

The Active Citizens Fund



EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021



The Active Citizens Fund supports civil society by strengthening its role in promoting democratic participation, supporting active citizenship and protecting human rights.

In several of the Beneficiary States, the EEA Grants is one of the most important contributors to civil society.

The programme will be implemented through:



Beneficiary States



EEA Grants



Open calls for proposals



Independent Fund Operators

Why support civil society in Europe?

A strong civil society is a fundamental building block in a vibrant, well-functioning democracy. Non-governmental organisations play a vital role in promoting democratic values and human rights, as well as fostering civic participation. They keep citizens engaged and often give voice to groups that would otherwise not be heard in political decision-making processes. Civil society is a partner for governments as well as a watchdog.

What is supported?

Through direct support to civil society organisations in 15 EU member states, the Active Citizens Fund will support initiatives that seek to:

- Increase citizen participation in civic activities
- Support consultation between public institutions and civil society organisations in decision-making processes
- Raise citizens' awareness of human rights, including gender equality
- Empower vulnerable groups
- Create more effective, accountable and sustainable civil society organisations
- Strengthen regional cooperation within civil society

Cooperation

Partnerships between non-governmental organisations in the Beneficiary States and bodies in the three Donor States are widely encouraged. Seed money is available to support networking and partner searches.

The Norwegian Helsinki Committee and the Icelandic Human Rights Centre facilitate contact and cooperation between NGOs in the Beneficiary States and Norway and Iceland.

Information and updates about the Active Citizens Fund and related calls for proposals are shared on websites of the Active Citizens Fund in each Beneficiary State, as well as on the EEA and Norway Grants' website www.eeagrants.org

Where we work

Country	Fund Operator	Total*
Bulgaria	Open Society Institute – Sofia in consortium with Trust for Social Achievement Foundation, Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation	15.5
Croatia	Community Foundation Slagalica (CFS) in consortium with Association for Civil Society Development (SMART), the Centre for Information Service, Co-operation and Development of NGOs (CNVOS) and SOLIDARNA – Foundation for Human Rights and Solidarity	8.5
Cyprus	Not yet selected	2.7
Czech Republic	Open Society Fund - Prague in consortium with Committee of Good Will - Olga Havel Foundation, the Czech Scouting Institute	15.0
Estonia	Open Estonia Foundation in consortium with Network of Estonian Non-Profit Organisations (NENO)	4.0
Greece	Bodossaki Foundation in consortium with Solidarity Now	12.0
Hungary		N/A**
Latvia	Civic Alliance Latvia in consortium with Dienvidlatgale NGO Support Centre, Kurzeme NGO Support Centre, Latvian Rural Forum, Valmiera Region Community Foundation and Zemgale NGO Support Centre	8.5
Lithuania	Geri Norai LT , Open Lithuania Foundation in consortium with OSFL Projektai	9.0
Malta	Solidarity Overseas Service Malta	0.7
Poland National	Stefan Batory Foundation in consortium with FAOO and Shipyard	30.0
Poland Regional	Foundation in Support of Local Democracy (FSLD) in consortium with the Education for Democracy Foundation (EDF) and the Information Society Development Foundation (ISDF)	23.0
Portugal	Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in consortium with Bissaya Barreto Foundation	11.0
Romania	Civil Society Development Foundation in consortium with the Environmental Partnership Foundation, Frivillighet Norge, PACT Foundation, the Resource Centre for Roma Communities	46.0
Slovakia	Ekopolis Foundation in consortium with Carpathian Foundation, Open Society Foundation	9.0
Slovenia	Centre for Information Service, Cooperation and Development of NGOs (CNVOS) in consortium with the Legal and Information Centre Maribor (Institute PIP) and the Society for the Advancement of Voluntary Work Novo Mesto (DRPD)	3.0

*Amounts are in € million and for the period 2014-2021.

**Negotiations are ongoing.



Key achievements from the 2009-2014 funding period

Over **500,000** people have benefitted from improved access to welfare services

26,800 people have benefitted from human rights support

3,940 NGOs have reported strengthened capacity

335 laws, policies and practices have been changed or improved in line with the values of the Grants

350 networks for joint action created, enabling civil society to collaborate for greater impact

To shape a more multi-faceted public image of Roma in **Bulgaria**, 20 new TV stories presenting daily life of Roma and a website on topics related to democratic values was created by the foundation 'Roma World - 21st Century'. The TV stories were screened on Bulgarian National Television (BNT) and reached over 700,000 viewers.

The new series counteracted anti-Roma attitudes and Roma discrimination in the country.

In the **Czech Republic** a coalition of 20 anti-corruption organisations made several proposals for new laws and amendments to laws to increase transparency and reduce the possibility of corruption. During the project period, a new Act on the Register of Contracts was approved that will increase the transparency within public contracting.

About the EEA and Norway Grants

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway provide funding to:

- Reducing disparities in Europe
- Strengthening bilateral relations

Areas of support

- Innovation, research, education and competitiveness
- Social inclusion, youth employment and poverty reduction
- Environment, energy, climate change and low carbon economy
- Culture, civil society, good governance and fundamental rights and freedoms
- Justice and home affairs

* EEA Grants are jointly financed by Iceland (3%), Liechtenstein (1%) and Norway (96%) **Norway Grants are solely financed by Norway

