

# ACTIVE CITIZENS FUND



- ▲ **Programme area:** Civil Society
- ▲ **Programme allocation:** € 15,000,000
- ▲ **Programme operator:** Financial Mechanism Office
- ▲ **Fund operator:** Consortium of Open Society Fund Prague, Committee of Good Will
  - Olga Havel Foundation and Czech Scouting Institute
- ▲ **Contact details:** [www.osf.cz](http://www.osf.cz)

**Description of the programme:** The objective of the Active Citizens Fund is: “Civil society and active citizenship strengthened and vulnerable groups empowered”. The fund shall seek to develop the long-term sustainability and capacity of the civil society sector, strengthening its role in promoting democratic participation, active citizenship and human rights.

**Programme outcomes are:**

- 1) Increased citizen participation in civic activities
- 2) Strengthened civil society advocacy and watchdog role
- 3) Empowered vulnerable groups
- 4) Increased support for civic education and media literacy
- 5) Increased capacity and sustainability of the civil society sector and individual civil society organizations (CSOs)

**Programme implementation modalities:**

- Strategic grants (implementation period of 36-48 months)
- Mid-sized grants (12-30 months)
- Action grants (6-12 months), including matching grants

All projects supported under the strategic grants and mid-sized grants should include a capacity building component of the total project costs as obligatory part.

**Bilateral relations** will be supported through a permanently open call from the very beginning of the programme.

The programme will be implemented also by two pre-defined projects that will focus on:

- increasing interest of the youth in public affairs and their participation in civic activities and;
- building CSOs' competencies and sharing experience in advocacy work.

**Expected timeline:**

- Launch of the calls expected between June - September 2019 (followed by seminars for applicants).
- Start of the supported projects expected from January/February 2020.

**Eligible applicants:** A non-profit, voluntary organisation established as a legal entity in the Czech Republic according to Czech Legislation Act No. 89/2012 Coll., the Civil Code, having a non-commercial purpose, independent of local, regional and central government, public entities, political parties and commercial organisations (non-governmental organisation - NGO).

**Bilateral cooperation** will be based on:

1. Grants for bilateral cooperation;
2. Study trips on specific topics for project promoters organized by the fund operator.