



# **Possibilities for bilateral cooperation with civil society organisations under the EEA Funds**

## The donor contact points



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# The Active Citizens Fund



# The Active Citizens Fund

## What?

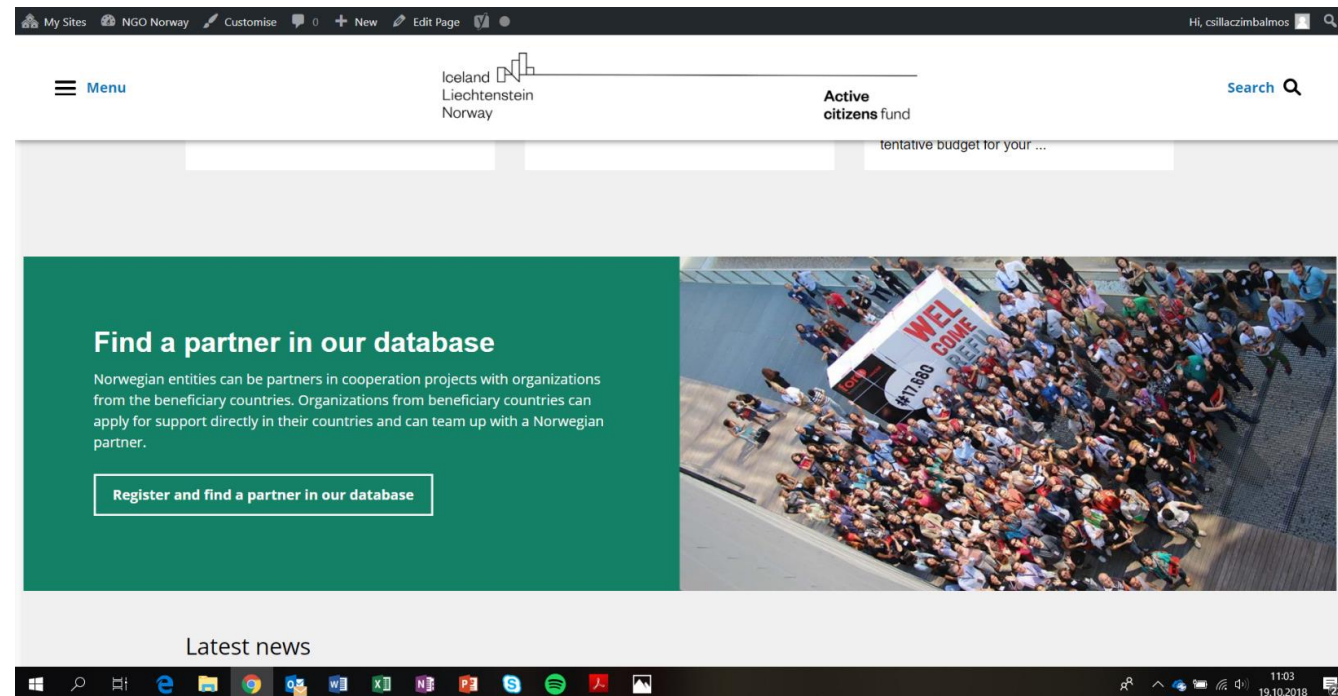
- Civil society organizations in 14 European countries to promote democracy, human rights, and social cohesion.
- Good governance, social justice, and supports measures including advocacy, civic participation, capacity building, and partnerships.

# The Active Citizens Fund

## For whom?

- Independent Fund Operators in the 14 beneficiary countries distribute the funds in each country.
- As **project partners**, all Norwegian and Icelandic entities can be eligible.

# Finding a partner



## More information and looking for partners



NGOPartnershipPortal



[Activecitizensfund.no](https://www.activecitizensfund.no)

[www.eeagrants.org](https://www.eeagrants.org)



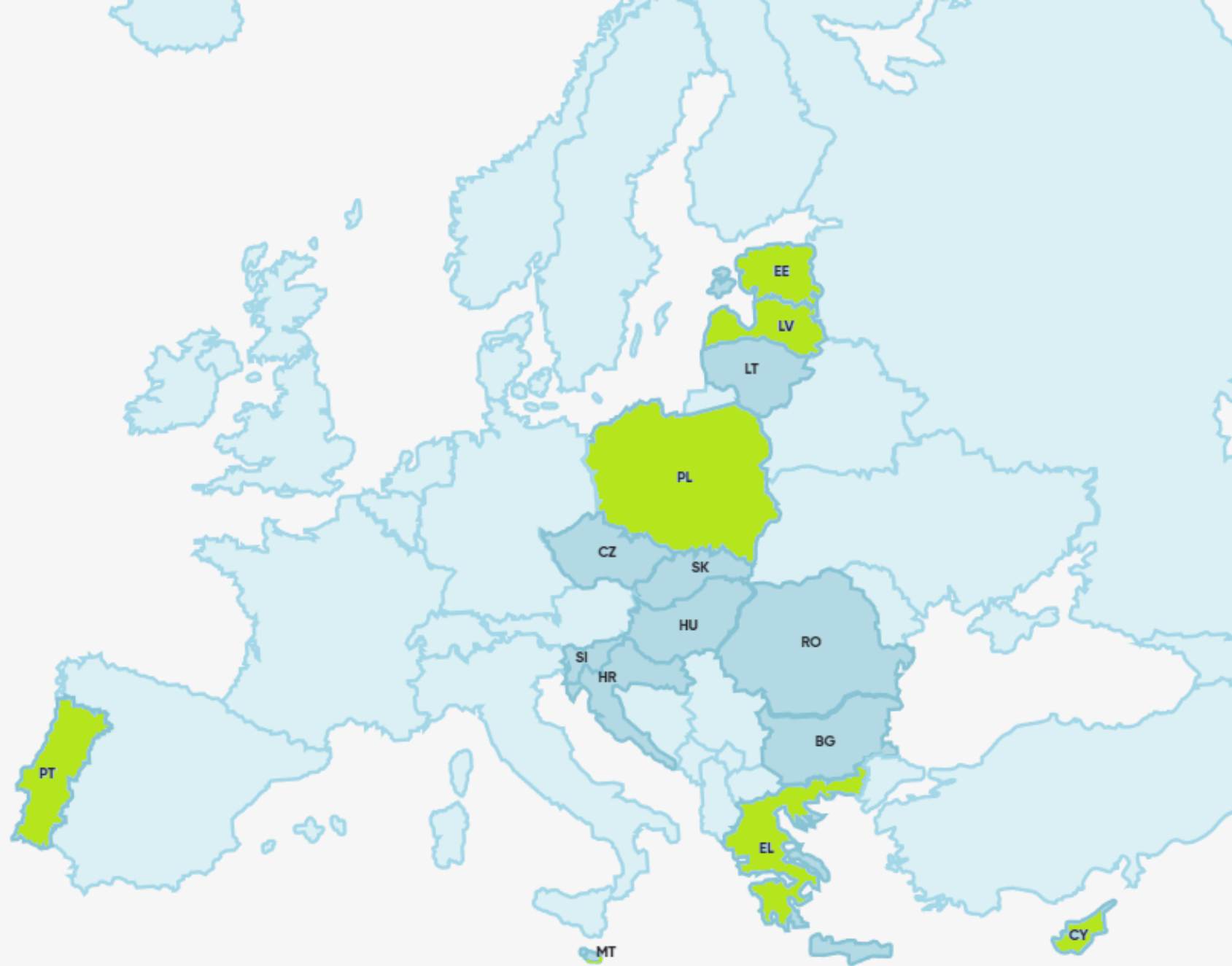
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ICHR

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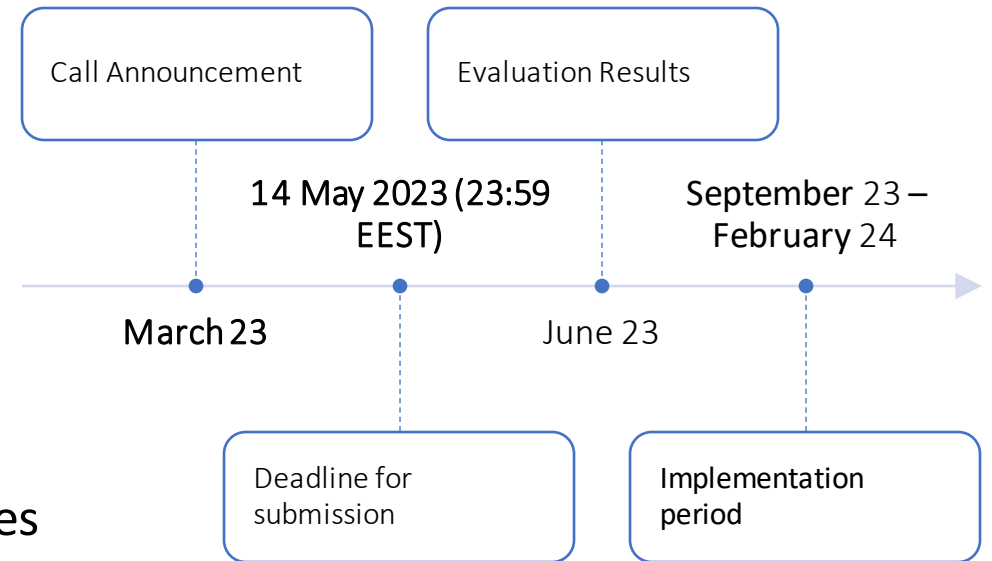


**Bilateral calls and mechanisms under the Active Citizens Fund**



# ACF - Cyprus

- **Deadline:** 14/05/2023
- **Total Call Budget:** € 12,000
- **Maximum Grant per Initiative:** € 4,000
- **Maximum Initiative Duration:** 1-6 months
- **Who can apply:** Cyprus CSOs **AND** Donor State Entities
- **Objective:** enhance cooperation between Republic of Cyprus CSOs & Donor States in the following Outcomes:
  - “Increased citizen participation in civic activities” - Suggested thematic areas: human rights defense, media freedom, activism, advocacy work.
  - “Vulnerable groups empowered” - Suggested thematic areas: migrant inclusion and social cohesion, tackling gender-based violence, disability inclusion.
- **Types of activities:** networking, study visits, trainings, workshops etc.
- **Info:** <https://activecitizensfund.cy/en-us/Open-Calls/Bilateral-Cooperation-Initiatives>





# ACF - Estonia

# ACF - Greece



## Fund Operator



This is our common ground

### Bodossaki Foundation

- 50 years' experience in grantmaking
- More than €450 million dispersed
- Leading provider of capacity building through Social Dynamo – 1200 CSOs supported

### SolidarityNow

- Nationwide field experience & projects
- More than 350,000 beneficiaries
- 10 years' experience- supporting vulnerable groups (incl. migrants/ refugees, LGBTI, women, children)

# Open Call for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives

- **Aims to** promote project partnerships and joint activities, exchange of knowledge and best practices.
- Who is **eligible**? NGOs (CSOs) that are legally established in Greece, and entities in the Donor States irrespective of their legal status.
- Allocated amount: **€ 142k**. Initiatives supported to a maximum rate of **100%** of the eligible costs, with a maximum grant of **€ 6,000 per application**
- Call open until **June 30, 2023, 12:00pm EET**, or until the exhaustion of the available funds.



# Prioritized Areas of Concern

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Areas of concern that will actively **contribute to the overall objective** of the Active Citizens Fund in Greece, such as:

- civic engagement (especially among youth);
- promotion and protection of human rights;
- watchdog and advocacy roles of the civil society sector;
- empowerment of vulnerable groups (with a focus on unaccompanied minors and Roma);
- gender equality and especially women empowerment, as well as activities combatting gender-based violence.





IASIS (GR) Icelandic Women's Rights Association (IS), 2020

# Eligible Activities

## List of Suggestions

- **Search for partners** for donor partnership projects, prior to or during the preparation of a project application;
- Visits aiming at **deepening partnerships** through specific common activities;
- **Networking, exchange, sharing and transfer of knowledge**, technology, experience and best practice;
- **Visits by NGO experts** / experts from Donor States entities to Greek NGOs for training / coaching purposes;
- Attendance or organization of **conferences or workshops** with a concrete impact on bilateral partnerships and relations;
- **Youth study trips.**

## IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES

### Higher Incubator Giving Growth & Sustainability (GR) Norsensus Mediaforum (NOR)

The bilateral initiative '**Advocacy Now! Strengthening the Greek CSO ecosystem capitalizing on the Norwegian experience**' aimed to network the Greek based organization HIGGS with the Norwegian Norsensus Mediaforum, towards the exchange of best practices, knowledge and experience focused on advocacy activities.

The initiative was implemented from 29.08.2022 to 16.12.2022, with the participation of **67 individuals** and included two bilateral trips of Project Promoters (Athens and Oslo) and **10 visits/meetings** with third parties, such as the Advocacy Working Group in the city of Athens, the University of Southeastern Norway in the city Dammen and various non-governmental organizations located in both countries.

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## Diotima - Centre for Gender Rights and Equality (GR) KUN Centre for Equality and Diversity (NOR)

Over the course of 3 months (11/2021 - 01/2022) a group of 5 experts worked together to produce training materials for an **e-learning course on Sexual Harassment**, with a focus on the workplace.

Both partners were able to share their previous experience in training design while building on their experience they identified the most prominent training needs to be addressed.

They then produced the contents of the course, including references from the EU, Greece and Norway, as well as several case studies.





# Thank you!

: GRactivecitizensFund



Iceland  
Liechtenstein  
Norway



Active  
citizens fund

Fund operated by:



SOLIDARITY  
NOW

# ACF - Latvia

❖ Restricted call for Bilateral Initiatives announced for the existing promoters of the Active Citizens Fund's Strategic or Capacity projects

- Deadline: 03.04.2023. Pl.23:59

- Grant for one project:

  - Capacity project promoters: 2,000–5,000 EUR

  - Strategic project promoters: 2,000–7,000 EUR

- Latvian NGO searching for partners - Latvian H-4 club, Here and Together

<https://www.activecitizensfund.lv/en/cooperation-with-donor-countries.html>

❖ Site visit for FO staff to Iceland on financial sustainability and non-grant income topic to elaborate it further in regional initiatives for wider CSO sector in Latvia and other beneficiary states. (September)

# ACF - Malta

- **Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives Call: ACF NGO Malta Programme.**
- Rolling call (open until 31 June 2024)
- Budget per initiative: €5,000 - €15,000
- Objective: to support activities that enhance relations between Maltese NGOs and entities in the donor states
- Themes: civic engagement, protection of human rights, advocacy, empowerment of vulnerable groups
- Types of activities: short-term exchanges of experience, e.g. internships, study visits, training courses, workshops, job shadowing.
- Info: [www.activecitizensfund.mt](http://www.activecitizensfund.mt)

# ACF – Poland National & Regional

- **Application deadline:** April 30th, 2023 (noon CET)
- **Maximum Grant per Initiative:** € 6,000
- **Initiative Duration:** 1-6 months (all activities should end by 30 April, 2024)
- **Who can apply:** Polish CSOs with partner Donor State Entities (CSOs, public institutions, private companies - excluding only self-employed sole traders)
- **Objectives:**
  - exchanging competencies/experience/knowledge/know-how,
  - practicing learning mobility, with special focus on internships/job-shadowing initiatives,
  - creating opportunities to improve existing and/or acquire new practical skills in the areas of the organization's performance and among the specialists in the relevant field.
- **Info:** [aktywniobywatele.org.pl/en](https://aktywniobywatele.org.pl/en) and [aktywniobywatele-regionalny.org.pl/en](https://aktywniobywatele-regionalny.org.pl/en)

# ACF – Poland National & Regional

- know-how exchange of experts-practitioners at implementing common initiatives
- learning by doing
- process of exchange is the result
- peer-to-peer learning
- equal exchange of methodologies/approaches/competences/skills



# ACF – Poland National & Regional



- filling the gap in the local offer thanks to partner's competences and resources
- pilot activities implemented together with a partner
- taking the advantage of objective facts like socio-political situation
- sharing the socio-political challenges and solutions

# ACF - Portugal

- **Deadline:** 30/06/2023 (ongoing since 2018) – applications at least 60 days in advance
- **Total Call Budget:** € 90,000
- **Maximum Grant per Initiative:** € 6,000 (up to 90% grant rate)
- **Who can apply:** Portuguese NGOs & Donor State Entities (max 2 approved initiatives per entity)
- **Objective:** Enhance relations between Portuguese NGOs and entities in the Donor States. Priorities (not limited to):
  - Advocacy and monitoring of public policies
  - Fundraising
  - Volunteer management
  - Promotion of gender equality and tackling gender-based violence
- **Types of activities:** Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives are intended to finance short-term international exchanges of experiences, including internships and participation in conferences, seminars and short-duration training courses, and to foster contacts amongst NGOs and other potential partners
- **Info:** <https://gulbenkian.pt/cidadaos-ativos/en/bolsas-lista/bilateral-cooperation-initiatives/>



Questions and comments