

## “ACTIVE CITIZENS FUND” IN GREECE

### CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS (#6)

#### “PLATFORMS AND NETWORKS AMONG NGOs (CSOs) DEVELOPED”

**Deadline for applications: April 12, 2021 (23:59, EET)**

Bodossaki Foundation, in consortium with SolidarityNow, acting as the Fund Operator (FO) for the EEA Grants Programme “Active Citizens Fund” in Greece (ACF), announces the present open call for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) project proposals which address the expected outcome “**Platforms and Networks among NGOs (CSOs) developed**”.

This is the sixth open call for this Programme, with an allocated amount of **€ 500,000**.

The amount of **€ 80,000** is the maximum grant amount for medium projects and the amount of **€ 5,000** is the maximum grant amount for micro projects funded under this call, according to the following table:

Size of projects	Grant amounts	Duration of projects
Medium	€ 5,000.01 - € 80,000.00	6 – 24 months
Small	€ 1,000.00 - € 5,000.00	1 – 6 months

The available funding will be allocated to projects proposed by CSOs through a transparent selection procedure. For more information concerning the application process, the selection criteria, as well as the evaluation and selection process, kindly see the [Guidelines for applicants](#).

The “Active Citizens Fund” in Greece 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 total amount of € 12,000,000 will be allocated through the Programme.

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 of 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 CSOs 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.

## **Objectives and indicative activities**

**The aim of this open call and the output of its projects is the development, i.e., creation, strengthening and enhancing the sustainability of the networks among civil society organizations (CSOs).**

In the context of this call, Civil Society Networks are defined as acts of organizations that come together (formal or informal) between organizations with legal entity and informal groups (organizations without legal entity) that cooperate and act voluntarily and focus on addressing common social issues, expressing their identities as community or social groups, etc.

The “Active Citizens Fund” Program (ACF) in Greece aims the development of a total of at least ten (10) networks among CSOs.<sup>1</sup>

The aforementioned objective shall be achieved through the following **indicative project activities**:

- Administrative and co-ordinating activities
- Exchanging knowledge, best practices and information among NGOs (CSOs) participating in networks
- Provision of joint support services to participating NGOs (CSOs), such as legal and accounting services
- Networking activities for participating NGOs (CSOs)
- Networking activities for participating NGOs (CSOs) with other networks
- Training and capacity building activities for participating NGOs (CSOs)
- Development of joint activities between the participating NGOs (CSOs)
- Acquisition of legal entity

Each project must deliver, through the project activities, the following predefined output. Each candidate must specify within the application the relevant activities as well as the target values of the following two predefined indicators related to the achievement of the output:

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<sup>1</sup> The targets values correspond to the whole Programme and are included to provide the applicants with an overview of the Programme’s commitments. The specific call “Platforms and Networks among NGOs (CSOs) developed” falls under the Outcome 5 of the Programme “ Enhanced capacity and sustainability of civil society”.

Output	Expected Programme result	Indicator
Platforms and networks among NGOs (CSOs) developed	Enhanced capacity and sustainability of civil society	Number of NGOs (CSOs) platforms and networks supported (predefined indicator)
		Number of NGOs (CSOs) that form each network (predefined indicator)

Each candidate may also specify additional indicators and target values to measure the achievement of the output.

### Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are NGOs (CSOs) that are established in Greece and fall within the following definition:

“A non-profit voluntary organization established as a legal entity, having a non-commercial purpose, independent of local, regional and central government, public entities, political parties and commercial organizations. Religious institutions and political parties are not considered NGOs”. Eligible applicants shall abide by the principles of democratic values and human rights.

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

- 1) Are **non-profit** organizations<sup>2</sup> that have not been created nor operate to generate personal profit. Although they may have paid staff and may engage in revenue-generating activities, they do not distribute profits to their members nor to their board. Where revenue-generating activities are undertaken, these should not represent the purpose of the NGO but should be solely a means to support its mission and values;
- 2) Have members who do not have any direct commercial interest in the outcome of the work of the organizations or of its commercial activities and should not pursue the commercial or professional interests of their members. This requirement therefore excludes trade and professional associations, where the aims and purposes of the association are to further the specific interests of its members only;
- 3) Are voluntary in nature, formed voluntarily by groups or individuals and usually involving an element of voluntary participation in the organization;
- 4) Act in the public arena and for the public good on concerns and issues related to the well-being of people, groups or society as a whole;

<sup>2</sup> Includes associations of non-profit organizations with legal entity (e.g. federations).

- 5) Have some degree of formal or institutional existence, unlike informal or ad hoc groups, involving formal statutes or other governing document(s) defining their mission, objectives and scope;
- 6) Have transparent structures and an elected chair / board, and are accountable to their members and donors;
- 7) Are independent of local, regional and national government and other public authorities,
- 8) Are independent of political parties and commercial organizations.

Political parties and religious organizations<sup>3</sup>, social partners<sup>4</sup> or profit-distributing cooperatives are not considered NGOs and are not eligible.

Social enterprises<sup>5</sup> are not considered NGOs and are not eligible.

Foundations<sup>6</sup> and faith-based organizations<sup>7</sup> are considered eligible NGOs as long as they fulfill the above requirements.

Organizations registered as Associations (Civil Code Art. 78-107), Civil non-profit companies (Civil Code Art. 741-748) and Foundations (Civil Code Art. 108-121 and Law 4182/2013 Art. 50-60), are considered NGOs and thus are eligible to apply, as long as they fulfill the above requirements.

The Hellenic Red Cross Society is considered eligible NGO as long as it fulfills the above requirements.

Organizations that have not recovered amounts due, following a final court decision in connection with the NGO Programme 2009-2014 in Greece, shall not be considered eligible applicants and/or partners.

The following limitations apply:

- For **medium projects** (between € 5,000.01 and € 80,000.00): The eligible applicants must, at the deadline for submission of proposals, have completed twelve (12) months of operation since their legal establishment;

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<sup>3</sup> Religious institutions do not include faith-based organizations as described below (footnote 5), which are eligible.

<sup>4</sup> Social partners are defined as trades unions and employers' negotiating bodies, as defined by the EU.

<sup>5</sup> Social and Solidarity Economy Organizations (Law 4430/2013 and prior Law 4019/2011) are to promote social entrepreneurship, have a statutory commercial purpose, distribute profits to members, while members can be public entities.

<sup>6</sup> Foundations set up for public benefit are eligible, if independent from political party or central, regional or local government control.

<sup>7</sup> Funded activities of faith-based organizations must 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).

- For **micro projects** (between EUR 1,000.00 and up to EUR 5,000.00): The eligible applicants must, at the deadline for submission of proposals, have completed six (6) months of operation since their legal establishment.

### Eligible partners

Projects may be implemented in partnership with project partners. All project partners must share a common goal and actively contribute towards achieving the project objective(s), as defined in the proposal. The role and specific obligations undertaken by each partner, must be clearly defined and justified in the project proposal. The project partners cannot be members of the project promoter of the project<sup>8</sup>.

\* Especially for this call it is noted that the legal entities - members of a network do not automatically become or are obliged to be partners of the project promoter.

The following entities are eligible to be project partners:

- Any public or private entity, commercial or non-commercial, as well as non-governmental organizations established as a legal person either in the donor states (donor project partnership), beneficiary states<sup>9</sup> or a country outside the European Economic Area that has a common border with Greece<sup>10</sup>.
- Any international organization or body or agency thereof.
- Informal, ad hoc and self-help organizations (including grassroots organizations) that are not registered legal entities in the beneficiary state (informal groups). Such organizations must however meet the requirements that they are not for personal profit, act for public good, are voluntary and non-discriminatory in nature, independent of local, regional and national government and other public authorities, and are independent of political parties, religious institutions and commercial organizations. These informal groups shall be represented by one single person, who signs the project partnership agreement on behalf of the group. An informal group cannot not be a direct recipient of the project grant.<sup>11</sup> Costs related to an informal group's participation in a project as partners can be covered by the project grant (invoices should be issued by a supplier to the project promoter, paid by the project promoter and recorded in the project promoter accounting system).

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<sup>8</sup> Indicatively, in case of a candidate project promoter with the form of an association, any legal entities - members of the foundation are not eligible partners.

<sup>9</sup> Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia

<sup>10</sup> Albania, Republic of North Macedonia and Turkey.

<sup>11</sup> Expenditure related to the involvement of the informal group shall be borne by the project promoter.

In case of a project partnership, a partnership agreement, based on a template provided by the FO, among project promoter and each of its partners shall be submitted to the FO (in Greek or in English, if the partner is based outside of Greece) together with the application.

#### The following limitations apply:

- Each applicant, applying as a project promoter (lead applicant) or partner, can submit as project promoter or participate as partner in only one application per call.
- NGOs that are participating as project promoters or partners in at least three projects, that have been selected for funding (through different calls), cannot receive additional funding, except through the bilateral fund and the present 6th call (Platforms and Networks among NGOs (CSOs) developed).

For more information on the eligibility criteria please consult the [Guidelines for Applicants](#).

### Size of Grants

The Programme can provide funding of **up to 100%** of the eligible costs of the project budget. However, optional co-financing can be provided in the form of cash or as in-kind contribution in the form of voluntary work.

For the calculation of the in-kind contribution, the cost for each hour of voluntary work shall be defined, on a case by case basis, depending on the character of work delivered. The unit prices shall be in accordance with a normally paid salary for such work and shall fall within the range between €4.00 per hour (minimum gross hourly wage in Greece) and €7.50 per hour (average gross hourly wage in Greece), including the employer's social contribution.

The amount of **€80,000** is the maximum amount for medium projects and the amount of **€5,000** is the maximum amount for micro projects funded under this call.

### Duration of Projects

The duration of projects must be as follows:

- The duration of the **micro projects** will be between 1 and up to 6 months.
- The duration of the **medium projects** will be between 6 and up to 24 months.

The duration of projects will be defined in the project contract. The projects can begin from the signing of the project contract or on a later date.

### Location of Projects

1. The selected projects will be implemented throughout the Greek territory, at a local, regional or national level.

2. CSOs located in rural or/ and remote areas<sup>12</sup> are highly encouraged to apply.
3. CSOs are strongly encouraged to submit proposals regarding projects to be carried out in rural and remote areas.

### **Deadline for application submission**

The deadline for receipt of Applications is **April 12, 2021** at 23:59 (EET).

### **How to apply**

Applicants must fill in an application form (in Greek) provided on the Programme website in accordance with the requirements of the Guidelines for Applicants.

All supporting documents detailed in the Guidelines must be included in the application. In case of a partnership application, a mandatory attachment of the partnership agreement is also required. Please refer to the Guidelines for more information and clarifications related to various issues, such as eligibility of costs; excluded costs; procurement, and selection criteria.

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

Each project application that meets the administrative and eligibility criteria shall be scored by two impartial experts appointed by the Fund Operator. At least one expert shall be independent of the Fund Operator. All applications will be evaluated, following the process and evaluation criteria detailed in the [Guidelines for Applicants](#).

Candidates shall **submit their applications in the following way:**

The applications for **medium projects** shall be submitted electronically via the website of the Programme using the online platform ([www.activecitizensfund.gr/en/open-call/platforms-and-networks-among-csos-developed](http://www.activecitizensfund.gr/en/open-call/platforms-and-networks-among-csos-developed))

The applications for **micro projects** may be submitted either electronically via the website of the Programme using the online platform ([www.activecitizensfund.gr/en/open-call/platforms-and-networks-among-csos-developed](http://www.activecitizensfund.gr/en/open-call/platforms-and-networks-among-csos-developed))

or by post in the following address:

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<sup>12</sup> All areas are considered rural and remote areas, except the following: all the municipalities of the prefecture of Attica (except the islands), all the municipalities of the prefecture of Thessaloniki, the municipalities of Patras, Iraklion, Larissa, Volos, Ioannina, Chania and Chalkida.

Bodossaki Foundation  
14 Mourouzi, 106 74, Athens, Greece  
Statement on the envelope: EEA NGO Programme “Active Citizens Fund” in Greece  
For the 6<sup>th</sup> open call  
**“Platforms and Networks among NGOs (CSOs) Developed”**

### Contact Information

The team responsible for this call consists of:

- Sophocles Danassis, Programme Officer – Bodossaki Foundation
- Sophia Zacharaki, Programme Officer – Bodossaki Foundation

Questions may be sent to the FO no later than ten (10) working days before the deadline for the submission of project proposals. The FO has no obligation to provide clarifications to questions received after this date. No individual replies will be given to questions. Questions and answers will be published on the Programme website, in the “Frequently Asked Questions” section. It is therefore advisable to consult the website regularly.

The questions must be sent by email with subject line “Platforms and Networks among NGOs (CSOs) Developed” to the addresses below:

**E-mail:** [sdanassis@bodossaki.gr](mailto:sdanassis@bodossaki.gr)

Sophocles Danassis, Programme Officer

**E-mail:** [szacharaki@bodossaki.gr](mailto:szacharaki@bodossaki.gr)

Sophia Zacharaki, Programme Officer

For more information visit our website: [www.activecitizensfund.gr](http://www.activecitizensfund.gr) where you can find all information and documentation relating to this Call, including the **Application Form, Guidelines for Applicants**, as well as a list of **Frequently Asked Questions**.

In accordance with the terms and conditions for the “Active Citizens Fund” in Greece, the Fund Operator has established a Complaints Committee to review complaints regarding the programme. All complaints are firstly 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 one member who is external to the Fund Operator and its Board and does not include programme staff responsible for assessing project applications.

The complaints must be fully justified and submitted electronically to the following email: [complaints@activecitizensfund.gr](mailto:complaints@activecitizensfund.gr).

Athens, December 11, 2020