

Active Citizens Fund

 | Regional

The Active Citizens Fund – Regional (ACF-R) is one of two programmes dedicated for civil society organizations in Poland and funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Grants. The objective of the Programme is to strengthen the sustainability of civil society organisations in Poland and to foster civil society with diversity, equal treatment, and dialogue at its core, as well as to empower vulnerable groups. The support within the Programme will be primarily directed at smaller organisations, engaging in local activities outside major urban centres. The Programme also seeks to strengthen bilateral relations between civil society organisations in Poland and the Donor States.

Programme budget

23 million EUR

Programme timeframe

2021-2024

The Active Citizens Fund – Regional programme is implemented by a consortium of 3 organisations:

**Foundation in Support of Local Democracy (leader),
Education for Democracy Foundation
and Information Society Development Foundation.**



The outcomes the Programme aims to achieve:



Increased support for human rights



Empowerment of vulnerable groups



Strengthened democratic culture and civic awareness



Enhanced capacity and sustainability of civil society

Who can apply for a grant as a LEADER of a project in the Programme?

Civil society organizations registered in Poland as a legal entity in the form of:

- foundations, associations and associations of organisations
- social cooperatives
- non-profit companies
- rural women's circles
- faith based organisations (provided they are registered in the National Court Register, have legal capacity and their statutory goals include public benefit activity)

Who is eligible to become a PARTNER in a project funded in the Programme?

- Civil society organizations, public or private entities (non-profit and for profit) from:
 - Poland
 - Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway)
 - Beneficiary States (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia)
 - countries neighbouring Poland but not belonging to the EEA (Belarus, Ukraine, Russia)
- International organisations and agencies
- Informal groups from Poland that act for the public good (but the costs of their participation have to be covered by project promoters – leading partners)

All project leaders must also meet requirements concerning minimal time of operation and experience in the chosen support area, in accordance with the prerequisites for a specific type of project they want to submit.

The involvement of all project partners needs to be non-profit in character, regardless of their legal form.

Call for proposals:

- **Two calls for thematic projects**
 - 1st call: March 17th-May 17th, 2021
 - 2nd call: 2 months long, to be announced at the beginning of 2022
- **Ongoing calls for ad hoc (intervention) projects**
 - 1st call: from 2nd till 4th quarter of 2021
 - 2nd call: from 2nd quarter of 2022 until 2nd quarter of 2023

Proposals within all the calls can be submitted in **3 support areas**:

- 1 Human rights protection (including gender equality), with special focus on:**
 - actions involving migrants and refugees
 - actions supporting LGBT+ persons
 - anti-discrimination actions
- 2 Promoting social diversity and preventing exclusion, with special focus on:**
 - counteracting domestic violence
- 3 Building democratic culture and civic engagement at local level (including activism for environment and climate change), with special focus on:**
 - watchdog initiatives
 - ensuring residents participation in policy-making at local level

Available grants:

- **Small grants:**
 - grants between EUR 6 000 and EUR 23 000 for the cost of the implementation of a project (direct and indirect costs)
 - period of implementation: 6 to 18 months (in case of the 1st call – starting not sooner than October 1st, 2021, and ending not later than September 30th, 2023),
 - available to entities registered at least 6 months prior to the launch of the call and with at least 1 person on the team with previous experience in the chosen support area

- **Large grants:**
 - grants between EUR 23 001 and EUR 84 000 for the cost of the implementation of a project (direct and indirect costs)
 - period of implementation: 12 to 24 months (in case of the 1st call – starting not sooner than October 1st, 2021, and ending not later than September 30th, 2023)
 - available to entities registered at least 12 months prior to the launch of the call and with experience including at least 3 projects/initiatives in the chosen support area realized in the last 3 years



Special funding for capacity building

Each applicant seeking a grant for a small or large thematic project may apply for additional amount of funding for capacity building, i.e. strengthening organization's institutional development, preparing long-term plans and strategies, establishing fundraising mechanism, improving skills of the staff and management standards in the organization. This funding can also cover costs of the partner/partners in the project. Total amount of this special funding cannot exceed 22% of the basic grant amount, and the respective limits – in case of small grants of 5 060 EUR, and in case of large grants – 18 480 EUR.

- **Ad hoc (intervention) grants**
 - grants between EUR 6 000 and EUR 15 000 for the cost of the implementation of a project (direct and indirect costs)
 - period of implementation: 6 to 8 months
 - no extra prerequisites concerning previous experience or time of operation



Special funding for bilateral cooperation

Each applicant seeking a grant for a thematic or an ad hoc (intervention) project may also apply for additional amount of funding for cooperation with partners the Donor States - Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

Note: Costs of partnerships with entities from any eligible state other than Donor States (including Poland) must be included in the basic amount grant amount.

Note: There is no requirement in any projects for co-funding from other sources. A grant may cover 100% of the overall costs.

Contact and information on possible partnerships

If you want to be a partner in projects funded by the Active Citizens Fund – Regional programme or have any questions regarding the Programme, contact:

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