Iceland Liechtenstein Norway **Civil Society** Fund

| Nadace **OSF**

VDV VÝBOR DOBRÉ VŮLE Nadace Olgy Havlové

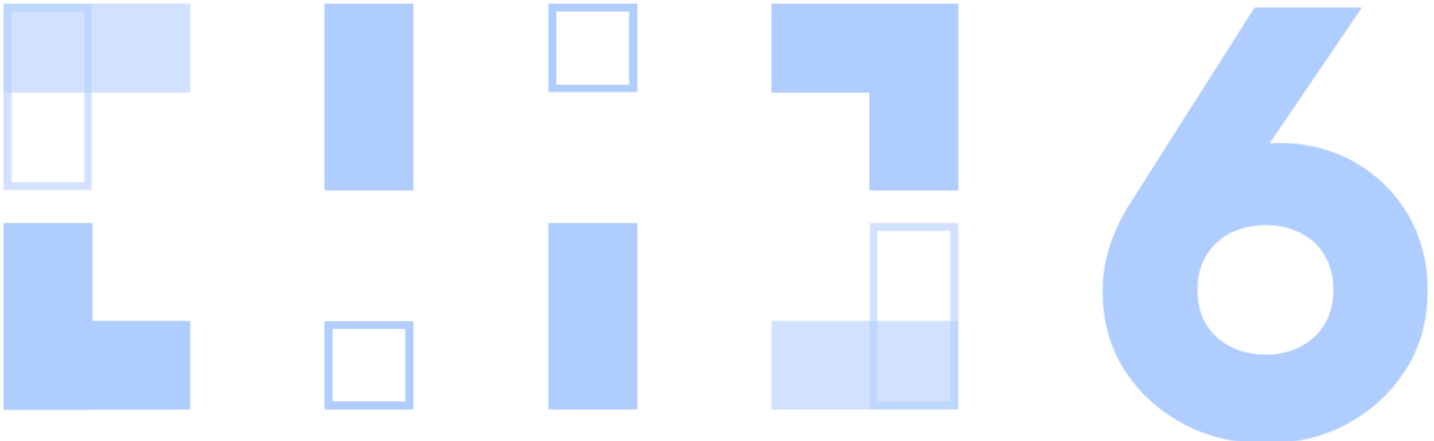
EEA Civil Society Fund

OPEN CALL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN CZECHIA

SMALL PROJECT EMERGENCY GRANTS

AVAILABLE FUNDING: €112 000

AN ONGOING CALL



SUMMARY OF THE CALL

This summary is intended solely for quick reference and does not include all binding rules. Before submitting your application, please review the full text of the call for proposals and consult the relevant sections of the Guide for Applicants and Project Promoters (hereinafter referred to as the "Guide"), where you will find detailed rules and conditions. The Guide is available for download on the programme's website.

Background for the EEA Civil Society Fund	The programme focuses on supporting democracy, the protection of human rights and the development of civil society organisations with the aim of strengthening their resilience and long-term sustainability. The programme's financial allocation in the Czech Republic is €20.3 million.
Focus of this call	**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: Strengthened civil society organisations promoting democracy, the rule of law and human rights** • Output 3.1: N/A • Output 3.2: An enabling environment for civil society supported
Country specific focus areas	• addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine • inclusion and empowerment of Roma, including support for Roma-led organisations and Roma women and girls • countering gender-based violence
Target groups	Civil society organisations, disadvantaged groups (particularly Roma communities, LGBTIQ+ people, people at risk of violence, and migrants), public administration and the general public.
Call announcement date	21 September 2026
Grant amount	€2,000–€8,000
Co-financing	Not required.
Project duration	2–6 months
Project start date	No earlier than 21 November 2026, thereafter always at least one month from submission of the application.
Eligible Applicants	A non-profit civil society organisation, independent of any public or commercial entity, with at least one year of active history.
Eligible Partners	Any formal or informal, public, commercial or private entity that respects common values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and the respect for human rights including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.Organisations from the Czech Republic, Donor States, and Beneficiary States are eligible.
Deadline	This is a rolling call and will remain open until 31 December 2030, or until the allocated funds have been fully committed.

1. BACKGROUND FOR THE EEA CIVIL SOCIETY FUND

The objective of the EEA Civil Society Fund is to contribute to a **vibrant and resilient civil society that protects and promotes democracy, the rule of law, and human rights**. The program will strengthen civil society and increase its sustainability. **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[1] and the Beneficiary States[2].

10% of the overall funding of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2021–2028 has been set aside for support to civil society through the EEA Civil Society Fund. The allocation for the EEA Civil Society Fund In Czechia is **€20.3 million** (i.e. **half a billion CZK**).

In the **Czech Republic**, the programme is managed by a consortium of **OSF Czechia and the Committee of Good Will – Olga Havel Foundation**. OSF Czechia focuses on **developing a vibrant civil society and strengthening democratic values in the Czech Republic**. Through its programmes, it systematically supports transparency in public administration, quality education, and the active engagement of citizens in public affairs. **The Committee of Good Will – Olga Havel Foundation** (hereinafter "OHF") is primarily dedicated to helping people with disabilities, abandoned children, and seniors in difficult life situations. Its goal is the **consistent advocacy of human rights for disadvantaged groups and the creation of conditions for their full integration into society.**
The programme in the Czech Republic will include open calls aimed at strengthening the following areas:

- democratic values and rule of law
- human rights
- development of civil society organisations
- bilateral cooperation

The programme encourages cooperation between civil society organisations in the Czech Republic and organisations from the three Donor States—Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway. **Regional initiatives** are intended for activities that support regional exchange, knowledge sharing, and networking across civil society in the Beneficiary states, with these activities being planned jointly by the Fund operators in all Beneficiary States countries, Donor representatives, or Donor contact points. The Fund for regional civil society initiatives **is not intended for direct project applications** from organisations, as is the case with other types of grants.

The programme provides support for CSOs throughout Czechia. Applications from CSOs based in all regions, particularly in under-served geographic areas, are encouraged. The Fund Operator will provide support to such CSOs during the application and project implementation. Among the country-specific focus areas of the programme in the Czech republic are the **inclusion and empowerment of Roma, addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine, and the countering of gender-based violence.**

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 standards. An overview of all open calls and other activities supported by the programme can be found on the website.

[1] Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway.
[2] Bulgaria, Czechia, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.

2. FOCUS OF THIS CALL

2.1 Purpose of this call

Small project emergency grants enable civil society organisations **to respond quickly to current cases, time-sensitive needs, and unexpected social challenges, the resolution of which cannot be delayed until a standard call for proposals is launched**. The aim of the supported activities is to quickly draw attention to current cases of rights violations or restrictions, restriction of services, provide urgent legal aid, raise the visibility of cases in the media, mobilise the public, or engage the local community in rectifying and resolving the urgent situation. This may involve an unplanned activity or an ad hoc response to situations that could threaten the public interest, local communities, the availability or quality of services, transparency, the legitimacy of civil society organisations, democratic tools and the environment, etc.

Prior experience with applications is not a condition – what is decisive is the relevance and urgency of the intended action. Applications may be submitted under this rolling call until the allocation is exhausted. Applications will be evaluated immediately upon receipt under an accelerated procedure.

These grants are not intended to address humanitarian crises caused by force majeure (e.g. floods, tornadoes, etc.).

2.2 Results-based management

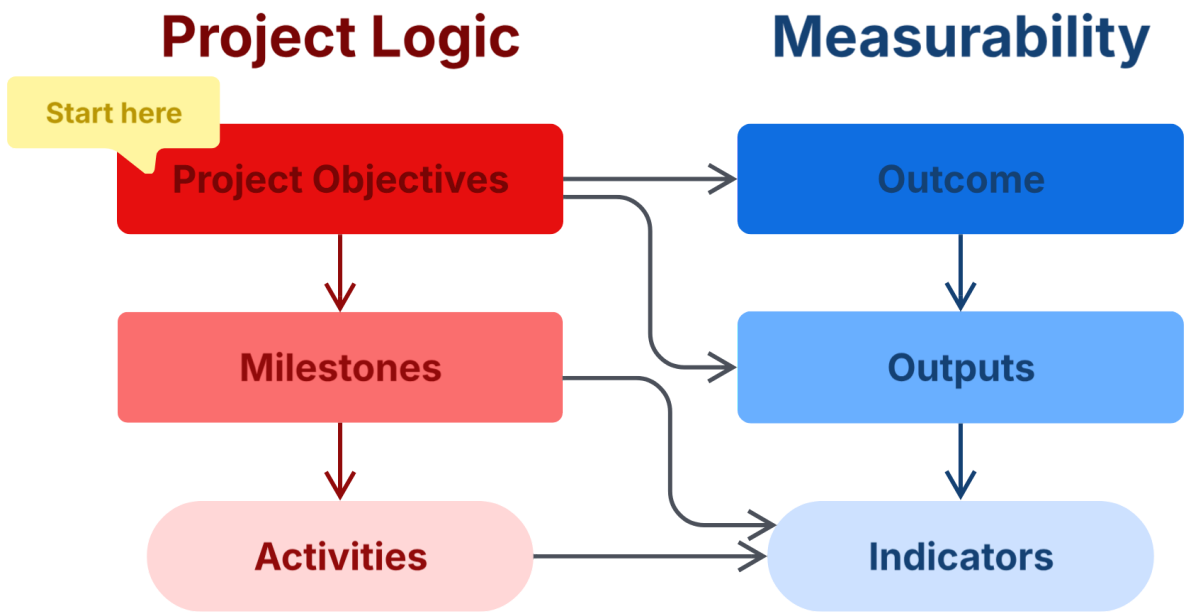
The EEA Civil Society Fund in Czechia focuses primarily on achieving concrete social change and measurable results. The programme uses a so-called results framework that helps keep this focus, and that defines what is eligible for support. Each project must be consistent with the programme's results framework at these three levels:

- **Outcome:** The Applicant chooses **one** of the three main programme outcomes that the project will aim to achieve.
- **Outputs**: Within the selected outcome, the Applicant chooses **one or two** outputs of that outcome that they want to achieve through their project.
- **Indicators**[3]: Indicators are a means to quantifiably measure progress and help to indicate the extent to which an outcome or output has been achieved. The Indicators are used to monitor progress and measure results at the programme level for this call. Each project is required to use at least one of the programme-level indicators from the selected outcome and output(s).

Each project must contribute to one single programme outcome. Within that outcome, a project may support one or two outputs. In addition to the outcome, a project may also contribute to the bilateral outcome—if it is implemented in partnership with a project partner from one of the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway).

Project Milestones

In addition to outcomes, outputs and indicators, Applicants set **milestones** that divide the project into individual implementation phases. For information on how to work with milestones in the application form, see Chapter **5. Preparing the Project Proposal** in the **Guide**. For this grant type, projects have a duration of **2–6 months**; in the application form you state 1–2 milestones.



[3] For a detailed explanation of the indicators and how to demonstrate them, see **Annex 1: Indicator Library**.

2.3 Outcomes and Outputs

The EEA Civil Society Fund in the Czech Republic focuses primarily on achieving concrete social change and measurable results. The programme has a clearly defined framework of outcomes and outputs that determines which activities and projects are eligible for support. When evaluating grant applications, one of the key assessment criteria is whether and to what extent the project contributes to achieving the expected outcomes and outputs established for each area of support.

Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened

In this area, we respond to the erosion of democratic participation, public trust and social cohesion in the Czech Republic. Growing polarisation, the spread of disinformation, exclusion from decision-making processes and declining trust in democratic institutions weaken the resilience of civil society and of disadvantaged groups, women, Roma women and men, and people arriving from Ukraine. At the same time, independent media, civil society actors and local communities face structural barriers that reduce their capacity to contribute effectively to democratic governance and to informed public debate.

Our goal is a more vibrant, more participatory and more resilient local environment in which civil society organisations, communities and individuals play an active role in shaping public life. We want to strengthen civic engagement, public accountability and social cohesion at the regional level. We will also support constructive public debate, improving media and digital literacy, and strengthening people's ability to critically evaluate information and communicate effectively with the authorities.

Output 1.1: CSO participation in democratic processes increased

Key needs and challenges to be addressed

Current democratic processes face systemic barriers that hinder the effective involvement of civil society in decision-making. Public administration often **lacks mechanisms for open participation and does not systematically use civil society organisations as intermediaries between the state and citizens**. A fundamental problem is the **neglect of the expertise and data of organisations**, including Roma organisations, in the legislative process. This situation is deepened by low mutual trust and insufficient knowledge of how institutions function. Moreover, participation is often perceived by public administration and political representatives as an ineffective burden or a disruption of established procedures, which leads to **resistance to deeper public involvement in the management of public affairs**.

Expected results

Our goal is to increase the involvement of local associations in decision-making and to **strengthen the influence of citizens over the shape of their surroundings**. We will support activities that encourage cooperation between people and local government on current issues and that actively promote or defend space for citizens where the local government has failed to create it. We want authorities to make greater use of **people's experience** when solving specific problems. The result should be the **establishment of contacts** that allow a community to respond jointly and effectively to its real needs in the context of current events.

Output 1.2: Civic engagement increased

Key needs and challenges to be addressed

Civic life in the Czech Republic is confronted with growing **divisions in society, low trust in the authorities and little interest among political representatives in community development**. Many people, moreover, do not know exactly how to engage effectively in public affairs, and the **potential of volunteers and of organisations with deep expert know-how remains untapped**. A major challenge is the low involvement of the Roma community, women, young people and other disadvantaged groups in shared decision-making. Civil society organisations themselves are often isolated in their work and fail to involve the new generation. These problems are most evident in structurally disadvantaged regions, where limited access to resources and opportunities deepens scepticism and the feeling that the voice of ordinary citizens does not matter.

Expected results

The main goal is to encourage **active neighbourliness and people's willingness to change their surroundings**, and at the same time to strengthen local governments' interest in the needs of the community. We will support activities that involve people in the life of their municipality or support local associations in response to current events. We place particular emphasis on giving a chance to be heard also to **young people, seniors, and Roma women and men**, and to those whose voice has not yet been heard much. The result should be **overcoming the feeling of isolation** and strengthening the awareness that even a small local initiative can respond to a current situation and influence the urgent issues a community faces at a given moment.

Output 1.3: Information integrity and media literacy increased

Key needs and challenges to be addressed

The media environment in the Czech Republic faces instability, deepened by **political questioning of public-service media and a critical lack of support for regional newsrooms**. The independent journalistic community faces the pressure of intimidatory lawsuits (SLAPPs) intended to silence criticism. Society as a whole is vulnerable to **disinformation and hate speech**, which **reinforces polarisation and prejudice** against minorities, including the Roma and LGBTIQ+ communities and other disadvantaged groups. The country's resilience is also weakened by low digital literacy and a lack of skills for the safe use of the internet. Rapid digital transformation without accompanying measures further deepens the gap between people and leads to the **exclusion of vulnerable groups** who are unable to make effective use of the state's digital services.

Expected results

The priority in this area is to strengthen people's ability to distinguish truthful information from the myths and half-truths that spread around them. We will support organisations that need to respond quickly to specific disinformation and that help people think critically and orient themselves better in a given situation. We will also support projects that actively stand up against prejudice towards minorities or vulnerable groups in current cases and that help different communities in a region live side by side without unnecessary tension.
We also seek to increase digital literacy so that vulnerable groups or people in difficult situations in particular can safely use the internet and online communication with the authorities. We will support organisations that intervene in specific current situations and help mitigate digital exclusion.

Outcome 2: Human Rights strengthened

This thematic area focuses on **persistent inequalitie**s, discrimination and barriers that limit equal rights, opportunities and access to services and that weaken social cohesion and democratic inclusion in the Czech Republic. Structural obstacles continue to affect **disadvantaged and marginalised groups, including Roma communities, women, LGBTIQ+ people, migrants and newcomers from Ukraine**, young people, informal carers, and people at risk of social exclusion or with mental-health problems. The situation is further worsened by insufficient funding, limited political support, growing polarisation, the spread of disinformation, and a lack of accessible preventive and community services.
Our aim is to create a **fairer, more inclusive and more respectful environment** in which human rights, equality and dignity are protected in all regions. We want to strengthen prevention at the local level, expand access to timely support services, and remove structural discrimination and prejudice. We will also support mutual solidarity and **strengthen local communities** so that they care for their own environment. At the same time, we will focus on protecting the rights of vulnerable people in a time of advancing digitalisation.

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

Key needs and challenges to be addressed

The protection of human rights and social justice in the Czech Republic is hampered by **shortcomings in systemic support and prevention**, which particularly affect vulnerable groups such as carers, people with experience of addiction and young adults. The capacity of key **mental-health and social-housing** services is critically limited, which deepens the persistent social exclusion of Roma communities in access to education and decision-making processes. A significant challenge is posed by the **barriers to the integration of newcomers from Ukraine**, who face a lack of available housing and difficulties finding work matching their qualifications. These issues also struggle with chronic **underfunding and social prejudice**. The overall situation is worsened by growing social fatigue with crises and the spread of disinformation, which weaken the legitimacy of organisations defending the rights of disadvantaged groups.

Expected results

The main goal is to ensure that every person in the Czech Republic has equal access to assistance and to fundamental rights, regardless of their situation or background. We will support projects that respond quickly to specific current cases of violation or restriction of rights and that help remedy the situation, for example by providing legal aid, giving a case visibility in the media, involving the public, or through other activities. Projects may focus on Roma communities, newcomers from Ukraine, other migrants, and other disadvantaged groups.

We also seek to ensure that organisations can quickly draw attention to cases where a proposed restriction of services could endanger local residents, and can respond to the situation with concrete action.

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

Key needs and challenges to be addressed

Organisations promoting **gender equality and the rights of LGBTIQ+ people face chronic underfunding and political pressures** in the Czech Republic that stigmatise their work and worsen public discourse. Despite majority support in society, systemic change runs up against low political will, as evidenced by the **absence of legislation** on marriage equality and by the refusal to ratify the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. In gender-equality rankings, the Czech Republic lags behind the rest of the EU, which most severely affects vulnerable groups such as Roma women and single mothers.

Gender-based violence is one of the most striking manifestations of gender inequality. Key problems in this area include the **absence of relevant data, insufficient development of prevention, and a critical shortage of specialised services for victims**, particularly in the regions. Within the programme, gender equality is also closely linked to the theme of **sexual and reproductive health and rights, since the right to decide about one's own body is a fundamental prerequisite for the equal status of women and LGBTIQ+ people in society**.

Expected results

The main goal is to create a safe and respectful environment in the Czech Republic that promotes equality between women and men and protects the rights of LGBTIQ+ people in their everyday lives. We will support activities that give visibility to current cases, help to overcome ingrained prejudices sensitively, and clearly demonstrate the benefits of **equal status for women, girls, vulnerable people, LGBTIQ+ people and ethnic minorities**. We also emphasise the **fight against extremism** stemming from gender prejudice, support for women's participation in democratic processes, and **improving the social status and living conditions of LGBTIQ+ people**. Our intention is to strengthen the voice of all disadvantaged people in addressing sudden problems and to support initiatives that give them the courage and the tools for self-advocacy.

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

Key needs and challenges to be addressed

Addressing the climate and environmental crisis in the Czech Republic faces long-term underfunding. Public mobilisation is hindered by **low media attention and the delegitimisation of environmental topics by political actors**. A key challenge is the lack of expert capacity in the regions and the **prioritisation of local problems over long-term climate protection**. Moreover, the uneven distribution of the costs of the green transition increases the risk of **energy poverty**, which, together with a lack of intergenerational dialogue among activists, complicates a just transition to **sustainability**.

Expected results

The main goal is to encourage people to **care for the landscape and nature** directly in the place where they live. We will support organisations that respond to current cases, emphasise the need to protect nature, and defend or promote **practical solutions for a healthier environment**, such as caring for greenery, water retention or energy savings. Our priority is for the changes promoted to be fair and effective and **not to burden people at risk of poverty**. We seek to **connect generations and cooperate with the local government** so that environmental protection becomes a shared concern of the whole community. The result should be **strengthened municipal resilience** and the creation of an environment in which caring for nature is a natural part of everyday life.

Outcome 3: CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, strengthened

In this area, we respond in particular to **insufficient and non-systemic funding** that has long weakened the capacities of Czech civil society organisations, limited their **strategic development**, digitalisation and professional human-resources management, and at the same time increased the risk of burnout among leaders. This situation is further worsened by low public awareness and a lack of data and analyses on the benefits of the civic sector, which undermines its legitimacy.

Our aim is to create a **more resilient, more professional and long-term sustainable civil society sector** that will be a firm pillar of the democratic system in all regions. We want to strengthen the **institutional foundations, strategic planning and technological capacities of local and regional organisations**. We will also support the development and quality of the work-life balance of their employees, cross-sectoral and international cooperation, and the visibility of civic initiatives.

Output 3.1: Organisational development supported

This output is not available under this call.

Output 3.2: An enabling environment for civil society supported

Key needs and challenges to be addressed

The civic sector faces low public awareness of its contribution and a lack of data and analyses that would document its role. This undermines its legitimacy and makes it more difficult to build trust and a stable community of supporters. The environment for civil society is also weakened by the questioning of democratic principles in public debate.

Expected results

The main goal is to **strengthen an enabling environment for civil society** – that is, the conditions in which organisations can operate freely and credibly. We will support **urgent legal aid** and other support for organisations that have come under attack from populist politicians or disinformation media. Support will also go to projects that, in response to specific current situations, defend a free environment for citizen involvement and organisational activity, develop strategic communication, clearly present data and analyses on the contribution of the civic sector, and generally **contribute to the resilience and crisis preparedness** of the civic sector.

2.4 Country-specific focus areas of the Civil Society Fund programme

The EEA Civil Society Fund in the Czech Republic focuses on three country-specific focus areas, which are:

- **Addressing challenges arising from the invasion of Ukraine**

Activities focused on the integration and support of those arriving as a result of the invasion of Ukraine, as well as projects in the field of information integrity that combat disinformation related to the invasion of Ukraine. Support is targeted at projects implemented in the Czech Republic.

- **Inclusion and empowerment of Roma**

The programme further focuses on supporting **Roma-led and Roma-based organisations**, i.e. **organisations led by Roma women and men and organisations operating in Roma communities**[4] . The main goal of this support is the empowerment of these organisations and their leaders so that they become active and confident actors who defend the interests of their community, support Roma women and girls, participate in decision-making processes and combat anti-Gypsyism.

- **Countering gender-based violence**

The main objective of the support is **countering gender-based violence and** to **empower women and girls, as well as other groups in vulnerable situations**, and to promote systemic changes in the areas of prevention, victim protection, and prosecution of perpetrators. The programme aims to create conditions in which groups in vulnerable situations can safely exercise their rights, participate in decision-making processes, and fight against gender stereotypes and extremism.

In addition to these country-specific focus areas, the Civil Society Fund also facilitates access to funding for CSOs in regions, especially in under-served geographic areas. We focus on supporting organizations operating in regions, particularly those facing long-term socioeconomic challenges. These are typically areas with limited access to opportunities, higher unemployment rates, and specific social needs within local communities.

[4] For the definition of a Roma-led and Roma-based organisation, see the Definitions section.

2.5 Small project emergency grant details

Small project emergency grants enable civil society organisations to **respond quickly to current needs and unexpected societal challenges or time-critical needs of the civic sector**. This is a form of support for unforeseen needs triggered by changing circumstances. Each project must fulfil one of the programme outcomes and at least one related output. The outcomes and outputs applicable to this call can be found in Chapter 2.3 Outcomes and outputs.

Estimated annual Call allocation	2026: €12,000
	2027: €25,000
	2028: €25,000
	2029: €25,000
	2030 and 2031: €25,000
Number of supported projects	14-21
Project duration	2–6 months
Start date of project implementation	on a rolling basis from November 2026
Grant amount per project	€2,000–€8,000

The table below provides an overview of relevant programme indicators. Choose those that best correspond to your activities and set target values for them. If your application is approved, these values will become binding targets, the fulfilment of which you will have to report. Detailed explanations of the indicators and illustrative list of **sources of verification** can be found in **Annex 1: Indicator Library**, which is also available on the programme website. An overview of the outcomes and outputs applicable to the small project regional grant can be found in Table 1 at the end of this call for proposals.

Overview of indicators by selected output:

Outcomes and Outputs	Code	Indicator	Disaggregation[5]
Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened	**CIV-001**	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	N/A
	CIV-002	Number of local laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	N/A
Output 1.1: CSO participation in democratic processes increased	**CIV-004**	Number of CSOs participating in consultations with a public institution	Roma-led and Roma-based
	CIV-016	Number of policy advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
Output 1.2: Civic engagement increased	**CIV-010**	Number of people engaged in CSO activities as volunteers	Roma
	CIV-007a	Number of people who completed a CSO-led training courses on civic engagement and/or community building	Roma
	CZE-001	Number of politicians and officials of public administration who participated in CSO-led training courses [on civic engagement and/or community building]	N/A
Output 1.3: Information integrity and media literacy increased	**CIV-007**	Number of people who participated in CSO-led training courses	N/A
	CIV-007b	Number of people who completed a CSO-led training courses [on digital literacy]	N/A
	LOC-011	Number of local or community-based media outlets supported	Roma-led and Roma-based
	CIV-015	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	Roma
	CZE-002	Number of identified and/or reported SLAPPs against CSOs/media	N/A
Outcome 2: Human rights strengthened	**CIV-001**	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	N/A
	CIV-002	Number of local laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	N/A
Output 2.1: Human rights, including anti-discrimination, and social justice supported	**CIV-015**	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-016	Number of policy advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-018	Number of strategic litigation cases initiated by the supported CSOs	Roma
	CIV-020	Number of human rights violations documented and reported by supported CSOs	Roma women
	VAL-010	Number of activities, services, and measures to improve living conditions and access to services for groups in vulnerable situations.	N/A
Output 2.2: Gender equality, including SRHR, and LGBTIQ+ rights supported	**CIV-015**	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-016	Number of policy advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-007	Number of people who completed a CSO-led training courses	N/A
	CIV-018	Number of strategic litigation cases initiated by the supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-021	Number of cases of survivors of human rights violations protected and/or supported	LGBTIQ+ people

[5] Data disaggregation means that you divide the overall target figure into the specific subgroups listed under your selected indicator. This allows you to accurately demonstrate who received the support.

Outcomes and Outputs	Code	Indicator	Disaggregation[5]
Output 2.3: Climate action, environmental protection, and a just green transition supported	**CIV-004**	Number of CSOs participating in consultations with a public institution	N/A
	CIV-007	Number of people who participated in CSO-led training courses	N/A
	CIV-015	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-016	Number of policy advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-018	Number of strategic litigation cases initiated by the supported CSOs	N/A
Outcome 3: CSOs that promote democracy, the rule of law, and human rights	**CIV-001**	Number of national laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	N/A
	CIV-002	Number of local laws or policies developed or revised with civil society participation	N/A
	CIV-035	Number of supported CSOs with improved overall organisational strength	N/A
Output 3.2: An enabling environment for civil society supported	**CIV-015**	Number of public advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
	CIV-016	Number of policy advocacy outputs delivered by supported CSOs	N/A
	CZE-003	Number of communication outputs and/or events by supported CSOs that present data and analyses	N/A
	CZE-004	Number of internal education and development initiatives by supported organisations aimed at promoting democratic principles	N/A

2.6 Projects involving bilateral cooperation

If the Applicant submits a project in cooperation with a Project partner from one of the Donor States, it fulfills not only the thematic outcome (1-3) but also the outcome of bilateral **cooperation,** which is **strengthened cooperation between organisations in the Czech Republic and organisations in Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.**

The achievement of the objectives of bilateral projects will be tracked by means of an **evaluation questionnaire** that the supported and partner organisations complete at the end of the project – see Annex 1: Indicator Library. If your primary goal is a one-off activity or initiative with one of the Donor States, consider applying for a grant under the **Call for Bilateral Initiatives**, which is open on a rolling basis. More information can be found directly in the text of the call.

2.7 Target groups

Main target groups of the programme:

- **Civil society organisations**;
    - **that focus on the programme's areas;**
    - **led by Roma women and men;**
    - **small and regional;**
    - **networks** (platforms, associations, coalitions).

Final beneficiaries of support:

- **Disadvantaged groups and groups working to promote their rights**
    - **Roma women and men;**
    - **migrants,** with a current focus on those arriving as a **result of the invasion of Ukraine;**
    - **LGBTIQ+ people;**
    - **girls and women;**
    - **groups at risk of violence and gender-based violence;**
    - **groups from under-served geographic areas;**
    - **groups in vulnerable situations:** seniors, people at risk of poverty and the climate crisis, children from vulnerable families, and people with disabilities;
    - **young people;**
- **Staff, board members, and volunteers.**

Indirect target groups:

- **public administration actors and politicians :** state and municipal officials, policymakers;
- **media and journalists**: media outlets, journalists;
- **the general public:** citizens, the community, community leaders, the private sector, and employees.

2.8 Supported activities

You are not limited by the programme in your choice of project activities. It is important that you choose activities that are relevant, realistic, and feasible for you or your Project Partner.
Here are examples of supported activities under the EEA Civil Society Fund.

Advocacy, watchdog, and legislative activities

- advocacy and lobbying activities;
- watchdog activities and monitoring of policy development and implementation;
- legal services;
- expert opinions and consultations.

Research, Analysis, and Data

- surveys, studies and analyses assessing the current state of affairs;
- needs assessments and proposals for optimal solutions.

Public Participation and Policy Making

- engaging the public in response to current events/developments;
- tools for the participation of disadvantaged groups in decision-making.

Communication, campaigns, and PR

- PR activities and campaigns to support advocacy work and systemic change;
- campaigns to strengthen civic participation, promote human rights, and combat discrimination;
- activities that strengthen the legitimacy and credibility of civil society organisations;
- strategic communication.

The aim of these grants is **not to fund social services** as such, but primarily advocacy activities, empowering Roma women and men and newcomers from Ukraine to participate, monitoring human rights violations, and systemic change at all levels. Social services may be supported only provided that they **directly relate to advocacy activities and/or civic participation**.

These grants are not intended to address humanitarian crises caused by force majeure (e.g. floods, tornadoes, etc.).

2.10 Project Timeline

This grant type supports projects with a duration of **2–6 months**. The project schedule is linked to specific milestones that serve as indicators of ongoing progress. While the schedule gives the project a time structure, milestones give it substantive content. Their fulfilment is essential for achieving the project's objectives, which we will track during monitoring.

In the grant application form, state **1, and at most 2, milestones**, regardless of the project's duration.

3. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND PROJECT PARTNERS

All Applicants and Project Partners must respect the common values of **respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities**, and act in accordance with the fundamental rights and obligations enshrined in relevant international agreements.

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 the Czech Republic,** which meet the condition of **one year from the date of registration** of the organisation by the deadline for the call, and fall within the following definition:

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

Eligible Applicants for grants are CSOs that are registered as:

- **Association (Spolek);**
- **Institute (Zapsaný ústav);**
- **Public Benefit Corporation (Obecně prospěšná společnost);**
- **Foundation and endowment fund (Nadace a nadační fond);**
- **Interest association of legal entities (Zájmová sdružení právnických osob);**
- **Legal entity established by a registered church or religious society (charities)** under the Act No. 3/2002 Coll. on Freedom of Religion and the Status of Churches and Religious Societies **(Účelové zařízení registrované církve a náboženské společnosti).** These entities are eligible provided that they comply with the above values and principles and if the activities funded do not directly or indirectly promote religious doctrine, mission, or proselytism related to a specific faith (beyond basic religious or cultural awareness raising).

Religious institutions and political parties, social partners, informal groups or profit-distributing entities are not eligible Applicants.

For more information on Applicant eligibility, please refer to the **Guide** in Chapter **4. Eligibility of Applicant and Project Partners.**

3.2 Eligible Project Partners

Projects may be implemented in partnership with Project Partners. Project Partners must be **actively involved** in the project and **contribute effectively** to its implementation. 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**[6], **Beneficiary States**[7];
- An **international intergovernmental organisation**[8] or body or agency thereof;
- **Informal, ad hoc and self-help organisations**, including "grassroots" organisations that are not registered legal entities (hereinafter referred to as "informal groups"). An informal group acts exclusively for the public interest, is voluntary and non-discriminatory, is independent of public administration, political parties, religious institutions, or commercial organisations, and is not established for profit. **An informal group cannot be a financial partner**. The members of **informal groups must be legal residents** or be based in either the **Donor or Beneficiary States** and must be represented by a person with legal residence in the Czech Republic who signs the partnership agreement on behalf of the group.

Within the EEA Civil Society Fund, projects that plan to cooperate with partners from individual Donor States are welcome. Mutual contact and cooperation are facilitated by contact organisations in Donor States. Links to these organisations can be found on the programme website in the Bilateral fund section.

Two types of partnership

Project Partners may participate as financial or non-financial partners. An organisation may also be a non-financial Project Partner in any number of projects, even within a single grant round. **In the case of financial partners, a maximum of 3 partners may be involved,** provided that the maximum grant amount available under the programme is not exceeded. The total amount of funding for a single organisation under the entire programme may not exceed **€150,000**, regardless of whether it acts as a beneficiary or a financial partner. An exception is made for project grants on systemic change, where the limit is increased to **€200,000**. Support received from the funds for bilateral relations and from small project emergency grants is not included in these limits. There is no limit on the number of non-financial partners in funded projects.
For projects implemented with financial partners, it is expected that the Applicant will be the recipient of the majority share of the grant.

1. **Financial partnership** – This type of Project Partner receives part of the grant via the Project Promoter for the implementation of substantive project activities based on a **Partnership Agreement**. Under this type of partnership, the Applicant is expected to receive the majority of the budget.
2. **Non-financial partnership** – This Project Partner participates in activities (e.g., consultations, expert guarantee) but receives no financial contribution for its participation.

There is no limit on the duration of registration of a Project Partner.
For more information on partnerships, see the **Guide** in Chapter **4.2.1 Partnership Conditions.**

[6] Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.
[7] Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia.
[8] International intergovernmental organisations are those with international membership, scope, or presence (intergovernmental organisations established by treaty or international NGOs such as the ICRC or MSF) with presence or registration in the Czech Republic, Donor States, or Beneficiary States.

4.PROJECT CONDITIONS

Detailed rules on financing and eligibility are described in the **Guide** in Chapter **10. Financial management.**

4.1 Co-financing

The grant rate of the project is 100%; co-financing is not required.

4.2 Eligible expenditures

The following Simplified Cost Option **is available** in this call:

- **Lump sum:** When reporting using the lump-sum method, you will not submit any financial documents, but you will provide evidence that you have achieved the milestones you set.

Specific provisions on establishing the amounts to be used via lump sums shall be determined in the project contract. **Unit cost and flat rates are not available in this call.**

Expenditures are eligible if they are **declared during the period between the first and last day of project implementation** (the project implementation period is specified in the grant agreement and corresponds to the eligibility period).

The Applicant shall submit a project budget via the eGrant online database. Please note that the inclusion of an expenditure item in a project budget approved by the Fund Operator shall not be considered as confirmation of the eligibility of that expenditure item.

For detailed information on eligible expenditures, please refer to **Chapter 10.3** in the **Guide for Applicants and Project Promoters**.

4.3 Payment of the grant

The grant will be paid in installments defined in the project contract. The payment model is based on project duration.

Project duration	**Advance payment** (up to 10 working days after the signature date of the project contract unless a later date has been set in the project contract.)	**Interim payments** (up to 10 working days of the approval of interim project report)	**Final payment – retained amount** (up to 10 working days after the date of approval of the final narrative and final financial report.)
2-6 months	**up to 95%**	**Not applicable**	**remaining amount**

In exceptional cases, for projects where the risk has been assessed as low based on a risk analysis (and no recovery of funds is expected due to ineligible expenses), the administrator may decide to adjust the installments so that the grant is paid in full (100%) as an advance payment (rather than after approval of the final report).

5. PROJECT ASSESSMENT AND SELECTION PROCESS

The evaluation of project applications reflects the principles of the programme: it is transparent and does not tolerate any manifestations of corruption.

During the review of administrative and eligibility criteria and substantive evaluation of an application, there must be no conflict of interest between the evaluator and the Applicant. All evaluators and members of the Selection Committee are bound by **Code of Ethics** and **Declaration of no conflict of interest**, in which they declare the objectivity of their evaluation and exclude any conflict of interest.

5.1 Review of administrative and eligibility criteria

The review of administrative and eligibility criteria serves as the first and most critical screening step in the evaluation process of a grant application.

These are **objectively verifiable requirements** that an application must meet in order to proceed to the substantive evaluation. Verification of these criteria is based on clearly identifiable facts and does not involve an assessment of the substantive content or quality of the project itself. A list of these requirements can be found in Chapter 7. Checklist.

The evaluation process for applications in this call will begin **one month after the call is announced**. After that, evaluation takes place on an ongoing basis: the review of administrative, eligibility, and elimination criteria begins for each application no later than **5 days after the application is submitted**.

The consortium will inform the Applicant of the result of the review of administrative and eligibility criteria (i.e., whether the application has advanced to the expert evaluation phase or has been excluded from further evaluation, stating the reasons for the rejection) **without undue delay after the review is completed.**

If the Consortium excludes an application from further evaluation due to failure to meet administrative, elimination and eligibility criteria, the Applicant has the option to file a written **appeal** and request a reconsideration of the decision within **5 working days** of being notified of the review result. The appeal is then reviewed by an independent **Complaints Committee**. The Applicant is notified by email within **5 working days** of the date the appeal is received.

Administrative criteria

An application may contain a **maximum of two fields that are not filled in with logical text;** in such a case, the Applicant will be asked to correct the error. **Logical text** in a grant application refers to a continuous textual statement (in complete sentences) that directly and clearly answers the question posed. If there are more fields left unfilled in this manner, the application will be excluded from the evaluation process.

If a partner organization is involved, a **Partnership Declaration** must be included.

The Applicant will have 3 working days (3x24 hours) from the day that the request was submitted to make the correction of the abovementioned criteria.

The eGrant system automatically verifies the accuracy of other administrative criteria and will not allow an application with incorrect values to be submitted:

- The requested grant amount is within €2,000–€8,000.
- The project duration is 2-6 months.

Elimination and eligibility criteria

An application is automatically rejected if it meets any of the disqualification criteria, which include **missing the deadline, submitting the application outside the eGrant system, completing the application in a language other than Czech , or failing to meet the eligibility criteria for the Applicant or Project Partner.**

The eligibility criteria and elimination criteria, cannot be supplemented by the Applicant after the deadline, and failure to meet even one of these criteria results in the automatic exclusion of the application from further evaluation.

5.2 Content evaluation and Selection Decision

For small project emergency grants, the selection process is designed to be faster and administratively less demanding; therefore, a simplified selection procedure is applied. **Applications that meet the administrative and elimination criteria are subsequently assessed by the Selection Committee, which usually makes a decision within 2 weeks.** The composition of the Selection Committee reflects the professional focus and thematic areas of the programme; members are nominated by the consortium and selected to ensure an **expert perspective on all programme areas**.

The members of the Selection Committee score the application(s) according to the award criteria and further discuss them from a professional perspective, within the context of the programme and the broader societal situation. The Selection Committee assesses the Applicant independence, its adherence to the objective of the programme and 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 the benefits of the Applicant's actions and activities for the Czech civil society sector. If any non-compliance is found, the committee may reject the project.

The outcome of the Selection Committee´s deliberation is a **ranking list of grant applications**, in which it recommends p**rojects for support, projects for support with modifications, projects for the reserve list, or projects for rejection**.
The programme's **Steering Committee** subsequently confirms the final list of proposed projects for support along with the reserve list of projects. In justified cases, it may overturn the Selection Committee's decision; however, in such cases, it must provide a justification to both the Applicant and the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO).

The list of proposed projects for support is finally approved by the Board of Trustees of the OSF Czechia. The Applicant **cannot appeal the Board of Trustees's final decision** regarding the support or rejection of a project.

Evaluation criteria and additional points

The evaluation criteria provide a framework for scoring the quality of a project.
An application can receive a maximum total score of 100 points. An exception is made for projects receiving bonus points, which can earn up to 115 points.

	Evaluation criteria	Max. score
1	**Urgency of the project**	**20**
	• Are you responding to a current, newly emerging, or time-sensitive need that requires swift action? **Summary**: The Selection Committee assesses here whether the situation truly requires immediate intervention, is time-critical, and its resolution cannot be delayed until a regular call for proposals is launched. This evaluation criterion is of key importance to the Selection Committee	20
2	**Need, knowledge of the local situation and project benefit for the community/locality**	**20**
	• Can you clearly describe the problem you want to address? Do you know its cause? • Do you already have concrete ties to the community/locality where you want to implement the project? • Do you know your project's target group well, and have you thought through how you will reach out to them and involve them in the project? **Summary**: Convince the Selection Committee that you are the one who can respond to this current need.	20
3	**Project description**	**40**
	• Will your project truly lead to a solution for the described problem? (Describe what specific change will occur in the locality and how you and the participants will recognize that the problem has been solved.) • Are your planned activities designed to achieve the selected outputs and outcomes? (Carefully consider their choice to ensure they truly lead to the expected change and improvement of the situation in the given community/locality.) • Does it make sense to involve other entities in the implementation, such as other non-profits, schools, authorities, or experts? (Note: If not necessary, points will not be deducted during evaluation.) • The possible involvement of partners or cooperating organisations is meaningful. **Summary**: Convince the Selection Committee that you have the best-developed plan for what and how (and possibly with whom) to act so that the situation in the community/locality improves.	40
4	**Project budget**	**20**
	• Have you included everything you need for the project and its activities in the budget? • Are the costs set efficiently, or is the project overvalued relative to its scope? • Conversely, is the budget undervalued, which could jeopardize the quality of services or implementation? **Summary**: Convince the Selection Committee that you will manage the acquired grant with "due diligence" (as a responsible manager).	20
	Total score	**100**

	Evaluation criteria	Max. score
5	**Additional points**	**15**
	Additional points for meeting the programmes focus areas If an application meets multiple criteria under sections 5.1–5.4 at the same time, the total number of additional points awarded is capped at a maximum of 10 points.	
5.1	Roma-led and Roma-based organisations or/and projects focusing on the inclusion and empowerment of Roma, including support for Roma-led organisations and Roma women and girls	5
5.2	Projects focused on challenges related to the invasion of Ukraine or involving support and integration of those arriving as a result of the invasion of Ukraine.	5
5.3	Projects focused on countering gender-based violence.	5
5.4	Projects implemented by organisations registered in under-served geographic areas. (Karlovy Vary, Ústí nad Labem, and Moravian-Silesian regions)	5
	Bonus points for bilateral cooperation In the case of multiple partners per project, advantage will only be applied once.	
5.5	Projects involving Donor partners - Iceland, Liechtenstein, or Norway.	5
	Maximum total score	**115**

5.3 Information on evaluation results

The final list of evaluation results for accepted applications is publicly available and will be posted on the programme website and the websites of individual Consortium partners. Applicants will be informed of the evaluation results within **5 working days** of the final decision, and no later than **one month** after the submission of the application

6. HOW TO APPLY

Only grant applications submitted electronically via the **eGrant online database** will be assessed..

The signature of the statutory representative is not required.

The only permissible attachment to the application is the Partnership Declaration, and only where the project is implemented in partnership with a partner organisation. No other attachments may be added to the application.

THE PROJECT MUST BE FORMULATED CONCISELY, CLEARLY, AND PRECISELY.

The Applicant should carefully consider the **logical structure of the project** (i.e., the sequence of needs, objectives, outputs, and activities), clearly present the **baseline situation** or **conclusions of analyses** carried out during the preparation of the project, define and quantify the **target groups** of the project, and describe the **method of implementation of the project**, including the **schedule**, detailed **budget**, **organisational arrangements**.

The application and its annexes, if any, are to be prepared in **Czech** (except for the project title and a Partnership Declaration in the case of a foreign partner).

The application and attachments, if any, can be filled out gradually in the eGrant database.

An Applicant may receive a **maximum of two small project emergency grants** during the program's duration. Funding received from emergency grants is **not counted toward the overall limit of €150,000** per organisation (see the Guide, Chapter 3.2, Maximum amount of support under the programme).

Detailed instructions for completing the application in the eGrant database are provided in the **Guide in Chapter 6. Submitting an application in the eGrant system.**

7. CHECKLIST

The complete **project application** must be submitted exclusively through the **eGrant online database** by filling out the appropriate form. In the case of a partnership, the application must also include a **Partnership Declaration** (in Czech or English, depending on the language of Project Partner). You can find the Partnership Declaration template on the programme website. Before submitting the application, use this checklist to verify that the application meets the key criteria.

The following table contains **eligibility criteria and elimination criteria,** which are of an exclusionary nature and are assessed on a **YES/NO** basis. If you answer NO to any of the points below, your application **does not meet** the basic conditions of the programme and will be automatically excluded from the further evaluation process regardless of the quality of its content. **The following criteria must be fully met.**

Eligibility criteria	The Applicant has been registered in the Czech Republic for more than 1 year.	
	The Applicant has a valid legal form.	
	Both the Applicant and the Project Partner comply 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.	
Elimination criteria	The application is completed in Czech.	
	The application is submitted via eGrant.	

The following points constitute **administrative criteria**. These criteria are assessed as part of a review of administrative and eligibility criteria, and Applicants may be asked by the programme team to provide additional information. If these deficiencies are not addressed within the specified timeframe, the application will be excluded from the evaluation process.

Administrative criteria	A **Partnership Declaration** is attached to the application (in the case of collaboration with a Project Partner).	
	A request may contain a **maximum of 2 text fields** that are not filled with logical text; if there are more, the request will be rejected.	
	The requested grant amount is within €2,000–€8,000.	
	The proposed implementation period (duration) is 2–6 months.	

We recommend that you pay attention to the following points:

The Applicant has all mandatory information up to date in the public register.	
Organisations participating in the project comply with the Children's Rights Policy And In Particular Vulnerable Adults[9].	
Contact information is correctly filled out.	
The Applicant complies with the definition of independence.	
The budget is stated in euros.	
The planned costs meet the eligibility criteria.	

[9] Available at The Open Society Fund´s Principles - Nadace OSF.

8. CONTACT AND SUPPORT FOR APPLICANTS

Detailed information for Applicants on the conditions, completion, and submission of grant applications is provided in **The Guide for Applicants and Project Promoters**. Before completing the application, we recommend reading the **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** on the programme website. All current information about the programme is also published there.

8.1 Consultations

Consultations on the processing of applications are provided by email or telephone by the programme team throughout the duration of the call. **Please include "Consultation on the Call for Small Project Emergency Grants" in the subject line of your email.** Telephone consultations are provided on Mondays–Thursdays.

Information webinars and open consultations

We organize information webinars for Applicants and online group consultation sessions where you can learn detailed information about the Call.

Webinar dates are going to be specified and updated on the programme's website.

8.2 Applicant support

Consortium leader
OSF Czechia
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Programme manager: Diana Soták Gregorová
Programme coordinators: Lucie Rott Beneschová; Rosa-Marie Pokorná, Markéta Ševčík

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The Committee of Goodwill - Olga Havel Foundation
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Programme manager: Alžběta Čechráková
Programme coordinators: Markéta Boučková, Jiří Marek

Technical support: Petr Svatoš, technickapomoc@osf.cz
Complaints Committee: podnety@osf.cz

8.3 Overview of Important Links

Civil Society Fund Programme:	https://civilsocietyfund.cz
EEA and Norway Grants:	https://eeagrants.org/
OSF Czechia:	https://osf.cz/
Committee of Good Will – Olga Havel Foundation	https://www.vdv.cz/
eGrant Online Database:	https://egrant.nadaceosf.cz/

Table 1: Outcomes and outputs

	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**
	Output 1.1	Output 1.2	Output 1.3	Output 2.1	Output 2.2	Output 2.3	Output 3.1	Output 3.2	
Small Project Emergency Grants	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✗	✔	✔