmental protection and a just green transition	Disaggregation: n/a
5	Number of monitoring reports, investigations, or watchdog activities by CSOs that track changes related to climate action, environmental protection, or just green transition commitments	Disaggregation: n/a
6	Number of evidence-based publications produced and disseminated by supported CSOs on climate action, environmental protection, or just green transition that involve contributions from environmental scientists or subject-matter experts	Disaggregation: n/a
OUTCOME 3: "CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened"		
Outcome indicators		
1	Number of supported CSOs with improved overall organisational strength	Disaggregation: n/a
2	Number of supported CSOs that have increased their capacity to utilise opportunities to apply for funding	Disaggregation: n/a
Output 3.1: Organisational development supported		
Output indicators		
4	Number of jobs with improved working conditions	Disaggregation: n/a
5	Number of employees from supported CSOs with improved skills	Disaggregation: Age

2.4 Conditions

The provision of social services can only be supported if these services are necessary for enhancing advocacy, community participation, and/or civic engagement.

3. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND PARTNERS

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 civil society organizations registered in

Bulgaria as non-profit legal entities and those registered as chitalishta, that meet the following requirements:

- be registered in accordance with the Non-Profit Legal Entities Act (NPLEA) or the Chitalishta Act (CA);
- be independent of local, regional, or central government bodies, or of other state and public bodies and institutions, as well as of political parties and commercial entities. A civil society organization is considered dependent when more than half of the members of its governing or supervisory body are appointed by local, regional, or central government bodies, by other state or public bodies and institutions, by political parties, or by commercial entities, or when any of them can impose or obstruct decision-making or in any way exercise a dominant influence over the organization's activities. 24
- political parties, religious institutions, social partners, and cooperatives are not eligible applicants.
- organizations whose objectives are to promote and protect only the specific professional and occupational interests of their members are also ineligible.
- all eligible applicants must abide the core 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 comply the fundamental rights and obligations enshrined in relevant legal instruments and standards.
- the organisational structure of the applicants should ensure that principles for avoiding conflicts of interest are applied, including prohibiting the applicant's representative from entering into contracts with himself/herself, if the representative is part of the project implementation team.

The applicant must also meet the following requirements:

- the applicant does not have a current agreement for an organisational grant covering the year(s) in which the project they are applying for is planned to be implemented.

At the project proposal submission stage, applicants have to confirm that they meet the eligibility criteria.

Whether a grant agreement can be concluded with the applicant, in case the project is recommended for funding, is determined by the Fund Operator prior to signing the grant agreement, based on documents provided by the applicant certifying their eligibility.

3.2 Eligible project partners

Projects are recommended to be implemented in partnership with up to two project partners. Partners share a common goal with the project promoter, which is to be realised through the implementation of the project. Project partners shall be actively involved in, and effectively contributing to, the implementation of the project.

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[17], Beneficiary States[18] or countries outside the European Economic Area that has a common border with Bulgaria – North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey**.**
- An international organisation or body or agency thereof; 25
- 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 project partners 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 Bulgaria;
    - 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 Bulgaria, who signs the partnership agreement on behalf of the group. An informal group cannot not be a direct recipient of the project grant.

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.

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

If the project will be implemented in partnership, a partnership agreement (per the template provided by the FO) between the Project Promoter and each of its partners shall be submitted upon contracting of the project.

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 agreement shall be in English and shall be based on the provided template.

The partner must meet the following requirements as well:

- the partner does not have a current agreement for an organisational grant covering the year(s) in which the project for which the application is being submitted under this call is scheduled to be implemented.

[17] Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

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

4. APPLICATION SUBMISSION SESSIONS WITH INDICATIVE BUDGETS AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

Session No.	Application submission period (opening and closing of the session)	Indicative budget[19]
Session #1	30 June 2026 – 29 December 2026 1st three-month period: 30 June 2026 – 29 September 2026 2nd three-month period: 30 September 2026 – 29 December 2026	Indicative total budget for the entire six-month session: EUR 518 750 Indicative allocation for projects submitted in the first three-month period of the session: EUR 259 375 Indicative allocation for project submitted in the second three-month period of the session: EUR 259 375, plus any remaining amounts from the total budget amount of the session.
Session #2	30 December 2026 – 29 June 2027 1st three-month period: 30 December 2026 – 29 March 2027 2nd three-month period: 30 March 2027 – 29 June 2027	Indicative total budget for the entire six-month session: EUR 518 750 plus any remaining amount from the previous session Indicative allocation for projects submitted in the first three-month period of the session: 50% of the indicative total amount for the session Indicative allocation for project submitted in the second three months of the session: 50% of the indicative total amount for the session, plus any remaining amounts from the total budget amount of the session.
Session #3	30 June 2027 – 29 December 2027 1st three-month period: 30 June 2027 – 29 September 2027 2nd three-month period: 30 September 2027 – 29 December 2027	Indicative total budget for the entire six-month session: EUR 518 750 plus any remaining amount from the previous session Indicative allocation for projects submitted in the first three-month period of the session: 50% of the indicative total amount for the session Indicative allocation for project submitted in the second three months of the session: 50% of the indicative total amount for the session, plus any remaining amounts from the total budget amount of the session.
Session #4	30 December 2027 – 29 June 2028 1st three-month period: 30 December 2027 – 29 March 2028	Indicative total budget for the entire six-month session: EUR 518 750 plus any remaining amount from the previous session

[19] The FO will publish on www.civilsocietyfund.bg up-to-date information on the budget available for each session. These amounts may fluctuate, as any unspent funds may be reallocated to the next three-month period (evaluation round) or the next session after the launch of the rolling call. The indicative allocations per session do not represent a fixed distribution of budgets per output; therefore, depending on demand, the budgets for some outputs may be exhausted earlier than others. After the contracting process for each sub-session is completed, the FO will publish information on the actual budget spent per focus area/output.

	2nd three-month period: 30 March 2028 – 29 June 2028	Indicative allocation for projects submitted in the first three-month period of the session: 50% of the indicative total amount for the session Indicative allocation for project submitted in the second three months of the session: 50% of the indicative total amount for the session, plus any remaining amounts from the total budget amount of the session.
Session #5	30 June 2028 – 29 December 2028 1st three-month period: 30 June 2028 – 29 September 2028 2nd three-month period: 30 September 2028 – 29 December 2028	Indicative total budget for the entire six-month session: EUR 518 750 plus any remaining amount from the previous session Indicative allocation for projects submitted in the first three-month period of the session: 50% of the indicative total amount for the session Indicative allocation for project submitted in the second three months of the session: 50% of the indicative total amount for the session, plus any remaining amounts from the total budget amount of the session.
Session #6	30 December 2028 – 29 June 2029 1st three-month period: 30 December 2028 – 29 March 2029 2nd three-month period: 30 March 2029 – 29 June 2029	Indicative total budget for the entire six-month session: EUR 518 750 plus any remaining amount from the previous session Indicative allocation for projects submitted in the first three-month period of the session: 50% of the indicative total amount for the session Indicative allocation for project submitted in the second three months of the session: 50% of the indicative total amount for the session, plus any remaining amounts from the total budget amount of the session.
Session #7	30 June 2029 – 29 December 2029 1st three-month period: 30 June 2029 – 29 September 2029 2nd three-month period: 30 September 2029 – 29 December 2029	Indicative total budget for the entire six-month session: EUR 518 750 plus any remaining amount from the previous session Indicative allocation for projects submitted in the first three-month period of the session: 50% of the indicative total amount for the session Indicative allocation for project submitted in the second three months of the session: 50% of the indicative total amount for the session, plus any remaining amounts from the total budget amount of the session.
Session #8	30 December 2029 – 29 June 2030 1st three-month period: 30 December 2029 – 29 March 2030 2nd three-month period: 30 March 2030 – 29 June 2030	Indicative total budget for the entire six-month session: EUR 518,750 plus any remaining amount from the previous session Indicative allocation for projects submitted in the first three-month period of the session: 50% of the indicative total amount for the session Indicative allocation for project submitted in the second three months of the session: 50% of the indicative total

amount for the session, plus any remaining amounts from the total budget amount of the session.

4.1 Co-financing

The grant rate of the project is 100%. No co-financing is needed.

4.2 Eligible expenditure

The grant rate of the project is 100%.

The inclusion of an expenditure item in a project budget approved by the Fund Operator, cannot be considered as confirmation of eligibility of that expenditure item.

The final date of eligibility of expenditure is the final date of eligibility of a project as specified in the project contract, not later than 30 April 2031.

4.3. Method of financing

Flat rate of 100 % of eligible direct personnel costs to cover all other remaining costs of the project.

4.3.1. Eligible expenditure: actually incurred personnel cost by the Project Promoter or the project partner, as well as expenditure covered by simplified cost options: Flat rate of 100 % of eligible direct personnel costs to cover all other remaining costs of the project.

Example:

Actually incurred eligible personnel cost EUR 10 000
Costs other than direct personnel cost = EUR 10 000 (100% of actually incurred eligible personnel cost)
Total eligible cost EUR 20 000

4.3.2. The cost of personnel assigned to the project, comprising actual remuneration including social security charges and other statutory costs as applicable, provided that this corresponds to the Project Promoter's and project partner's usual policy on remuneration.

4.3.3. Eligible direct personnel costs shall meet the following criteria:

a. they are incurred between the first and final dates of eligibility of a project as specified in the project contract;
b. they are connected with the subject of the grant contract;
c. they are proportionate and necessary for the implementation of the project;
d. they are used for the sole purpose of achieving the objective of the project and its expected outcome, in a manner consistent with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness;
e. the costs are identifiable and verifiable, in particular through being recorded in the accounting records of the project promoter or partner and determined according to the applicable accounting standards and generally accepted accounting principles; and
f. they comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation.

4.3.4. Personnel costs can include natural persons working under a contract with the project promoter or partner, other than an employment contract provided that the following conditions are fulfilled:

i. the natural person works under the instructions of the Project Promoter (PP) or partner and, unless otherwise agreed with the PP or partner, in the premises of the Project Promoter or partner;
ii. the result of the work belongs to the Project Promoter or partner;

iii. the costs are not significantly different from the costs of staff performing similar tasks under an employment contract with the Project Promoter or partner.

4c3.5 **For the purposes of determining direct personnel costs** the hourly rate may be calculated by dividing the latest documented annual gross employment cost by 1720 working hours (daily rate calculated on a full-time 8-hours working day, dividing annual gross employment cost by 215 working days).

Where annual gross employment costs are not available, they may be derived from the available documented gross employment costs or from the employment document, duly adjusted for a 12-month period. The annual gross employment cost should be determined according to the applicable national rules.

In the case of actually incurred personnel costs, costs related to individuals who work on part-time assignments on the project may be calculated as a fixed percentage of the gross employment costs, in line with a fixed percentage of time worked on the project per month, with no obligation to establish a separate working time registration system. The employer shall issue a task assignment document for employees setting out that fixed percentage. Normally, the percentage should remain the same for the whole duration of the project and could be changed only in justified cases.

4.4 Payment of the grant

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

Advance payment: up to **70**% of the grant will be transferred to the project promoter within **15** days of signing the project contract.

The level of advance payment to projects will be set out in the project contract.

Interim payments: N/A

Final payment: the remaining final balance. The final payment will be made after the approval of the final project report.

Final payments/retained amounts are to be paid up to 15 working days after the date of the approval of the final narrative project report and the final financial project report. Upon acceptance of the final financial report, the amount of the final payment shall be the difference between the final amount of the grant approved by the Fund Operator (e.g. after a reduction due to financial corrections) and the advance to the project promoter.

Project promoters will financially report only on staff and project personnel salaries, supported by payment samples; Project promoters must demonstrate full implementation of planned activities and provide evidence of agreed outputs.

Reporting and payment schedules will be based on the agreed grant size, duration, and risk profile of the project promoter.
In justified cases, if following risk assessment prepared and documented, FO may decide to change the payment scheme:
- In justified cases, based on risk assessment progress technical reports may be required.

The approval of project final reports shall take place within two months from the submission of the required information.

5. HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted electronically to EGRANT system. The date and time of receipt recorded by the EGRANT system will determine whether the cut-off date for the relevant submission session has been met.

Only applications submitted through the EGRANT system will be accepted. Submissions by email or post will not be accepted.

Applicants can access the **application form** after registering in the EGRANT system, selecting the open session of the **Rolling Call for Small Grants**, the focus area that corresponds to the proposal's objectives, and choosing the appropriate outcome and output within that focus area.

It is recommended that applicants familiarise themselves with the EGRANT system in advance. Technical support is available at administrator@civilsocietyfund.bg.

5.1 Mandatory attachment to the application form

1. Annex 1a. Budget Form for Small Projects without Partner(s)

2. Annex 1b. Budget Form for Small Projects with Partner(s)

Note: Select the appropriate budget template depending on whether you are applying with or without a partner.

Project budget completed in accordance with the template for small grants budget (Annex 1a and Annex 1b, available only in Bulgarian language). The project budget is referenced in the online application and must be uploaded as an attachment to it. Separate submissions will not be accepted.

3. Annex 2. Applicant's Declaration.

When completing the application form, you must attach a signed Applicant's Declaration confirming the organisation's eligibility, the accuracy of the information provided, and the project proposal's compliance with the call's requirements. The declaration must be signed by the organisation's legal representative (or by an authorized person with a notarised power of attorney attached).

4. Annex 3. (if applicable) Partner Declaration for Registered Organisations (in Bulgarian and English)

When completing the application form and if you are applying together with another organisation(s) as a partner(s), you must attach a signed Partner Declaration for Registered Organisations from each project partner. With this document, the partner confirms its participation in the project and that it is familiar with its activities and responsibilities, certifies the accuracy of the information provided, and declares that it is not applying as an applicant with another project within the same application submission session. The declaration must be signed by the legal representative of the partner organisation (or by an authorised person with a notarised power of attorney attached). If the partner is an organisation from a donor country or another third country, the English equivalent of the Partner Declaration for Registered Organisations must be used and signed by the organisation's legal representative.

5. Annex 4. (if applicable) Partner Declaration for Informal Groups (in Bulgarian and English)

When completing the application form and if you are applying together with a partner informal group(s), you must attach a signed Partner Declaration for Informal Groups signed by the representative(s) of the informal group(s). This document confirms the group(s)' participation in the project, compliance with the call's requirements, as well as their commitment to carrying out the planned activities and providing accurate information. The declaration must be signed by the elected representatives of each informal group participating as a partner (or by an authorised person with a notarised power of attorney attached). If the partner is an informal group from a

donor country, the other beneficiary states or a country outside the European Economic Area that has a common border with Bulgaria, the English equivalent of the Partner Declaration for Informal Groups must be used and signed by the representative of the informal group.

5.2 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:

- Information Webinars and Sessions: WCIF along with consortium partners will host online and onsite sessions to outline funding priorities, provide guidance on completing application forms, and explain the full project lifecycle. Dates for these sessions will be announced on the programme website in due course. In case of local interest, further workshops in other locations may be held upon invitation by a CSO willing to host such an event with the guaranteed participation of at least 10 organisations. WCIF will set real-time office hours questions slots
- The email address for submitting questions for the rolling call is konkurs@frgi.bg The Fund Operator will respond within 3 working days. Questions and answers will also be published in the Q&A section of the programme's website. It is therefore advisable to consult the website regularly.

Any complaints related to this call may be submitted to signal@civilsocietyfund.bg and will be handled according to the procedure described on civilsocietyfund.bg.

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.

Guidance on the use of generative AI tools for the preparation of the proposal

When considering the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools for the preparation of the proposal, it is imperative to exercise caution and careful consideration. The AI-generated content should be thoroughly reviewed and validated by the applicants to ensure its appropriateness and accuracy, as well as its compliance with intellectual property regulations. Applicants are fully responsible for the content of the proposal. Applicants are required to verify the accuracy, validity, and appropriateness of the content and any citations generated by the AI tool and correct any errors or inconsistencies. It is necessary they to acknowledge the limitations of the AI tool in the proposal preparation, including the potential for bias, errors, and gaps in knowledge.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLIANCE CRITERIA

6.1 Administrative criteria

Administrative compliance is checked against the following criteria:

	Criterion

1	The application is submitted before the deadline[20] for the respective session of the rolling call via the EGRANT system.
2	All sections of the application form are completed in accordance with the instructions, in Bulgarian and in Cyrillic (except for those for which another requirement is explicitly stated).
3	The duration of the project is between 6 and 12 months.
4	The amount requested is between EUR 10 000 – 25 000.
5	Attached to the application form are: - A Project Budget Form based on the template (Annex 1a for applicants without partner(s) and Annex 1b for applicants with partner(s)), completed in accordance with the instructions. - An Applicant's Declaration (Annex 2), completed and signed in accordance with the instructions by the applicant's representative or a notary-authorised deputy. - (if applicable) For each partner: A Partner Declaration using the applicable form depending on the type of partner (Annex 3 or Annex 4), completed and signed in accordance with the instructions by the partner's representative or a notary-authorised deputy.
6	The applicant has submitted only one project within the respective session of the call.
7	The applicant is not participating as a partner in any other project within the respective session of the call.
8	(if applicable) A project partner does not participate in any other project as an applicant within the respective session of the call.
9	The applicant does not have a valid Grant agreement for organisational grant under the CSF in Bulgaria covering a year in which the project for which they are applying under this rolling call is scheduled to be implemented.
10	(if applicable) The partner(s) does/do not have a valid Grant agreement under the CSF in Bulgaria for organizational grant covering a year in which the project for which they are applying as a partner under this rolling call is scheduled to be implemented.

6.2 Appeals

Applicants whose applications are rejected due to non-compliance with administrative or eligibility criteria will be informed of the reasons for rejection and have a period of **5** days to appeal the decision, counted from the day after the notification. Appeals for the current call should be directed to: **appeal@frgi.bg** with the subject line: **"Appeal".**

Requests for re-examination of project proposals for administrative compliance are reviewed by the Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation, and information on the final decision is sent to the

[20] Projects submitted after the deadline for the relevant session or three-month period will be considered during the next session or three-month period, if any are scheduled. Projects submitted after the deadline for the last scheduled session will not be considered.

respective applicant **within 10 working days** of receiving the request for re-examination. The outcome of the appeal is final and is communicated to the applicant via the EGRANT system.

7. SELECTION PROCESS AND SELECTION CRITERIA

7.1 Selection criteria and ranking of projects

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

Applications that meet the administrative and eligibility criteria outlined in chapters 6.1 and 3.1 of this call will be assessed by two impartial experts of the WCIF.

If the two assessors' scores differ by more than 30%, and at least one of them exceeds the minimum required score, the WCIF Grants Manager will invite them to meet and discuss their assessments and agree on a final score.

Based on the scores received from the assessment WCIF will prepare and submit the ranking list for approval to WCIF's Directors Committee (the committee), which will take a final decision on the projects to be funded (based on their ranking and the available budget). The committee may revise the ranking of project applications in justified and documented cases, using transparent criteria aligned with the call requirements and programme priorities. Its decision is final and will be communicated to the applicant.

7.2 The Scoring Chart

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.

The experts will independently score the project application according to the selection criteria in the grid below.

Selection criterion		**Max. score**
1	**1. Relevance, Purposefulness, and Added Value of the Project**	**35**
1.1	1.1. Significance of the project in relation to the focus of the call; contribution of the project to the programme's expected results, including its outcomes and outputs *The assessment focuses on how the project contributes to the objectives, outcomes, and outputs specified for the thematic focus area of the EEA CSF BG programme. The clarity and logic of the project's contribution description and the overall significance and extent of the contribution to the defined outcomes and outputs are evaluated. The presentation of a clear and logical intervention logic, demonstrating explicit links between the identified needs, the proposed activities, and the expected results and targets groups.*	20
1.2	1.2. Usefulness of the project in relation to the needs of the target groups benefiting from project activities and results *The usefulness of the project is assessed comprehensively for the indicated target groups, the feasibility of the estimate, and the degree of significance (benefit) of the project for their actual needs are evaluated.*	15
2	**2. Project Implementation Approach**	**25**

2.1	Appropriateness and feasibility of planned activities in relation to the defined results and its sustainability *An assessment is made as to whether the planned activities represent a realistic and logical approach to achieving the planned outcomes. The focus of the activities, the adequacy of the resources to ensure them, the degree of preparedness and reliability of the overall implementation and the potential for sustainability are evaluated*	20
2.2	Quality of communication of project and its results *Measures to ensure awareness and publicity, the appropriateness of the selection of target groups for communication, implementation methods, the appropriate scope and effectiveness of communication activities are assessed.*	5
3.1		10
3.2	Alignment of the budget with proposed activities	10
4.1	Alignment of the applicant's (and partner's) activities with the shared values and principles of the EEA Civil Society Fund Bulgaria *The EEA Civil Society Fund is based on shared values and principles, namely respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. An assessment is made as to whether the organization and the submitted project demonstrably act in accordance with the principles of the program. The organisation's track record is also taken into account, as well as whether its past and present activities, approaches, and the proposed project respect and support these principles.*	10
4.2	Organisational and professional competence and the relevance of the applicant's (and partner's) previous activities in relation to the project *The applicant's (or partnership's) ability to successfully implement the project is assessed on the basis of their capacities, previous relevant activities, and the composition of the project team. Particular attention is paid to the competence and allocation of responsibilities within the team and the identified internal risks of implementation.*	5
4.3	Applicant's seat location and place of project implementation *This criterion serves to support regional development and ensures the spread of activities benefiting civil society outside the capital of Bulgaria as most developed region. It assesses the applicant's and partners' headquarters and the extent to which the project focuses on activities in other regions* *The scores here are predefined as follows*	5

	- *The applicant's registered office is located in the Sofia City Region and is implementing its project in Sofia – 1 point* - *the applicant's registered office is located in the Sofia City Region and is implementing its project outside Sofia with a partner from the region of implementation – 2 points* - *the applicant's registered office is located in the Sofia City Region and is implementing its project in Sofia City Region in deprived neighbourhood or with/for marginalized target group – 3 points* - *the applicant's registered office is located outside the Sofia City Region and the project is implemented mainly in the region where the applicant's registered office is located- 4 points* - *the applicant's registered office is located outside the Sofia City Region and is implementing the project in remote/rural area/less economically developed area or has one or more partners with registered offices outside Sofia, thereby increasing regional coverage – 5 points*	
	Total score	**100**

To be eligible for funding, a project must achieve a minimum score of 50 points. However, achieving this score does not automatically guarantee that the project will receive funding. Projects that receive an average score of 0 on any headings (1-4) will be rejected.

Projects will be assessed and contracted twice within each six-month submission session: once in the fourth month from the start of the session, and once in the month following the end of the session.

Projects submitted during the first three months of the session that receive more than 50 points but are not funded because the indicative budget for that first three-month period has been exhausted by higher-ranking proposals will automatically be included in the ranking together with all projects submitted during the second three-month period of the same session.

The applications awarded funding will be announced on the programme's website.

8. INFORMATION TO APPLICANTS AND CONTRACTING

8.1 Informing applicants

The Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation will notify the result in writing to all applicants within 10 working days after the date of the decision is taken via the electronic grant system, using the contact details provided by the organisation. The notification will include the scores of the application, the conditions of support (if any) and, in the case of unsuccessful applicants, the justification of the reasons for rejection. The decision is final and not subject to appeal.

Approved applicants will be invited to submit the documents required for contracting by email and/or through a comment in EGRANT system. The Fund Operator will publish a list and information on the contracted projects after the completion of the contracting process for each three-month application period of the respective call session.

Circumstances excluding the award of grant funding

The following circumstances may constitute grounds for not awarding grant funding:

- irregularities have occurred in the implementation of another project that resulted in the early termination of a grant contract under the CSF Bulgaria, in which the applicant is a project promoter or partner;
- irregularities have occurred in the process of submitting a project proposal;

- the applicant does not adhere to the principles of respect for human rights and democratic society;
- identical content [21] is identified in the project proposal or parts of it and another project proposal(s) under the CSF Bulgaria; 36
- it is established that the project promoter or project partner is undergoing liquidation or has been declared insolvent;
- there are indications of double funding of the project or of specific activities within it.

8.2 Criteria and required documents for contracting

Grant contracts will be concluded with applicants whose project proposals have been approved by the WCIF and who meet the criteria for contracting, including, where applicable, all mandatory conditions for contracting set by the Fund Operator.

A contract template will be provided by the FO.

Before the contract is signed, applicants with approved projects must submit, in the manner indicated by the WCIF and within an additional specified deadline, the following required documents proving the eligibility of the project for contracting:

1. A copy of the BULSTAT registration, certified with the text "True to the original," signed by the legal representative of the applicant. This requirement does not apply to organisations registered in the Commercial Register and the Register of Non-Profit Legal Entities.
2. An original or notarised copy of a certificate of current legal status of the applicant, issued no earlier than six (6) months before its submission to the managing organisation of the Fund. This requirement does not apply to organisations registered in the Commercial Register and the Register of Non-Profit Legal Entities.
3. A copy of the applicant's statutes, certified with the text "True to the original," signed by the legal representative and stamped. This requirement does not apply to organisations registered in the Commercial Register and the Register of Non-Profit Legal Entities.
4. A completed and personally signed Beneficiary Declaration by the legal representative of the applicant, including declarations on the absence of double funding using the template provided by the FO.
5. Scanned copies of the applicant's balance sheet and income statement for the last two **completed financial years (if applicable).**
6. A completed and personally signed Partner Declaration by the legal representative of the partner, including declarations on the absence of double funding, using the template provided by the FO (if applicable).
7. Signed partnership agreement(s) in case partner(s) is/are involved in the project, using template provided by the FO (if applicable)

The Fund Operator will sign grant agreements only with applicants who are determined to meet the eligibility criteria set forth in this document and for whom it has not determined that the proposed activities are subject to double funding. In connection with the determination of eligibility, the Fund Operator reserves the right, if necessary, to request additional documents from applicants to verify their eligibility.

If any discrepancies are identified, the applicant is given the opportunity to correct them within five business days of receiving a notification detailing the identified discrepancy.

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[21] Identical content is identified in the project proposal, or parts thereof, and in another project proposal(s) under the CSF Bulgaria, specifically referring to the same project idea, activities, and results, and not to standard organisational descriptions or general methodological elements.

9. CONTACT

Web CSF – Bulgaria: **www.civilsocietyfund.bg**

Consortium Partner responsible for the rolling call:
Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation
7 Enos St., 6th floor, apt. 9, 1408 Sofia
Tel.: +359 887 095 920
www.frgi.bg
Small Grants Manager: Doni Deorgiev
dgeorgiev@frgi.bg

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TEMPLATES

Annex 1a: Budget Form for Small Projects without Partner(s)

Annex 1b: Budget Form for Small Projects with Partner(s)

Annex 2. Applicant's Declaration

Annex 3. (if applicable) Partner Declaration for Registered Organisations (in Bulgarian and English)

Annex 4. (if applicable) Partner Declaration for Informal Groups (in Bulgarian and English)

CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANTS

CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANTS		Yes/No
Administrative criteria		
	The application form is submitted with the deadline for the relevant session of the call (as described in Chapter 4)	
	The application form is submitted electronically via the EGRANT system (as described in chapter 5)	
	A project budget is attached to the application form as per the template for this call and it is filled in in accordance with the instructions.	
	Attached to the application form are the Applicant's Declaration and – If applicable – the Partner Declaration for each partner, using the templates provided for this call and completed in accordance with the instructions.	
	The duration of the project is between 6 and 12 months	
	The amount requested is between EUR 10 000 and EUR 25 000	
	The applicant has submitted only one project within the respective session of the call.	
	The applicant is not participating as a partner in any other project within the respective session of the call.	
	(if applicable) A project partner does not participate in any other project as an applicant within the respective session of the call.	
	The applicant does not have a valid Grant agreement for organisational grant covering a year in which the project for which they are applying under this rolling call is scheduled to be implemented.	

	(if applicable) The partner(s) does/do not have a valid Grant agreement for organisational grant covering a year in which the project for which they are applying as a partner under this rolling call is scheduled to be implemented.	

Version	Date	Description
1.1 Text of the Rolling Call for Small Grants, EEA CSF in Bulgaria	30.06.2026	Initial version published
1.1 Text of the Rolling Call for Small Grants, EEA CSF in Bulgaria	07.08.2026	No change; document reuploaded for technical reasons