

“ACTIVE CITIZENS FUND” IN GREECE

CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS (#7)

“OPEN CALL FOR ORGANISATIONAL GRANTS TO SUPPORT THE INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS”

Deadline for applications: February 15, 2022 (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 Organisations’ (CSOs’) project proposals for organisational grants to support their institutional development.

This is the 7th open call for this Programme, with an allocated amount of **€661.387**.

For all administrative purposes, an organisational grant is considered a “project” and a recipient of an organisational grant is considered a project promoter.

The maximum grant amount under this call is **€150,000** and the minimum grant amount is **€80,000** as shown in the following table:

Grant amounts	Duration of projects
€ 80,000 – € 150,000	12 – 18 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, please 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 € 13,441,115 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, indicative activities and general information regarding this call

This open call falls under Outcome 5 of the Programme, **“Enhanced capacity and sustainability of civil society”**.

The aim of this open call is to support the institutional development of civil society organisations (CSOs) through the provision of organisational grants to finance the general activities of organisations based on their own multi-annual strategic plans/ workplans.

The call is addressed to civil society organisations with an average annual turnover (total annual revenue) of at least €300,000 for the three financial years 2018, 2019, 2020 and that have a multi-annual strategic plan/ workplan.

Together with their application, applicants must submit their organisation’s multi-annual strategic plan/ workplan which must cover all the duration of the project.

The multi-annual strategic plan/ workplan must include goals for the institutional development of the organisation (eg greater visibility, increased number of beneficiaries, increased impact, greater financial sustainability etc.) and a clear and detailed explanation of how these goals will be achieved. It should also describe how the achievement of these goals will result in improvements in the functioning of the organisation, e.g. in terms of positive results for beneficiaries, staff, volunteers and other stakeholders, etc.) both during and after the period of the grant. These goals should be accompanied by quantitative indicators. Advice on the components to be included in the strategic plan/ workplan are provided in the Guidelines for Applicants.

In their application, applicants shall describe the way in which the requested grant will contribute to their multi-annual strategic plan/ workplan. They shall also describe how the implementation of this plan is expected to contribute to the achievement of one (or multiple) Active Citizens Fund outcomes. In their application, applicants shall also estimate what will be the grant’s share of the organisation’s total foreseen revenue for the duration of the grant period.

Under this open call, applicants can request a grant amount of up to 30% of the organisation’s average annual turnover for the three financial years 2018, 2019, 2020.

Payments of the grant will be made in six-monthly lump-sum installments, in the form of advance, interim and final payments. As a pre-requisite for the interim and final grant payments, project promoters must submit financial and narrative reports to the Fund Operator which, at a minimum, will consist of the latest narrative and financial general annual reports of the organisation. Project promoters will not need to provide reports on the specific expenditure made under the grant and payments do not depend on the costs

actually incurred by the project promoter. The costs are considered incurred within the project once paid to the project promoter. Project promoters need to keep detailed accounts of expenditure according to accounting standards and generally accepted accounting principles.

The final payment will be released after the end of the project implementation and following the submission of an assurance report by an external auditor based on an 'agreed upon procedure' assignment. The cost of the audit must be included in the cost of the requested grant. The auditor's report must confirm that the project promoter has used the grant in accordance with the purpose and provisions of the grant agreement. If the project promoter commissions annual statutory audit reports for other purposes, the report of the latest year of the project implementation may be provided instead, provided it covers and specifically mentions the EEA Grants contribution, and provided that the report is available within a timeframe that does not delay the final payment.

Only one application per organisation can be submitted to this 7th open call. In case more than one application per organisation is submitted, only the last will be considered for evaluation.

Projects implemented under this call for organisational grants shall not include project partners.

Participation in previous calls of the Programme either as project promoters or partners does not affect the right of civil society organisations to apply for and receive funding through this 7th open call.

Eligible Applicants

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

"A non-profit voluntary organisation established as a legal entity, having a non-commercial purpose, independent of local, regional and central government, public entities, political parties and commercial organisations. 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** organisations¹ 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

¹ Includes associations of non-profit organizations with legal entity (e.g. federations).

- 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 organisations 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 organisation;
 - 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;
 - 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 organisations.

Political parties and religious organisations², social partners³ or profit-distributing cooperatives are not considered NGOs and are not eligible.

Social enterprises⁴ are not considered NGOs and are not eligible.

Foundations⁵ and faith-based organisations⁶ are considered eligible NGOs as long as they fulfill the above requirements.

Organisations 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.

² Religious institutions do not include faith-based organizations as described below (footnote 5), which are eligible.

³ Social partners are defined as trades unions and employers' negotiating bodies, as defined by the EU.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Foundations set up for public benefit are eligible, if independent from political party or central, regional or local government control.

⁶ 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).

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

Especially for this call, in order to be eligible, applicants must:

- 1) Be legally registered for at least 48 months before the day of the deadline for submitting applications.
- 2) Have an average annual turnover (total annual revenue) of at least €300,000 for the three financial years 2018, 2019, 2020.
- 3) Have a multi-annual strategic plan/ workplan, which must cover all the duration of the project. It is envisaged that organisations will submit their pre-existing multi-annual strategic plan/ workplan, however it is also acceptable for them to create or update their strategic plan for the purposes of applying for this call.

Size of grants and grant rate

The amount of €150,000 is the maximum grant amount and the amount of €80,000 is the minimum grant amount for the projects that will be funded under this call.

The grant rate for projects funded under this call is **100%**.

Duration of Grants

The duration of the grants will be between 12 and 18 months and will be defined in the project contract. Grants can begin from the date of the signing of the contract or on a later date, and must be completed by April 30, 2024 at the latest.

Location of Grants

1. The selected grants will be implemented throughout the Greek territory, at a local, regional or national level.
2. CSOs located in rural or/ and remote areas⁷ and meet the eligibility criteria, are highly encouraged to apply.
3. CSOs that are currently implementing projects in rural and remote areas and meet the eligibility criteria, are strongly encouraged to submit proposals.

⁷ 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.

Deadline for application submission

The deadline for receipt of applications is **February 15, 2022** at 23:59 (EET).

How to apply

Applicants must submit the completed application form provided on the Programme website (in Greek), including the annexes, together with their multi-annual strategic plan/workplan and all the required supporting documents before the deadline for submitting applications.

Applicants should consult the [Guidelines for Applicants](#) to familiarise themselves with the rules of the Programme and to ensure the correct submission of their application.

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 electronically** via the website of the Programme using the online platform [here](#). Information on approved projects will be published on the Programme website within four (4) months from the deadline of submission of project proposals and all applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application within reasonable time.

Contact Information

The contact person for this call is:

- Sophia Zacharaki, Programme Officer – Bodossaki Foundation

Questions may be sent to the Fund Operator no later than ten (10) working days before the deadline for the submission of project proposals. The Fund Operator 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 "Open call for organizational grants" to the address below:

E-mail: szacharaki@bodossaki.gr
Sophia Zacharaki, Programme Officer

For more information visit our website: 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.

Athens, December 15, 2021