Iceland Liechtenstein Norway Civil Society Fund

CALL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs)

IN ESTONIA

ROLLING CALL FOR PROJECTS “For Ukraine”

AVAILABLE FUNDING: EUR 300 000

First deadline: November 9, 2026, 23:59 Tallinn time

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 **Estonia.** 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 allocation for the EEA Civil Society Fund in **Estonia** is **€ 6,4 million.**

The consortium of Open Estonia Foundation and Network of Estonian Non-profit Organisations as Fund Operator manages the EEA Civil Society Fund in Estonia on behalf of the Donor States.

This call targets Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working in the area of **democratic values, civic participation, information integrity, human rights and social inclusion, intercultural dialogue, rights of minorities, including LGBTIQ+,** and **gender equality**, and has a total allocation of **EUR 300 000.**

The call text shall be read together with the **Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters of EEA Civil Society Fund Estonia.**

SUMMARY OF THE CALL	
Title of the call	Rolling Call for Projects "For Ukraine"
Purpose of the call	To support projects that address the consequences of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine in Estonia by promoting the inclusion of Ukrainian refugees, protecting human rights and equal opportunities, strengthening social cohesion and democratic participation, and building resilience to mis- and disinformation, in line with the below listed focus areas For detailed description see section 2.1 of this call.
Outcome(s)	Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened Outcome 2: Human Rights strengthened
Output(s)	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
Relevant project activities	For detailed description see section 2.3 of this call.
Eligible project applicants	Non-profit associations and foundations that are established in Estonia under Non-profit Associations Act or Foundations Act and that are considered non-governmental organisations. For details see section 3.1 of this call.
Project duration	Between 6 and 12 months

Project grant amount	Between EUR 10 000 and 25 000
Co-financing	Grant rate is 100%
Partnerships	Applications may be submitted in partnership. Partnerships with entities from the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) are encouraged.
Call available in the following language(s)	Estonian, English, Russian
Questions deadline	November 2, 2026, 15:00 Tallinn time
Application deadline	November 9, 2026, 23:59 Tallinn time (applications are accepted on a rolling basis, see section 6 for details)

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1. BACKGROUND FOR THE EEA CIVIL SOCIETY FUND IN ESTONIA

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 **Estonia** is **€ 6,4 million.**

Through an open tender process, the secretariat of the Donor States – the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) – has selected a consortium of Open Estonia Foundation and Network of Estonian Non-profit Organisations as Fund Operator of the EEA Civil Society Fund in Estonia. The Fund Operator manages the EEA Civil Society Fund in Estonia 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 Estonia will include 7 open calls, contributing to the following outcomes:

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

The bilateral outcome of strengthened bilateral cooperation aims to strengthen cooperation between civil society organisations in **Estonia** and civil society organisations in the Donor States **Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway**.

In addition, the programme has two country-specific focus areas: addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine, and intercultural, interethnic, and/or interreligious understanding or dialogue and inclusion.

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 that guides what can be supported. To be eligible for support, all projects must contribute to the expected results outlined in the results framework.

An overview of all open calls as well as other activities supported by the programme can be found on the website of the EEA Civil Society Fund in in Estonia: www.eea-csf.ee.

2. FOCUS OF THIS CALL

2.1 Purpose of this call

Russia's full-scale aggression against Ukraine continues to have significant consequences for Estonian society. Estonia has received one of the highest numbers of Ukrainian refugees per capita in Europe, while at the same time facing increasing geopolitical pressure, disinformation campaigns and attempts to undermine trust, solidarity and democratic resilience.

Although many Ukrainian refugees have successfully settled in Estonia, long-term challenges remain. Ukrainian refugees continue to face barriers in exercising their rights, participating fully in community life, accessing equal opportunities and building lasting connections with local communities. Women, children, young people, older persons and persons with disabilities may experience additional vulnerabilities. At the same time, public solidarity cannot be taken for granted, and hostile narratives and misinformation related to Russia's war against Ukraine continue to challenge social cohesion and democratic values.

CSOs play an important role in responding to these challenges by empowering Ukrainian refugees and host communities, strengthening civic participation, promoting equal treatment, protecting human rights, fostering dialogue and trust, and strengthening resilience to misinformation and disinformation.

The purpose of this rolling call is to support **small-scale civil society initiatives** that contribute to addressing the consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine by:

- empowering Ukrainian refugees to participate actively in community and civic life;
- strengthening cooperation, trust and mutual understanding between Ukrainian refugees and host communities;
- promoting equal opportunities, human rights and non-discrimination;
- strengthening information integrity, media literacy and resilience to misinformation and disinformation;
- encouraging civic engagement, volunteering and community participation;
- contributing to public awareness, policy dialogue and advocacy related to the long-term inclusion and rights of Ukrainian refugees.

The call particularly welcomes community-based initiatives that respond to emerging needs and have clear, realistic objectives proportionate to the size and duration of the grant. Projects are encouraged to combine activities such as empowerment, civic engagement, awareness-raising, advocacy, community organising, communication and partnership-building.

Across all outcomes, contributing to the country-specific concern of **intercultural, interethnic, and/or interreligious understanding or dialogue and inclusion** is encouraged.

Similarly, across all outcomes, **bilateral cooperation** between civil society in Estonia and the donor states of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway is encouraged.

All projects selected under this call must contribute to a single outcome [1]and, within that outcome, to one or more outputs[2]. When applying, please **select the outcome that is most relevant to your project.**

The focus of the call is described below, organised by outcome.

2.2 Outcomes

2.2.1 OUTCOME 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened

Russia's war against Ukraine continues to affect social cohesion, democratic participation and information integrity in Estonia. CSOs play an important role in strengthening community resilience, encouraging meaningful participation, fostering dialogue and trust, and helping people navigate an increasingly complex information environment.

Under this outcome, the programme supports projects that strengthen civic engagement and information integrity while empowering Ukrainian refugees and host communities to contribute actively to resilient, inclusive and democratic communities.

Each project must be assigned to a single outcome and, within that outcome, to one or more of the outputs below.

Output 1.2. Civic engagement increased

- Increased civic participation of Ukrainian refugees and host communities
- Increased civic literacy and understanding of democratic participation
- Increased volunteering, community organising and citizen engagement
- Stronger cooperation and dialogue between Ukrainian refugees and host communities

The programme supports initiatives that empower Ukrainian refugees and host communities to participate more actively in community life and democratic processes. Projects may strengthen civic knowledge, volunteering, community leadership, local participation and opportunities for dialogue and cooperation. Particular attention is encouraged for activities that build trust, strengthen social cohesion and create opportunities for meaningful participation in local communities.

Output 1.3. Information integrity and media literacy increased

- Increased media literacy and critical thinking
- Increased resilience to misinformation and disinformation related to Russia's war against Ukraine
- Stronger CSO communication capacity
- Increased public awareness of Ukraine-related information manipulation and hostile narratives

Russia's continued information manipulation seeks to undermine support for Ukraine, weaken trust in democratic institutions and create divisions within society. The programme supports initiatives that strengthen media literacy, critical thinking and strategic communication, helping people better recognise misinformation and disinformation. Projects may also strengthen cooperation between

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

[2] 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.

CSOs, media organisations and communities to promote reliable information and informed public discussion.

2.2.1.1 Expected results

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

To track progress, projects should contribute to programme-level indicators from the selected outcome and output(s).[3] 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 tools. **The indicators listed in the table below are used to monitor progress and measure results at the programme level for this call.**

Each project under Outcome 1 is required to use at least one of the programme-level indicators from the selected outcome and/or output(s).[4] During implementation, the agreed indicator(s) 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 output and outcome. Detailed definitions of programme-level indicators and guidance on their application is provided in **Annex 3** to the **Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters of EEA Civil Society Fund Estonia**.

Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened	
CIV-041	*Number of national, regional or local laws, policies or regulations proposed by or commented on by CSOs*
CIV-008	*Number of training participants self-reporting improved knowledge/understanding after the training (disaggregated by gender)*
ALL-013	*Estimated number of people who engaged and took an action in response to advocacy / awareness campaigns*
Output 1.2: Civic engagement increased	
CIV-006	*Number of people who participated in consultations with a public institution facilitated by CSOs*
CIV-007	*Number of people who have completed a CSO-led training course (disaggregated by gender)*
CIV-010	*Number of people engaged in CSO activities as volunteers*
ALL-012	*Number of advocacy/awareness-raising campaigns carried out*
EE-CIV-003	*Number of CSO-implemented initiatives promoting interethnic and intercultural understanding, dialogue or inclusion (including Ukraine)*
Output 1.3: Information integrity and media literacy increased	
CIV-007	*Number of people who have completed a CSO-led training course (disaggregated by gender)*
ALL-004	*Number of assessments, studies or mappings completed*

[3] 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, neither with narrative reporting nor with indicator reporting.

[4] 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 Annex 2.

CIV-030	*Number of new or continued partnerships established between supported CSOs and other entities within the Beneficiary Country (including non-Estonian-speaking groups and media entities)*
CIV-015	*Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs*

2.2.2 OUTCOME 2: Human rights strengthened

Many Ukrainian refugees continue to face challenges in exercising their rights, accessing equal opportunities and participating fully in society. Women, children and other vulnerable groups may experience additional barriers. Civil society organisations play an important role in empowering people to exercise their rights, promoting equal treatment and strengthening public awareness.

Under this outcome, the programme supports projects that strengthen human rights of Ukrainian refugee community, promote equality and inclusion, and contribute to welcoming and cohesive communities.

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

- Increased awareness of human rights and equal treatment
- Improved ability of Ukrainian refugees to exercise their rights
- Increased awareness of discrimination and inclusion

The programme supports projects that promote awareness of rights, equal treatment and non-discrimination through advocacy, public awareness, legal empowerment, community engagement, monitoring and cooperation. Projects are encouraged to help Ukrainian refugees better understand and exercise their rights while contributing to more inclusive communities.

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

- Increased awareness of gender equality and equal opportunities
- Increased participation and empowerment of women and other vulnerable groups
- Reduced stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes
- Stronger inclusion of vulnerable groups in community life

Women constitute the majority of adult Ukrainian refugees in Estonia and may face additional challenges related to employment, care responsibilities, economic independence and gender stereotypes. The programme supports initiatives that promote gender equality, equal opportunities and the meaningful participation of women and other vulnerable groups in community and civic life. Projects addressing intersecting discrimination, including challenges faced by LGBTIQ+ persons within refugee communities, are also encouraged.

2.2.2.1 Expected results

Each project is expected to align with the 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(s).[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, neither with narrative reporting nor with indicator reporting.

tools. **The indicators listed in the table below are used to monitor progress and measure results at the programme level for this call.**

Each project under Outcome 2 is required to use to use at least one of the programme-level indicators from the selected outcome and/or output(s).[6] During implementation, the agreed indicator(s) 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 output and outcome. Detailed definitions of programme-level indicators and guidance on their application is provided in **Annex 3** to the **Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters of EEA Civil Society Fund Estonia**.

Outcome 2: Human rights strengthened	
CIV-041	*Number of national, regional or local laws, policies or regulations proposed by or commented on by CSOs*
ALL-015	*Number of people self-reporting a change in their knowledge from advocacy / awareness campaigns (disaggregated by gender)*
Output 2.1: Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported	
CIV-016	*Number of policy advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs*
ALL-012	*Number of advocacy/awareness-raising campaigns carried out*
CIV-007	*Number of people who have completed a CSO-led training course (disaggregated by gender)*
CIV-027	*Number of supported CSOs working on migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers' rights (including Ukrainians)*
Output 2.2: Gender equality, including SRHR, and LGBTIQ+ rights supported	
CIV-006	*Number of people who participated in consultations with a public institution facilitated by CSOs*
CIV-015	*Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs*
CIV-023	*Number of supported CSOs working on gender equality or women's/girls' rights*
CIV-026	*Number of supported CSOs working on LGBTIQ+ rights*

2.3 Possible activities

To achieve the expected results, please see the below a non-exhaustive list of possible project activities that can be supported under this call:

- Civic education and awareness of democratic participation, rights and responsibilities
- Community organising and initiatives strengthening local participation
- Volunteering initiatives and active citizenship
- Activities promoting dialogue and cooperation between Ukrainian refugees and host communities
- Participatory activities enabling Ukrainian refugees to engage in community initiatives and local decision-making
- Advocacy related to the rights, inclusion and equal opportunities of Ukrainian refugees
- Human rights awareness-raising and legal empowerment
- Monitoring implementation of policies and practices affecting Ukrainian refugees
- Watchdog activities and public awareness initiatives
- Research, assessments and policy analysis supporting advocacy

[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 Annex 2.

- Networking, partnerships and coalition-building
- Activities promoting equal treatment and combating discrimination
- Initiatives strengthening social cohesion, mutual understanding and trust
- Public awareness campaigns addressing stereotypes, prejudice and hate speech
- Activities promoting the participation and leadership of Ukrainian refugees, particularly women and other vulnerable groups
- Initiatives promoting gender equality and inclusion
- Media literacy and critical thinking initiatives
- Activities strengthening resilience to misinformation and disinformation
- Strategic communication and awareness campaigns
- Development of communication tools and educational materials
- Cooperation between civil society organisations, media organisations, researchers and local communities
- Exchange of experience, peer learning and sharing of good practices
- Partnerships between civil society organisations, public institutions, educational institutions, media organisations and community groups

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

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

3. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND PARTNERS

3.1 Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants are non-profit associations and foundations that are established in Estonia under Non-profit Associations Act or Foundations Act and that are considered non-governmental organisations falling within the following definition:

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

Religious institutions and political parties, social partners, trade- and professional associations or profit-distributing cooperatives are not eligible applicants. Faith-based organisations are eligible if they meet the principles identified above and if the funded activities do not directly or indirectly promote a religious doctrine, mission or proselytism related to the beliefs of a particular faith (beyond basic religious/cultural awareness raising).

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

Eligible organisations can submit **one application as a (lead) applicant within one evaluation round within this call**. There is no limitation as to the number of partnerships any organisation may be involved in as a project partner.

3.2 Eligible project partners

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[7], or Beneficiary States[8];
- An international organisation or body or agency thereof;
- Informal 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, or Beneficiary States;
    - 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 Estonia. An informal group cannot not be a direct recipient of the project grant.

[7] Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

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

A partnership declaration between the Project Promoter and each of its partners shall be submitted as a supporting document to the application. The declaration shall be in Estonian or in English and shall be based on a template provided by the Fund Operator.

A project partnership shall not be mistaken for sub-contracting. Project partners always share a common economic or social 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 realize a specific activity within the project. Sub-contracting shall always be carried out based on an appropriate service or purchase contract.

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

4. PROJECT CONDITIONS

Project duration	Between 6 and 12 months
Project grant amount	Between EUR 10 001 and 25 000
Indicative start of project implementation	January 2027

Detailed rules for projects are described in the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters of the EEA Civil Society Fund Estonia.

4.3 Co-financing

The grant rate of the project is 100%.

4.4 Eligible expenditure

Detailed rules on eligible expenditure are described in the Guidelines for Applicants and Project Promoters of the EEA Civil Society Fund Estonia and the Cost Eligibility Guidance for the EEA Civil Society Fund Estonia.

Eligible project expenditures may take the following forms:

1. Real costs:
Reimbursement of actual eligible costs incurred by the Project Promoter and/or Project Partner for the purpose of successful completing of the Project.

2. Simplified Cost Options (SCOs):
Pre-defined amounts rates or percentages that provide the best possible approximation of actual eligible costs in practice. They offer an alternative method of reimbursement where it is not necessary to document the actual costs and payments for each cost item. When Simplified Cost Options are used, accounting documents or other supporting documents do not have to be submitted for each individual cost item.

The following Simplified Cost Options are made available in this call:

- flat rate: a pre-determined percentage used to calculate one or more cost categories in the project, for example other project costs or indirect costs;
- lump sums: pre-agreed fixed amounts linked to the achievement of specific project outputs or results;
- draft-budget method: the applicant first submits a traditional budget, which is then fully converted into Simplified Cost Options, using unit costs and/or lump sums.

The applicant shall submit a project budget based on the template found on the Fund Operator's website.

4.5 Payment of the grant

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

Advance payment
Advance payments will be made within 10 working days after the signing of the project contract, and it may be up to 50% of the grant.

Interim payment
Interim payment will be made within 10 working days based on the approval of interim project report submitted by the Project Promoter and it may make up to 40% of the grant.

Final payment
Final payments will be made within 10 working days after the approval of the final project report. The final payment will consist of the remaining balance and will be at least 10% of the grant.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE, ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

All project applications are assessed against the following criteria:

- administrative and eligibility criteria;
- evaluation criteria published in the call for proposal.

5.1 Administrative criteria

Administrative compliance is checked against the following criteria:

- the project application has been submitted electronically via eGRANT system;
- the project application has been submitted by the deadline of the call;
- the project application includes all requested annexes as specified in the call;
- the project application is signed by an authorized person.

Non-compliance with any of the above criteria will lead to the automatic rejection of the project application.

5.2 Eligibility criteria

Eligibility is checked against the following criteria:

- the applicant is a non-governmental organisation, registered in Estonia, that meets the eligibility criteria defined in Article 3 of the call text;
- project partners (if any) are CSOs, or any other public or private entities established in Estonia, any other Beneficiary States[9], or Donor States, or any international organisation or body or agency thereof. Informal groups that are not registered legal entities in Estonia are also eligible as partners;
- the requested grant amount is within permissible limits as published in the call;
- the proposed implementation period is within permissible limits as published in the call;
- the project uses at least one of the programme-level indicators from the selected outcome and/or output(s).

The Fund Operator may ask for additional information from the applicant in case of doubt whether any of the eligibility criteria above have been met.

In case of clerical mistakes in the project application or annexes, detected during the administrative or eligibility check, the applicant is given 3 working days to correct the mistakes and re-submit the document(s) in question. After re-submission of the document(s) the administrative and/or eligibility check is repeated.

[9] Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

Once the administrative and eligibility check has been completed, the applicants whose project applications have been rejected are notified of the decision of the Fund Operator and are informed of the reasons for the rejection.

In case the applicant has submitted more than one application as (lead) applicant, the most recently submitted application shall be considered; all other applications are automatically rejected.

5.2.1 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 should be directed to: csf@oef.org.ee.

5.3 Selection criteria

Applications that meet the administrative and eligibility criteria of this call will be assessed by at least two impartial experts appointed by the Fund Operator.

The experts will independently score the project application according to the selection criteria in the grid below. The application can be given an overall score of maximum **100** points.

Selection criterion		**Max. score**
1	**Relevance and expected results**	**35**
1.1	Relevance of the project in relation to the purpose and focus of the call	10
1.2	Expected contribution to the programme outcomes and outputs	15
1.3	Expected benefits for the target groups proportionate to the scope of the project	10
2	**Project design and implementation**	**30**
2.1	The project demonstrates a clear understanding of the identified needs and proposes appropriate and feasible activities to achieve the expected results for the target group	15
2.2	The work plan is realistic and proportionate to the project's scope, duration and resources	10
2.3	Communication and outreach measures are appropriate to disseminate results to relevant target groups and stakeholders, support the project's objectives where relevant, and ensure visibility of the EEA Civil Society Fund and donor support	5
4	**Capacity of the applicant (and partners, if applicable)**	**15**
4.1	The applicant (and partners, if applicable) demonstrates sufficient capacity to implement the proposed project, considering the size, duration and complexity of the project, including relevant knowledge, competencies, resources, and partnerships	10

4.2	Alignment of applicant (and partners, if applicable) with common values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities	5
5	**Budget and cost efficiency**	**15**
5.1	Budget is realistic, proportionate to planned activities and expected results, and demonstrates value for money	15
6	**Added value**	**5**
6.1	The project contributes to strengthening cooperation, dialogue, trust or social cohesion between Ukrainian refugees and local communities and/or promotes intercultural understanding and inclusion	5
	Total score	**100**

An application must score at least **75** points to be recommendable for funding.

6. SELECTION PROCESS

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

Timeline for the selection process:

September 7, 2026	Announcement of call
September 23, 2026, in Pärnu October 21, 2026, in Narva January 14, 2027, in Tallinn	Information sessions for potential applicants
November 9, 2026 February 1, 2027 April 5, 2027	Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and evaluation of projects is carried out by several evaluation rounds until the funds are exhausted. To be included in the particular evaluation round, applications should be submitted by indicated cut-off dates (deadlines). Projects submitted past the deadline shall be evaluated in the next evaluation round.
1-5 days from the deadline	Application is checked against administrative and eligibility criteria
6-30 days from the deadline	Independent experts assess application
30-40 days from the deadline	Decision on applications to be funded taken by the Fund Operator
45 days from the deadline	Announcement of applications awarded funding on the programme's website www.eea-csf.ee
45 days from the deadline	Provisional start of projects

7. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The application shall include the following information:

- CVs of key staff involved in the project
- Partnership declaration(s) in case of projects that involve project partner

8. HOW TO APPLY

To be included in the first evaluation round the deadline for applications is **November 9, 2026, at 23:59 Tallinn time**. Applications submitted past the deadline are subject to evaluation in the next evaluation round.

Applications should be submitted electronically via eGRANT system oef.egrant.ee. Detailed instructions on how to submit an application can be found on the programme's website.

8.1 Questions and answers

Questions may be submitted **no later than 5 working days** before the deadline for the submission of applications. The Fund Operator has no obligation to provide clarifications to questions received after this date.

The questions must be submitted to: csf@oef.org.ee. No individual replies will be given to questions to ensure the equal treatment of all applicants. Questions and answers will be published on the programme's website at www.eea-csf.ee. It is therefore advisable to consult the website regularly.

Any complaints related to this call may be submitted to rikkumine@oef.org.ee.

8.2 Support to applicants

NENO provides the following support to CSOs applying for funding:

- information about the Fund, calls for proposals and application requirements, including information events held across Estonia;
- advice and guidance on questions arising during the preparation of project applications.

Information sessions shall take place on the following dates and places:
September 23, 2026, in Pärnu
October 21, 2026, in Narva
January 14, 2027, in Tallinn

For counselling, please contact NENO eva@heakodanik.ee.

For detailed information please visit EEA Civil Society Fund in Estonia website www.eea-csf.ee.

9. CONTACT

All general inquiries and questions related to the application process should be directed to: csf@oef.org.ee

EEA Civil Society Fund Estonia webpage: www.eea-csf.ee

Open Estonia Foundation
Kentmanni 10-18, Tallinn
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Network of Estonian Non-profit Organisations
Lõõtsa 8, Tallinn
+372 5373 3130

Eva Berzin, EEA Civil Society Fund coordinator, eva@heakodanik.ee

ANNEX 1: CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANTS

The checklist below enables applicants to self-assess whether they have complied with all administrative and eligibility criteria of the current call.

CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANTS	Yes/No
Administrative criteria	
Project application has been submitted electronically via e-grant system	
Project application has been submitted by the deadline of the call	
Project application includes all requested annexes as specified in the call: - CVs of key staff involved in the project - Partnership declaration(s) in case the project is submitted in partnership with other organisations and/or entities	
Project application is signed by an authorized person	
Eligibility criteria	
Applicant is a non-governmental organisation, registered in Estonia, that meets the eligibility criteria defined in Article 3 of the call text	
Project partners (if any) are CSOs, or any other public or private entities established in Estonia, any other Beneficiary States[10], or Donor States, or any international organisation or body or agency thereof. Informal groups that are not registered legal entities in Estonia are also eligible as partners	
Requested grant amount is within permissible limits as published in the call text	
Proposed implementation period is within permissible limits as published in the call	
The project uses at least one of the programme-level indicators from the selected outcome and/or output(s)	

[10] Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

ANNEX 2: RESULTS-BASED MANAGEMENT FOR THE EEA CIVIL SOCIETY FUND

All programmes and funds supported by the EEA and Norway Grants shall follow the principles of results-based management.

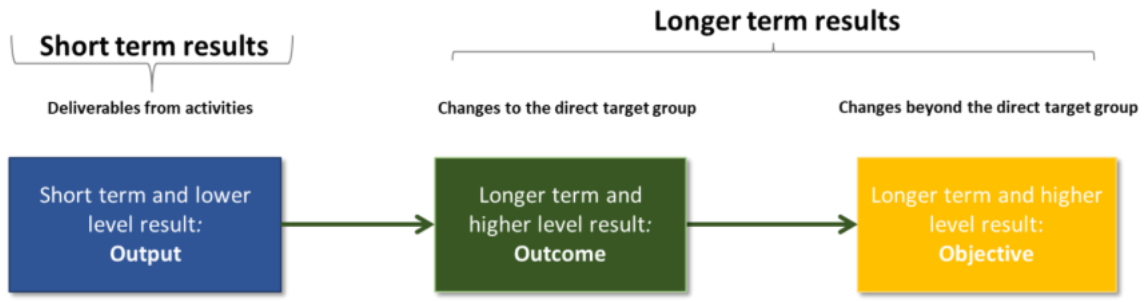
In results-based management, focus is first and foremost on the overall results to be achieved. For the EEA Civil Society Fund, this means focus is on the overall objective. The overall objective is, "A vibrant and resilient civil society protecting and promoting democracy, the rule of law and human rights".

The next step in results-based management is to set a strategy for how to best achieve this overall objective. Results-based management offers a set of tools to do this including result chains, result frameworks, monitoring, and evaluation. We also manage risks for the achievement of results.

Overall, about results in the EEA Civil Society Fund

A result chain includes lower-level results that are called outputs, medium level results that are called outcomes, and finally the highest-level result that is the objective.

The result chain can be presented in a figure as follows:

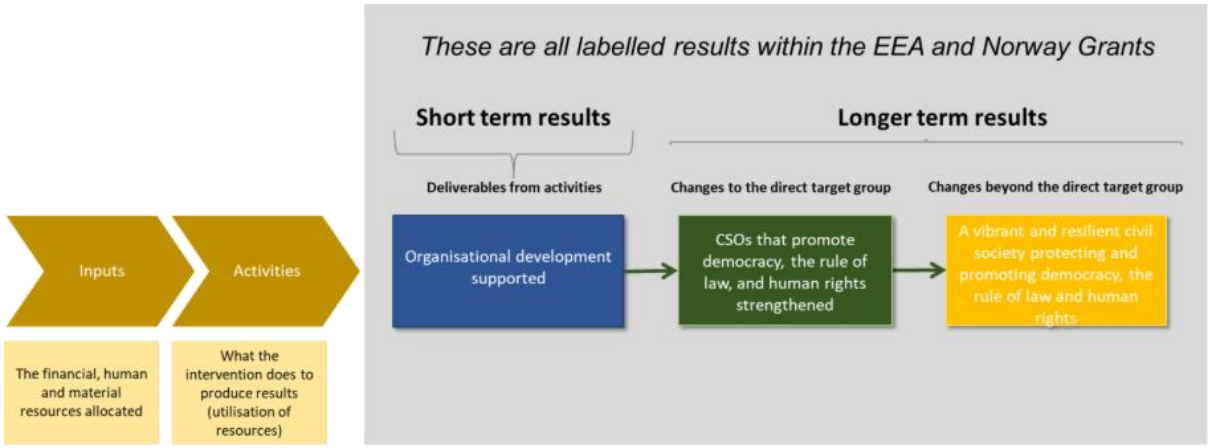


Here is one of the result chains for the EEA Civil Society Fund:

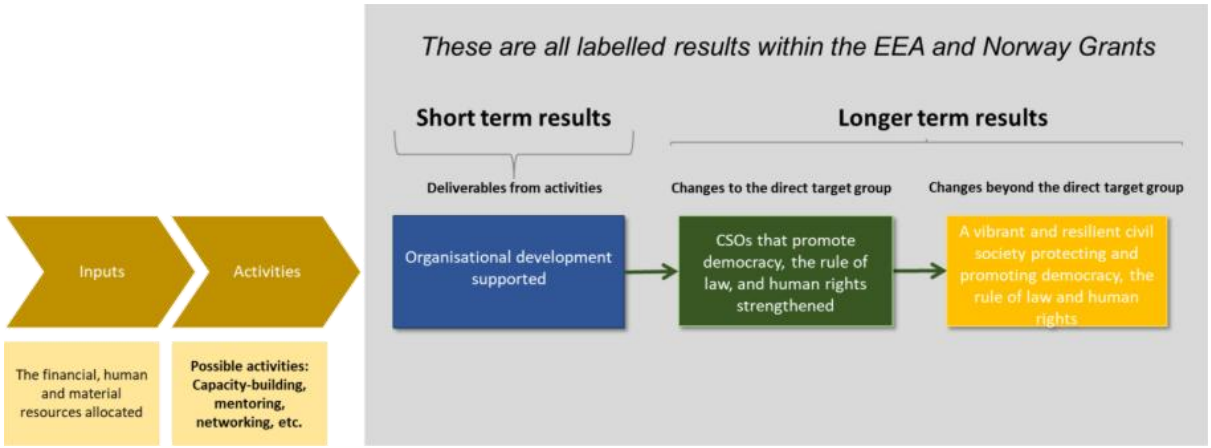


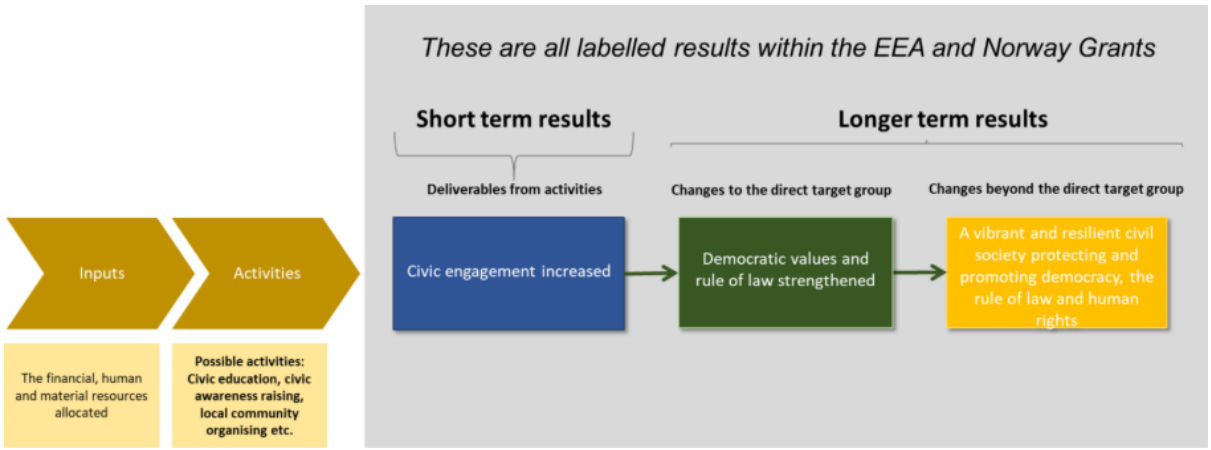
To achieve the outputs, it is necessary to implement activities using the available resources which can be called inputs.

Together with the activities and inputs, the result chain can be presented in a figure as follows:



The two figures below provide general examples of some activities that may be identified to achieve two of the outputs and outcomes in the EEA Civil Society Fund.

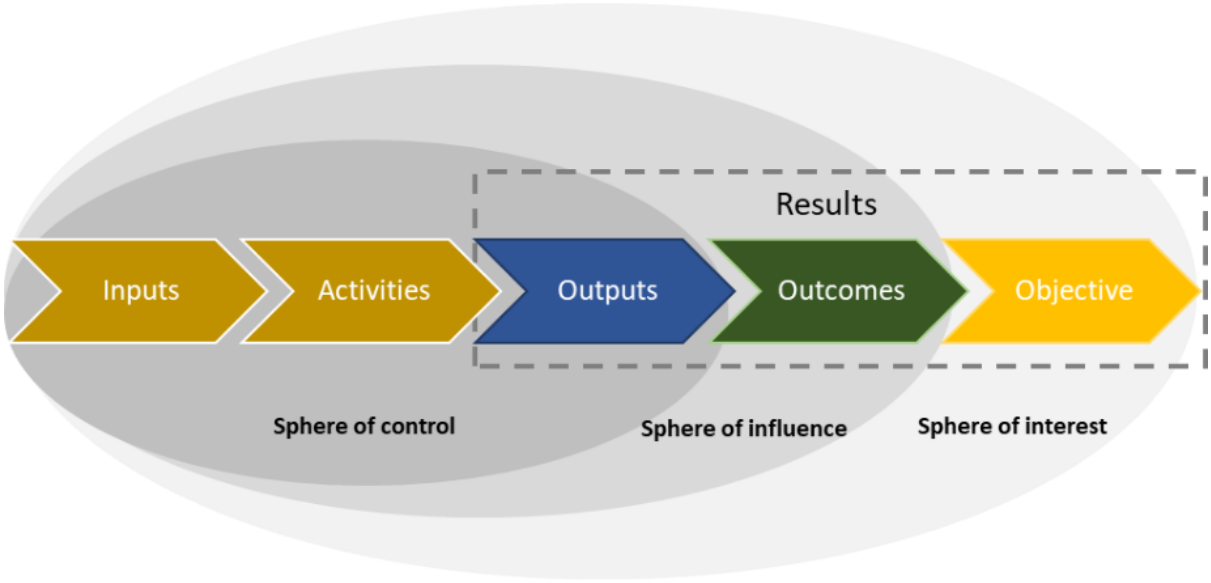




There are assumptions for how one level in the result chain connects to the next. For example, it is an assumption that if CSOs are supported to develop their organisations, then they will be stronger as CSOs. For each assumption it is useful to either provide evidence or plan for evidence through for example an evaluation. For this particular assumption on supporting organisational development, the FMO commissioned an external assessment of organisational grants in 2023 which is available on the EEA and Norway Grants website.

The higher up in the result chain, the less control stakeholders have on the achievement of the desired result. The evidence for how the previous level of the result chain contributes to this higher level of the result chain might also be more ambiguous.

Together with the inputs and activities, the different levels of control along the result chain can be presented in a figure as follows:



Key elements for project result-based management in the EEA Civil Society Fund

The EEA Civil Society Fund follows the Programme model. This means that the desired results at both the outcome and output levels will be derived from projects. As the Civil Society Results Framework specifies what is eligible for support, this means that all projects that would be eligible for support have to contribute to the results expected as per the result framework.

Every project must be situated only under one of the three outcomes (not multiple outcomes). Within the same outcome, projects may contribute to one output or more outputs. In addition to contributing to one single outcome, all projects that include bilateral cooperation must also report on bilateral results.

Each project within the programme can also have its own specific results chains. Applicants are encouraged to check alignment between their project specific results chains with the overall programme results chains. This can help preclude challenges in the implementation and reporting of the projects. However, applicants are not required to develop or work with project specific results chains.

Progress against the EEA Civil Society Fund programme results framework will be measured with the use of indicators. The indicators, including their unit of measurement, data sources of verification, baselines and targets, will be agreed in the project contract.

During implementation, the agreed indicators 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(s) and outcome.

To ensure accountability and learning, applicants may plan for an evaluation either during or after project implementation.