**ACTIVE CITIZENS FUND IN GREECE**

**BILATERAL COOPERATION INITIATIVES**

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

The Bodossaki Foundation in consortium with Allileggie SolidarityNow, acting as the Fund Operator (FO) for the EEA Grants “Active Citizens Fund in Greece”, announces an open call for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) applications for the outcome “**Enhanced collaboration between beneficiary and donor state entities involved in the Programme**”.

**This call for applications has an allocated budget of € 92,000.**

The present call for applications defines the detailed specifications for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives, aiming at enhancing the relations between Greek NGOs and entities in the donor states (Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway).

The available funding will be allocated to initiatives proposed by NGOs through a transparent selection procedure. For more information concerning the application process, the eligibility criteria, as well as the evaluation and selection process, kindly see the Guidelines for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives, as uploaded on the Programme website.

The “Active Citizens Fund” (ACF) in Greece (€ 12m) is part of the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 by which the donor states- Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway- contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities, and the strengthening of bilateral relations between Greece and the donor states.

The overall objective of the Programme is the **strengthening of civil society and active citizenship and the empowerment of vulnerable groups** and it is based on the common values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and the respect for human rights, including rights of persons belonging to minorities.

One of the goals of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 is the strengthening of relations between NGOs in Greece and entities in the Donor States with a view to promoting project partnerships and joint activities, the exchange of knowledge and best practices.

# 1. Objectives

The Call for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives is intended to support activities aiming at enhancing relations between Greek NGOs and entities in the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and contribute to the overall objective of the Active Citizens Fund.

**Bilateral cooperation** refers to networking, exchange, strengthening cooperation, sharing and transfer of knowledge, technology, experience and best practice between NGOs and other entities in the beneficiary states and in the donor states and/or international organisations. Searching for partners for donor partnership projects prior to or during the preparation of a project proposal, the development of such partnerships and the preparation of an application for a donor partnership project, also contribute to bilateral cooperation. Activities such as short-term international exchanges of experiences and know-how, including internships, traineeships and participation in conferences, seminars and short training courses, as well as **youth study trips**[[1]](#footnote-2) to foster communication amongst NGOs and other entities in Greece and the donor states are eligible for funding under the Call for Bilateral Cooperation initiatives.

Priorities for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives include strengthening the capacity and effectiveness of Greek NGOs, and the exchange of good practices between national NGOs and entities in the donor states. Particular emphasis will be given to 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 (focusing especially on how to influence policy-makers and cooperate with local authorities); 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.

Each supported initiative must be aligned with the respective outcome and outputs of the Bilateral Initiatives Fund, as described in the Guidelines for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives and be quantified according to its nature and objectives. For more details about the outcome, outputs, and indicators, kindly consult Article 3 of the Guidelines for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives.

The Fund Operator of the Active Citizens Fund in Greece, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee (<http://www.ngonorway.org>, <http://www.nhc.no/en/>) and the Icelandic Human Rights Centre (<http://www.humanrights.is/en>) shall facilitate contacts and co-operation initiatives between Greek NGOs and entities from the Donor States.

A partnership database (<https://ngonorway.org/partners/>) has also been established by the Norwegian Helsinki Committee in order to facilitate the search for potential partners. Potential applicants are advised to register and add a brief description about their organization and search for potential partners among interested Norwegian institutions, NGOs, municipalities, companies and other bodies.

# 2. Eligible Applicants

Applicants for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives must comply with the general conditions of the Programme, as set forth in the Guidelines for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives, particularly concerning the administrative and eligibility criteria established in Article 2 of the Guidelines for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives.

Apart from these, applications must also meet the following specific conditions:

1. Promoters[[2]](#footnote-3) must be NGOs registered in Greece or legal entities established in the donor states, as defined in Article 2.2.1 of the Guidelines for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives.
2. **At least one entity from the Donor States, relevant to achieving the cooperation objectives, must be involved in any initiative.**
3. Each entity, either Applicant or Partner[[3]](#footnote-4) under the present call, **can receive funding for up to three Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives**. (Note: Awarded grants obtained through the Bilateral Initiatives Fund are not taken into consideration for funding restrictions applied to other open calls of the ACF programme).

#  3. Indicative list of Activities

The proposed Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives may comprise, in general terms, of all activities aiming to deepen the contacts and enhance the collaboration of Greek NGOs with entities from the Donor States.

Eligible activities may include (the list is non-exhaustive):

* the search for partners for donor partnership projects, prior to or during the preparation of a project application, the development of such partnerships and the preparation of an application for a donor partnership project;
* 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;
* Any other activities aiming at strengthening bilateral relations between civil society organisations and other entities in the Donors States

***Youth study trips***

A special focus is given to encourage young people (18-30 years old) from NGOs in Greece and the Donor States to explore good practices and examples that could be used to tackle different social needs related to the objectives of the Programme or in raising awareness around social issues in the respective countries.

The *youth study trips* offer the opportunity to young individuals to spend a short period of time abroad in order to acquire, assess, and confront knowledge related to the social need(s) identified, through travelling, meeting people and NGOs from different countries and/or working on shared projects. Study trips are designed to provide young participants with the opportunity to participate in activities such as meetings, workshops, exercises, debates, role-plays, outdoor activities and more.

Even though activities under youth study trips can vary, good practices should always be identified and reported. The young individuals are strongly encouraged to communicate their experiences through social media, blogs, online news portals, conferences, etc. during and after their trip.

# 4. Location of Initiatives

The activities foreseen in the Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives may take place in Greece and/or in the Donor States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway). In well justified cases bilateral cooperation initiatives may take place in other locations.

# 5. Size of Grants

The total amount for funding under this call is **€ 92,000.**

Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives can be supported up to a maximum rate of 100% of the eligible costs, with a maximum grant of **€ 6,000 per application.**

# 6. Eligible expenses

The eligible period for expenses under the Bilateral Initiatives component will be defined in the bilateral contract. Only expenses incurred from the entry into force of the bilateral contract to its end date will be eligible.

The following indicative list of expenses showcases the general type of expenses that are eligible for funding, under the call for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives (the list is non-exhaustive):

1. Registration fees and travel costs for participation in conferences, seminars, courses, meetings and workshops, as well as the acquisition of support materials needed for this purpose;
2. Travel costs concerning study visits abroad, to facilitate collaboration and exchange of information between Greek NGOs and entities in the Donor States, leading to the submission of a joint proposal.
3. Travel and salary costs, for expert exchanges;
4. Costs of organising conferences, seminars, courses, meetings and workshops;
5. Publicity and communication activities;
6. Costs of purchasing data (statistical or otherwise) essential for the preparation of projects;
7. Costs related to youth study trips (incl. for example transportation, accommodation, basic living expenses, special needs in equipment, etc.)

**Note:** The expenditures indicated in paragraph b) may include transportation costs and per diem to cover accommodation and subsistence costs for participating staff (and/or volunteers) of the Promoter and eligible Partner(s), provided they are in line with the usual practices and policies of each entity, and do not exceed the limits set in Annex 1 of the Guidelines for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives.

For more information regarding the eligibility of expenses of the Bilateral Initiatives, please consult the Guidelines for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives, Article 6.2.

# 7. Submission of applications

This call shall remain open from 21 February 2019 **until the 30 June 2023**, 12:00pm EET, or until the exhaustion of the available funds, whichever occurs first. Applications may thus be submitted at any time and shall be evaluated in a sequential manner and decided on a rolling basis.

The FO will evaluate and provide an official response of approval/rejection of an application at the latest 30 days after the successful submission of the application. All applications will be evaluated, following the process and evaluation criteria detailed in the Guidelines for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives.

Applications must be submitted, as a rule, at least 60 days ahead of the date of the planned activities. Exceptionally and in well justified situations this period may be reduced to 30 days, upon confirmation by the FO.

Applicants must fill in the Application and Budget form, available on the Programme website in accordance with the requirements of the Guidelines for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives.

Please refer to the Guidelines for more information and clarifications related to various topics such as eligibility criteria; eligibility of costs; excluded costs and selection and evaluation criteria.

Submission of applications is made electronically, via email. Applicants must fill in the Application and Budget Form and submit it together with all supporting documents, in accordance with the requirements of Article 11 of the Guidelines for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives to the following address:

**Email:** bilateral@activecitizensfund.gr

**Subject line:** Submission of Bilateral Initiative application

**Attention:** Only complete applications will be considered for evaluation and selection purposes.

# 8. Contact Information

Questions related to the present call, must be sent by email to the address below:

**E-mail:** bilateral@activecitizensfund.gr

**Subject:** Questions - Bilateral Initiatives

No individual replies will be given to questions. Questions and answers will be published on the Programme website. It is therefore advisable to consult the website regularly.

For more information visit our website: <http://www.activecitizensfund.gr/> where you can find all information and documentation relating to this Call, including the **Application Form**, **Budget Form** and **Guidelines for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives**.

Athens, February 21st, 2019

1. **Youth study trips** aim to encourage young people (18-30 years old) from NGOs in Greece and the Donor States to share good practices and examples that could be used to tackle different social problems or in raising awareness around social issues. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Bilateral initiative Promoter is defined as the lead applicant of a proposal, namely the NGO or entity responsible for submitting the application. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. For a definition of Partner under the Bilateral Initiatives, please consult Art. 2.2.2 of the Guidelines for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)