Iceland
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Civil Society Fund

OPEN CALL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs) IN HUNGARY

ACTIVE COMMUNITIES PROTECTED RIGHTS SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

- PROJECT GRANTS -

AVAILABLE FUNDING:

€ 10,000,000

DEADLINE:

16 NOVEMBER 2026, 16:00 Budapest time

ökotárs alapítvány

autonómia

CF Kárpátok Alapítvány – Magyarország

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 **Hungary**. 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 Civil Society Fund programme in Hungary has a total allocation of **€ 22,935,849** (of which app. € 19.5 million will be used for direct project support). A consortium of Ökotárs-Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation, Autonomia Foundation and Carpathian Foundation-Hungary operates the Civil Society Fund programme in Hungary on behalf of the donor countries. This call targets Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working in the 5 thematic areas below and has a total allocation of **€ 10,000,000.**

SUMMARY OF THE CALL	
Title of the call	Active Communities, Protected Rights, Sustainable Future - Project Grants
Purpose of the call	To support multi-year, larger scale projects implemented by civil society organisations in the 5 priority areas listed below, contributing to the overall programme objective.
Outcome(s)	Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened Outcome 2: Human Rights strengthened
Output(s)	● Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened o Output 1.1: CSO participation in democratic processes increased o Output 1.3: Information integrity and media literacy increased ● Outcome 2: Human Rights strengthened o Output 2.1: Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported o Output 2.2: Gender equality, including SRHR, and LGBTIQ+ rights supported o Output 2.3: Climate action, environmental protection, and a just green transition supported

Relevant project activities	● Advocacy and watchdog activities to support policy development and implementation (including strategic litigation) ● Participation in policy and decision-making processes ● Legal aid, psychological assistance, and other forms of support for human rights defenders ● Awareness raising, civic education, and media literacy ● Outreach and community organising to encourage citizen activism ● Networking of the civil society sector ● Investigative journalism and independent media activities ● Countering misinformation and disinformation ● Cultural activities for promoting social change ● European and cross-border cooperation
Eligible project applicants	Associations, foundations, social cooperatives and nonprofit companies exclusively owned by natural persons and falling under the category of micro- and small enterprise (have fewer than 25 employees), legally registered in Hungary at least 1 year prior to the call deadline (detailed conditions see below)
Project duration	Between 24 and 48 months
Project grant amount	Between € 50,000 and € 100,000
Co-financing	No co-financing required.
Capacity building	Up to 5% of the project grant amount may be used to **devise and implement fundraising and crowdsourcing campaigns**.
Partnerships	Applications may be submitted in partnership with (preferably not more than **2) other organisations/entities that are eligible by this call**. Partnerships with entities from the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) are encouraged.
Call available in the following language(s)	English, Hungarian
Questions deadline	11 November 2026, 16:00 CET
Application deadline	16 November 2026 16:00 CET

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1. BACKGROUND FOR THE EEA CIVIL SOCIETY FUND IN HUNGARY

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 Civil Society Fund. The allocation for the Civil Society Fund in **Hungary** is € **22,935,849.**

Through an open tender process, the secretariat of the Donor States – the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) – has selected a consortium of **Ökotárs-Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation, Autonomia Foundation and Carpathian Foundation-Hungary** as Fund Operator of the Civil Society Fund in **Hungary**. The Fund Operator manages the Civil Society Fund programme on behalf of the Donor States and is responsible for the selection, contracting and follow-up of projects.

The objective of the Civil Society Fund programme 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 Hungary will include **7** open calls, contributing to the following outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened
  - Output 1.1: CSO participation in democratic processes increased
  - Output 1.2: Civic engagement increased
  - Output 1.3: Information integrity and media literacy increased
- Outcome 2: Human Rights strengthened
  - Output 2.1: Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported
  - Output 2.2: Gender equality, including SRHR, and LGBTIQ+ rights supported
  - Output 2.3: Climate action, environmental protection, and a just green transition supported
- Outcome 3: CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened
  - Output 3.1: Organisational development supported
  - Output 3.2 An enabling environment for civil society supported

- Bilateral Outcome: Strengthened bilateral cooperation in the civil society sector i.e. between civil society in Hungary and the three Donors States, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

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 this results framework.

In Hungary, addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine, countering gender-based violence, and inclusion and empowerment of Roma will receive special attention in the programme.

An overview of all open calls as well as other activities supported by the programme can be found on the website of the Civil Society Fund in **Hungary**: **norvegcivilalap.hu**

2. FOCUS OF THIS CALL

2.1 Purpose of this call and needs addressed

Democratic values and rule of law: For more than a decade, the previous Hungarian government has systematically eroded the institutions of checks and balances, resulting in significant deterioration in the state of democracy, active citizenship, good governance, and transparency. This has left CSOs as one of the few remaining actors upholding democratic control. However, their work has been obstructed by a lack of funding and a restrictive legal environment.

After the landslide elections in April 2026, with the new government entering office, a chance to rebuild democracy and rule of law in Hungary with the contribution and participation of civil society has opened, however this will likely be a longer term process. Based on earlier experience and knowhow gathered, CSOs need to prepare themselves to become active players in this, to formulate proposals and advocate not only for eliminating anti-democratic rules and structures but to create a progressive social environment based on common values of human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

In addition, civil society must also overcome the widespread fear and self-censorship generated by the previous regime and help vulnerable groups to stand up for and exercise their rights in their everyday lives. New tools and avenues of participation and consultation need to be developed and implemented. Independent media must be strengthened in order to exercise their public control roles, to counteract disinformation and to become sustainable. A positive image of and public attitude towards civil society must be promoted so as to create broad social support.

Human rights: The upholding of human rights have strongly deteriorated over the past decade, with Freedom House ranking Hungary as “partly free” in 2024. Not too many (about 500 according to official statistics) CSOs identify themselves as human rights organisations as such, but their tasks over the past years have multiplied, especially as regards the need for litigation, as for example freedom of information requests often required legal action. Relevant consultative bodies have either been abolished or become merely formal.

Many CSOs are engaged in the areas of anti-discrimination and social justice, but over the past decade they have become increasingly frustrated, as social policies have been significantly weakened. This has been accompanied by consistent government messaging (supported by a dominant media conglomerate) fuelling polarisation and hostility towards vulnerable groups, particularly immigrants, refugees, the homeless, drug users, the Roma, and sexual minorities. As a result, according to polls Hungarians have one of the strongest rejections of migrants in Europe.

Poverty and marginalisation disproportionately affect the Roma population, especially in rural areas, where the chances of breaking out of the vicious circles of unemployment, indebtedness and the lack of perspectives are meagre. According to the Fundamental Rights Agency, 77% of the Roma community are at risk of poverty (compared to 12% among the non-Roma population). While there has been progress e.g. in de-institutionalisation, people living with disabilities face similar challenges. Independent CSOs must become strong advocates to counter these negative phenomena and to develop tools and means to improve the situation.

In the last years, gender equality has become one of the previous government's main targets, marginalising women's rights and the LGBTIQ+ community. Laws restricting LGBTIQ+ rights, such as a ban on legal gender change and on "promoting" homosexuality in schools and media, have created a hostile environment. These shifts undermined the rights of women and LGBTIQ+ individuals and stigmatised activism – however, with the recent changes opportunities arose to reverse these trends. But out of all areas, these are where the fewest CSOs are active - there may only be a few dozen gender-based organizations (including those of LGBTIQ+ persons) in the "classic" sense. While there are small new LGBTIQ+ and women's groups in several countryside cities, they are often informal and strongly need support enabling them to strengthen their positions and find new modes of action.

Hungary had no dedicated Ministry for the Environment for the past 16 years. While the environmental CSO movement has traditionally been one of the strongest and best organized sub-sectors of civil society, over the past decade, adverse external conditions and the vilification of green activism increasingly have led to a loss of direction and vigour to a certain degree. Public participation in environmentally controversial investments has been routinely swept aside through declaring these as "strategically important" and thereby simplifying permitting processes. Factories of electric car batteries have proliferated without any attention to environmental consequences e.g. in terms of water use, generating strong protests and controversies in a number of locations. Besides, waterfront tourism developments at various lakes, deforestation and irresponsible water management methods have sparked local protest and networking among the affected communities.

This call aims to help mitigate the challenges mentioned above, and to help CSOs become active contributors to the process of democratic regeneration in Hungary.

2.2 OUTCOME 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened; OUTCOME 2: Human rights strengthened

In the programme's results-based management, focus is first and foremost on the overall results to be achieved. The programme uses a so-called results framework that helps keep

this focus, and that defines what is eligible for support. Each project must be assigned to a single outcome and, within that outcome, to one output[1].

This call addresses the following outcomes and, within that outcome, the following outputs:

Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened
- Output 1.1: CSO participation in democratic processes increased
- Output 1.3: Information integrity and media literacy increased

Outcome 2: Human Rights strengthened
- Output 2.1: Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported
- Output 2.2: Gender equality, including SRHR, and LGBTIQ+ rights supported
- Output 2.3: Climate action, environmental protection, and a just green transition supported

In the application form, applicants are required to clearly indicate under which one output they submit their proposal.

2.3 Expected results

In each output, 20-22 civil society organizations (CSOs) will receive grants to implement projects that:

Output 1.1. CSO participation in democratic processes

- monitor public and private decision-making and enable citizens to participate, leading to increased transparency of the state and fairness in elections
- implement campaigns and actions contributing to public matters that strengthen democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and civic engagement
- build their own capacities and skills, as well as those of other CSOs and citizens to cooperate with local and regional governments, municipalities, and other state-level public bodies
- organise civic engagement and volunteerism (especially in rural areas) and enhance private giving, resulting in more donations and a stronger philanthropic culture that promotes strengthened public acceptance and support of the civic sector.

Output 1.3. Information integrity and media literacy

- exercise access to information, address disinformation and information manipulation regarding local and regional public matters, particularly in rural areas, thereby contribute to the reduction of information deserts
- organise civic education and media literacy (for all ages) to improve conscientious media consumption and the public perception of independent and credible information sources
- strengthen the ability independent media outlets (operated by civic actors) to address important public or community issues.

[1] An output is a lower level result area that contributes to the outcome which is a higher level result area. Together, the output and outcome form a result chain where each level is meant to contribute to the results on the next level. See more information in Annex 2.

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

- increase public awareness and enhance public discourse for reducing discrimination against marginalized groups like LGBTQ+ individuals, Roma, and women
- advocate for more humane immigration policies and better protection for refugees
- empower and enable members of vulnerable groups to stand up for themselves, exercise solidarity and defend their rights and those of others
- improve social protection measures, advocate for better housing, employment, education, and services for marginalized groups
- organise Investigative journalism and watchdog efforts could rebuild public trust in the justice system, ensuring transparency and reducing corruption.

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

- legally challenge anti-LGBTQ+ laws with a goal to improve access to education, healthcare, and employment for these groups
- advocate for greater recognition and visibility for gender equality, gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health rights, and LGBTIQ+ issues
- advocate for more effective protection of victims of gender-based violence, including prevention and signalling systems, education, guidance, and improving the responses in schools, workplaces, and police work
- provide support services to victims of gender-based violence, monitor and document GBV-related impunity to hold institutions accountable
- better represent these in media, public discourse, and at least in informal education.

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

- encourage greater public involvement in environmental issues, particularly in rural areas, building a wider movement for climate action
- push for stronger environmental laws to protect Hungary's natural resources, and promote sustainable development in political decisions
- prevent the criminalisation of green activism, and create a more supportive environment for civic engagement in “green” issues
- advocate for environmental policies so they become more inclusive, ensuring that the green transition benefits marginalized groups while addressing both environmental sustainability and social justice.

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

To track progress, projects should also contribute to programme-level indicators from the selected outcome and output(s).[2] Indicators are a means to quantifiably measure progress. Alongside narrative reports and other sources of information, indicators are used to help

[2] 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.

indicate the extent to which an outcome or output has been achieved. **The indicators listed in the table below are used to monitor progress and measure results at the programme level for this call.**

Each project is strongly required to use the programme-level indicators for the selected outcome and output[3] below.

In addition, all Project Promoters should design and use their own additional indicators to help track their specific results, although these are not part of the Civil Society Fund overall programme results framework. (See more in Annex 2.) In their proposal, **applicants must set values to each indicator, and during implementation monitor and report about their achievement,** with justification and supporting documentation (e.g. attendance sheets, photos, print-screens).

Excerpt of the programme results framework	Applicant: enter the target in the application form
Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened	
Number of people who participated in consultations with a public institution facilitated by the CSO	
Number of national, regional or local laws, policies or regulations proposed by or commented on by the CSOs	
Output 1.1: CSO participation in democratic processes increased	
Number of people engaged in the CSO's activities as volunteers	
Output 1.3: Information integrity and media literacy increased	
Number of people who have completed a journalism, media literacy or citizen education/training course delivered by the CSO	
Outcome 2: Human rights strengthened	
Estimated number of people who engaged and took an action in support of the advocacy / awareness-raising campaigns	
Number of cases of people at risk of human rights violations protected and/or supported	
Output 2.1: Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported	
Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by the CSO	
Output 2.2: Gender equality, including SRHR, and LGBTIQ+ rights supported	
Number of cases of victims of domestic and gender-based violence supported	

[3] If the applicant finds an indicator not at all relevant to the project, the value may be 0.

Output 2.3: Climate action, environmental protection, and a just green transition supported	
Number of advocacy/awareness-raising campaigns carried out	

2.4 Possible activities

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

- Advocacy to support a cause or policy.
- Research and analysis to inform advocacy work and policy, including good governance, anti-corruption and transparency.
- Participation in policy and decision-making processes.
- Watchdog activities and monitoring of policy development and implementation.
- Strategic litigation.
- Legal aid, psychological assistance, and other forms of support for human rights defenders.
- Outreach and community organising to encourage citizen activism, volunteering, and civic participation.
- Outreach to and interest representation of target groups that are marginalised.
- Partnerships between CSOs and public and private sector entities.
- Networking of the civil society sector .
- Awareness-raising activities.
- Civic education and training.
- Investigative journalism and independent media activities.
- Measures for increasing information integrity, media pluralism and media literacy, and countering misinformation and disinformation.
- Cultural activities for promoting social change.
- Intercultural dialogue.
- European and cross-border cooperation.

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

2.5 Conditions

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

2.6 Capacity building

A key priority of the EEA Civil Society Fund is to develop the long-term sustainability and capacity of the civil society sector in **Hungary**.

In this call, projects are encouraged to devote up to 5% of the project grant amount to measures for strengthening the organisational capacities of the Project Promoter primarily by **devising and implementing fundraising and crowdsourcing campaigns**.

Applicants are expected to provide a brief description of their main organisational capacity needs and indicative activities to be funded with the earmarked allocation for capacity building.

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 CSOs that are established in **Hungary** and fall within the following definition:

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

More specifically, eligible candidates must meet the following general conditions:

- Are non-profit, being organisations that have not been created nor operates to generate personal profit. Although it may have paid staff and may engage in revenue-generating activities, it does not distribute profits to its members nor to its board. Where revenue-generating activities are undertaken, these do not represent the purpose of the non-profit organisation, but are a means to support its mission and values;
- Have members who do not have any direct commercial interest in the outcome of the work of the organisation or of its commercial activities, and the organisation does not pursue the commercial or professional interests of its members. This definition therefore excludes trade- and professional associations, where the aims and purposes of the association is to further the specific interests of its members only;
- Are voluntary in nature, formed voluntarily by groups or individuals, and where the organisation is membership based, membership is not compulsory for any group or individual.
- Are independent of local, regional and national government and other public authorities, and of political parties and commercial organisations: these bodies must not have a majority representation neither among the organisation's founders (in case of foundations) nor in its senior management body.

Religious institutions and political parties, social partners 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.

Organisations registered as

- associations and societies (excluding religious associations, parties, trade unions, employer organisations and chambers of commerce)
- foundations (excluding public and trust foundations)
- social cooperatives and nonprofit companies exclusively owned by natural persons and falling under the category of micro- and small enterprise (have fewer than 25 employees)

according to the Civil Code of Hungary (Act V. of 2013) at least 1 **year prior** to the call's deadline, are considered civil society organisations and thus are eligible to apply to this call, as long as they fulfil the above conditions.

3.2 Eligible project partners

Projects may be implemented in partnership with project partners. Partners share a common economic or social 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.

Unless explicitly stipulated, 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, Beneficiary States or Ukraine and Serbia;
- an international organisation or body or agency thereof;
- any CSO or private entity established as a legal person in Hungary.
- 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 Hungary;
    - 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 Hungary, who signs the partnership agreement on behalf of the group. An informal group cannot not be a direct recipient of the project grant.

A partnership agreement between the Project Promoter and each of its partners shall be submitted as a supporting document to the application. The agreement shall be in Hungarian or in English, and should contain the following: i) provisions on the roles and responsibilities of the parties; ii) provisions on the financial arrangements between the parties including, but not limited to, financial reporting obligations, means for proof of

expenditure, payment flows and the expenditure for which project partners can be reimbursed from the project budget; iii) provisions on the forms of grants for all costs in the project and their calculation method; iv) requirements for the submission of proof of expenditure and/or proof of conditions fulfilled where lump sums are used; v) provisions on audits of the project; vi) a detailed budget, which foresees flexible rules for shifts between budget headings; and vi) provisions on dispute resolution.

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

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 realise a specific activity within the project. Sub-contracting shall always be carried out based on an appropriate service or purchase contract.

One organisation may submit one project proposal as applicant (lead partner) and may be partner in further two under this call. (Organisations that were awarded funding for more than one project under the 2026 spring calls of the Fund are not eligible to apply under the current call.)

4. PROJECT CONDITIONS

Project duration	Between 24 and 48 months
Project grant amount	Between € 50,000 and € 100,000
Indicative start of project implementation	1 March 2027
Final date of eligibility of expenditure	28 February 2031

4.1 Co-financing

The grant rate of the project is 100%.

4.2. Eligible expenditure

All expenditures declared by the Project Promoter are eligible that are:

a. the actions constituting the basis for reimbursement shall be carried out 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(s), in a manner consistent with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness;
e. they are identifiable and verifiable, in particular through being recorded in the accounting records of the Project Promoter 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.

The following expenditure categories are generally eligible:

a. the cost of personnel, comprising actual remuneration including social security;
b. travel and subsistence allowances for personnel and participants in the project;
c. the full purchase price of new or second hand equipment;
d. costs of consumables and supplies;
e. costs entailed by other contracts awarded by the Project Promoter for the purposes of carrying out the actions, provided that the awarding complies with the applicable rules on procurement[4];
f. costs arising directly from requirements imposed by the grant contract e.g. audit costs
g. Indirect costs, e.g. rent, utilities and general office maintenance.

Costs related to reconstruction, renovation, or refurbishment of real estate shall not exceed 50% of the eligible direct cost of the project.

Applicants are encouraged to include voluntary work in the implementation of their projects, with an estimated value of up to 5% of the requested grant amount. Voluntary work does not constitute co-financing and is not a requirement for receiving a grant. [5]

As part of their proposal, applicants must submit an itemised draft budget for their project, broken down per each activity (included in the application form). For reporting purposes, supported Project Promoters may choose of the following simplified cost options, calculated on the basis of the approved draft budget (see also in Monitoring and Reporting):

- lump sums i.e. costs related to a given activity may be claimed to the project in **one single amount once the activity is performed and proven in its entirety**; or alternatively
- a flat rate of **40% of eligible actual personnel costs for all other costs**, i.e. personnel costs (up to 71,4% of the total grant amount) shall be reported based on actual costs, while all other expenditures must be covered from the flat rate amount
- a combination of the above two options: **personnel costs** reported based on actual costs for the entire project and a **lump sum per activity** for all other costs (with no fixed proportion).[6]

[4] For contracts above EUR 15,000 the Project Promoter shall ensure fair competition between potential providers for example by way of effective price comparison.

[5] For the calculation of the monetary value of the voluntary work, the Government Decree 350/2011, § 4 (5) shall be used as a basis: the value of 1 hour of voluntary work is 1/160th of the actual - officially established - minimum wage. Deviations from this rule may only be justified in case of voluntary work requiring special skills and expertise and representing a high market value.

[6] The applicable reporting option will be chosen during the contracting phase by common agreement between the Promoter and the Fund Operator, also with a view to the project's characteristics (e.g. whether it is largely composed of disparate r continuous activities, how dominant personnel costs are in the total budget).

Note: the inclusion of a planned expenditure item in the approved project budget cannot be considered as confirmation of eligibility of that expenditure item declared (it may be subject to controls or audits).

4.3. Payment of the grant

The grant will be paid in euro (€), to the Project Promoter's HUF account, and therefore be automatically converted into forint. The actual exchange rate used by the Project Promoter's bank on the date of the transfer will be the rate used to account for the costs incurred in HUF. If the grant is paid in more than one instalment, the bank conversion rate used to convert the costs incurred in the actual reporting period will be the rate of the last instalment. The exchange rate risk between the transfer of each instalment shall be borne by the Project Promoter, i.e. any loss resulting from the exchange differences cannot be claimed on the project.

In exceptional cases, where some of the costs of the project are incurred in EUR, the Project Promoter may request payment of part of the grant in EUR. This must be specified in the grant contract. If certain costs are incurred in a currency other than HUF and not in EUR, the InforEuro exchange rate will be used.

The grant will be paid in instalments defined in the project contract, depending on the grant's duration:

Advance and interim payments: in equal annual instalments. The advance amount of the grant will be transferred to the project promoter within 10 working days of signing the project contract. The interim payments will be made within 10 working days after the approval of interim project reports submitted by the project promoter.

Final payment: 10 % of the grant support or the remaining final balance. The final payment will be made within 10 working days after the approval of the final project report.

5. HOW TO APPLY

The deadline for applications is **16 November 2026 before 16:00 CET**, as evidenced by the date and time of receipt by the Fund Operator. Late submission will lead to rejection of the application.

Applications should be submitted using the form available after registration in norvegcivilalap.hu in Hungarian.

Only applications that are submitted electronically via the above method will be accepted.

5.1. Questions and answers

Questions may be submitted no later than 3 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 through the messaging function available on norvegcivilalap.hu after registration. The Fund Operator will respond within 3 working days.

Questions and answers will also be published in the FAQ section of the programme's website at norvegcivilalap.hu. It is therefore advisable to consult the website regularly.

Any complaints related to this call may be submitted via the messaging function of norvegcivilalap.hu.

5.2. Support to applicants

During the application period, in September-October 2026 the Fund Operator will organise at least one personal information session in Budapest and one online for CSOs interested in applying for this call. In addition, information workshops on all calls of the Fund will be held in countryside centres. The dates and locations of these events will be published on the programme website at norvegcivilalap.hu

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.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE, ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

6.1 Administrative criteria

Administrative compliance is checked against the following criteria:

- Compliance with the submission deadline given on the front page and above in Chapter 5. of this call text. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.
- The application is submitted in Hungarian (with a summary in English) via the electronic form available at norvegcivilalap.hu.
- The application form is completed with relevant responses to all questions.
- No more applications have been submitted by one project promoter or project partner than explicitly authorised in the call text.

6.2 Eligibility criteria

Eligibility is checked against the following criteria:

- The applicant is an eligible organization in accordance with the provisions in section 3. of this call.
- The applicant was registered at least 1 year prior to the deadline of this call.
- The applicant's statutory data, including its latest annual report is up-to-date in the registry of civil society organisations or in the company register (as relevant)at https://birosag.hu/ugyfeleknek/civil-szervezetek/civil-szervezetek-nevjegyzeke

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

If the applicant fails to respond by the deadline, the application will either be rejected or will continue to be processed without the requested information(s), depending on the nature of the deficiency, with the resulting disadvantages.

6.3 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 8 days to appeal the decision, counted from the day after the notification. Appeals should be submitted via the messaging function of norvegcivilalap.hu

The appeal will be forwarded by the contact person to the Steering Committee, which will recommend the acceptance/rejection of the application. If accepted, the application will be returned to the evaluation process.

6.4 Selection criteria

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

The experts will independently score the project application according to the selection criteria in the grid below. Each criterion will be scored on a scale of 0 to 3 (not at all suitable - slightly suitable - partly suitable - fully suitable.):

Selection criterion		**Max. score**
1	**Relevance**	**6**
1.1	Relevance of the project to the objectives of the Call: to what extent does the project address the challenges described and contribute to the specific outcome and output?	3
1.2	Relevance of the project for the indicated target group(s): do the expected results meet the real needs of the target group?	3
2	**Methodology**	**9**
2.1	Methodology: are the proposed methods, including partnership, suitable to achieve the desired change and results (already during project implementation)?	3
2.2	Coherence between the objectives, activities, results, impacts and costs: are the proposed activities coherent, necessary and relevant to achieve the project's objectives and results?	3

2.3	Effectiveness, impact and risk management: are the results useful and applicable during and after the project? Does the applicant have a clear analysis of potential risks and their mitigation?	3
3	**Experience**	**6**
3.1	Experience of the applicant: does the organisation have sufficient experience and background in the given thematic area to implement the proposed project successfully?	3
3.2	Capacity and quality of the project team: does the team have the necessary expertise, qualifications, and experience to implement the proposed activities successfully?	3
4.	**Sustainability**	**9**
4.1	Sustainability of the results: will the project have lasting impacts on the target group? Will it likely be continued after the project's end?	3
4.2	Capacity development: will the implementation of the project improve the skills and capacities of the applicant, does it represent a step forward from the existing routines?	3
4.3	Communication: does the applicant have a strategy to present and communicate the results?	3
5.	**Value for money**	**3**
5.1	Value for money with a reasonable and justifiable budget, and coherence with the proposed activities.	3
6	**Additional scores**	**Max. 2**
6.1	Marginalised areas/groups: does the applicant work in underserved areas and/or with vulnerable target groups, including the Roma?	1+1
	Total score	**33+2**

An application must score at least **23** points to be recommendable for funding

Criterion 1.1 (Relevance) and 2.2 (Coherence) are exclusion criteria, i.e. if an application scores 0 points (failed) from both evaluators, it is automatically rejected. The ranking of projects will be based on the arithmetic mean of the scores. The evaluators will also provide a written justification for their scores, listing the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal.

If there is a difference of more than 30% between the higher of the two evaluators' scores, and both evaluators gave the application a score higher than 10, the intermediary foundations will invite a third expert to evaluate the proposal. In such cases, the average of the two scores that are closer together will be the final score of the proposal.

During the evaluation process, the independent **evaluators may ask additional questions via the online system**, which will be forwarded to the applicant organisation by the intermediary contact person with a deadline for reply, or clarified with the applicant during a site visit (pre-monitoring). Failure to reply will result in the application being assessed on the basis of incomplete information!

7. SELECTION PROCESS

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

Based on the average of the scores given by the independent evaluators, the Fund Operator will establish a ranking order of applications, and forward it to the Selection Committee, composed of three persons with the relevant sector expertise and experience of working in or with civil society. At least one of them shall be external to the Fund Operator.

The Committee will review and approve the ranking of applications and the threshold score based on the evaluators' scores and may modify it, considering how the totality of the selected projects aligns with the general objectives and call specifics. Based on the evaluators' opinion, the Committee may also propose additional conditions for funding.

The representatives of the Donor States will be invited to attend the Committee meetings as observers.

The final decision regarding which projects to support will be taken by the Steering Committee of the Fund Operator composed of the 3 directors of the consortium foundations. It may modify the decision of the Selection Committee in justified cases.

The decision of the Steering Committee is final and there is no right of appeal.

Timeline for the selection process:

10 September 2026	Announcement of call
October 2026	Information activities for potential applicants
16 November 2026 16:00	Deadline for submission of application
November 2026	Application is checked against administrative and eligibility criteria
December 2026	Independent experts assess application

end January 2027	Selection Committee meeting
mid-February 2026	Decision on applications to be funded taken by Steering Committee of the Fund Operator
February 2026	Announcement of applications awarded funding on the programme's website www.norvegcivilalap.hu
1 March 2026	Provisional start of projects

8. INFORMATION TO APPLICANTS AND CONTRACTING

The Fund Operator will publish the grant decision on norvegcivilalap.hu after it has been taken (latest the following day) and will notify the result in writing to all applicants within 15 working days 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.

Selected applicants will receive their grant contracts and a summary of approved activities and budget (based on the application and finalised after selection) as an annex via the online system. These must be **printed in triplicate and signed and be sent both electronically (PDF format) and in hard copy via post within 30 days to the designated contact foundation**, which will after verification forward it to the Ökotárs Foundation. The Foundation will then transfer the corresponding amount to the Project Promoter.

Mandatory annexes to the grant agreement (to be sent at the same time as the signed contract is returned):

- Annex 1: project summary, expected results and indicators, agreed budget (signed!) original copy posted and sent electronically
- Annex 2: a court certificate not older than 30 days of the registration of the organisation (which can be obtained from the competent county courts, also electronically) sent electronically
- Annex 3: a certificate from the tax authority (NAV), not older than 30 days, stating that the organisation has no public debts (the "zero" certificate issued by the competent regional NAV directorate; this can be replaced if the Project Promoter is listed in the database of 'positive' taxpayers free of public debts printed from the NAV website) sent electronically
- Annex 4: a simple copy of the articles of association or statutes sent electronically
- Annex 5: an immediate direct debit order issued by the Project Promoter's bank, valid for all bank accounts of the organisation original copy posted and sent electronically
- Annex 6: a simple copy of the latest annual report (and annexes) sent electronically
- Annex 7: a declaration by the Project Promoter that it undertakes to observe the highest ethical standards and respect the values of the EEA and Norway Grants: **human dignity,**

freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities and that it refrains from any action of discrimination or intolerance, sent electronically

- Annex 8: (in case of projects implemented in partnership): Partnership Agreement signed by all partners, sent electronically.

The Steering Committee may require additional annexes to be submitted in individual cases in the grant decision.

Projects can start at the earliest on the date of publishing the grant decision, which is expected to be in late February 2027 (however, if the grant contract is not signed for any reason, the costs incurred will be the responsibility of the organisation).

The **grant contract may be amended** during its implementation. Any significant change in the general activities or in the timetable exceeding 3 months **must be notified in writing by the Project Promoter from the designated managing foundation at least 15 days before** the change is planned to take effect.

9. MONITORING AND REPORTING

Each Project Promoter will be assigned a grant manager, staff member of the Fund Operator consortium, who will keep regular contact with the Project Promoter and can be approached with questions, issues to be discussed or success stories any time (in working hours) throughout implementation via messaging in the online grant system, telephone or in person.

The assigned grant managers may visit the Project Promoters on site at least once a year during implementation and may at other times to review developments, needs and provide support as and when necessary.

Project Promoters of organisational grants must submit **annual reports (calendar year) electronically via the form provided by the Fund Operator**:

- The report must be submitted no later than 31 January of the following year and must provide an overview of the Project Promoter's activities and an evaluation of how they contributed to achieving the call's outcome, output and **indicator values**, the difficulties encountered, deviations or adjustments made, including progress in building the organisation's own capacities and its cooperation with other civil society actors.

  The report must be accompanied by tangible products and documents generated during the implementation supporting the indicator values (e.g. publications, press releases, attendance sheets of events, etc.).

The application of simplified cost reporting:

The payment of the grant shall be contingent upon the full completion of the planned activities proven by the above supporting documents.

- **In case of lump sum, the eligible costs equal the approved sums of each completed activity. Note that any activity not or partially implemented will be deducted from the grant amount!**
- **In case of 40% flat rate, the actual direct personnel costs of the project, approved in the project contract must be detailed in the report. The eligible amount will be the sum of the personnel costs plus 40% of this amount automatically added to cover all other project expenditures.**
- **In case of the combined option, the actual direct personnel costs of the project, approved in the project contract must be detailed in the report, while for all other costs the eligible amount equals the approved sums of each completed activity.**

The assigned grant manager will check the reports within 20 working days of submission, after which they may ask clarifying questions and request additional documents (including copies of financial documents). Project Promoters will have 8 days to rectify any omissions (with the possibility of an extension of 8 days if necessary). Once verification is completed, the grant manager forwards the report to the director of the Fund Operator for approval and for transfer of the due grant instalment.

More information on reporting will be found in the Guidelines for Project Promoters.

ANNEX: 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.

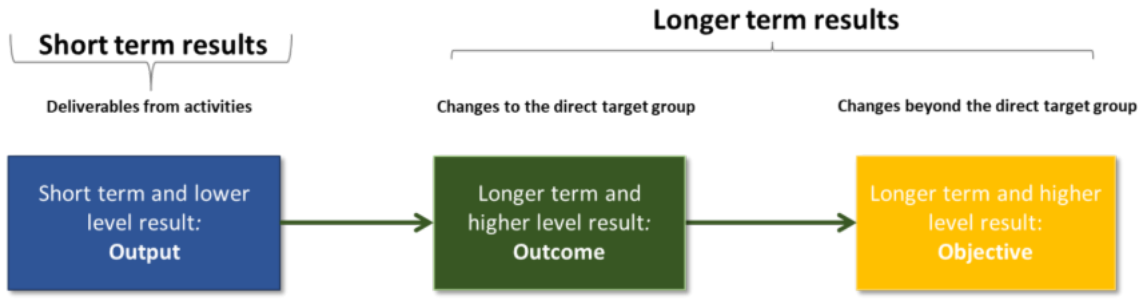
In results-based management, focus is first and foremost on the overall results to be achieved. For the EEA Civil Society Fund, this means focus is on the overall objective. The overall objective is, "A vibrant and resilient civil society protecting and promoting democracy, the rule of law and human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

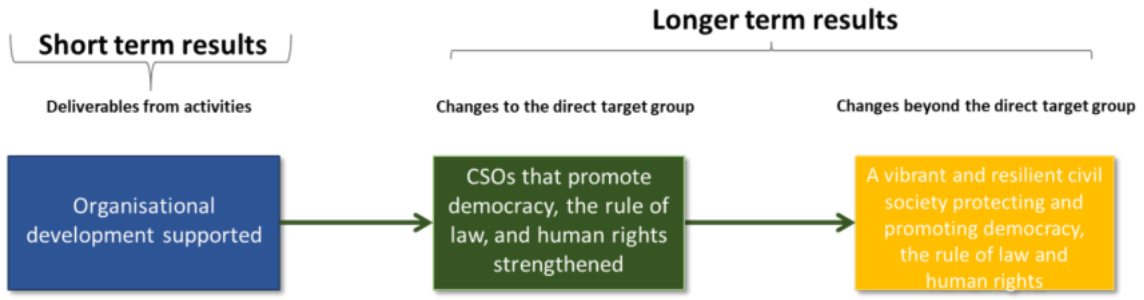
Overall about results in the EEA Civil Society Fund

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:

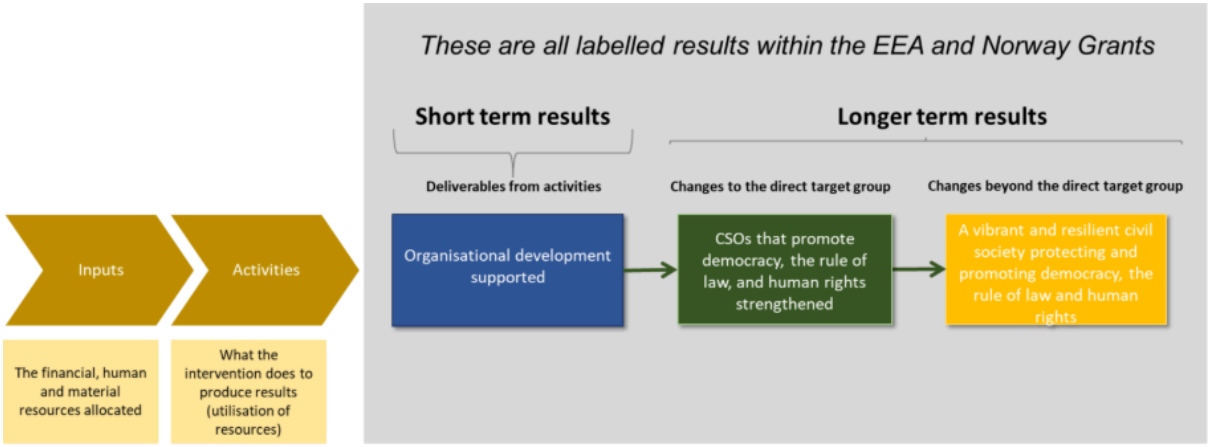


Here is one of the result chains for the EEA Civil Society Fund:

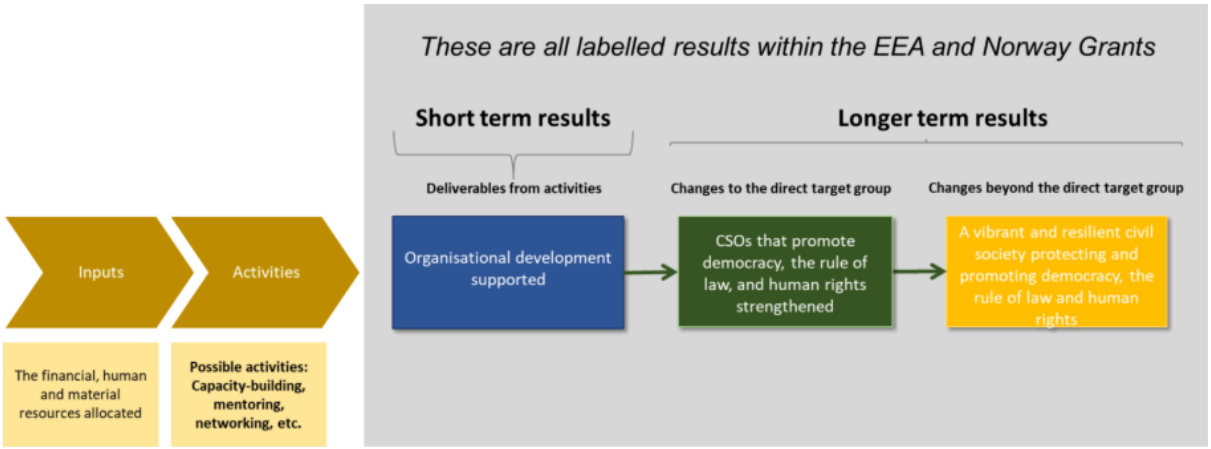


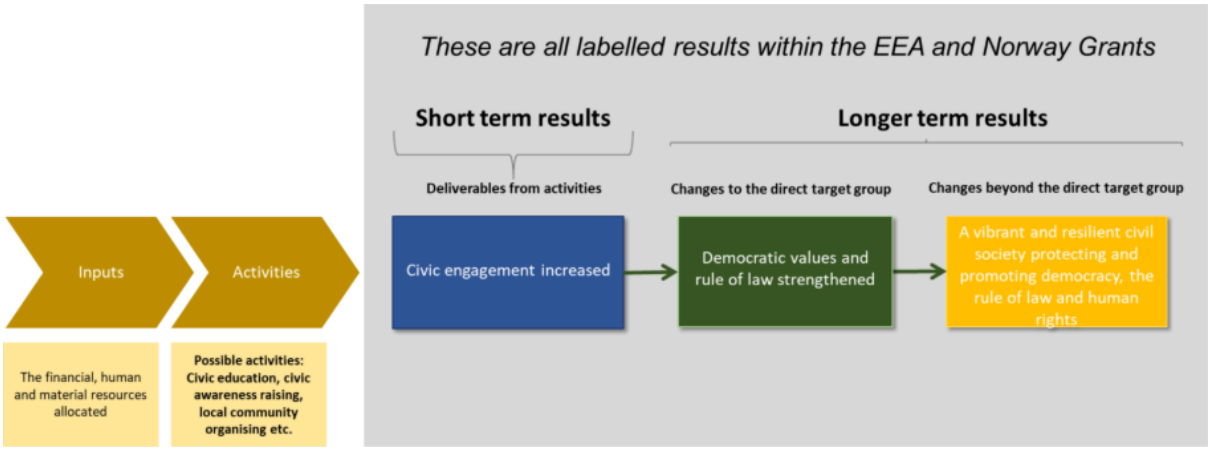
To achieve the outputs, it is necessary to implement activities using the available resources which can be called inputs.

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.

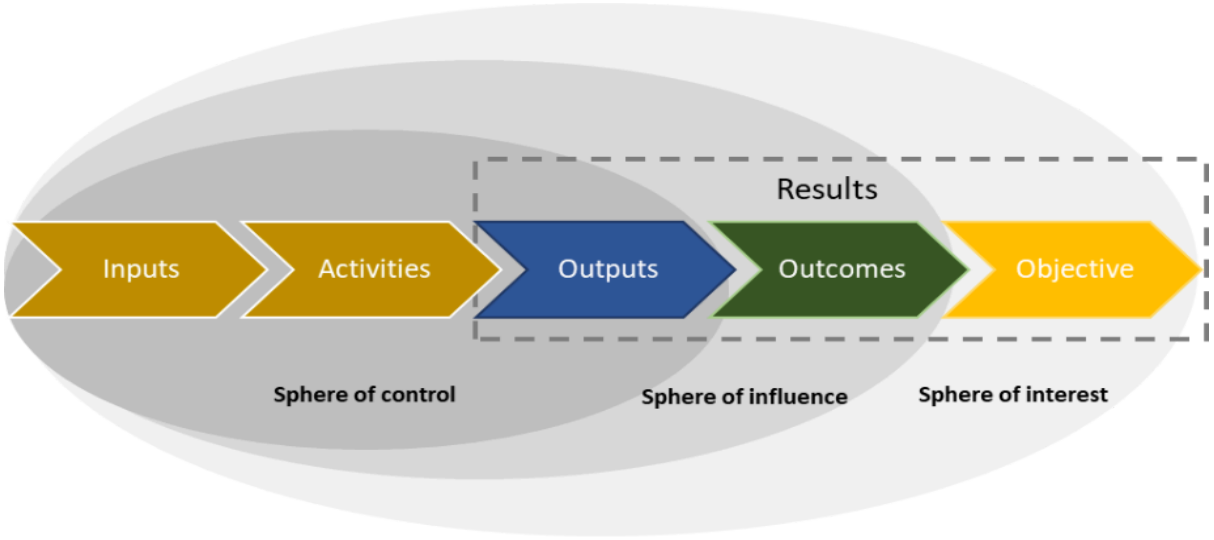




There are assumptions for how one level in the result chain connects to the next. For example, it is an assumption that if CSOs are supported to develop their organisations, then they will be stronger as CSOs. For each assumption it is useful to either provide evidence or plan for evidence through for 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.