Iceland Liechtenstein Norway **Civil Society Fund**

OPEN CALL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs)

IN CROATIA

CALL FOR CIVIC EDUCATION PROJECTS AND GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

AVAILABLE FUNDING: 2.030.000 €

DEADLINE: 19.11. 2026 23:59, Zagreb time

Last updated: 22 October 2026 – temporary suspension of application submission and revised deadlines.

This amendment sets out the temporary suspension of application submission, the revised deadlines for submitting applications and questions, and the related procedural timetable. The revised deadlines apply to both Lot 1 and Lot 2 and replace the previously stated deadlines throughout the document. All other provisions of the Call and Guidelines for Applicants, including the correction dated 29 August 2026, remain unchanged.

Note: The Croatian version is the official document, in case of differences between the two texts the Croatian version is the valid one.

Slagalica SOLIDARNA PRIPREMA POZOR SMART

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 **Croatia**. The aims of the EEA and Norway Grants are to **reduce social and economic disparities** in the European Economic Area (EEA) and to **strengthen bilateral relations** between the Donor States and Beneficiary States.

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

The EEA Civil Society Fund in **Croatia** has a total allocation of **€ 12.013.120** and out of that € 9.766.349 is intended for project financing. A consortium of Community Foundation Slagalica (hereafter: CF Slagalica), SOLIDARNA - Foundation for Human Rights and Solidarity and Association for Civil Society Development SMART operates the EEA Civil Society Fund in **Croatia** on behalf of the Donor States.

This call targets Civil Society Organisations (hereafter: CSOs) working in the area of democratization, human rights, including minority rights, social justice, gender equality, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, and LGBTIQ+ rights as well as climate action and environmental protection and has a total allocation of **€ 2.030.000 €.**

SUMMARY OF THE CALL	
Title of the call	Call for civic education
Purpose of the call	The call seeks to support civil society organisations that develop and implement innovative, participatory, and rights-based approaches to civic education in both formal and non-formal educational settings.
Outcome	1. Democratic values and rule of law strengthened
Output	1.2. Civic engagement increased
Relevant project activities	See section 2.2.4 of this document
Eligible project applicants	Civil society organizations as described in section 3.1. of this document.
Project duration	LOT 1: 36 months LOT 2: Between 18 and 24 months
Project grant amount	LOT 1: 150.000 - 200.000 € LOT 2: 80.000 - 100.000 €
Co-financing	No co-financing required.

Partnerships	Partnership is not mandatory. Applications may be submitted in partnership. Partnerships with entities from the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) are encouraged. See section 3.2 of this document.
Call available in the following language(s)	Croatian, English (only Call-text and Guidelines for Applicants)
Questions deadline	**11 November 2026, 23:59 Zagreb time**
Application deadline	**19 November 2026, 23:59 Zagreb time**
Temporary suspension of application submission	**From 2 October to 2 November 2026, inclusive. Application submission resumes on 3 November 2026.**

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1. BACKGROUND FOR THE EEA CIVIL SOCIETY FUND IN CROATIA

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 are to contribute to the reduction of social and economic disparities in the European Economic Area (EEA) and to strengthen bilateral relations between the Donor States and the Beneficiary States.

The EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2021-2028 are based on the **common values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities**. All organisations and activities funded by the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2021-2028 shall be consistent with respect for these values and principles and abstain from supporting operations that may fail to do so. Their implementation shall comply with the fundamental rights and obligations enshrined in relevant instruments and standards.

10% of the overall funding of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 has been set aside for support to civil society through the EEA Civil Society Fund.

The allocation for the EEA Civil Society Fund in **Croatia** is € **12.013.120,95.**

Through an open tender process, the secretariat of the Donor States - the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) - has selected a consortium led by Community Foundation Slagalica as Fund Operator of the EEA Civil Society Fund in Croatia. The Fund Operator manages the EEA Civil Society Fund in Croatia on behalf of the Donor States. This includes the selection, contracting and follow-up of projects.

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

The EEA Civil Society Fund in Croatia will include 12 open calls, contributing to the following outcomes[1]:

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

The bilateral outcome of strengthened bilateral cooperation is about cooperation between civil society in Croatia and in the three Donor 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.

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

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

2. FOCUS OF THIS CALL

2.1 PURPOSE OF THIS CALL

The purpose of this call is to strengthen democratic values, the rule of law, and civic engagement through high-quality civic education programmes that equip citizens with the knowledge, skills, confidence, and opportunities necessary to participate actively in democratic life and contribute to inclusive and cohesive communities.

The call recognises civic education as a lifelong process that extends beyond the acquisition of knowledge. Supported projects are expected to combine learning with meaningful participation, enabling participants to apply democratic values in practice, engage with their communities, contribute to public dialogue, and develop a sense of civic responsibility.

The call contributes primarily to:

Outcome 1: Democratic values and rule of law strengthened;

Output 1.2: Civic engagement increased.

Projects are expected to contribute to improved understanding of democratic values and the rule of law among participants, while simultaneously creating opportunities for active civic participation and community engagement.

The call will support civic education initiatives addressing topics such as democracy, human rights, the rule of law, active citizenship, democratic participation, media and information literacy, critical thinking, civic responsibility, social inclusion, intercultural dialogue, and European values.

Projects should go beyond awareness-raising and aim to create meaningful learning experiences that strengthen participants' capacity and motivation to engage in civic and democratic processes.

In addition to educational outcomes, supported projects are expected to contribute to stronger connections between civil society organisations and local communities, educational institutions, ethnic and religious communities, and other stakeholders working to promote inclusion, dialogue, and democratic participation.

Special attention will be given to initiatives that:

- engage children and young people;
- reach underserved or underrepresented communities;
- promote intercultural, interethnic, or interreligious dialogue;
- strengthen cooperation between civil society organisations and educational institutions;
- support participation of Roma communities, migrants, refugees, and other groups facing barriers to participation;
- create sustainable pathways from civic learning to civic action.

The call is implemented through two funding streams (Lots), reflecting different stages of organisational and programme development.

Lot 1 - Scaling Proven Civic Education Programmes

Lot 1 is designed for organisations with established civic education programmes that have demonstrated results and wish to expand their impact through geographic expansion, engagement of new target groups, adaptation of proven methodologies, or scaling of successful models.

Projects funded under this lot are expected to generate robust evidence of effectiveness and must include an independent (external) **programme effectiveness and results evaluation**. The evaluation shall assess the civic education programme as a whole, including its relevance, quality of implementation, achievement of expected results, effectiveness, learning value and, where relevant, the likely sustainability of results and potential contribution to longer-term change.

The mandatory evaluation under Lot 1 is not intended to assess only the implementation or cost-effectiveness of the project funded under this Call, but to generate credible evidence on whether the programme itself is relevant, effective and worth further investment, adaptation, scaling, transferability or wider use.

Lot 2 - Civic Education Projects

Lot 2 supports civic education projects that strengthen democratic participation and civic engagement through formal and non-formal education, community-based learning, youth participation, and innovative civic education methodologies.

Projects funded under this lot are expected to contribute to clearly defined educational results and civic engagement results, such as strengthened democratic knowledge, civic competencies, confidence and motivation to participate in civic and democratic processes. They should demonstrate a credible pathway from civic learning to civic engagement, but are not required to conduct a formal impact evaluation or mandatory external programme evaluation.

To address needs identified through the Programme Needs Assessment, the Fund Operator intends to support at least one project in LOT 2 dedicated to the development and/or improvement of mentorship programmes for Roma youth, with particular attention to leadership development, civic participation, democratic engagement, and empowerment of young Roma women and girls.

2.2 OUTCOME 1: DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND RULE OF LAW STRENGTHENED

Within the programme's results-based management approach, the primary focus is on the overall results to be achieved. The programme uses a results framework to support this focus and to define what is eligible for support. Each project must be assigned to a single outcome and, within that outcome, for the purpose of this Call, to one output[2].

This call addresses the following outcome and, within that outcome, the following output:

- **Democratic values and rule of law strengthened**
  - **Output 1.2. Civic engagement increased**

Output 1.2 aims to increase civic engagement by strengthening citizens' knowledge, skills, confidence, and opportunities to participate actively in democratic life. It supports civic education, community engagement, intercultural dialogue, and participatory approaches that enable citizens to better understand democratic values and the rule of law while exercising their rights and responsibilities as active members of society.

The Call is designed as an intervention under Output 1.2 because it directly addresses the gap between civic learning and civic participation. It supports civil society organisations in providing high-quality civic education programmes that not only strengthen understanding of democratic values and institutions but also create meaningful opportunities for citizens to engage in their communities,

[2] 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 of this document.

participate in democratic processes, and contribute to a more inclusive, participatory and resilient society.

2.2.1 Country specific focus areas

Inclusion and empowerment of Roma communities including support for Roma-led organisations and Roma women and girls

Projects specifically addressing the development or improvement of mentorship programmes for Roma youth, particularly young Roma women and girls, are considered of strategic importance for achieving the objectives of this Call. Civic education can play a key role in strengthening democratic participation, leadership, self-confidence and civic engagement among young Roma, while creating pathways towards more active participation in community and public life.

For this reason, the Fund Operator strongly encourages applications from Roma-led CSOs, CSOs working with and for the inclusion and empowerment of Roma communities, and partnerships involving organisations, informal groups and community actors working with Roma youth, Roma women and girls. Projects are expected to strengthen democratic competencies and active citizenship through mentoring, leadership development and civic participation.

Intercultural, interethnic and interreligious understanding, dialogue and inclusion

Civic education also plays a key role in strengthening democratic participation in diverse societies. The Fund Operator therefore considers the country-specific focus area "Intercultural, interethnic and/or interreligious understanding, dialogue and inclusion" a strategic priority under this Call.

The Fund Operator particularly encourages applications from CSOs implementing civic education programmes that operate in multiethnic communities, communities where people of migrant origin (including migrant workers), asylum seekers and refugees reside, or communities characterised by cultural, ethnic or religious diversity. Applications from CSOs working with and for ethnic minority communities are equally encouraged.

Projects should contribute to strengthening democratic participation, active citizenship and equal opportunities for civic engagement by creating meaningful opportunities for dialogue, cooperation and joint participation among people from different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds. Through civic education, such projects are expected to foster mutual understanding, social cohesion and democratic resilience while ensuring that all members of society can participate in democratic processes on an equal footing.

2.2.2 Needs addressed

Croatia faces a growing gap between the formal existence of democratic institutions and citizens' active participation in democratic life. While democratic rights, participation mechanisms, and institutional channels for civic engagement are formally established, many citizens—particularly young people—do not perceive them as meaningful avenues through which they can influence decisions affecting their communities and everyday lives.

The Needs Assessment[3] conducted by the Fund Operator in 2025 identifies declining trust in political institutions, low levels of civic participation, limited awareness of democratic participation

[3] https://zaklada-slagalica.hr/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/NEEDS-ASSESSMENT-REPORT-CSF-CROATIA-BID-FINAL-APRIL-5-2025.pdf

mechanisms, and increasing vulnerability to misinformation and polarisation as interconnected challenges affecting democratic resilience in Croatia. These trends are particularly pronounced among young people, who consistently report low confidence in political institutions and limited belief that civic participation can lead to meaningful change.

At the same time, civic education remains fragmented, unevenly accessible, and often disconnected from practical experiences of democratic participation. While numerous civil society organisations have developed high-quality civic education initiatives, access to such opportunities varies significantly across regions, communities, and target groups. Citizens living in smaller communities, rural areas, islands, and socially excluded communities frequently have fewer opportunities to participate in structured civic learning programmes and democratic engagement activities.

The Needs Assessment further highlights a paradox. Although democratic participation requires knowledge, skills, and confidence, civic education in Croatia often remains focused on information transfer rather than creating opportunities for citizens to experience democracy in practice. As a result, many citizens possess only limited understanding of how democratic institutions function, how public decisions are made, and how they can influence these processes through collective action, dialogue, advocacy, community engagement, or participation in public affairs.

Several mutually reinforcing barriers can be identified that particularly affect civic engagement and democratic participation:

• Unequal access to civic education opportunities. Access to high-quality civic education programmes remains highly dependent on geographic location, institutional support, and project-based funding. Opportunities are particularly limited in underserved regions and among groups facing social, economic, or structural barriers to participation.

• Weak links between civic learning and civic action. Educational initiatives often increase awareness and knowledge but provide insufficient opportunities for participants to apply their learning through participation in democratic processes, community initiatives, public dialogue, or engagement with decision-makers.

• Low trust in institutions and democratic efficacy. Research cited in the Needs Assessment points to persistently low levels of trust in political institutions and widespread perceptions that citizen participation has limited influence on public decisions. This weakens motivation to engage and contributes to civic disengagement, particularly among young people.

• Growing exposure to misinformation, disinformation, and polarisation. Citizens increasingly rely on digital and social media environments where misleading information and polarising narratives undermine informed public debate, critical thinking, and democratic resilience.

• Insufficient opportunities for intercultural dialogue and inclusive participation. Roma communities, migrants, refugees, and other underrepresented groups continue to face barriers to civic participation and opportunities to engage in democratic processes on an equal footing with other citizens.

Beyond these societal challenges, the Needs Assessment also identifies a structural challenge within the civic education ecosystem itself.

On the one hand, many communities and target groups still lack access to high-quality civic education opportunities. There is a continued need to support organisations developing and delivering civic education programmes that strengthen democratic competencies, active citizenship, and participation.

On the other hand, Croatia has already developed a number of promising and effective civic education models through the work of civil society organisations, schools, local communities, and cross-sector partnerships. However, many of these programmes remain geographically limited, insufficiently

evaluated, and dependent on short-term project funding. As a result, successful models often fail to reach new communities, engage new target groups, or generate the evidence necessary for broader adoption and long-term sustainability.

These two challenges require complementary responses.

First, there is a need to increase access to civic education opportunities and strengthen democratic participation among diverse groups of citizens across Croatia. This requires support for civic education projects that respond to clearly identified needs of specific target groups and communities, create meaningful learning experiences, and provide participants with opportunities to apply democratic knowledge and competencies through civic engagement, community participation, dialogue, local initiatives and democratic processes.

This need is addressed primarily through LOT 2, which supports the development, improvement and delivery of civic education interventions that may be new, newly adapted or further developed, but are not required to build on a previously established programme with demonstrated results.

Second, there is a need to ensure that civic education programmes which have already demonstrated promising results do not remain limited to a small number of locations, target groups or implementation settings.

Such programmes require support for scaling, adaptation and transferability, as well as systematic evaluation and learning, including evidence on their relevance, effectiveness and achievement of results. This need is addressed through LOT 1, which is intended for organisations with established civic education programmes that have already been implemented and can provide a credible basis for wider use.

Projects under LOT 1 should therefore focus on expanding the reach and use of an existing programme while maintaining its quality, adapting it to new target groups, geographical areas or implementation settings where needed, and generating evidence for further investment, transferability or wider adoption.

The EEA Civil Society Fund Croatia therefore prioritises civic education as a strategic investment in democratic resilience. Through this Call, the Programme seeks to strengthen democratic values and the rule of law by supporting initiatives that combine civic learning with meaningful participation, democratic practice, community engagement and intercultural dialogue.

The Call is designed through two complementary funding streams reflecting these interconnected needs. LOT 1 supports the scaling, adaptation, transferability and independent evaluation of established civic education programmes with demonstrated results, with the aim of expanding their reach and use and strengthening the evidence for their further development and wider adoption. LOT 2 supports the development, improvement and delivery of civic education projects that increase access to civic education and create credible pathways from civic learning to civic engagement for specific target groups and communities.

2.2.3 Expected results

Projects are expected to contribute to **one or more of the following results**, depending on the scope and nature of the proposed intervention.

Supported projects are not expected to contribute to all of these results. Applicants should identify those that are most relevant to their intervention logic and explain how the proposed activities will contribute to achieving them.

Projects are expected to demonstrate a clear and credible pathway from civic learning to civic engagement, including how educational activities will contribute to increased participation, stronger democratic competencies, and greater involvement of citizens in community and democratic life.

Expected results in both LOTs may include:

1. Stronger democratic knowledge and competencies
Participants demonstrate improved knowledge and understanding of democratic values, human rights, the rule of law, democratic institutions, active citizenship, media and information literacy, critical thinking, and democratic participation. Projects should strengthen participants' confidence and ability to participate actively in democratic life.

2. Increased civic participation and community engagement
Participants become more actively engaged in their communities through civic initiatives, volunteering, public dialogue, democratic participation, community-based actions, or other forms of civic engagement. Projects should provide meaningful opportunities for participants to apply democratic knowledge and competencies in practice.

3. Improved access to high-quality civic education
Citizens gain increased access to high-quality civic education opportunities. In particular, those living in underserved communities or belonging to underrepresented groups gain access to opportunities that were previously unavailable or difficult to access. Projects should contribute to reducing geographical, social or structural inequalities in access to civic education.

4. Stronger links between civic learning and democratic practice
Projects create practical opportunities for participants to experience democracy through participation, dialogue, collective action, deliberative processes, cooperation with public institutions, or community decision-making. Educational activities should be integrated with meaningful civic participation rather than delivered as stand-alone learning activities.

5. Increased inclusion and equal participation
Projects contribute to more inclusive civic participation by creating opportunities for underrepresented or marginalised groups - including Roma communities, migrants, refugees, ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, women, young people and other groups facing barriers - to participate actively in democratic and community life. Projects should strengthen participants' confidence, agency and opportunities to engage on an equal footing with other citizens.

6. Stronger intercultural dialogue and social cohesion
Where relevant, projects contribute to improved intercultural, interethnic and/or interreligious understanding by creating opportunities for dialogue, cooperation and joint civic participation among people from diverse backgrounds. Projects should strengthen mutual understanding, trust, inclusion and democratic resilience within local communities.

7. Stronger cooperation within the civic education ecosystem
Projects strengthen cooperation between civil society organisations and stakeholders relevant to their scope: schools, universities, local authorities, youth organisations, community organisations, minority organisations or other relevant stakeholders involved in civic education and democratic participation. Projects should contribute to building sustainable partnerships that strengthen the quality and reach of civic education.

Specific expected results for LOT 1

Projects funded under LOT 1 are additionally expected to **contribute to one or more** of the following results:

Expanded proven civic education programmes: Existing civic education programmes are successfully scaled up and expanded to new geographical areas, educational settings or target groups while maintaining their educational quality and effectiveness.

Improved transferability and sustainability: Programme methodologies, educational resources and implementation models become more transferable, adaptable and sustainable beyond the duration of the project.

Stronger evidence on programme effectiveness: Projects generate robust evidence regarding the effectiveness of civic education programmes through **mandatory independant** evaluation of programme effectiveness and achievement of results, enabling continuous improvement and wider uptake of successful approaches.

Specific expected results for LOT 2

Projects funded under LOT 2 are additionally expected to **contribute to one or more** of the following results:

Increased availability of civic education opportunities: New or improved civic education opportunities become available to citizens and communities that previously had limited access.

Stronger local democratic participation: Projects strengthen civic participation at community level through community-based learning, participatory approaches and locally relevant civic initiatives.

Strengthened civic participation and leadership of Roma youth: Where relevant, projects contribute to stronger democratic participation, leadership, civic confidence and long-term civic engagement among Roma youth, particularly young Roma women and girls, through mentoring, civic education and leadership development.

Each project is expected to align with these expected results, and report on them narratively as well as quantitatively, through the use of selected indicators.

To track progress, projects should indeed contribute to Programme-level indicators from the selected outcome and output.[4] Indicators are a means to quantifiably measure progress. Alongside narrative reports and other sources of information, indicators are used to help *indicate* the extent to which an outcome or output has been achieved. **The indicators listed in the table below are used to monitor progress and measure results at the programme level for this call.**

Each project must contribute to and report against:

- at least one indicator at the outcome level, and

- at least two indicators at the output level.[5]

[4] 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.

[5] Project applicants can design and use their own additional outcome-level and output-level indicators to help track their specific results. These project-level indicators are not part of the programme's overall results framework. For more information, see Annex 2 of this document.

However, indicators alone will not be sufficient to demonstrate results; applicants must also explain the qualitative change their project aims to achieve.

For the purpose of project design, applicants are advised to focus on the relevance and feasibility of selected indicators rather than on their number. Indicators should reflect results that are within the reasonable influence of the project.

Outcome/ Output	Expected programme results	Indicator	Description of the indicator	Unit of measurement
Outcome 1	Democratic values and rule of law strengthened	Number of Roma training participants self-reporting improved knowledge and understanding of democratic values and the rule of law (disaggregated by age: Young (age <= 29) vs. Adult (age >= 30))	This indicator reflects increased knowledge and understanding among target groups and reflect short-term learning outcomes - immediate cognitive gains. This indicator measures the total number of self-identified Roma training participants who report an increase in their knowledge/understanding of the training topics(democratic values and culture; rule of law and democratic institutions; human rights and equality; active citizenship and civic responsibility; civic participation mechanisms; community engagement; critical thinking and media literacy; disinformation and democratic resilience; intercultural dialogue and inclusion; participation of underrepresented groups; Roma civic participation; youth civic engagement), based on a self-assessment.	Cumulative number
		Number of non-Roma training participants self-reporting improved knowledge and understanding of democratic values and the rule of law (disaggregated by age: Young (age <= 29) vs. Adult (age >= 30))	This indicator reflects increased knowledge and understanding among target groups and reflect short-term learning outcomes - immediate cognitive gains. This indicator measures the total number of non-Roma_training participants who report an increase in their knowledge/understanding of the training topics (democratic values and culture; rule of law and democratic institutions; human rights and equality; active citizenship and civic responsibility; civic participation mechanisms; community engagement; critical thinking and media literacy; disinformation and democratic resilience; intercultural dialogue and inclusion; participation of underrepresented groups; Roma civic participation; youth civic engagement), based on a self-assessment.	Cumulative number
Output 1.2	Civic engagement increased	Number of training courses delivered by supported CSOs on civic engagement	This indicator reflects CSO engagement in knowledge-sharing and skill-building, and CSO role in empowering target groups with knowledge on civic engagement. Total count of distinct training courses that have been fully conducted and completed by supported CSOs under the Grants.	Cumulative number

Outcome/ Output	Expected programme results	Indicator	Description of the indicator	Unit of measurement
			A training course can be defined as multiple structured educational or skill-development sessions over several days (more than one day). Training courses can be delivered in various formats, including in-person, virtual, or hybrid (a combination of both). A course is considered "delivered" if it has been fully conducted from start to finish, regardless of participant attendance or completion. Courses that are partially completed or cancelled do NOT count toward this indicator. The same training course delivered to different target audiences should only count ONCE towards this indicator as it tracks distinct training courses.	
		Number of Roma who have completed a CSO-led training course on civic engagement	This indicator reflects CSO engagement in knowledge-sharing and skill-building, and CSO role in empowering target groups with knowledge. Total count of self-identified Roma persons who have fully completed at least one training course led or organised by supported CSOs. A training course can be defined as multiple structured educational or skill-development sessions over several days (more than one day). People are considered to have "completed" a training course if they have attended and finished all required sessions and met any stipulated requirements (e.g., attendance rate, passing assessments, or receiving a completion certificate). Only courses that are fully completed, not partially attended, count toward this indicator. Avoid double counting: the same individual having completed several training courses should not be counted twice.	Cumulative number
		Number of non-Roma who have completed a CSO-led training course on civic engagement	This indicator reflects CSO engagement in knowledge-sharing and skill-building, and CSO role in empowering target groups with knowledge. Total count of (non-Roma) people who have fully completed at least one training course led or organised by supported CSOs. A training course can be defined as multiple structured educational or skill-development sessions over several days (more than one day).	Cumulative number

Outcome/ Output	Expected programme results	Indicator	Description of the indicator	Unit of measurement
			People are considered to have "completed" a training course if they have attended and finished all required sessions and met any stipulated requirements (e.g., attendance rate, passing assessments, or receiving a completion certificate). Only courses that are fully completed, not partially attended, count toward this indicator. Avoid double counting: the same individual having completed several training courses should not be counted twice.	
		Number of people who participated in public gatherings led by CSOs	This indicator reflects the reach and engagement of CSOs in mobilising communities, fostering civic participation, and influencing public discourse. Total number of individuals who have attended public gatherings organised or led by supported civil society organisations (CSOs). Public gatherings may include events such as townhall meetings, marches, sit-ins, rallies, community meetings, awareness-raising events, or public demonstrations (organised in line with the Fund values). This indicator focuses on community organising rather than policy advocacy.	Cumulative number
		Number of new or strengthened partnerships between supported CSOs and community, religious, ethnic, or educational groups that promote intercultural, interethnic, or interreligious dialogue and inclusion	This indicator measures the total number of new or continued partnerships, alliances, coalitions, or networks established between supported CSOs and other entities (e.g., government agencies, international organisations, businesses, other CSOs, Universities, media outlets, or community groups) within the Beneficiary Country. It reflects the extent to which CSOs are collaborating with other stakeholders, both formally and informally, to advance shared goals, enhance impact, and strengthen their collective efforts. The indicator includes both formal partnerships (e.g., memorandums of understanding, contracts, or legal agreements) and informal partnerships (e.g., non-binding collaborations, alliances, coalitions, or networks that may involve joint actions, shared resources, or informal agreements to work together towards common objectives). New partnerships refer to collaborations established for the first time with Grants support. Continued partnerships refer to partnerships that have existed previously and are maintained or extended with Grants support.	Cumulative number

2.2.4 Possible activities

Project activities should form part of a coherent civic education intervention that combines learning with meaningful civic participation and engagement. Projects focused exclusively on awareness-raising, information provision, one-off educational events, or training activities without a clear and credible pathway towards increased civic engagement will not be considered competitive.

Civic education supported through this Call is expected to strengthen democratic competencies while simultaneously creating opportunities for participants to apply their knowledge through community involvement, democratic participation, intercultural dialogue, and civic action.

To support the achievement of the expected results, applicants are invited to consult the non-exhaustive list of eligible project activities set out below.

LOT 1 - Scaling Proven Civic Education Programmes
Projects funded under Lot 1 should build on existing civic education programmes that have already demonstrated results and should focus on scaling, adaptation, transferability, and evidence generation.

Expansion and adaptation of proven civic education programmes

- Geographic expansion of established civic education programmes to new regions, counties, municipalities, schools, or communities;
- Adaptation of existing methodologies to new target groups, educational settings, or social contexts;
- Development of train-the-trainer approaches enabling wider programme replication;
- Development of implementation models and guidance materials supporting programme transferability and sustainability.

Delivery of structured civic education programmes

- Multi-session civic education programmes addressing democratic values, rule of law, active citizenship, human rights, civic participation, critical thinking, media literacy, and democratic culture;
- Programmes combining civic learning with civic engagement in local communities and democratic processes;
- Civic education initiatives delivered in partnership with schools, universities, youth organisations, or community institutions;
- Programmes specifically targeting groups facing barriers to participation, including Roma communities, migrants, refugees, and youth from underserved areas.

Civic participation and democratic practice

- Deliberative and participatory processes enabling participants to experience democratic decision-making in practice;
- Community-based initiatives designed and implemented by programme participants;
- Civic forums, citizens' panels, youth assemblies, participatory budgeting initiatives, and similar democratic innovation approaches;
- Activities connecting participants with local, national, or European democratic institutions and participation mechanisms.

Partnerships and ecosystem development

- Establishment or strengthening of partnerships between CSOs, schools, universities, local authorities, and community organisations;
- Development of local or national civic education networks;
- Cooperation with organisations representing underrepresented communities;
- Cross-sectoral cooperation supporting wider uptake of civic education methodologies.

Evaluation of programme effectiveness and results, and evidence generation

- Development and implementation of mandatory evaluation frameworks;
- Collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative evidence on programme effectiveness;
- Measurement of changes in participants' knowledge, attitudes, competencies, behaviours, and civic engagement;
- Preparation of evaluation reports, summaries of key findings, learning briefs, and recommendations for wider adoption and sustainability.

Learning, transferability and sustainability

- Documentation of methodologies, learning processes, and implementation models;
- Sharing of lessons learned and effective practices with other civic education actors and wider/interested public;
- Development of sustainability and scaling strategies;
- Contribution to collective learning within the civic education field.

LOT 2 - Civic Education Projects

Projects funded under Lot 2 should increase access to civic education opportunities and strengthen civic engagement through formal, non-formal, and community-based learning approaches.

Civic education and democratic learning

- Development and delivery of civic education programmes addressing democratic values, rule of law, active citizenship, civic participation, human rights, critical thinking, media literacy, and democratic culture;
- Educational programmes delivered through schools, youth organisations, community centres, libraries, cultural institutions, and other community settings;
- Development of educational materials, tools, and methodologies supporting civic learning;
- Programmes promoting understanding of democratic institutions and participation mechanisms at local, national, and European levels.

Civic engagement and community participation

- Community-based projects enabling participants to address issues affecting their communities;
- Local civic initiatives designed and implemented by participants;
- Public discussions, civic forums, youth assemblies, community dialogues, and participatory processes;
- Activities strengthening citizens' involvement in community life and democratic processes.

Intercultural dialogue and inclusion

- Activities promoting intercultural, interethnic, and interreligious understanding and cooperation;

- Civic education initiatives involving diverse communities and groups;
- Activities addressing prejudice, discrimination, stereotypes, and social exclusion through civic learning and engagement;
- Community-building activities fostering inclusion and social cohesion.

Roma youth civic participation and leadership

- Development or improvement of mentorship programmes for Roma youth;
- Leadership development programmes for Roma girls and young women;
- Civic education initiatives supporting democratic participation and active citizenship among Roma youth;
- Mentoring, peer-learning, and community leadership approaches aimed at strengthening long-term civic engagement.

Partnerships and community cooperation

- Cooperation between CSOs, schools, universities, local authorities, youth organisations, and community groups;
- Development of local partnerships supporting civic participation and engagement;
- Joint initiatives involving educational, community, ethnic, religious, and cultural organisations;
- Establishment or strengthening of community-based civic engagement networks.

Learning and continuous improvement

- Collection of feedback from participants and stakeholders;
- Reflections and learning processes supporting programme improvement;
- Documentation of methodologies and lessons learned;
- Sharing of effective practices with other organisations and communities.

The following activities are **not eligible** under this Call:

- Provision of direct social services, humanitarian assistance, counselling, psychosocial support or other support services, unless such activities are clearly and directly linked to the civic education methodology and necessary for enabling meaningful civic participation of the target groups;
- General awareness-raising, information campaigns or communication activities that are not part of a coherent civic education intervention and do not demonstrate a clear pathway towards increased civic engagement;
- One-off events, conferences, public discussions, lectures, workshops, publications or educational materials without a structured civic education process and meaningful follow-up;
- Activities focused primarily on the production of publications, manuals, digital tools, curricula or educational materials without their testing, use or implementation with clearly defined target groups;
- Training or capacity-building activities focused primarily on internal organisational development of the applicant or partners, rather than on strengthening civic education, democratic competencies and civic engagement among the target groups;
- Activities that merely replace or finance regular, elective or optional school, university or institutional teaching programmes already implemented by the institution, without providing

additional civic education content, participatory methodology, outreach to new target groups, programme improvement or meaningful opportunities for civic engagement beyond the existing programme.

- Academic or theoretical research without a clear link to the design, implementation, improvement, scaling or evaluation of civic education and civic engagement activities;
- Recreational, cultural, sports, artistic or community activities that do not demonstrate a clear and substantial connection to civic education, democratic participation, inclusion, intercultural dialogue or civic engagement;
- Activities that promote participation only symbolically, without providing participants with meaningful opportunities to apply learning through dialogue, community engagement, civic initiatives, democratic processes or other forms of active citizenship;
- Party-political activities, electoral campaigning or support to political parties, candidates or election campaigns;
- Regular operating activities that are not directly related to the implementation of the supported civic education project;
- Activities that do not demonstrate a clear link between civic education, democratic competencies and increased civic engagement.

2.2.5 Conditions

When designing project proposal, applicants must take into account that projects proposals will not be considered for funding if they:

- do not include at least one project activity/set of activities whose implementation will directly contribute to the achievement of mandatory output 1.2 and at least two corresponding indicators;
- do not show OR explain a clear link between the implementation of the proposed project activities and a measurable contribution to the achievement of mandatory outcome 1 and at least one corresponding indicator;

Also, applicants should bear in mind that within the framework of this Programme, **the provision of social services can only be supported if these services are necessary for enhancing advocacy, community participation, and/or civic engagement.**

3 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND PARTNERS

All eligible applicants, partners and project proposals 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. The applicants and partners will confirm this in the Applicant and Partner declarations of compliance accordingly. Selection Committee and Steering Committee will have the authority and obligation to propose the rejection of the project application in case the aforementioned principles are not respected or disregarded.

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 and registered in Croatia 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.

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

- Are non-profit, being organisations that have not been created nor operate 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.
- Conducts transparent financial operations validated through Register of Non-profit Organizations (RNO) with Croatian Ministry of Finance or provide sufficient evidence of the transparent financial operations by other means.

More specifically, and in line with national laws and regulations, following types of CSOs are considered eligible **if they fulfil the above principles**:

Association - established, registered and operating in accordance with the Law on Associations (Official Gazette 74/14, 70/17, 98/19, 151/22)

Foundation - established, registered and operating in accordance with the Law on Foundations (Official Gazette 106/18, 98/19, 151/22)

Artistic organisation - established in accordance with the Act on the Rights of Self-Employed Artists and the Promotion of Cultural and Artistic Creativity, and registered in the Register of Artistic Organisations (Official Gazette 43/96,44/96, 127/100, 177/04)

Cooperative - registered in the Register of Non-Profit Organisations and established in accordance with Article 66(1) of the Cooperatives Act (Official Gazette 34/11, 125/13, 76/14, 114/18, 98/19)

Organisations falling outside the above categories may be considered eligible on a case-by-case basis if they fulfil the principles described above.

Important:

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).

Religious institutions and political parties, social partners[6] or profit-distributing cooperatives are not eligible applicants.

CSOs led by marginalized groups, working on democracy, the rule of law and human rights, and active in the field of advocacy are strongly encouraged to apply.

[6] Social partners are defined as trade unions and employers' negotiating bodies, as defined by the EU

3.2 Eligible project partners

Partnership is not mandatory. 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.

The following entities are eligible to be project partners:

- Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as CSOs, established as a legal person either in the Donor States[7], Beneficiary States[8] or Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, or Montenegro
- An international intergovernmental organisation 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"). 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 Croatia;
    - 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 **Croatia**, who signs the partnership agreement on behalf of the group.

A partnership declaration between the Project Promoter and each of its partners shall be submitted as a supporting document to the application. If one of the partners is entity from the Donor states or an international organisation or body or agency thereof, the partnership declaration shall be in English and shall be based on the template available at www.eea-csf.hr.

In case of successful application, the Project Promoter shall conclude a partnership agreement with each of its partners. The agreement shall be in Croatian 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) currency exchange rules for such expenditure and reimbursement; iv) provisions on the forms of grants for all costs in the project and their calculation method; v) requirements for the submission of proof of expenditure and/or proof of conditions fulfilled where unit costs or lump sums are used; vi) provisions on audits of the project; vii) a detailed budget, which foresees flexible rules for shifts between budget headings; and viii) 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 the template available at www.eea-csf.hr.

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

[7] Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

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

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. Please see further details on sub-contracting in chapter 4.3.1.

3.3 Number of proposals and partnerships

Each individual applicant can submit **only one project proposal** in this call as a **lead applicant**.
The same organization can be a partner in one or more projects in this call.

Each organization can participate in **one or more project proposals in a partner role under this Call**.

In the event that the Applicant submits more than one application, the application that was submitted first chronologically will be considered in the administrative evaluation process, while the others will be rejected.

4 PROJECT CONDITIONS

Project duration	LOT 1: 36 months LOT 2: Between 18 and 24 months
Project grant amount	LOT 1: Between € 150.000 and € 200.000 LOT 2: Between € 80.000 and € 100.000
Indicative start of project implementation	January 1, 2027
Final date of eligibility of expenditure (depending on the start of the project implementation)	no later than 30 April 2031

4.1 Financial Provisions of the Call and Co-financing

The total amount of available funding is EUR 2.030.000,00, of which EUR 1.000.000,00 for LOT 1 and EUR 1.030.000,00 for LOT 2.

The Fund Operator reserves the right not to allocate all available funds.

The cumulative amount of grant funding awarded to a single entity under the Civil Society Fund in Croatia shall not exceed EUR 210,000. For the purposes of this calculation, the total grant amount awarded to an entity in its capacity as Project Promoter and/or project partner in projects selected under individual calls shall be taken into account.

The grant rate of the project is 100%.

4.2 Location of the project

In order to contribute to the relevant output, outcome and objective of the Call as well as the overall objectives of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms, i.e. to reduce social and economic

inequalities in the EEA and strengthen bilateral relations between Croatia and the Donor States, it is expected that the majority of project activities will be implemented in Croatia.

4.3 Eligible expenditure

Eligible expenditures of projects are those actually declared by the Project Promoter or the project partner, which meet the following criteria:

- Incurred within the eligibility period defined in the project contract;
- Directly related to the subject of the project;
- Indicated in the approved project budget;
- Proportionate and necessary for the implementation of the project;
- Used for the sole purpose of achieving the objective(s) of the project;
- Compliant with the principles of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness;
- Identifiable and verifiable, and are recorded in the accounting records of the Project promoter/Partner (not applicable to costs reported under Simplified Cost Options - SCOs);
- Compliant with applicable national legislation.

Expenditures are considered to have been incurred when the cost has been invoiced, paid and the subject matter delivered (in case of goods) or performed (in case of services and works). Exceptionally, costs in respect of which an invoice has been issued in the final month of eligibility are also deemed to be incurred within the dates of eligibility if the costs are paid by the end of the next month after the final date of eligibility.

4.3.1 Eligible cost categories

(a) the cost of personnel:

Staff costs may include:

1. Employees working under employment contract (including social security charges and other statutory costs)

2. Natural persons working under a contract other than an employment contract, provided that:

- The person works under the instructions and supervision of the project promoter/project partner and, unless otherwise agreed with the project promoter/project partner, in the premises of the project promoter/project partner.
- The results of work belong to the project promoter/project partner.
- The person is integrated in the project implementation similarly to regular staff.
- The remuneration is comparable to employees performing equivalent tasks under an employment contract with the project promoter/project partner.
- The person does not act as an external expert or subcontractor.

(b) travel and subsistence:

Travel must be clearly linked to the delivery of the project and carried out by the staff of the project promoter/project partner and/ or project participant (including volunteers). When choosing transport and accommodation, costs should be reasonable and represent good value for money.

Important:

• Travel and accommodation costs of participants of trainings/events should be budgeted for and reported under category “Consumables and supplies”
• Travel and accommodation costs of external experts and service providers should be budgeted for

and reported under Costs of services (subcontracting).

(c) the full purchase price of new or second-hand equipment, provided that it is proportionate and necessary for the implementation of the project**;**

(d) costs of consumables and supplies;

(e) costs entailed by other contracts awarded by the project promoter or project partner for the purposes of carrying out the project, provided that the awarding complies with the applicable rules on procurement[9]

(f) costs arising directly from requirements imposed by the grant contract e.g. external evaluation

(g) indirect costs, e.g. rent, utilities, administrative and accounting staff costs, IT support and maintenance and general office maintenance. Indirect costs are calculated as a flat rate of 7% of declared eligible direct costs.

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

4.4 Ineligible expenditures

The following costs shall not be considered eligible:

- interest on debt, debt service charges and late payment charges;
- charges for financial transactions and other purely financial costs, except costs related to accounts and financial services imposed by the project contract;
- costs related to purchase of land or real estate;
- provisions for losses or potential future liabilities;
- exchange losses;
- recoverable VAT;
- costs that are covered by other sources;
- fines, penalties and costs of litigation, except where litigation is an integral and necessary component for achieving the outcomes of the project;
- excessive or reckless expenditure; and
- re-granting.

4.5 Form of eligible expenditures - Form of Grant

Within this Call, eligible project expenditures will take the form of a lump-sum simplified cost option (SCO). SCO refers to pre-defined amounts or percentages that represent the best possible approximation of actual (real) eligible costs incurred in practice when implementing an action. SCOs are an alternative to reimbursement based on real costs. When SCOs are applied, tracing of every euro of expenditure to supporting documents is not required.

Within this Call, available form of grant is:

Lump sums based on the detailed draft budget - direct costs budgeted based on eligible cost categories, indirect costs are calculated as flat rate of 7% of direct eligible costs. **Lump sums will be based on clearly defined and measurable activities and/or results of the activity.**

Selected projects and their activities will be funded using a lump sum. This model works by predefining the lump sum based on clearly defined and measurable activities and/or results of the activity. This

[9] For contracts above EUR 15,000 and below the EU public procurement thresholds, the Project Promoter shall ensure fair competition between potential providers for example by way of effective price comparison.

approach shifts the focus from detailed financial reporting to the performance of agreed activities and or the achievement of agreed activity results.

Applicants must submit a **detailed draft budget** for the project they wish to finance via lump sum using Budget Form C available in E-grant system, clearly marking the linked result for each budget item in the budget. The Fund Operator will review the submission and, in agreement with the Project Promoter, set the lump sum amount for the agreed milestones and connected indicators, which will then be included in the project contract.

For activities funded via lump sum, detailed financial statements of actual costs are not required. However, payment of the lump sum is subject to the following conditions:

a) The **agreed results and/or activities must be fully achieved (100%)** as per the project contract.
b) Partial completion of the activities and/or results of the activity **does not entitle the Project Promoter or Project Partner to a partial payment.**

Draft budget based lump sum requires the applicant to provide methodology used to measure and calculate the amount of each cost in the draft budget as well as supporting documents to justify amounts, quantities and prices.

Important!

The specific SCO to be applied, its rates/amounts, and calculation methods are defined in advance and confirmed in the Project Contract and Partnership Agreement. Once agreed, SCOs cannot be modified during the project to compensate for under- or overspending.

When using simplified cost options, changes to the budget are not allowed. The amount, rate, and calculation method are determined in advance and confirmed in the project contract and partnership agreement.

The applicant shall submit a detailed project budget based on template C available in the E-grant system**.** 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.

In the case of a project with a partner, the same SCO will be used for the Project Promoter and Partner.

When preparing the draft budget, the applicant must pay attention to eligible costs, as only these will be included in the final budget of the action. Upon approval of the action, the costs will be thoroughly reviewed once again by the grant managers; any ineligible, incorrectly calculated or excessive costs will be removed. The basic criteria for the eligibility of costs are set in section 4.3.

The planned results of activities will also be reviewed and, where necessary, further specified with indicators and methods of measurement. In defining the results, grant managers will look at the information provided in all sections of the application, not only the section on results.

In accordance with the grant contract, beneficiaries will demonstrate eligibility for financial support through evidence of achieved results. There is no financial reporting. The provisions on lump sums do not affect general accounting rules. Beneficiaries must maintain detailed records of costs in accordance with applicable accounting standards and generally accepted accounting principles, even though this will not be the subject of a potential audit or regular project monitoring.

4.6 Procurement rules

National and European Union law on public procurement shall be complied with at any level in the implementation of the project.

Notwithstanding provisions of national law that exempt CSOs from public procurement, the project contract shall contain provisions on procurement within projects that are above the European Union thresholds for procurement.

For contracts above EUR 15,000 and below the European Union thresholds, the Project Promoter shall ensure fair competition between potential providers for example by way of effective price comparison.

4.7 Payment of the grant

The grant will be paid in euro (€).

The grant will be paid in instalments defined in the project contract. For details see section 8.3.1.

5 HOW TO APPLY

The Programme uses the E-grant system for all administrative and project-related operations connected with its grant activities.

Applications must be submitted in Croatian language, electronically to the E-grant system. The date and time of receipt recorded by the E-grant system will determine whether the deadline has been met.

The deadline for submitting applications is **19 November 2026 at 23:59 (Zagreb time).**

Application submission through the E-grant system is temporarily suspended from **2 October to 2 November 2026, inclusive,** and resumes **on 3 November 2026.** Applications cannot be submitted during this period.

Applications submitted before the temporary suspension remain registered in the E-grant system and do not need to be resubmitted as a result of the suspension.

The application deadline is extended from 9 November to 19 November 2026.

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

It is recommended that applicants familiarize themselves with the E-grant system in advance. Technical support is available at podpora@egrant.sk.

Work in the E-grant system is divided into three levels:

- Completion and submission of the grant application
- Evaluation of grant applications - administrative and expert assessment of project applications
- Project module, which includes:
    - Basic project documents
    - Submission and approval of project reports
    - Monitoring and processing of project output data, as well as communication between the Project Promoter and the Fund Operator.

5.1 Instructions for Completing and Submitting the Grant Application

After logging into the online grant system and selecting the relevant call and LOT, the applicant completes the application form. The application form is fully integrated into the E-grant system, where applicants can find detailed instructions directly within the system.

Instructions are provided only for the budget section of the application, with the aim of clarifying its correct preparation, as follows:

5.1.1 Instructions for Preparing the Budget

Type C

Cost categories:

- Direct project costs

- the cost of personnel,
- travel and subsistence,
- the full purchase price of new or second hand equipment,
- costs of consumables and supplies,
- costs entailed by other contracts and

- Indirect costs - calculated as a flat rate of 7% of declared direct costs.

The first step in completing the budget form is to click “Project” which indicates whether the project will be implemented with or without a partner/partners. If the applicant included partner in the section “Project”, the option “With partner” will be visible in the drop-down menu within the budget section.

The next step in completing the budget form - click the “Type of budget” to select the budget type C the Applicant will use when submitting the grant application.

Instructions for completing the budget:

Budget Type C:

For Budget Type C, the budget consists of six expenditure categories. The table below presents the budget structure, along with instructions for completion.

Expenditure Category	Instructions for Completion	Requested documentation for financial reporting
Direct Costs		
Personnel Costs	Provide justification with project activities and describe the calculation method as well as provide supporting documents to justify amounts, quantities and prices. Each cost must be clearly linked with single proposed project result.	Documentation requested only refers to the achievement/completion of linked milestones/results, i.e. fulfilment of linked indicators and target values.
Travel Expenses	Provide justification with project activities and describe the calculation method as well as provide supporting documents to justify amounts, quantities and prices. Each cost must be clearly linked with single proposed project result.	
Consumables	Provide justification with project activities and describe the calculation method. Provide sources and/or supporting documents to	
Services / Subcontracting		
Equipment Costs		

	justify amounts, quantities and prices. Each cost must be clearly linked with single proposed project result. Indicate whether the expenditure is related to renovation or refurbishment These expenses may represent a maximum of 50% of total eligible direct costs.	
Other Direct Costs	Provide justification with project activities and describe the calculation method. Provide sources and/or supporting documents to justify amounts, quantities and prices. Each cost must be clearly linked with single proposed project result. Indicate whether the expenditure is related to renovation or refurbishment These expenses may represent a maximum of 50% of total eligible direct costs.	
Indirect Costs (flat rate)	7% of eligible direct costs	

The final table of the budget is the Summary, with separate columns for the applicant and the partner, divided among linked results, including a dedicated control total for expenditures related to renovation or refurbishment.

Note on Budget Adequacy:

When assessing a grant application, the Fund Operator verifies the adequacy, justification, and realism of the requested amount. Budgeted amounts must align with the project's objectives, activities and planned outputs and must correspond to standard market prices and the scope of activities described in the project proposal.

Budget items that are unreasonable or insufficiently justified may be adjusted or reduced during the project assessment process.

5.2 Mandatory Annexes to the Grant Application

Mandatory annexes include:

- **Annex No. 2: Declaration by the authorised representative of the Applicant**, signed and stamped by the organisation, if the organisation uses a stamp;
- A copy of the valid Statute of the Applicant, if this document is not available in a publicly accessible national electronic register.

If the project will be implemented in partnership, a partnership declaration between the Applicant and each project partner must be submitted as a supporting document to the application.

- **Annex No. 1a: Partnership Declaration** if the project is implemented in partnership with an organisation from Croatia;
- **Annex No. 1b: Partnership Declaration in English** if the project is implemented in partnership with a foreign organisation;
- Declaration on the establishment of an informal initiative that will participate in the implementation of the project, for informal groups acting as project partners, if applicable;
- A copy of the act establishing the entity, such as a decision, law, regulation or resolution, establishing the partner entity or, if such a document does not exist, another official document by which the competent national authority confirms the establishment of the entity, if this document is not available in a publicly accessible national electronic register.

Templates for Annexes 1a, 1b and 2 are available in the online E-grant system and on the Call webpage.

All annexes must be submitted in .pdf format.

The above documents form an integral part of the complete electronic application and must be uploaded as attachments in the E-grant system. Separate submission of documents will not be accepted.

6 ADMINISTRATIVE, ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Prior to the quality evaluation of the project proposals, the eligibility of the applicants and administrative compliance assessment will be done based on the administrative and eligibility compliance criteria presented in tables below. The Fund Operator can request for additional information or clarifications referring to administrative compliance criteria.

6.1 Administrative criteria

Administrative compliance is checked against the following criteria:

Criteria	**Meeting the criteria**		**Notes**
Application is submitted via E-grant system.	YES	NO	Rejection
Application is submitted within the deadline given on the front page and in chapter 5 of this document.	YES	NO	Rejection
Application form is completed in Croatian language.	YES	NO	Rejection
Declaration by the legal representative of the Applicant, signed and stamped, is submitted in E-grant system	YES	NO	request for supplementation
Short summary on the project is prepared in English language.	YES	NO	request for supplementation
Partnership declaration of each partner, as per chapter 5.1, signed and stamped, by the legal representative of partner is submitted in E-grant system.	YES	NO	request for supplementation
Applicant submitted only one proposal to the Call	YES	NO	Only the first delivered proposal may remain in

			the process of assessment, while other are rejected as ineligible[10].
For applicant/partner organization: the entity's copy of the Statute, resolution, law, decree or decision establishing the entity in question or, failing that, any other official document attesting to the establishment of the entity by the national authorities - is attached (if this is not freely available online[11]).	YES	NO	request for supplementation
Signed Declaration on the establishment of an informal initiative that will participate in the implementation of the project, for informal groups acting as project partners, if applicable	YES	NO	request for supplementation

6.2 Eligibility criteria

Eligibility is checked against the following criteria:

Criteria	**Meeting the criteria**		**Notes**
Applicant is an eligible civil-society organization as per chapter 3 and 3.1 of these Guidelines.	YES	NO	rejection
Partner organisation(s) is (are) eligible as per chapter 3 and 3.2 of these Guidelines.	YES	NO	rejection
Project duration is LOT 1 36 months LOT 2 between 18 and 24 months.	YES	NO	rejection
Requested grant amount is LOT 1 between €150.000 and €200.000 LOT 2 between €80.000 and €100.000.	YES	NO	rejection
Applicant is registered at RNO and conducts transparent financial operations or provided sufficient	YES	NO	rejection

[10] If the applicant determines that it has submitted an incomplete application before the application deadline, the applicant may send an official message to the e-mail address csf@zaklada-slagalica.hr to withdraw such application and submit a new application before the application deadline. It is not possible to send a new application, correction of the submitted application or supplement to the application after the deadline for application as defined in these Guidelines.

[11] The application form in the E-Grant system includes a mandatory field in which the applicant must provide a link to the publicly accessible online national registry where the organisation's legal registration in the country concerned can be verified, for both the applicant and the partner organization.

evidence of the transparent financial operations by other means.[12]			

In case the application will miss certain parts (documents or information) that can be supplemented according to the above criteria, applicants will be invited to provide respective missing parts within five (5) calendar days. An invitation to provide the missing parts of the application will be sent to the e-mail address of the applicant listed in the application form in E-grant system.

6.2.1 Appeals

After the administrative and eligibility assessment process is completed, ineligible applicants will be notified of the rejection of their application from further evaluation. Applicants of ineligible project proposals will have 8 calendar days available for appeal against the eligibility decision. Appeals will be considered by the Appeal Committee.

Appeals must be submitted through the E-grant system and must clearly justify the grounds for reconsideration, based on procedural or factual errors. The applicant cannot modify the content of the initially submitted application, but the Appeal Committee may request additional information from the applicant. The Appeal Committee may uphold or reverse the original decision. Applicants will be informed of the decision via the E-grant system within ten (10) calendar days. The decision on the appeal is final, and no further appeal on the same application may be submitted.

7 SELECTION PROCESS

7.1 Selection criteria

Applications that meet the administrative and eligibility criteria outlined in chapters 6.1 and 6.2 of these Guidelines will be assessed by at least two impartial experts appointed by the Fund Operator, both independent of the Fund Operator.

The experts will independently score the project application according to the selection criteria presented in the grid below. The selection criteria are divided into headings and subheadings. Each subheading is given a score. The application can be given an overall score of maximum 100 points. Detailed description of each selection criterion with scoring guidance and their weighting is available in Annex 3 of these Guidelines.

Where the difference between the total scores awarded by the two assessors exceeds 30% of the higher score, the two assessors shall participate in a review meeting. The Fund Operator will provide administrative support but shall not participate in the substantive assessment or influence the scoring. Following the meeting, each assessor shall submit a revised and duly justified assessment form. The procedure and its outcome shall be documented and archived.

LOT 1:

Selection criterion		**Score**	**Weight**	**Max. score**
1	**Relevance**			**20**

[12] Applicants who are CSO by their legal status, by transparent financial operations, are required to have submitted to the FINA, for the Croatian Ministry of Finance, an annual revenue and expenditure account and a balance sheet or annual financial statement of receipts and expenditures for last closed financial year, in accordance with the accounting regulations of non-profit organizations, whereby the Annual Financial Report is visible in the Register of Nonprofit Organizations.

1.1	Relevance of the need(s) addressed and target groups	0-5	1.5	7.5
1.2	Alignment with the Call, Lot 1 objectives and results framework	0-5	1.5	7.5
1.3	Relevance of the proposed scaling approach	0-5	1	5
2	**Quality of the Civic Education Programme and Scaling Model**			**25**
2.1	Quality and track record of the existing civic education programme	0-5	2	10
2.2	Coherence and credibility of the scaling/adaptation model	0-5	2	10
2.3	Pathway from civic education and civic engagement	0-5	1	5
3	**Project Design, Feasibility and Mandatory Civic Education Programme Evaluation**			**20**
3.1	Feasibility of activities and the overall implementation plan	0-5	2	10
3.2	Quality and feasibility of the proposed approach for mandatory evaluation of programme effectiveness and achievement of results	0-5	2	10
4	**Capacity and Partnership**			**15**
4.1	Operational and professional capacity	0-5	2	10
4.2	Relevance and added value of partnership	0-5	1	5
5	**Financial quality and efficiency**			**10**
5.1	Budget coherence and justification	0-5	1	5
5.2	Value for money	0-5	1	5
6	**Sustainability, Inclusion and Common Values**			**10**
6.1	Sustainability, transferability and continued use of the scaled programme	0-5	1	5
6.2	Meaningful inclusion of marginalised groups and alignment with fundamental values (human rights, rule of law, democracy)	0-5	1	5
	Total score			**100**

External experts shall additionally record whether the proposal makes a meaningful contribution to either of the following country-specific focus areas:

Country-specific focus area	No	Partially	Yes	Brief justification
Inclusion and empowerment of Roma, including support for Roma-led organisations and Roma women and girls	☐	☐	☐	
Intercultural, interethnic and/or interreligious understanding or dialogue and inclusion	☐	☐	☐	

This classification does not create additional points and shall not replace the assessment against the published criteria. It is used to support programme-level monitoring and portfolio review during the selection process.

An application must score at least 80 points to be recommendable for funding.
Projects that receive a score of 0 on any of the subheadings, **except on subheading 4.2,** will be rejected. Projects that receive a score below 60% under criterion 2 or criterion 3, will be rejected.

LOT 2:

Selection criterion		**Score**	**Weight**	**Max. score**
1	**Relevance**			**20**
1.1	Relevance of the identified needs and target groups	0-5	1.5	7.5
1.2	Alignment with the Call, Lot 2 objectives and results framework	0-5	1.5	7.5
1.3	Relevance of the proposed civic education intervention	0-5	1	5
2	**Quality of the Civic Education Intervention**			**25**
2.1	Quality and coherence of the civic education approach	0-5	2	10
2.2	Pathway from civic education and civic engagement	0-5	2	10
2.3	Quality and appropriateness of participant engagement and learning approaches	0-5	1	5
3	**Project Design and Feasibility**			**20**
3.1	Feasibility of activities and the overall implementation plan	0-5	2	10

3.2	Quality of monitoring, learning and evaluation arrangements	0-5	2	10
4	**Capacity and Partnership**			**15**
4.1	Operational and professional capacity	0-5	2	10
4.2	Relevance and added value of partnership	0-5	1	5
5	**Financial quality and efficiency**			**10**
5.1	Budget coherence and justification	0-5	1	5
5.2	Value for money	0-5	1	5
6	**Sustainability, Inclusion and Common Values**			**10**
6.1	Sustainability, transferability and continued civic engagement	0-5	1	5
6.2	Meaningful inclusion, Roma youth mentorship priority and alignment with fundamental values	0-5	1	5
	Total score			**100**

External experts shall additionally record whether the proposal makes a meaningful contribution to the following country-specific focus area:

Country-specific focus area	No	Partially	Yes	Brief justification
Intercultural, interethnic and/or interreligious understanding or dialogue and inclusion	☐	☐	☐	

This classification does not create additional points and shall not replace the assessment against the published criteria. It is used to support programme-level monitoring analyses, monitoring of country-specific focus area and strategic decision-making during the selection process.

An application must score at least 70 points to be recommendable for funding.

Projects that receive a score of 0 on any of the subheadings, **except on subheading 4.2,** will be rejected. Projects that receive a score below 60% under criterion 2 or criterion 3 will be rejected.

After the conclusion of expert evaluation of all project proposals, based on received scoring, the ranking list of applications will be prepared by the Fund Operator. The proposed ranking list will be examined by the Selection Committee, who will make recommendations to the Steering Committee on project proposals that shall be funded.

Following the ranking of proposals, the Selection Committee reserves the right to award funding to the highest-ranked proposal in LOT 2 specifically addressing the development or improvement of mentorship programmes for Roma youth, provided that:

- the proposal has obtained at least 70 points overall;

- the proposal has met all minimum quality thresholds;
- the proposal is considered fundable by the Steering Committee.

The final decision is made by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is composed of three members drawn from the governing bodies of the organisations within the Fund Operator consortium. The decision of the Steering Committee is final and there is no right of appeal.

Selection Committee and Steering Committee will have the authority and obligation to propose the rejection of the project application in case the principles referred in Article 1.4.1 of the PIA are not respected or disregarded.

Acceptance of an application does not imply an obligation to award it up to the amount claimed by the applicant. The amount claimed may be decreased by the Selection Committee and/or Steering Committee based on the evaluators' findings on the appropriateness of the financial plan. Based on the findings of the evaluators on the appropriateness of the activities for achieving the project objectives, the Selection committee and/or Steering Committee may reject financing of activities that do not contribute to the objectives.

If, as a result of such reductions, the final amount of financial support that could be awarded to the project would fall below the minimum grant amount established for the relevant Lot, the project shall not be recommended for funding. This applies to projects under LOT 1 where the final grant amount would fall below EUR 150,000, and to projects under LOT 2 where the final grant amount would fall below EUR 80,000.

7.2 Notification on selection

The Fund Operator will publish the grant decision on the Programme's website www.eea-csf.hr after it has been taken and will notify the result in writing to all applicants within 15 working days via the E-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.

8 PROVISIONS ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

After the final decision on selection of project, the applicant will receive a project contract based on standard contract sample as presented in the call documentation. Before the signature of the contract, negotiations between applicants and Fund Operator to determine final definition of project activities and costs are possible.

8.1 Contract provisions

For each approved project, a project implementation contract shall be concluded between the CF Slagalica and the Project Promoter setting out the terms and conditions of the grant, as well as the role and responsibilities of the parties. In case a delay in project implementation occurs due to objective reasons, Project Promoter can request for a prolongation of the project for a maximum of 3 months. The request will be considered by the Fund Operator. Prolongation of the project does not impact the financial plan of the project.

The Project Contract includes, in particular:

- the commitment of the Project Promoter to act in accordance with the values and principles of the Programme;
- a summary of the main expected results (outputs and outcomes) of the project including indicator(s) and target value(s):
- obligations related to financial and both narrative and indicator reporting;

- responsibilities for data collection and storage:
- the maximum grant amount;
- the grant type, overview, and method of calculating eligible expenditures;
- the start and end dates of the eligibility period for expenditures;
- requirements for cost reporting (submission of supporting documents and/or evidence of fulfilment of conditions in the case of simplified cost options);
- provisions for project change management and approval;
- provisions ensuring timely and unimpeded access for monitoring, audits, and evaluations;
- obligations concerning information and publicity;
- the right of the Fund Operator to suspend payments or request reimbursement of funds from the Project Promoter;
- provisions for dispute resolution and jurisdiction;
- provisions on disclaimer of liability in accordance with Article 17.2 of the Programme Implementation Agreement (PIA);
- a contracted project budget;
- provisions on procurement;
- provisions on termination of the contract;
- references to partnership agreements or letters of intent, where applicable;
- provisions on record-keeping;
- provisions on irregularities and related reporting procedures,
- waiver of responsibility.

The Contract also establishes the obligation of the Project Promoter to inform all project partners about any parts of the Contract that concern them, and to notify them in advance of any project changes that may affect their participation.

Any amendments to the Contract shall follow the conditions set therein and must take the form of a written Addendum (which may be initiated either by the Project Promoter or the Fund Operator).

Annexes to the Project Contract:

- Project Results Framework with contracted amounts per each result
- Project Application

The Project Contract is signed electronically through the E-grant system, with the exception in cases where the Project Promoter is unable to sign the contract electronically.

8.2 Partnership Agreement

If a project is implemented in cooperation with one or more project partners, the Project Promoter is obliged to conclude a written Partnership Agreement with each project partner before signing the Project Contract. A draft of the Partnership Agreement must be submitted to the Fund Operator for approval.

The Partnership Agreement must include at least the following provisions:

- Roles and responsibilities of the parties - clearly defined duties and responsibilities of the Project Promoter and the Partner in project implementation, monitoring and reporting;
- Financial arrangements - a detailed project budget for the Partner, including the rates and values applied under simplified cost options, where relevant;
- Obligations concerning financial and technical reporting;

- Communication obligations related to project promotion and visibility;
- Obligation of the Project Promoter to inform the Partner of all provisions of the Project Contract relevant to the Partner and of any subsequent changes that may affect it;
- Project audit - provisions ensuring access for the Fund Operator and auditors to the Partner's documents for monitoring and verification purposes;
- Dispute resolution - provisions defining the procedure for resolving disputes and the competent jurisdiction.

If the Partner is an entity from a Donor State, an international organisation, or its agency, the Partnership Agreement shall be drawn up in English.
If the Partner is an entity based in Croatia, the Agreement shall be drafted in Croatian.

The Project Promoter must use the Partnership Agreement template provided by the Fund Operator. The Agreement ensures transparent and effective cooperation, establishes clear rules for financing, reporting, auditing, and dispute resolution, and forms a mandatory part of project implementation.

8.3 Project Payments and Reporting

Each Project Promoter will be assigned a grant officer, 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 officer will visit the Project Promoters on site at least once a year during implementation and may also visit at other times to review developments, needs and provide support as and when necessary.

The submission of narrative (both qualitative and quantitative results reporting) report is a mandatory condition for the execution of the interim and final payments. The number of project reports depends on the project size and duration. Reports must be approved by the Fund Operator before payments are made. The Fund Operator can request for additional information on implementation progress at any time.

8.3.1 Project Payments

Project financing is provided under the EEA Civil Society Fund at a rate of 100% of the total eligible project costs.

The grant is disbursed to the Project Promoter. Payments of the project grant shall take the form of advance payment, interim payments and final payment. The level of advance payment to projects shall be set out in the project contract.

The level of advance and final instalments shall be linked to the project budget and duration as follows:

Grant Type	Project Duration	Advance Payment	Interim payment(s)	Final Payment (retention)
LOT 1 EUR 150 000 - EUR 200 000	36 months	25% - 40%	Max. 60%	10% - 15%

LOT 2 EUR 80 000 - EUR 100 000	18-24 months	25% - 40%	Max. 60%	10% - 15%

The advance payment is to be paid up to 15 days after the signature date of the Project Contract.

Interim payment(s) up to 60% of the grant, based on payment request upon approval of the Interim Project Report submitted by the project promoter within required deadlines according to the Project Contract. The number of interim payments and its amount depend on the length of the project (i.e. number of interim project reports submitted) along with the payment request. The transfer of interim payment is made up to 15 working days after date of written approval of the interim project report.

The final payment/payment of the final balance in the range of 10% - 15% of the grant, or up to the maximum grant amount according to the actually declared eligible project expenses, is based upon approval of the Final Report. Final payments/retained amounts are to be paid up to 15 working days after the date of the written approval of the final narrative project report.

Approval of interim and final project reports shall be completed within 60 days from the submission of all required information.

In exceptional cases, where projects are assessed as high-risk based on a risk analysis conducted and documented by the Fund Operator, the Fund Operator may take a justified decision to modify the payment scheme — by reducing or cancelling advance financing, or by requiring the Project Promoter to provide a financial guarantee in advance, in order to mitigate financial risks associated with pre-financing.

8.3.2 Project Reporting

Project reports are fully integrated into the E-grant online system, which collects sufficient information on project progress, achievement of objectives and results, statistical data, and financial settlement (where relevant).

Each project report follows a predefined format and consists of two sections:

- Narrative part
- Financial part (where relevant)

Reports must be completed and submitted via the E-grant system in the required format.

1. Interim Project Report

To be submitted semi-annually (for the periods: January - June, July - December) within 15 working days after the end of each calendar semester and shall include:
a. Narrative part:

Provides comprehensive, structured, and verifiable information enabling assessment of actual project progress and results in relation to planned outcomes and outputs, covering:

- Summary of activities implemented during the reporting period.
- Progress towards project milestones and expected results, clearly distinguishing outputs and outcomes, each supported by quantitative and/or qualitative evidence.
- Monitoring of indicators, including baseline, current, and target values; data sources; and interpretation of data in terms of performance and effectiveness.
- Analysis of deviations from the implementation plan, indicator targets, schedule, or budget

outlining causes, implications, and corrective actions taken.

- Communication and outreach activities, detailing their contribution to achieving project results, including behavioural change, stakeholder engagement, visibility actions, dissemination of results, and overall effectiveness of communication strategies.
- Lessons learned and recommendations to support adaptive management and the scaling of successful approaches during the remaining implementation period.

b. Financial part:

No financial reporting is required.

2. Final Project Report

To be submitted within 30 days after project completion and shall include:

a. Narrative part:

Structured in the same way as the interim report, but covering the entire implementation period, and focused on achieved results.

b. Financial part:

No financial reporting is required.

Detailed information on reporting, supporting documentation and verification procedures will be found in the Guidelines for Project Promoters.

9 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Project promoters are obliged to inform the public on receiving a grant from Civil Society Fund. In all written publications, communications and products, at publication of project products, public events, such as conferences, seminars, fairs or exhibitions, related to project activities, project promoters are obliged to make explicit and visible the support of the Donor countries.

Guidelines for informing and communicating are available on the web site: eea-csf.hr.

Project Promoters will be required to prepare a Communication Plan.

The Communication Plan shall cover at least the project implementation period and shall include at least the following elements:

1. communication objectives and target groups, including stakeholders at national, regional and/or local level and the general public - project promoters must ensure that they reach the widest possible audience, including important stakeholders at the appropriate (e.g., local/regional) level

2. the strategy and content of information and communication measures, including activities, communication tools and timeframe, having regard to the added value and impact of the EEA and Grants' funding

3. at least two information activities on progress, achievements and results in the project

4. measures for making information on the project available on the web, either through a dedicated website or through a dedicated webpage on the organisation's existing website with linking between the pages, or, alternatively, through an active social media profile for the project where a website does not already exist.

Where a social media profile is created for a project and, the social media profile must remain visible and all information shall remain accessible after the final eligibility date of the project.

5. information on the administrative departments or bodies responsible for implementation of the information and communication measures, including a contact person

6. an indication of how the information and communication measures are to be evaluated in terms of visibility and awareness of the project and the EEA Grants, their objectives and impact, and the role of Donor States

When designing, planning and organising all communication activities, applicants/project promoters must explicitly point out the support of Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Republic of Norway through the EEA Grants i.e. Civil Society Fund (logo and funding statement). Also, participants in project activities must be informed about funding from the Civil Society Fund, as well as funding from Donor States

10. INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA SUBMITTED BY PROJECT APPLICANTS TO THE CIVIL SOCIETY FUND IN CROATIA

With personal data submitted (included) in application to public calls of the CSF in Croatia and reporting documentation by the applicants, CF Slagalica as Fund Operator and SOLIDARNA - Foundation for Human Rights and Solidarity and Association for Civil Society Development SMART as partners and fund co-operators will be acquainted. Hence, the fund operator and co-operators enter the role of common personal data controllers. Submitted personal data will be used for the purposes of implementation of public calls (application assessment, informing of applicants) and in applications rewarded with grants also for preparation of grant agreements, for monitoring, control of co-financing and for related informing of beneficiaries or for other related business communication (request for additional information, informing on financial means) as well as for the purpose of proving of eligibility for funding.

Co-financing of a selected project means establishing a contractual relation between CF Slagalica and the applicant in which CF Slagalica assumes the liability of the co-financing party and has therefore, together with its partners, the right to monitor and control the implementation of the project. Such contractual relationship as well as submission of application to a public call (as a request for such contractual relationship) represent legal bases for all personal data processing by CF Slagalica, SOLIDARNA - Foundation for Human Rights and Solidarity and Association for Civil Society Development SMART as noted in this information.

With the whole application, including personal data submitted with it, also third persons can get acquainted, and that is Financial Mechanism Office (Financial Mechanism Office, Rue Joseph II 12-16, 1000 Brussels, Belgium), donor states and their authorized persons.

In accordance with GDPR and respective national legislation, individuals whose personal data is included in application to public call have the right to be **acquainted with all of their personal data, to correction, in the case of conditions as laid down by applicable regulations also the right to deletion, restriction of processing** and to their portability. Individuals concerned can address their requests or questions regarding their personal data processing to CF Slagalica.

Please note: At submission of project proposal application to public call of CSF Croatia, legal representative of applicant organisation is obliged to sign a statement that they are aware of and in agreement with processing of personal data included in project proposal and relevant parts thereof.

11. COMPLAINT MECHANISM

In accordance with the terms and conditions for the Civil Society Fund in Croatia, the Fund Operator has established a Complaints Committee. Complaints/alerts may be submitted in case of suspicion of irregularity, bad governance, corruption in implementation of Civil Society Fund in Croatia programme, including those on possible misuse of funding projects submitted by general public.

Complaints/alerts can also be submitted anonymously. Complaint/report/alert must be justified and consisted of the following information:

- Description of the irregularity (including whether it is alleged or real and how it occurred);
- Period the irregularity refers to or the timeline of its occurrence;
- How did the reporting person become aware of the irregularity;
- Identification of the individuals or legal entities related to the irregularity, and other information.

The decisions related to the administrative compliance and eligibility verification as part of the selection process are not subject to verification by the Complaints Committee but will be handled by the Appeal Committee referred to in section 6.2.1. The final decision of the Steering Committee whether to approve or reject support to a project is not subject to complaint/appeal.

All complaints are first assessed by the Fund Operator. A complainant who is not satisfied with the conclusion made by the Fund Operator has the right to take the case to the Complaints Committee, which includes two members who are external to the Fund Operator and its Board and does not include programme staff responsible for grant management.

The complaints must be submitted electronically to the following email: prituzbe@eea-csf.hr.

12. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SUPPORT FOR THE APPLICANTS

Support for preparing project proposals will be available by email until eight calendar days before the application deadline, i.e. until **11 November 2026 at 23:59 (Zagreb time)**. All written questions and requests for information concerning this Call must be sent EXCLUSIVELY to csf@zaklada-slagalica.hr. The Fund Operator is not obliged to answer questions received after this deadline. To ensure equal treatment of all applicants, individual replies will not be provided. Questions and answers will be published on the programme website: https://eeagrants.org/hr/eea-civil-society-fund-croatia/pozivi/faqs. Applicants are therefore advised to check the website regularly.

The presentation of the Call and the information workshop will be held online, via the Zoom platform, on 31 August 2026 from 11:00 to 13:00. The information workshop will provide a detailed presentation of the objectives, purpose and focus of the Call, the application procedure, and the forms of support available to applicants. A recording of the online information workshop will be published on the EEA CSF Croatia Programme website as additional support to applicants. Prior registration for participation in the workshop is mandatory via the following link: https://forms.gle/vS3BJL3GVSGwMosN6.

Additional support to applicants includes the following:
During September, two information workshops for applicants under LOT 2 will be organised in person

at two locations in Croatia outside national and regional centres. After each information workshop, a project proposal development workshop/bootcamp will be organised at the same location. Interested applicants under LOT 2 of this Call may propose a potential location, municipality or town, for the in-person workshops via the following link: https://forms.gle/TGv4kwJKJNZXUowp9.

As additional support to applicants under LOT 2, a video guide for project proposal development will be prepared. The guide will be published on the EEA CSF Croatia website.

Individual online and/or in-person consultations will be available to project applicants. For applicants under LOT 1, at least 10 consultation slots will be provided, with the possibility of additional slots if needed. For applicants under LOT 2 who are developing projects for Roma communities, applicants whose projects include under-represented communities or communities with limited access to opportunities, and applicants from regions with limited access to opportunities, at least 5 consultation slots will be provided, with the possibility of additional slots if needed.

13. TIMELINE

Timeline for the Call

17.8.2026	Announcement of call
31.8.2026	Online presentation of the Call (video recording will be available on eea-csf.hr website)
September 2026	LOT 2: Information workshop followed by project-development workshop (bootcamp) – 2 locations
September 2026	Individual online and/or live consultations
2.10.–2.11. 2026, inclusive	Temporary suspension of application submission
11 November 2026	Deadline for questions
19 November 2026 at 23:59, Zagreb time	Deadline for submission of application
November 2026	Application is checked against administrative and eligibility criteria
December 2026/January 2027	Independent experts assess application
January/February 2027	Selection Committee meeting
January/February 2027	Decision on applications to be funded taken by Steering Committee of the Fund Operator

January/February 2027	Announcement of applications awarded funding on eea-csf.hr
March 2027	Provisional start of projects

The dates for application checks, assessment and selection, and for the start of project implementation, are indicative. Any changes to these dates will be published on the programme website. This does not affect the specified deadlines for submitting applications, providing supplementary documentation or lodging appeals.

14. CONTACT

Web site: eea-csf.hr

Community Foundation Slagalica: csf@zaklada-slagalica.hr

Phone: 031 213 255, Mon-Fri, 10-14

ANNEX 1: CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANTS

CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANTS	Yes/No
Administrative criteria	
Submission deadline: Compliance with the deadline given on the front page and in Chapter 5 of the Call text and Guidelines for Applicants	
Submission method and language: Applications must be submitted electronically via the e-grant platform in Croatian language as per Chapter 5 of the Call text and Guidelines for Applicants.	
Required documents: Applications must include all relevant supporting documents and attachments as per section 5.2 and Annex 1 of the Call text and Guidelines for Applicants	
Project duration: LOT 1: 36 months, LOT 2: 18-24 months	
Requested amount: LOT 1: 150.000-200.000€; LOT 2: 80.000-100.000 €	
Eligibility criteria	
Organisation eligibility: See section 3.1 and 3.2 on eligible applicants and partners.	
Financial and time limits: The requested grant amount and proposed implementation period must be within the permissible limits provided in the call.	

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS
• Signed Partnership declaration(s) (if applicable) • Signed Declaration by the authorised representative of the Applicant • Statutes of applicant and partners if not freely available online (if applicable) • Signed Declaration on the establishment of an informal initiative that will participate in the implementation of the project, for informal groups acting as project partners, if applicable

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

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

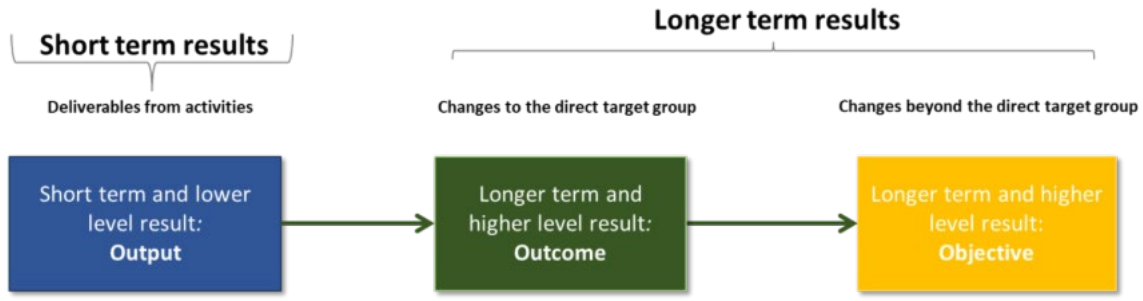
In results-based management, focus is first and foremost on the overall results to be achieved. For the EEA Civil Society Fund, this means focus is on the overall objective. The overall objective is, "A vibrant and resilient civil society protecting and promoting democracy, the rule of law and human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

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

Overall about results in the EEA Civil Society Fund

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

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

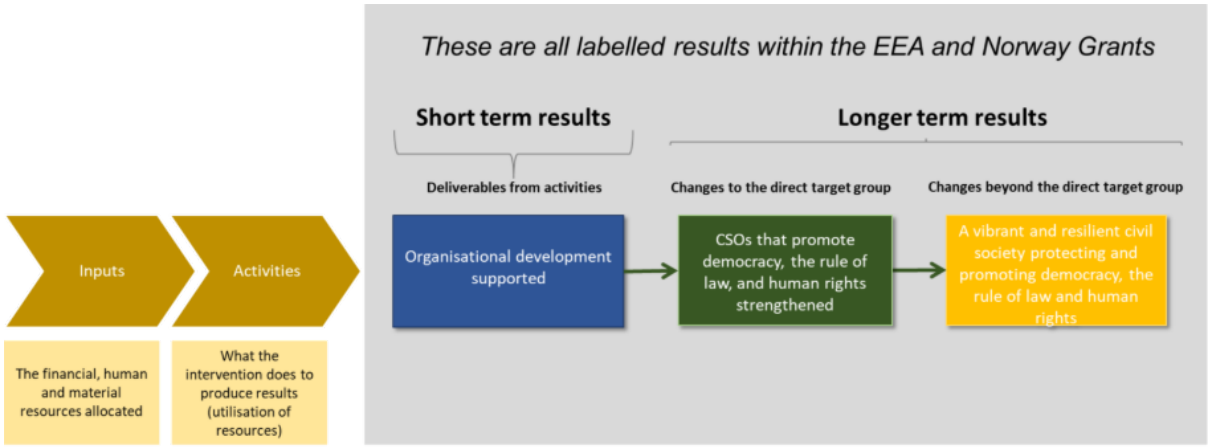


Here is one of the result chains for the EEA Civil Society Fund:

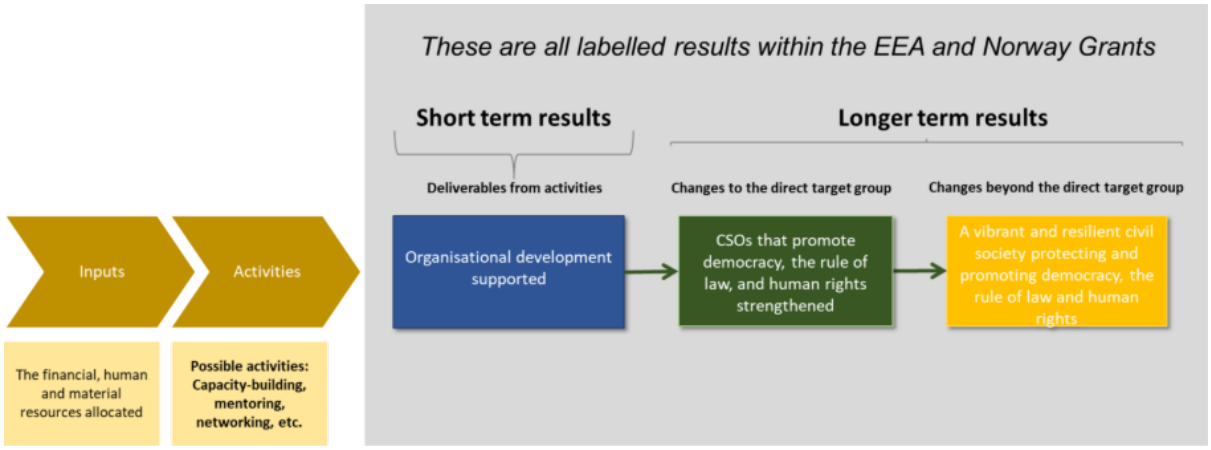


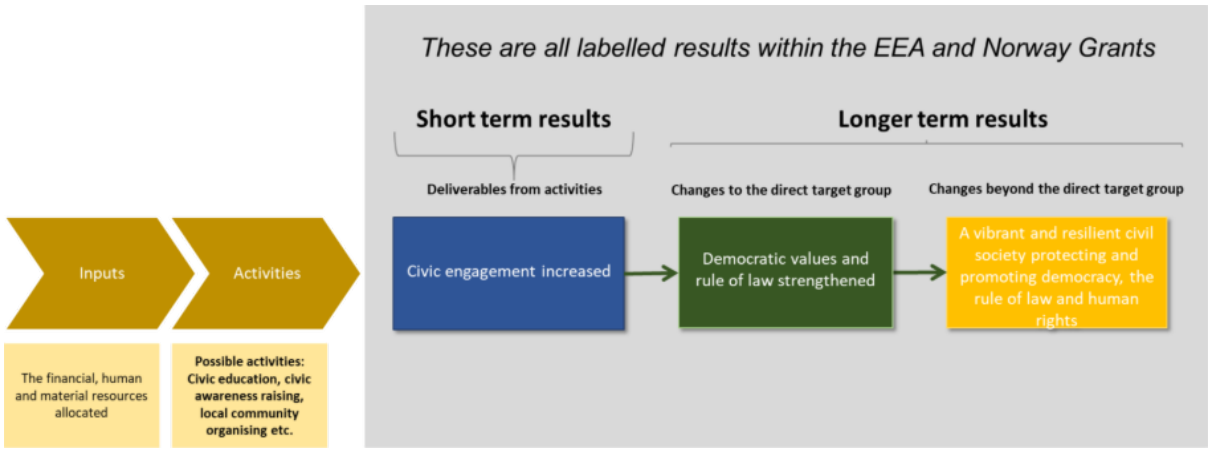
To achieve the outputs, it is necessary to implement activities using the available resources which can be called inputs.

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



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

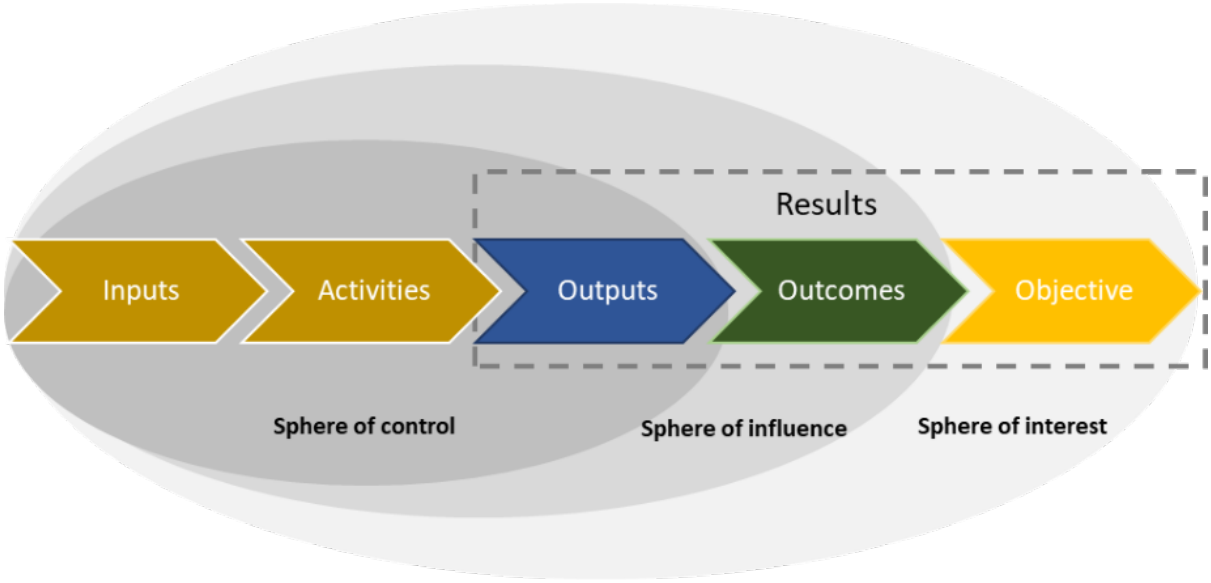




There are assumptions for how one level in the result chain connects to the next. For example, it is an assumption that if CSOs are supported to develop their organisations, then they will be stronger as CSOs. For each assumption it is useful to either provide evidence or plan for evidence through for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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

During implementation, the agreed indicators become a reporting tool. Project Promoters will be responsible for collecting and analysing data to report on the indicators and with narrative against the selected output(s) and outcome.

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

ANNEX 3: DETAILED EVALUATION GRID WITH SCORING GUIDANCE

The project proposal will be evaluated against clearly defined criteria. Each sub-criterion is scored on a scale from 0 to 5, with detailed guidance provided for each score level to ensure transparency and consistency of assessment.

LOT 1

High-scoring proposals:

- build on an established and credible civic education programme with a demonstrated track record,
- present a convincing strategy for scaling the programme to new geographical areas, target groups or educational contexts while maintaining quality,
- demonstrate a clear pathway from civic education to meaningful civic participation,
- include a coherent, feasible and well-designed implementation and evaluation plan and
- show strong potential for sustainable use, transferability and longer-term impact beyond the project period.

Criterion 1. Relevance (20 points)				
Sub-criterion	Guidance for assessment	Score	Ponder	Scoring guidance for (Sub) Criterion
1.1 Relevance of the identified needs and target groups	Assess the extent to which the proposal demonstrates a clear understanding of the needs and challenges addressed by the project. Consider whether these needs are supported by appropriate evidence and are relevant to the objectives of the Call. Assess whether the selected target groups are clearly identified, appropriate for the proposed intervention and adequately justified. Consider whether the proposal demonstrates an understanding of the barriers faced by the target groups in accessing civic education or participating in democratic and community life	0-5	1.5	5 - The proposal demonstrates an excellent understanding of the identified needs and target groups. The needs are clearly evidenced, highly relevant to the objectives of the Call and convincingly linked to the proposed intervention. Target groups are precisely defined, appropriately selected and their barriers and specific needs are thoroughly analysed. 4 - The proposal demonstrates a very good understanding of the identified needs and target groups. Minor weaknesses or omissions do not affect the overall relevance of the intervention. 3 - The proposal demonstrates a generally adequate understanding of the identified needs and target groups. The rationale is relevant, but some elements are insufficiently evidenced, overly general or not fully developed. 2 - The proposal identifies relevant needs and target groups but provides limited evidence or insufficient justification. Important aspects remain unclear or inconsistent. 1 - The proposal provides only a superficial description of the identified needs and target groups. The relevance of the intervention is poorly justified. 0 - Insufficient: The proposal does not provide sufficient information to assess this criterion
1.2 Alignment with the Call,	Assess the extent to which the proposal contributes to the objectives of the Call,	0-5	1.5	5 - The proposal demonstrates an excellent and fully coherent alignment with the objectives of the Call, expected results for LOT 1 and the results framework. The

Lot 1 and results framework	the expected results under Outcome 1 and Output 1.2, and the specific results of LOT 1. Consider whether the proposal presents a coherent intervention logic demonstrating how the scaling of an existing civic education programme will strengthen democratic competencies and contribute to increased civic engagement. Where relevant, assess whether the proposal demonstrates a meaningful contribution to one or more country-specific focus areas identified under this Call. Such contribution should be integrated into the overall intervention logic rather than presented as a stand-alone activity			contribution to democratic competencies and civic engagement is explicit, convincing and fully integrated into the intervention logic. Where relevant, the contribution to country-specific focus areas is meaningful and embedded throughout the project design. 4 - The proposal demonstrates very good alignment with the Call objectives and results framework. Minor shortcomings do not affect the overall coherence of the intervention. 3 - The proposal generally aligns with the Call objectives and results framework, although some aspects remain generic or insufficiently developed. 2 - Alignment with the Call objectives is only partial or inconsistently demonstrated. 1 - The proposal demonstrates only limited alignment with the objectives of the Call and LOT 1. 0 - Insufficient: The proposal does not provide sufficient information to assess this criterion.
1.3 Relevance and added value of the proposed scaling strategy	Assess whether the proposed scaling strategy is justified, realistic and appropriate. Consider whether the proposal demonstrates why scaling is needed, why the selected geographical areas, target groups or educational contexts have been chosen, and whether the proposed approach is likely to increase the education programme's reach, relevance, effectiveness or inclusiveness. Assess whether the proposal demonstrates that the programme will not merely be replicated but meaningfully scaled by preserving its key elements while adapting it to new geographical areas, target groups or educational contexts where appropriate.	0-5	1	5 - The proposal presents an excellent, strategically justified and highly credible scaling strategy. The proposed expansion is clearly based on identified needs and demonstrates significant added value through increased reach, relevance, effectiveness and/or inclusiveness while maintaining programme quality. 4 - The scaling strategy is well designed and convincingly justified. Minor weaknesses do not significantly affect its credibility. 3 - The scaling strategy is generally appropriate, but some aspects lack sufficient justification, detail or strategic clarity. 2 - The proposal demonstrates only a limited or partially convincing scaling strategy. 1 - The scaling strategy is poorly justified, unrealistic or largely based on simple replication without demonstrating added value. 0 - Insufficient: The proposal does not provide sufficient information to assess this criterion.
Criterion 2. Quality of the Civic Education Programme and Scaling Model (25 points); A proposal scoring below the equivalent of 3/5, i.e. 60% under this criterion fails this requirement.				

2.1 Quality and track record of the existing civic education programme	Assess whether the applicant demonstrates that the civic education programme already exists and has been implemented successfully. Consider the maturity of the programme, previous implementation experience, evidence of educational quality, participant reach, monitoring data, evaluations, participant feedback or other evidence demonstrating that the programme represents a credible basis for scaling. A previous formal impact or effectiveness/performance evaluation is not required, but the proposal should provide sufficient evidence of programme quality and previous implementation	0-5	2	5 - The proposal demonstrates an excellent, mature and well-established civic education programme with a strong and convincing track record. Evidence clearly demonstrates educational quality, previous implementation, participant engagement and programme effectiveness. The programme provides a highly credible basis for scaling. 4 - The proposal demonstrates a strong existing programme supported by good evidence of previous implementation and quality. Minor weaknesses do not affect its credibility. 3 - The proposal demonstrates that the programme exists and has been implemented, although evidence of quality, effectiveness or maturity remains only partially convincing. 2 - Limited evidence is provided regarding the quality or previous implementation of the programme. Important uncertainties remain. 1 - The proposal provides little evidence that the programme represents an established and credible civic education intervention. 0 - Insufficient: The proposal does not provide sufficient information to assess this criterion.
2.2 Coherence and credibility of the scaling and adaptation model	Assess whether the proposed scaling and adaptation model is coherent, realistic and appropriate. Consider whether the proposal clearly explains how the programme will be expanded while maintaining educational quality, how adaptations will respond to new target groups or contexts where relevant, and whether implementation arrangements are appropriate for achieving the proposed objectives.	0-5	2	5 - The proposal presents an excellent, coherent and highly credible scaling and adaptation model. The relationship between the existing programme, proposed adaptations and expected results is clear and convincing. Quality assurance, implementation arrangements and adaptation measures are well developed and realistic. 4 - The proposal demonstrates a strong and coherent scaling model with only minor weaknesses. 3 - The scaling model is generally coherent and feasible but important aspects require further clarification or development. 2 - Significant weaknesses exist regarding the coherence, feasibility or credibility of the scaling model. 1 - The proposed scaling model lacks coherence, credibility or realistic implementation arrangements. 0 - Insufficient: The proposal does not provide sufficient information to assess this criterion.
2.3 Pathway from civic education to civic engagement	Assess the extent to which the proposal demonstrates a clear and credible pathway explaining how civic education will contribute to meaningful civic engagement. Consider whether educational activities are designed not	0-5	1	5 - The proposal presents an excellent and convincing pathway from civic learning to civic engagement. Educational activities are fully integrated with meaningful opportunities for participants to apply democratic competencies through active civic participation. The intervention demonstrates a strong likelihood of contributing to lasting civic engagement. 4 - The proposal demonstrates a strong connection between civic learning and civic engagement with only minor weaknesses.

	only to strengthen democratic knowledge, skills and competencies but also to enable participants to apply them through active participation, dialogue, community engagement, democratic processes or collective civic action.			3 - The proposal presents an appropriate connection between learning and participation, although some elements require further development or explanation. 2 - The proposal demonstrates only a limited or inconsistent connection between civic learning and civic engagement. 1 - The proposal focuses primarily on educational activities without demonstrating a credible pathway towards meaningful civic engagement. 0 - Insufficient: The proposal does not provide sufficient information to assess this criterion.
Criterion 3. Project Design, Feasibility and Mandatory Civic Education Programme Evaluation (20 points); A proposal scoring below the equivalent of 3/5, i.e. 60% under this criterion fails this requirement.				
3.1 Feasibility of activities and the overall implementation plan	Assess the feasibility of the proposed project from four complementary perspectives: (1) whether the activities are logically derived from the identified needs and are appropriate for achieving the proposed objectives and expected results; (2) whether the implementation methodology is coherent and appropriate for scaling the civic education programme while maintaining quality; (3) whether the work plan, timeline, management arrangements and allocation of responsibilities are realistic and proportionate; and (4) whether the proposed human, financial and organisational resources are appropriate for successful implementation.	0-5	2	5 - The proposal presents an excellent and highly coherent implementation plan. Activities are fully aligned with the identified needs, objectives and expected results. The methodology is robust and appropriate for scaling the civic education programme while maintaining quality. The work plan, timeline, management arrangements and allocation of responsibilities are realistic, clearly organised and proportionate. The proposed human, financial and organisational resources are fully adequate for successful implementation. 4 - The proposal presents a very strong and coherent implementation plan. Activities are well aligned with the identified needs, objectives and expected results. The methodology is appropriate for scaling the civic education programme and maintaining quality. The work plan, timeline, management arrangements, responsibilities and resources are realistic and mostly well defined, with only minor weaknesses or implementation risks. 3 - The proposal is generally feasible and adequately organised. Activities are broadly aligned with the identified needs, objectives and expected results, and the proposed methodology is generally appropriate for scaling the civic education programme. However, some aspects of the work plan, timeline, management arrangements, allocation of responsibilities, quality assurance or resources require further clarification or strengthening. 2 - The proposal raises significant concerns regarding feasibility. Activities are only partially aligned with the identified needs, objectives or expected results, or the methodology for scaling the civic education programme is insufficiently developed. The work plan, timeline, management arrangements, allocation of responsibilities or resources are unclear, unrealistic or not sufficiently proportionate to the scope of the project. 1- The proposal has serious weaknesses that raise substantial doubts about successful implementation. Activities are poorly linked to the identified needs, objectives or expected results, the methodology for scaling the civic education programme is weak or unclear, and implementation arrangements, responsibilities or resources are inadequate.

				0 - Insufficient: The proposal does not provide sufficient information to assess this criterion.
3.2 Quality and feasibility of the mandatory evaluation of programme effectiveness and achievement of results	Assess whether the proposal presents a clear, proportionate and feasible plan for an independent evaluation of programme effectiveness and achievement of results. The evaluation should be designed to generate credible evidence on the programme's relevance, effectiveness, achievement of results and learning value, taking into account its existing model, previous implementation experience and the upgrades, adaptations or scaling activities supported through the project. The proposal should explain how the evaluation will be organised within the project, including its expected timing, responsibilities, resources and intended use of findings. Applicants are not expected to provide a detailed evaluation methodology at the application stage, but they should demonstrate that the evaluation is proportionate, feasible and useful for assessing whether the programme is worth further investment, adaptation, transferability or wider use.	0-5	2	5 - Excellent: The proposal demonstrates an excellent and realistic approach to the mandatory evaluation. It clearly explains how the evaluation will be organised within the project and how it will generate credible evidence on the relevance, effectiveness and achievement of results of the civic education programme proposed for scaling. The proposed approach is proportionate, feasible and clearly connected to learning, programme improvement, sustainability, transferability and further use. 4 - Very good: The proposal demonstrates a strong and realistic approach to the mandatory evaluation. Its purpose, timing, responsibilities, resources and intended use of findings are mostly clear, with only minor weaknesses or uncertainties. 3 - Good: The proposal includes an appropriate basic approach to the mandatory evaluation, but some elements require further clarification, such as timing, responsibilities, resources, feasibility or intended use of findings. 2 - Weak: The proposal addresses the mandatory evaluation only partially. Important elements are unclear, insufficiently developed or raise concerns about feasibility, proportionality or usefulness. 1 - Very weak: The proposal provides only very limited information on the mandatory evaluation and does not demonstrate a credible understanding of its purpose or role within LOT 1. 0 - Insufficient: The proposal does not provide sufficient information to assess this criterion.
Criterion 4. Capacity and Partnership (15 points)				
4.1 Operational and professional capacity	Assess whether the applicant and, where relevant, project partners possess the organisational, professional, technical and management capacity necessary to implement the proposed project	0-5	2	5 - The applicant (and partner, if applicable) demonstrate outstanding organisational and professional capacity. The proposal is supported by a highly competent team with extensive and directly relevant experience in civic education, programme scaling, partnership management and evaluation. Responsibilities are clearly allocated and fully appropriate to the proposed intervention.

	successfully. Consider previous experience in civic education, educational programme management, project implementation, partnership coordination, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, as well as the qualifications and experience of the proposed project team. Assess whether the proposed expertise is appropriate for delivering the planned activities, scaling the programme and overseeing the mandatory evaluation of programme effectiveness and achievement of results.			4 - The applicant demonstrates relevant experience and adequate competencies for implementing the project. Roles and responsibilities are mostly clear and appropriate. Minor gaps exist but do not significantly affect implementation capacity. 3 - The applicant demonstrates some relevant experience, but it is limited, uneven, or not fully aligned with the proposed activities. Roles are defined but lack clarity or depth. Capacity appears generally sufficient, though some risks are evident. 2 - The applicant has limited or only partially relevant experience. Key competencies required for the project are missing or insufficiently demonstrated. Roles and responsibilities are unclear or inadequately defined. Capacity raises concerns regarding implementation. 1 - The applicant lacks relevant experience for the proposed type of intervention. Key skills and organisational capacities are missing. The team structure is unclear or not credible. 0 - Insufficient / Not assessable; No meaningful information on capacity is provided.
4.2 Relevance and added value of partnership	Assess whether the proposed partnership provides clear added value to the project. Consider whether partner organisations bring complementary expertise, access to target groups, geographical reach, educational experience, evaluation expertise or other capacities that contribute to the achievement of the project's expected results. Assess whether roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and proportionate. Partnerships should demonstrate genuine cooperation rather than a purely formal involvement of partner organisations. If a donor-state partner is involved, does the partnership demonstrate real bilateral value rather than a formal or symbolic role?	0-5	1	5 - The partnership is clearly justified and strategically relevant to the project objectives. Each partner has a distinct and meaningful role that strengthens the quality, reach, or credibility of the project. Where applicable, the bilateral partnership demonstrates clear added value through knowledge exchange, complementary expertise, or joint advocacy. 4 - The partnership is relevant and well explained. Roles are clear and contribute to project implementation. The added value is evident, with only minor gaps in justification or integration. 3 - The partnership is generally relevant but not fully convincing. Roles are described but may be somewhat overlapping, limited, or insufficiently justified. The added value is present but modest. 2 - The partnership is weakly justified or only loosely connected to the project objectives. Roles are unclear, marginal, or not well integrated into the project design. Limited added value is demonstrated. 1 - The partnership appears formal or unnecessary. Roles are not defined or do not contribute meaningfully to the project. No clear added value is demonstrated. 0 - Insufficient / Not assessable; No partnership is described where relevant, or information is insufficient to assess it.
Criterion 5. Financial quality and efficiency (10 points)				
5.1 Budget coherence and justification	Are the proposed costs clearly linked to the activities, outputs, and implementation plan? Are the assumptions realistic? Assess whether costs are adequately explained,	0-5	1	5 - The budget is clearly structured, transparent, and fully aligned with the proposed activities and outputs. All cost items are well justified, based on realistic assumptions, and sufficiently detailed to demonstrate what is being financed and why. 4 - The budget is well aligned with activities and generally well justified. Cost assumptions are mostly clear and realistic, with only minor gaps or inconsistencies.

	proportionate to the proposed intervention and consistent with the principles of sound financial management and efficient use of grant resources.			3 - The budget is broadly consistent with the action plan, but some cost items lack clarity, detail, or justification. Certain assumptions are not fully explained. 2 - The budget shows weak alignment with activities or outputs. Several cost items are unclear, insufficiently justified, or based on questionable assumptions. 1 - The budget is poorly structured and not clearly linked to the proposed activities. Justification is missing or inadequate. Cost assumptions are unrealistic or inconsistent. 0 - Insufficient / Not assessable; The budget cannot be assessed due to missing or insufficient information.
5.2 Value for money	Is the overall budget proportionate to the expected results? Are the objectives realistically achievable with the proposed budget? Does the project demonstrate efficient use of resources in relation to the scale and ambition of the intervention?	0-5	1	5 - The budget is proportionate to the expected results, and resources are used efficiently. The proposal demonstrates a clear link between costs and the scale, depth, and significance of the expected outcomes. 4 - The budget is generally appropriate to the expected results. The project appears cost-effective, with only minor concerns regarding proportionality or efficiency. 3 - The budget is acceptable but not fully convincing in terms of efficiency or proportionality. The link between costs and results is present but could be stronger. 2 - The budget appears disproportionate to the expected results or inefficient in the use of resources. The relationship between costs and results is unclear or weak. 1 - The budget is clearly disproportionate or unjustified in relation to the expected results. Resources are used inefficiently or without clear rationale. 0 - Insufficient / Not assessable; Value for money cannot be assessed.
Criterion 6. Sustainability, Inclusion and Common Values (10 points)				
6.1 Sustainability, transferability and continued use of the scaled programme	Assess the likelihood that the benefits of the project will continue beyond the funding period. Consider the sustainability of the civic education programme, partnerships, educational resources, implementation model and organisational capacities. Assess whether the proposal demonstrates realistic plans for continued implementation, further transferability or wider use of the scaled programme after project completion	0-10	1	5 - The proposal demonstrates a clear and credible approach to sustaining project results beyond the funding period. Outcomes are likely to continue through established practices, partnerships, or institutional integration. The proposal demonstrates strong potential for continued implementation, transferability and wider uptake. 4 - Sustainability is well considered and supported by realistic measures. There is a credible likelihood that key results will continue, although some aspects could be further developed. 3 - The proposal includes basic elements of sustainability, but these are not fully convincing or sufficiently detailed. Continuation of results is possible but uncertain. 2 - Sustainability is weakly addressed. Measures are vague, unrealistic, or insufficiently linked to the project's results. Limited likelihood of continuation after the project ends. 1 - Sustainability is not meaningfully addressed. There is no credible plan for continuation of results or activities. 0 - Insufficient / Not assessable; No information on sustainability is provided.

6.2 Meaningful inclusion and alignment with fundamental values (human rights, rule of law, democracy)	Assess the extent to which the proposal meaningfully promotes inclusion, equality and the fundamental values underpinning this Call, including democracy, human rights, participation, non-discrimination and the rule of law. Where relevant to the proposed intervention, assess whether inclusion of under-represented or marginalised groups is embedded throughout the project design, methodology and expected results rather than addressed through isolated or symbolic activities.	0-5	1	5 - Inclusion, equality and fundamental values are fully integrated throughout the intervention. The proposal demonstrates a strong commitment to meaningful participation, equal opportunities and democratic values, and where relevant, inclusion measures are embedded across all stages of project implementation. 4 - Fundamental values and inclusion are strongly reflected throughout the proposal with only minor weaknesses. 3 - The proposal appropriately addresses inclusion and fundamental values, although integration could be strengthened. 2 - Inclusion or fundamental values are addressed only superficially or inconsistently. 1 - The proposal contains only limited reference to inclusion or the fundamental values of the Call. 0 - Insufficient: The proposal does not provide sufficient information to assess this criterion.

Programme Portfolio Information (recorded for monitoring purposes only)

The following information shall be recorded by evaluators for programme portfolio monitoring and strategic analysis purposes. The information recorded under this section shall not influence the numerical score awarded to the proposal and shall not constitute an additional evaluation criterion.

Its purpose is to support programme-level monitoring of the country-specific focus areas and to assist the Fund Operator and the Selection Committee in analysis during the selection process.

Country-specific focus area	No	Partially	Yes	Brief justification
Inclusion and empowerment of Roma, including support for Roma-led organisations and Roma women and girls	☐	☐	☐	
Intercultural, interethnic and/or interreligious understanding or dialogue and inclusion	☐	☐	☐	

When completing this section, evaluators should consider whether the proposal makes a meaningful and credible contribution to one or both country-specific focus areas.

A proposal should be marked "Yes" only where:

- the contribution is clearly reflected in the intervention logic;
- the relevant target groups or communities are meaningfully engaged;
- the proposed methodology and activities are designed to address the relevant focus area; and
- the expected results demonstrate a credible contribution to the identified country-specific priority.

A proposal should be marked "Partially" where the relevant focus area is addressed but remains limited in scope, insufficiently integrated into the intervention logic, or supported by only modest evidence.

A proposal should be marked "No" where the proposal does not address the focus area, or where references to it are merely symbolic or incidental.

LOT 2

High-scoring proposals:

- clearly define the identified needs and demonstrate their relevance for civic education and democratic participation,
- present a high-quality, learner-centred and participatory civic education methodology,
- demonstrate a credible pathway from civic learning to meaningful civic participation,
- present a coherent, feasible and well-designed implementation and monitoring plan and
- demonstrate strong potential to create lasting civic engagement and meaningful benefits for the target groups beyond the project period.

Criterion 1. Relevance (20 points)				
Sub-criterion	Guidance for assessment	Score	Ponder	Scoring guidance for (Sub) Criterion
1.1 Relevance of the identified needs and target groups	Assess the extent to which the proposal demonstrates a clear understanding of the needs and challenges addressed by the project. Consider whether these needs are supported by appropriate evidence and are relevant to the objectives of the Call. Assess whether the selected target groups are clearly identified, appropriate for the proposed intervention and adequately justified. Consider whether the proposal demonstrates an understanding of the	0-5	1.5	5 - The proposal demonstrates an excellent understanding of the identified needs and target groups. The needs are clearly evidenced, highly relevant to the objectives of the Call and convincingly linked to the proposed intervention. Target groups are precisely defined, appropriately selected and their barriers and specific needs are thoroughly analysed. 4 - The proposal demonstrates a very good understanding of the identified needs and target groups. Minor weaknesses or omissions do not affect the overall relevance of the intervention. 3 - The proposal demonstrates a generally adequate understanding of the identified needs and target groups. The rationale is generally relevant, although some aspects require stronger evidence or further explanation. 2 - The proposal identifies relevant needs and target groups but provides limited evidence or insufficient justification. Important aspects remain unclear or inconsistent.

	barriers faced by the target groups in accessing civic education or participating in democratic and community life			1 - The proposal provides only a superficial description of the identified needs and target groups. The relevance of the intervention is poorly justified. 0 - Insufficient: The proposal does not provide sufficient information to assess this criterion
1.2 Alignment with the Call, Lot 2 and results framework	Assess the extent to which the proposal contributes to the objectives of the Call, Outcome 1 and Output 1.2, and the specific objectives of LOT 2. Consider whether the proposal demonstrates a coherent intervention logic explaining how the proposed civic education project will strengthen democratic competencies and increase civic participation.	0-5	1.5	5 - The proposal demonstrates excellent alignment with the objectives of the Call, LOT 2 and the results framework. The intervention logic is coherent and convincingly demonstrates how the project will strengthen democratic competencies and contribute to increased civic engagement. 4 - The proposal demonstrates very strong alignment with the Call objectives. Minor shortcomings do not affect the overall coherence of the intervention. 3 - The proposal generally aligns with the objectives of the Call and LOT 2, although some aspects remain generic or insufficiently developed. 2 - Alignment with the objectives of the Call is only partially demonstrated. 1 - The proposal demonstrates only limited alignment with the objectives of the Call. 0 - Insufficient: The proposal does not provide sufficient information to assess this criterion.
1.3 Relevance of the proposed civic education intervention	Assess whether the proposed civic education intervention is appropriate for the identified needs and target groups. Consider whether the proposed educational approach is likely to strengthen democratic knowledge, competencies, values and active citizenship, and whether it is appropriate for the context in which the project will be implemented.	0-5	1	5 - The proposed civic education intervention is highly relevant, well justified and fully appropriate for the identified needs and target groups. The educational approach demonstrates strong potential to strengthen democratic competencies and active citizenship. 4 - The intervention is highly relevant and appropriate, with only minor weaknesses. 3 - The intervention is generally relevant and appropriate, although some aspects require further clarification or development. 2 - The relevance or appropriateness of the intervention is only partially demonstrated. 1 - The intervention is poorly justified or only weakly related to the identified needs and target groups. 0 - Insufficient: The proposal does not provide sufficient information to assess this criterion.
Criterion 2. Quality of the Civic Education Intervention (25 points); A proposal scoring below the equivalent of 3/5, i.e. 60% under this criterion fails this requirement.				
2.1 Quality and coherence of the civic education methodology	Assess the quality, coherence and appropriateness of the proposed civic education methodology. Consider whether the educational approach is learner-centred, participatory and suitable for the identified target groups. Evaluate whether the methodology is	0-5	2	5 - The proposal presents an excellent civic education methodology that is coherent, learner-centred and well adapted to the target groups. Educational methods are participatory, appropriate and clearly designed to strengthen democratic knowledge, civic competencies, critical thinking and active citizenship through meaningful learning processes.

	designed to strengthen democratic knowledge, critical thinking, civic competencies, democratic values and active citizenship through meaningful educational processes rather than primarily through information provision or awareness-raising activities.			4 - The proposal presents a strong and coherent civic education methodology that is appropriate for the target groups. Minor weaknesses do not substantially affect its overall quality or educational value. 3 - The proposal presents an appropriate civic education methodology, although some aspects of educational coherence, participant engagement or competency development require further clarification or strengthening. 2 - The proposal demonstrates only a partially convincing civic education methodology. Educational methods are insufficiently developed, inconsistently described or rely too heavily on information provision or awareness-raising. 1 - The proposal provides little evidence of a coherent civic education methodology. The proposed educational approach is unlikely to effectively strengthen democratic competencies or active citizenship. 0 - Insufficient: The proposal does not provide sufficient information to assess this criterion.
2.2 Pathway from civic learning to civic engagement	Assess whether the proposal presents a clear and credible pathway explaining how civic learning will lead to meaningful civic participation. Consider whether participants will have appropriate opportunities to apply newly acquired democratic competencies through active participation, community engagement, dialogue, volunteering, civic initiatives, democratic processes or other forms of civic action. Assess whether these opportunities are integrated into the educational methodology rather than presented as isolated activities.	0-5	2	5 - The proposal presents a clear, coherent and convincing pathway from civic learning to civic engagement. Civic participation opportunities are meaningfully integrated into the educational process and are well suited to the target groups. The proposed intervention demonstrates strong potential to translate learning into active democratic participation. 4 - The proposal demonstrates a strong connection between civic learning and civic engagement. Opportunities for participation are appropriate and well integrated, with only minor weaknesses. 3 - The proposal demonstrates an appropriate connection between civic learning and civic engagement, although the pathway could be more clearly articulated or some participation opportunities require further development. 2 - The proposal demonstrates only a limited or inconsistent connection between civic learning and civic engagement. Opportunities for participants to apply learning in practice are insufficiently developed or weakly integrated into the educational approach. 1 - The proposal focuses primarily on educational activities without presenting a credible pathway towards meaningful civic participation. 0 - The proposal does not provide sufficient information to assess this criterion.
2.3 Quality and appropriateness of participant engagement and learning approaches	Assess whether participants are meaningfully engaged throughout the educational process. Consider whether the proposal creates opportunities for dialogue, collaboration, experiential learning, reflection, peer learning and	0-5	1	5 - The proposal demonstrates an excellent participant-centred learning approach. Participants are actively engaged throughout the educational process through appropriate participatory methods that encourage dialogue, reflection, collaboration and experiential learning. The learning approaches are well adapted to the target groups and strongly support participant ownership and motivation.

	active participation. Evaluate whether the proposed learning approaches are appropriate for the characteristics, capacities and needs of the target groups and whether they are likely to promote participant ownership, motivation and long-term engagement.			4 - The proposal presents strong and appropriate participant engagement throughout the project. Learning approaches are participatory and well suited to the target groups, with only minor weaknesses. 3 - The proposal includes generally appropriate participant engagement and learning approaches, although opportunities for active participation, reflection or adaptation to the target groups could be further strengthened. 2 - Participant engagement is limited or inconsistently integrated into the educational process. Learning approaches rely predominantly on passive participation or are only partially adapted to the target groups. 1 - The proposal provides very limited opportunities for meaningful participant engagement and relies primarily on passive learning approaches. 0 - Insufficient: The proposal does not provide sufficient information to assess this criterion.
Criterion 3. Project Design and Feasibility **(20 points); A proposal scoring below the equivalent of 3/5, i.e. 60% under this criterion fails this requirement.**				
3.1 Feasibility of activities and the overall implementation plan	Assess the feasibility of the proposed project from four complementary perspectives: (1) whether the proposed activities logically derive from the identified needs and are appropriate for achieving the objectives and expected results; (2) whether the implementation methodology is coherent and appropriate for the proposed civic education intervention; (3) whether the work plan, timeline, management arrangements and allocation of responsibilities are realistic and proportionate; and (4) whether the proposed human, financial and organisational resources are appropriate for successful implementation.	0-5	2	5 - The proposal presents an excellent and highly coherent implementation plan. Activities are fully aligned with the identified needs, objectives and expected results. The implementation methodology is robust and appropriate for the proposed civic education intervention. The work plan, timeline, management arrangements and allocation of responsibilities are realistic, clearly organised and proportionate. The proposed human, financial and organisational resources are fully adequate for successful implementation. 4 - The proposal presents a very strong and coherent implementation plan. Activities are well aligned with the identified needs, objectives and expected results. The implementation methodology is appropriate for the proposed civic education intervention. The work plan, timeline, management arrangements, responsibilities and resources are realistic and mostly well defined, with only minor weaknesses or implementation risks. 3 - The proposal is generally feasible and adequately organised. Activities are broadly aligned with the identified needs, objectives and expected results, and the proposed implementation methodology is generally appropriate for the civic education intervention. However, some aspects of the work plan, timeline, management arrangements, allocation of responsibilities, risk management or resources require further clarification or strengthening. 2 - The proposal raises significant concerns regarding feasibility. Activities are only partially aligned with the identified needs, objectives or expected results, or the implementation methodology for the civic education intervention is insufficiently developed. The work plan, timeline, management arrangements, allocation of responsibilities, risk management

				or resources are unclear, unrealistic or not sufficiently proportionate to the scope of the project. 1 - The proposal has serious weaknesses that raise substantial doubts about successful implementation. Activities are poorly linked to the identified needs, objectives or expected results, the implementation methodology is weak or unclear, and implementation arrangements, responsibilities, risk management or resources are inadequate. 0 - Insufficient: The proposal does not provide sufficient information to assess this criterion.
3.2 Quality of monitoring, learning and evaluation arrangements	Assess whether the proposal includes appropriate arrangements for monitoring project implementation, collecting evidence of progress and results, supporting organisational learning and using monitoring findings to improve project implementation where appropriate. Consider whether indicators, data collection methods, responsibilities and learning processes are realistic and proportionate to the scale of the project. Although LOT 2 does not require a formal evaluation, proposals should demonstrate a credible approach to monitoring results and learning from implementation.	0-5	2	5 - The proposal presents an excellent and well-integrated monitoring and learning framework. Indicators, responsibilities and data collection methods are appropriate, realistic and clearly linked to expected results. The proposal demonstrates a strong commitment to continuous learning and adaptive project management. 4 - Monitoring and learning arrangements are strong and appropriate with only minor weaknesses. 3 - The proposal includes an appropriate monitoring framework, although some aspects require further clarification or strengthening. 2 - Significant weaknesses exist regarding monitoring arrangements or organisational learning processes. 1 - Monitoring arrangements are inadequate or unlikely to support effective implementation and learning. 0 - Insufficient: The proposal does not provide sufficient information to assess this criterion.
Criterion 4. Capacity and Partnership (15 points)				
4.1 Operational and professional capacity	Assess whether the applicant and, where relevant, project partners possess the organisational, professional, educational and management capacity required to successfully implement the proposed civic education project. Consider previous experience in civic education, youth work, community engagement, democratic participation, educational programme design and delivery, facilitation, project management, financial management, monitoring and communication. Assess	0-5	2	5 - The applicant and partners demonstrate outstanding organisational and professional capacity. The proposed team possesses extensive and directly relevant experience and expertise covering all key aspects of the project. Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and fully appropriate for successful implementation. 4 - The applicant demonstrates very strong capacity with only minor weaknesses. The project team is highly suitable for the proposed intervention. 3 - The applicant demonstrates generally adequate capacity to implement the project, although certain expertise or organisational arrangements could be strengthened. 2 - Important weaknesses exist regarding organisational capacity, relevant expertise or management arrangements. 1 - Serious concerns exist regarding the applicant's or partners' capacity to successfully implement the project.

	whether the proposed project team demonstrates appropriate expertise and whether responsibilities are clearly allocated.			0 - Insufficient / Not assessable; No meaningful information on capacity is provided.
4.2 Relevance and added value of partnership	Assess whether the proposed partnership provides meaningful added value to the project. Consider whether partner organisations provide complementary expertise, access to target groups, local knowledge, educational experience, community links or other capacities that contribute to the achievement of the project's expected results. Assess whether roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and proportionate. Particular consideration may be given to partnerships involving schools, local authorities, community organisations, youth organisations, Roma organisations, organisations representing minority communities, or other relevant stakeholders where appropriate to the intervention. If a donor-state partner is involved, does the partnership demonstrate real bilateral value rather than a formal or symbolic role?	0-5	1	5 - The partnership is clearly justified and strategically relevant to the project objectives. Each partner has a distinct and meaningful role that strengthens the quality, reach, or credibility of the project. Where applicable, the bilateral partnership demonstrates clear added value through knowledge exchange, complementary expertise, or joint advocacy. 4 - The partnership is relevant and well explained. Roles are clear and contribute to project implementation. The added value is evident, with only minor gaps in justification or integration. 3 - The partnership is generally relevant but not fully convincing. Roles are described but may be somewhat overlapping, limited, or insufficiently justified. The added value is present but modest. 2 - The partnership is weakly justified or only loosely connected to the project objectives. Roles are unclear, marginal, or not well integrated into the project design. Limited added value is demonstrated. 1 - The partnership appears formal or unnecessary. Roles are not defined or do not contribute meaningfully to the project. No clear added value is demonstrated. 0 - Insufficient / Not assessable; No partnership is described where relevant, or information is insufficient to assess it.
Criterion 5. Financial quality and efficiency (10 points)				
5.1 Budget coherence and justification	Assess whether the proposed budget is realistic, coherent and adequately justified. Consider whether budget items are clearly linked to the proposed activities, objectives, expected results and implementation arrangements. Assess whether costs are proportionate to the scale and complexity of the project and	0-5	1	5 - The budget is clearly structured, transparent, and fully aligned with the proposed activities and outputs. All cost items are well justified, based on realistic assumptions, and sufficiently detailed to demonstrate what is being financed and why. 4 - The budget is well aligned with activities and generally well justified. Cost assumptions are mostly clear and realistic, with only minor gaps or inconsistencies. 3 - The budget is broadly consistent with the action plan, but some cost items lack clarity, detail, or justification. Certain assumptions are not fully explained. 2 - The budget shows weak alignment with activities or outputs. Several cost items are unclear, insufficiently justified, or based on questionable assumptions.

	consistent with the principles of sound financial management.			1 - The budget is poorly structured and not clearly linked to the proposed activities. Justification is missing or inadequate. Cost assumptions are unrealistic or inconsistent. 0 - Insufficient / Not assessable; The budget cannot be assessed due to missing or insufficient information.
5.2 Value for money	Is the overall budget proportionate to the expected results? Are the objectives realistically achievable with the proposed budget? Does the project demonstrate efficient use of resources in relation to the scale and ambition of the intervention?	0-5	1	5 - The budget is proportionate to the expected results, and resources are used efficiently. The proposal demonstrates a clear link between costs and the scale, depth, and significance of the expected outcomes. 4 - The budget is generally appropriate to the expected results. The project appears cost-effective, with only minor concerns regarding proportionality or efficiency. 3 - The budget is acceptable but not fully convincing in terms of efficiency or proportionality. The link between costs and results is present but could be stronger. 2 - The budget appears disproportionate to the expected results or inefficient in the use of resources. The relationship between costs and results is unclear or weak. 1 - The budget is clearly disproportionate or unjustified in relation to the expected results. Resources are used inefficiently or without clear rationale. 0 - Insufficient / Not assessable; Value for money cannot be assessed.
Criterion 6. Sustainability, Inclusion and Common Values (10 points)				
6.1 Sustainability, transferability and continued civic engagement	Assess the likelihood that the project will continue generating value beyond the grant period. Consider whether the proposal demonstrates realistic plans for sustaining educational resources, partnerships, community engagement, participant networks, educational methodologies or other project results. Assess whether the project is likely to contribute to continued civic participation or provide opportunities for further use, adaptation or replication of the developed approach.	0-10	1	5 - The proposal presents a highly credible and well-developed sustainability strategy. It demonstrates strong potential for the continued use, transfer or adaptation of the developed civic education approach, and provides convincing evidence that the project is likely to generate lasting opportunities for civic participation, community engagement or continued learning beyond the grant period. 4 - The proposal presents a strong and realistic sustainability strategy. Key project results are likely to continue beyond the project period, with only minor weaknesses regarding their longer-term continuation or transferability. 3 - The proposal includes appropriate measures to sustain key project results, but plans for continued civic engagement, transferability or longer-term use of the developed approach could be further strengthened or clarified. 2 - Sustainability is addressed only partially. The proposal provides limited evidence that the developed approach, partnerships or participant engagement will continue beyond the project period. 1 - The proposal provides little evidence that project results or civic engagement opportunities are likely to continue after the grant ends. 0 - Insufficient: The proposal does not provide sufficient information to assess this criterion.

6.2 Meaningful inclusion, Roma youth mentorship priority and alignment with fundamental values (human rights, rule of law, democracy)	Assess the extent to which the proposal meaningfully promotes inclusion, equality and the fundamental values underpinning this Call, including democracy, human rights, participation, non-discrimination and the rule of law. Assess whether inclusion of under-represented or marginalised groups is embedded throughout the project design, methodology and expected results. Where relevant, assess the quality and credibility of proposals contributing to the development or improvement of mentorship programmes for Roma youth, particularly young Roma women and girls, recognising this as a strategic priority of LOT 2. Such proposals should demonstrate that mentorship is meaningfully integrated into the civic education methodology and expected pathway towards increased civic participation.	0-5	1	5 - Inclusion, equality and fundamental values are fully embedded throughout the intervention. Where relevant, the proposal presents an outstanding and credible approach to strengthening civic participation through mentorship of Roma youth, demonstrating clear added value, meaningful integration into the educational methodology and strong potential for long-term empowerment. 4 - The proposal demonstrates strong integration of inclusion and fundamental values. Where relevant, the Roma youth mentorship component is well designed and convincingly integrated, with only minor weaknesses. 3 - The proposal appropriately addresses inclusion and fundamental values. Where relevant, the Roma mentorship component is relevant but could be more clearly integrated into the intervention logic or methodology. 2 - Inclusion or fundamental values are addressed only superficially or inconsistently. Where relevant, the Roma mentorship component lacks sufficient coherence, credibility or integration. 1 - Limited evidence is provided that the project meaningfully promotes inclusion, equality or democratic values. Where relevant, the proposed Roma mentorship component appears largely symbolic or insufficiently developed. 0 - Insufficient: The proposal does not provide sufficient information to assess this criterion.

Programme Portfolio Information (recorded for monitoring purposes only)

The following information shall be recorded by evaluators for programme portfolio monitoring and strategic analysis purposes. The information recorded under this section shall not influence the numerical score awarded to the proposal and shall not constitute an additional evaluation criterion.

Its purpose is to support programme-level monitoring of the country-specific focus areas and to assist the Fund Operator and the Selection Committee in analysis during the selection process.

Country-specific focus area	No	Partially	Yes	Brief justification
Intercultural, interethnic and/or interreligious understanding or dialogue and inclusion	☐	☐	☐	

When completing this section, evaluators should consider whether the proposal makes a meaningful and credible contribution to the country-specific focus area.

A proposal should be marked "Yes" only where:

- the contribution is clearly reflected in the intervention logic;
- the relevant target groups or communities are meaningfully engaged;
- the proposed civic education methodology explicitly promotes intercultural, interethnic and/or interreligious dialogue, understanding or inclusion;
- the proposed activities create meaningful opportunities for interaction, dialogue, cooperation or joint civic participation among people from different cultural, ethnic or religious backgrounds;
- the expected results demonstrate a credible contribution to strengthening democratic participation and social cohesion in diverse communities.

A proposal should be marked "Partially" where the country-specific focus area is addressed but remains limited in scope, insufficiently integrated into the intervention logic, or supported by only modest evidence.

A proposal should be marked "No" where the proposal does not address the country-specific focus area, or where references to intercultural, interethnic or interreligious dialogue are merely incidental or symbolic.