

Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway

**Active
citizens fund**

Invitation to Bid for the Role as Fund Operator

Information Session, Riga, 20 March 2018

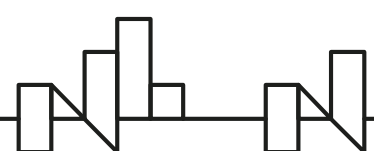
Thea Beck Syversen, Sector Officer Civil Society
Adelin Lihaug, Legal Officer

Financial Mechanism Office
EEA and Norway Grants

Agenda

1. **Why?** Context
2. **What?** Programme and country specifics
3. **Who?** Role of Fund Operator
4. **How?** FO selection procedure
5. **When?** Implementation period and timeline

Questions at the end please



1. Why?

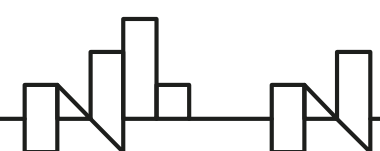
Context

- **EEA and Norwegian Grants 2014-2021**
 - €2.8 billion across 15 beneficiary countries
 - EEA Agreement: minimum 10% country allocation for civil society

- **Active Citizens Fund**

EEA Agreement and Regulation:

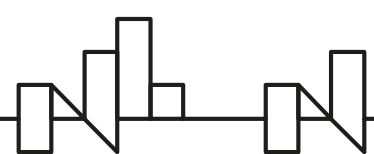
- Fund Operator (FO) directly contracted by FMO, independent of government
- FMO is Programme Operator
- Programme Implementation Agreement between FMO and FO



2. What?

Active Citizens Fund - Latvia

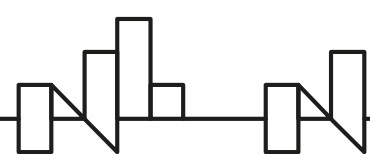
- Memorandum of Understanding signed 14 December 2017
- Total EEA and Norway Grants allocation to Latvia: €102.1 million to 8 programmes
- €8.5 million to support civil society



2. What?

Programme objective

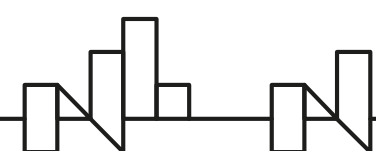
“Civil society and active citizenship strengthened and vulnerable groups empowered”



2. What?

What can be supported?

Areas of Support	Programme Area Specifics	
1. Democracy, active citizenship, good governance and transparency	At least 1/3 shall be allocated to Areas of Support (1) and (2)	Youth inclusion
2. Human rights and equal treatment through combating any discrimination on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation or gender identity		
3. Social justice and inclusion of vulnerable groups	Special conditions for welfare service provision	At least 15% contributes to capacity development and sustainability of the civil society sector
4. Gender equality and gender-based violence		
5. Environment and climate change	Only as part of raising awareness, advocacy, promoting active citizenship etc.	

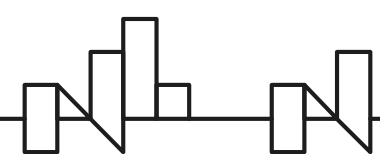
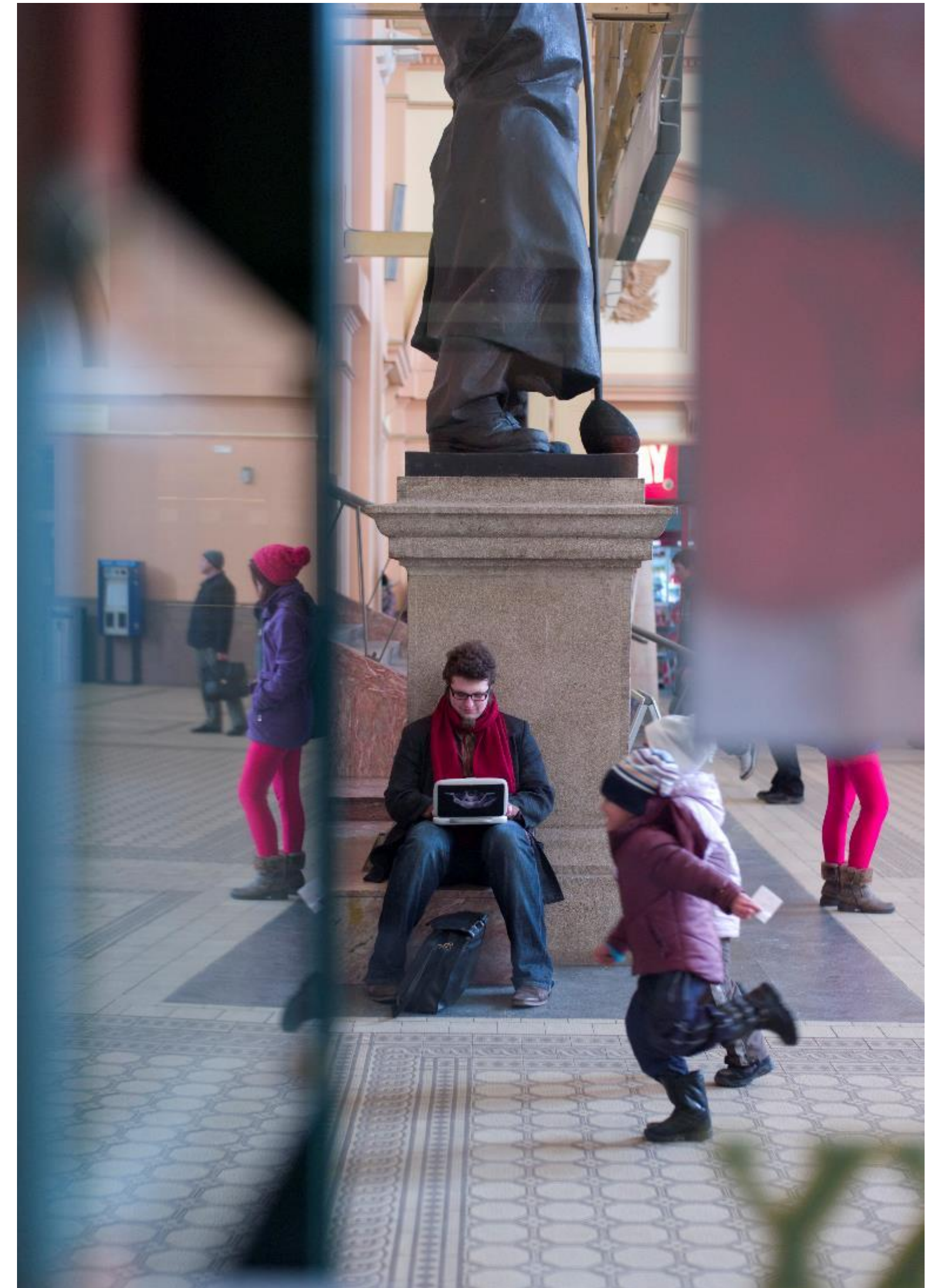


2. What?

Country-Specific Conditions

The Programme shall address the following country-specific areas and concerns:

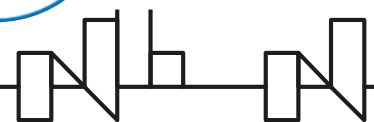
- Strengthen the capacity and sustainability of the civil society sector
- Improve outreach to under-served geographic areas and target groups
- Initiatives promoting inter-cultural integration



2. What?

Main responsibilities of the Fund Operator

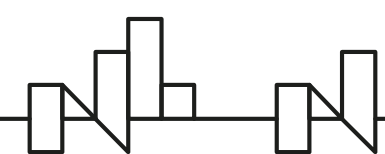
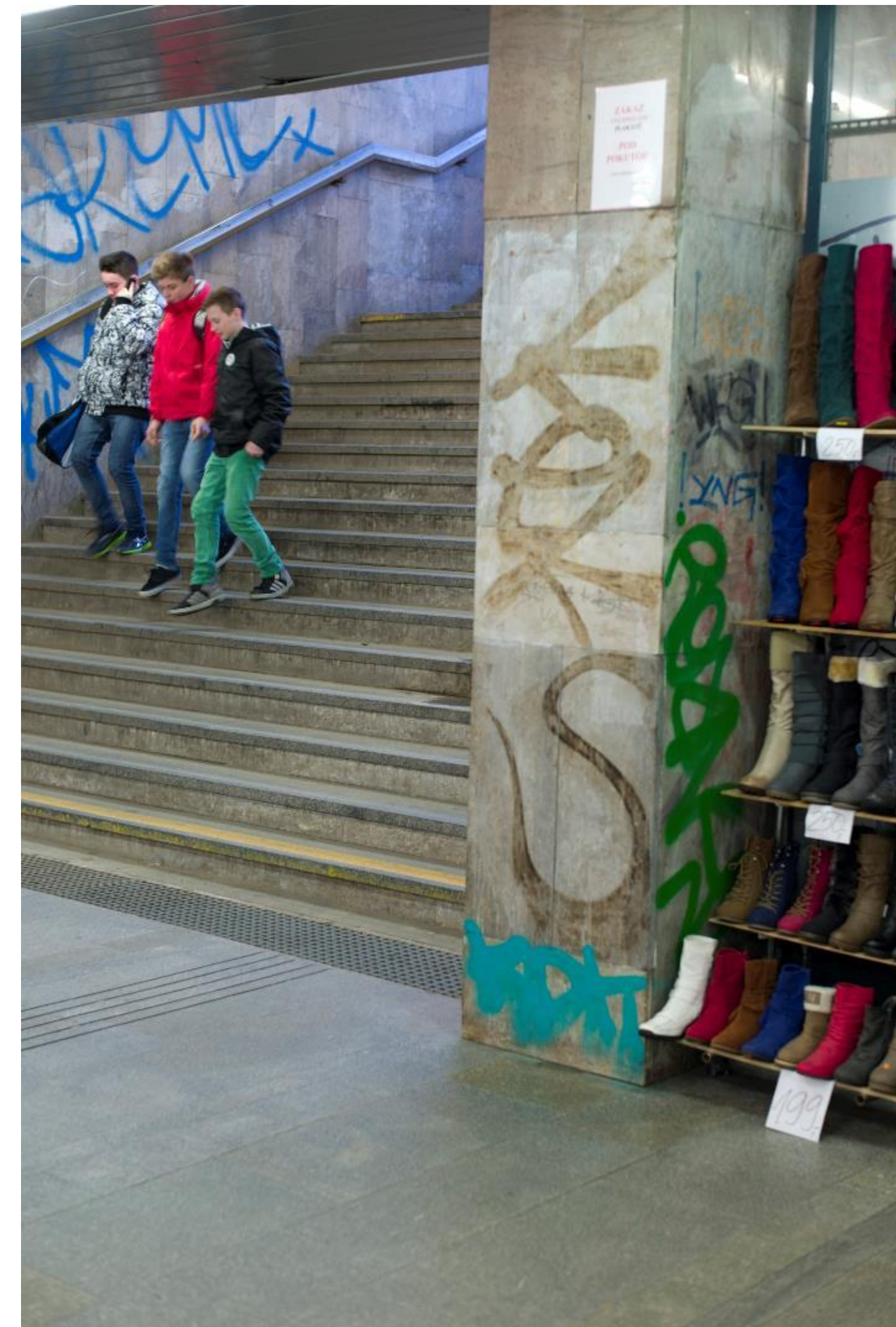
- Build the capacity and sustainability of civil society organisations and the sector
- Support project preparation and implementation
- Support regional exchange through regional civil society initiatives
- Promote and facilitate bilateral cooperation
- Communicate and provide information on the Active Citizens Fund
- Establish a system to manage, control and evaluate the programme



3. Who?

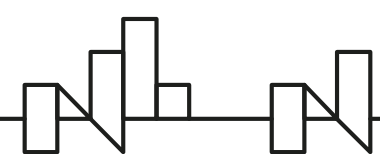
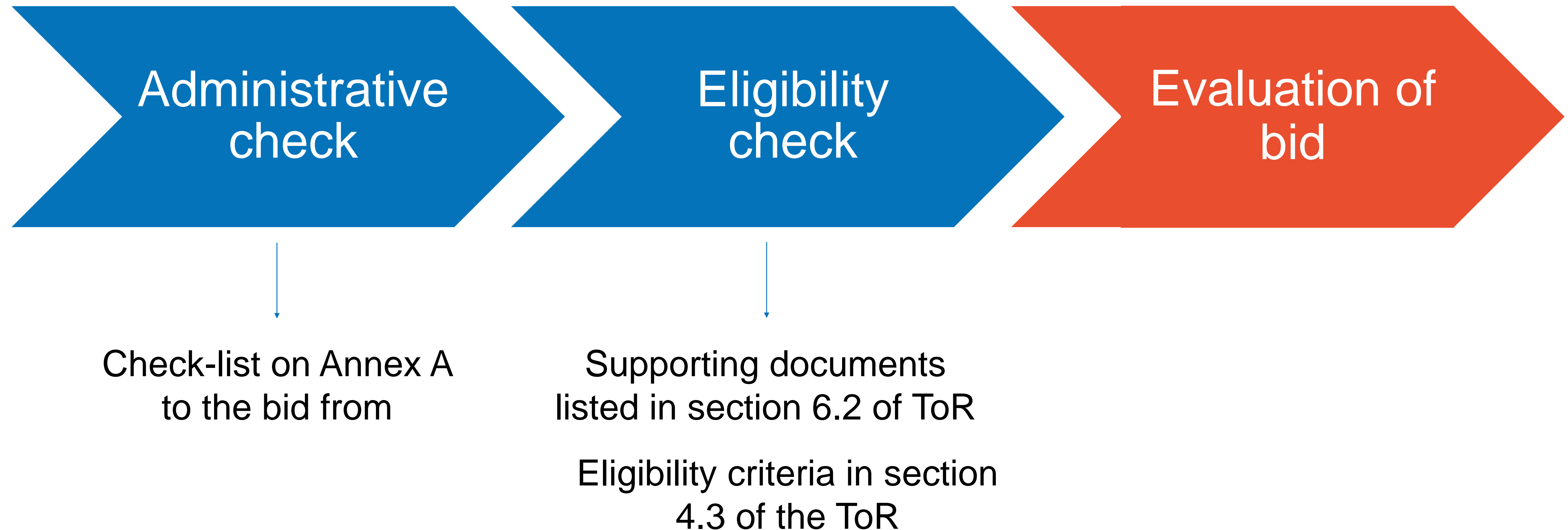
Requirements for Fund Operators

- **All organisations submitting a bid must:**
 - Be legal entities established in the EEA and
 - Be non-governmental and independent and
 - Form a consortium and
 - Be financially sustainable and
 - Have sector experience from Latvia
- In addition, the **lead bidder** must:
 - Be non-profit making with a non-commercial purpose
- **At least one organisation** must:
 - Have re-granting experience
 - Have experience in capacity building



3. Who?

How Fund Operators are selected

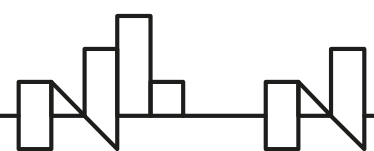


3. Who?

Evaluation criteria

- 1/2** First half of the evaluation
- Competence, expertise and experience
 - Management set-up of the consortium

- 2/2** Second half of the evaluation
- Programme description and justification



4. How?

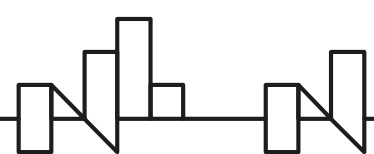
How to apply

- Instructions in **ToR** and **bid form (Annex A)**
 - Use administrative check-list in bid form
 - Max. 25 pages (minus annexes)
- Annex supporting documents to the bid
 - English translations of statutes/articles of association
 - External audit report of the Lead Bidder
 - A copy of the Lead Bidder's latest accounts
 - CVs of staff designated to the Programme
 - Chart/organigram of management set-up
 - Declaration of the Bidder (Annex A section 8)
 - Consortium member statement (Annex A section 9)
 - Budget (ToR Annex B)
- Submit bid via email to acfund@efta.int

DEADLINE

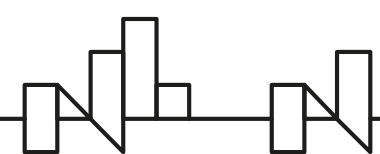
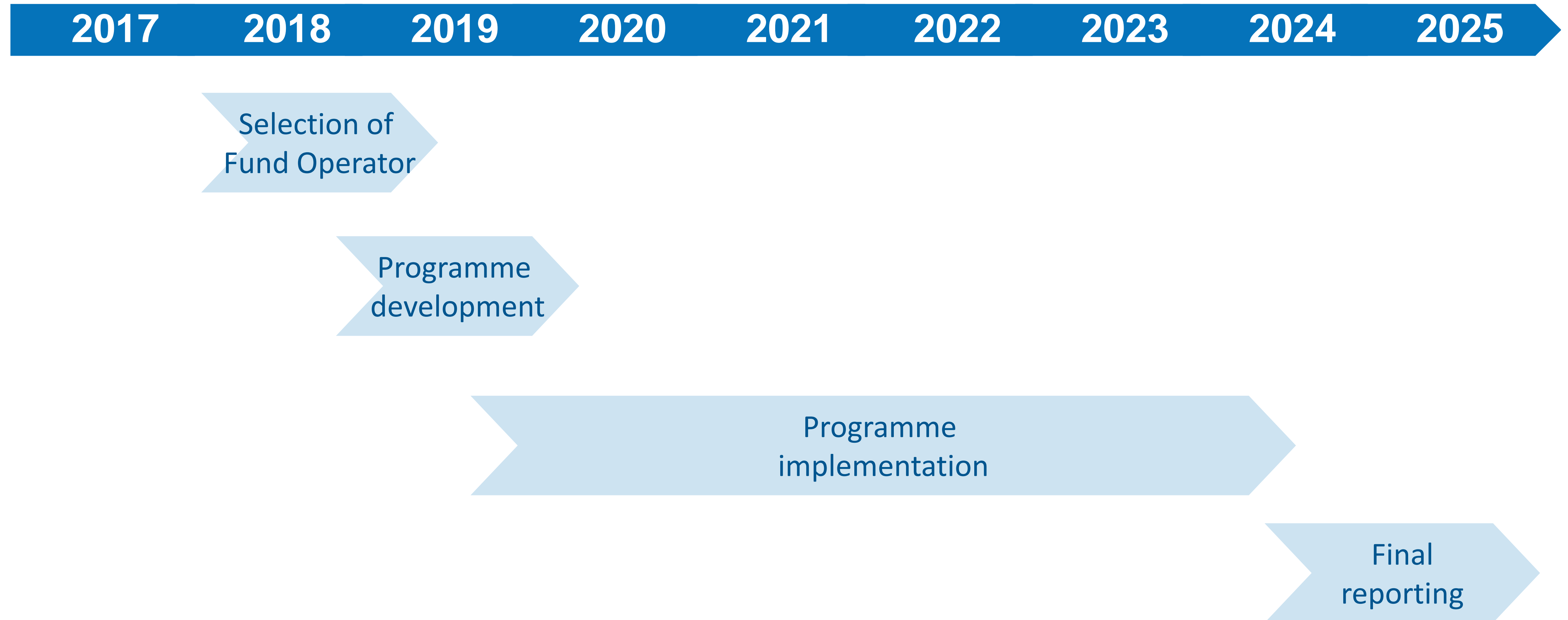
4 May 2018

12:00 CET



5. When?

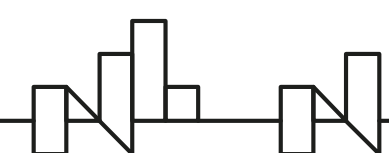
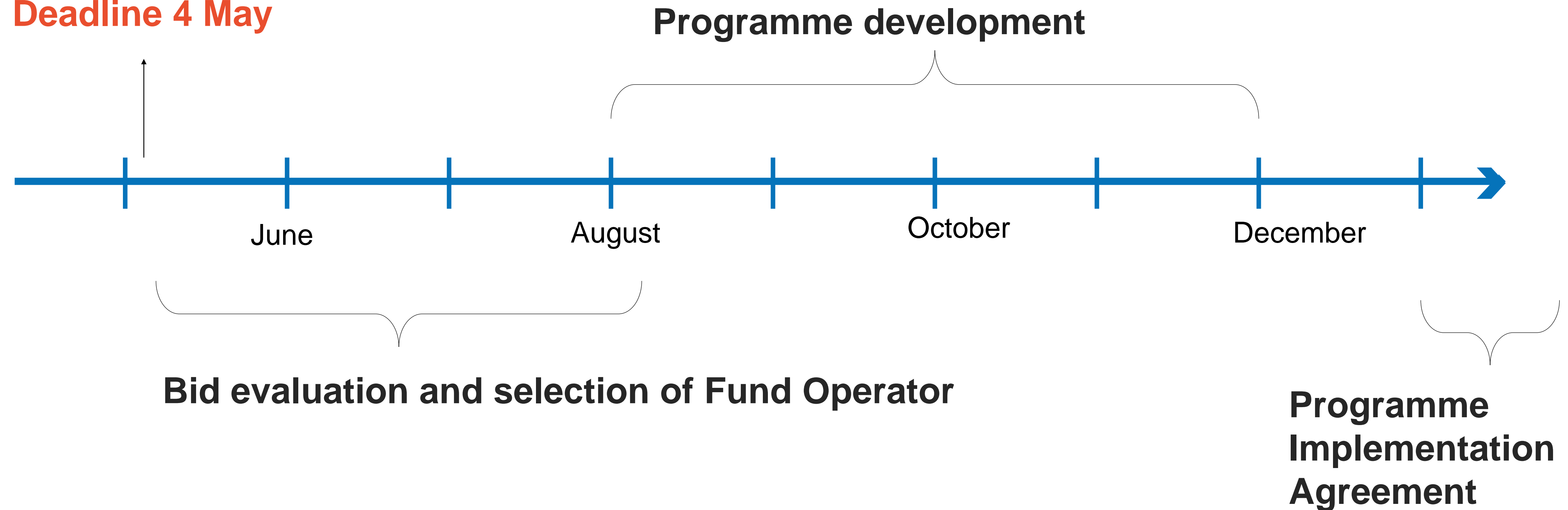
Programme implementation period



5. When?

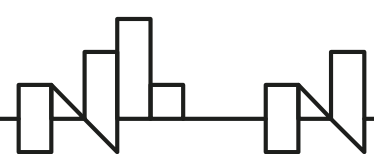
Tentative timeline for selecting FO and developing the programme

Deadline 4 May



Questions?

- Questions to **acfund@efta.int** up to 10 business days 4 May
- Questions and answers published on EEA and Norway Grants Active Citizens Fund website: activecitizensfund.org



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Thank you!

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