

Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway

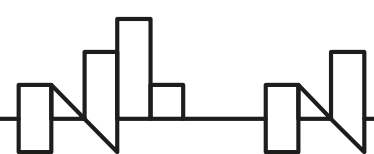
**Active
citizens fund**

Information Session for Potential Bidders for Fund Operator Role

**Active Citizens Fund 2014-2021
Financial Mechanism Office, Brussels**

Agenda

- 1. Why:** Context
- 2. What:** Active Citizens Fund:
 - Objective
 - Areas of Support
 - Regional civil society initiatives
 - Bilateral funds
 - Capacity building
- 3. Who:** Role of Fund Operator
- 4. Where:** The ACF in your beneficiary country
- 5. When:** Timeline for contracting and developing programme
- 6. How:** Steps to apply

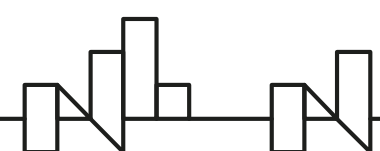


1. Why?

Context

- **EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014-2021**
 - €2.8 billion across 15 beneficiary countries
 - Civil society one of 5 priority sectors
 - Specific priorities in each beneficiary country set out in Memorandum of Understanding
 - EEA Agreement: minimum 10% country allocation for civil society
 - Reflects donor commitment to support civil society

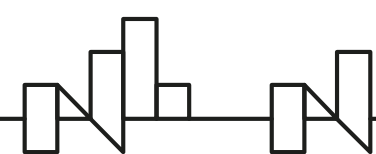
- **Active Citizens Fund**
 - EEA Agreement and Regulation for FM 2014-21:
 - Fund Operator directly contracted by FMO, autonomous of government
 - FMO is Programme Operator
 - Programme Implementation Agreement between FMO and FO



2. What?

Programme objective

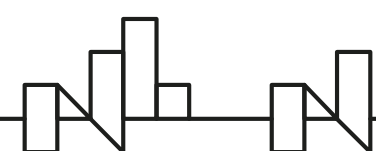
Civil society and active citizenship strengthened and vulnerable groups empowered



2. What?

What can be supported?

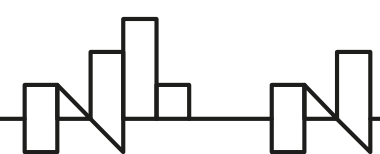
Areas of Support	Programme Area Specifics	
1. Democracy, active citizenship, good governance and transparency	At least 1/3 shall be allocated to Areas of Support (1) and (2)	Youth inclusion
2. Human rights and equal treatment through combating any discrimination on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin, 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?

Regional Civil Society Initiatives and Bilateral Funds

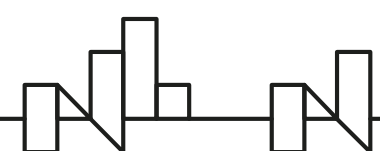
- **Regional Civil Society Initiatives**
 - Promote regional exchange and networking with a view to strengthening civil society sector across the beneficiary countries
- **Fund for Bilateral Relations**
 - Strengthening bilateral relations between civil society organisations and other entities in the beneficiary countries and in the donor countries



2. What?

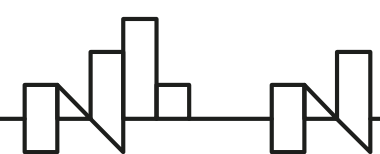
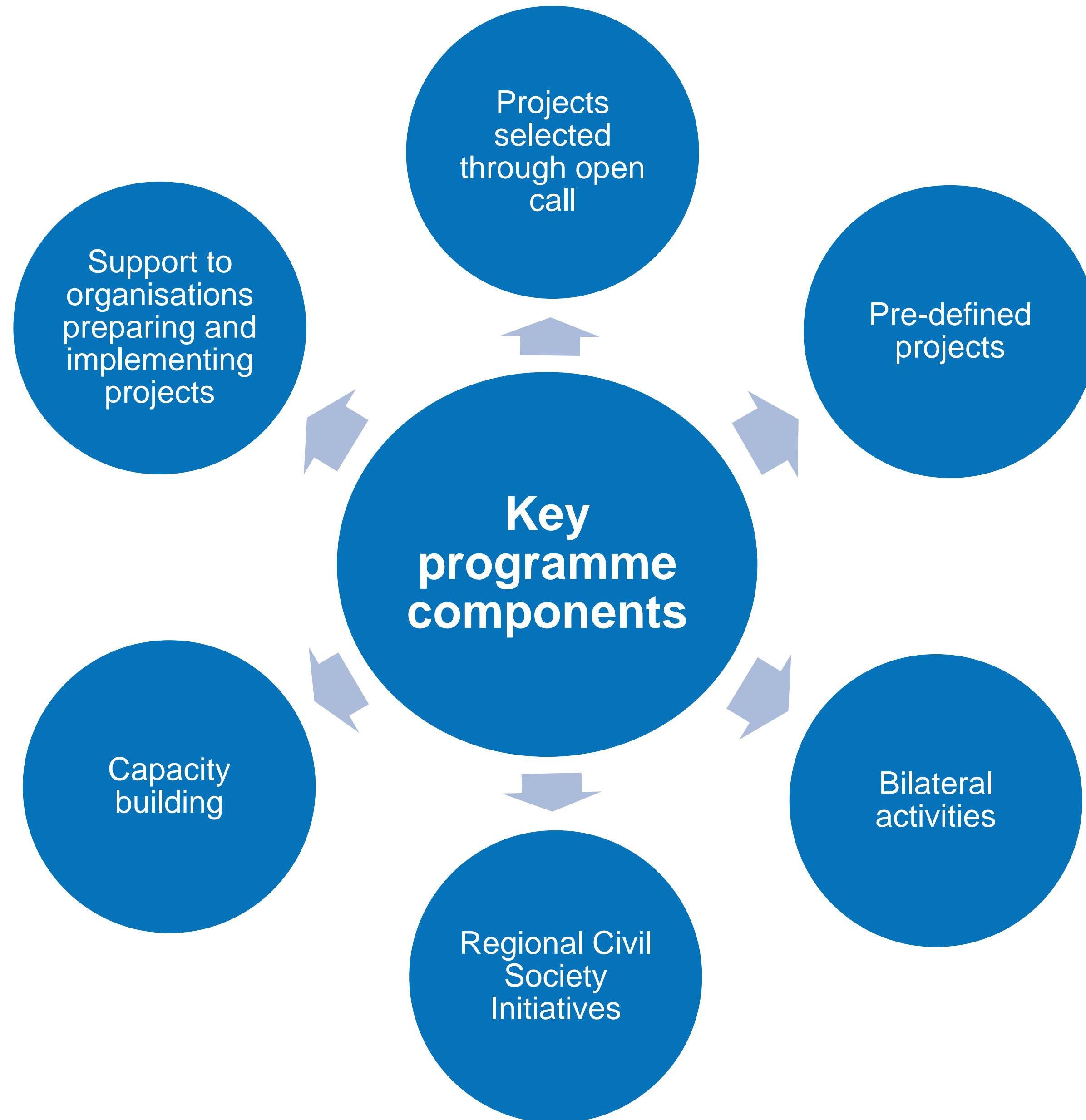
Capacity building

- Developing long-term sustainability and capacity, with the aim of helping civil society achieve and sustain effective impact
 - **Level of the sector:** can include support to networking and partnerships across civil society, policy and advocacy, research etc
 - **Level of individual NGOs:** organisational development, as well as support to project preparation and implementation
- Minimum 15% re-granting funds for capacity development and sustainability; **and**
- Capacity development should be integrated across the programme



2. What?

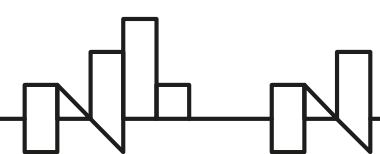
Overview of key components



3. Who?

What are we looking for?

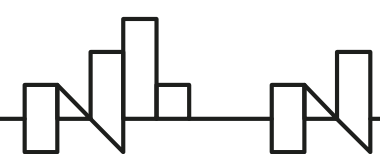
- Knowledge of civil society in the beneficiary country
- Experience and a vision for capacity building of the sector
- Re-granting experience
- When evaluating bids, we look for:
 - **Competence, expertise and experience** of staff and organisations
 - **Management set-up of consortium** reflecting strategic partnership between lead and co-bidders. Extra points for new partners and new lead
 - **Programme description and justification** that shows a clear, logical and well justified response to the challenges of the sector



3. Who?

Eligibility for the role of Fund Operator

- **All organisations submitting bid** must:
 - Be legal entities established in the EEA; and
 - Be non-governmental; and
 - Form a consortium; and
 - Be financially sustainable; and
 - Have civil society sector experience
- **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



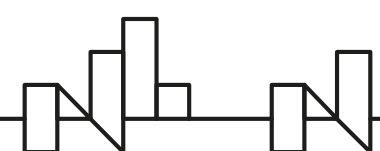
Active Citizens Fund in Slovenia



4. Where?

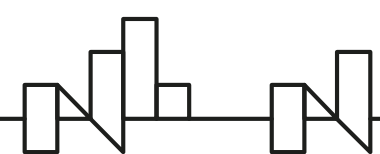
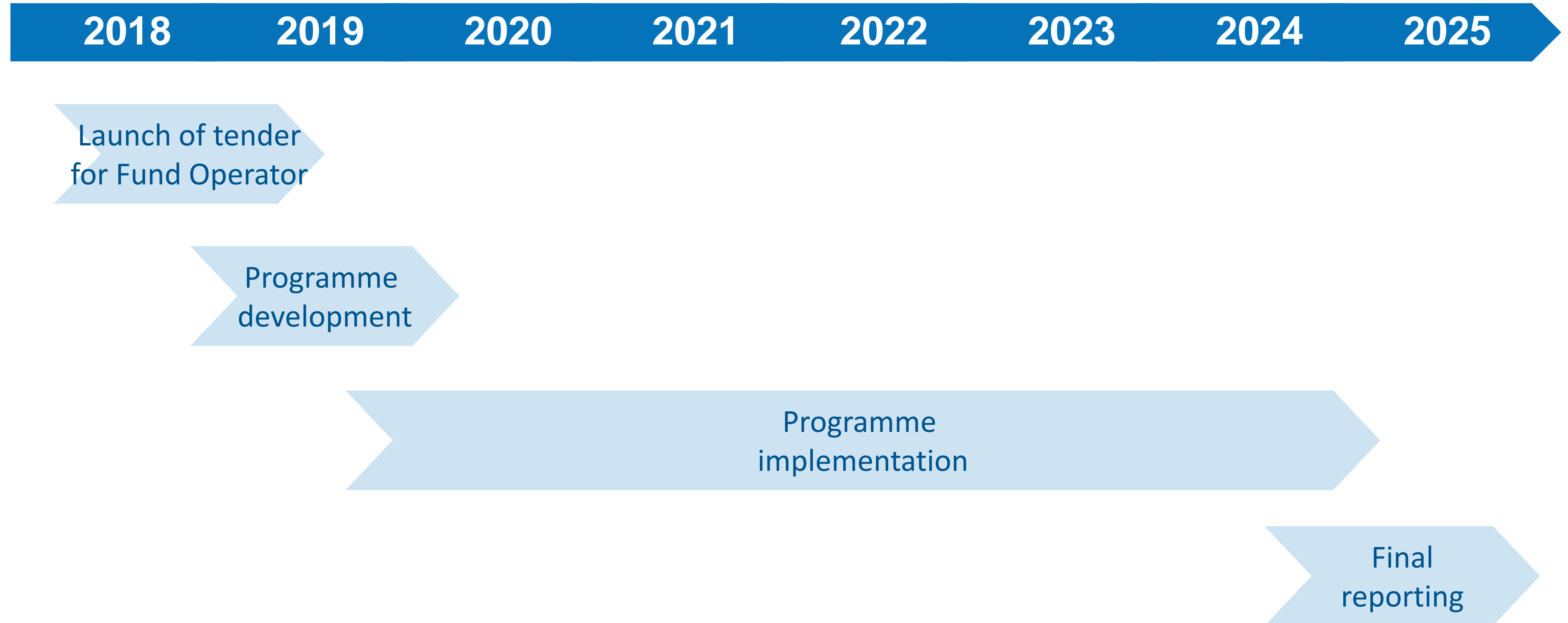
Active Citizens Fund in Slovenia

- **Total allocation:**
 - Memorandum of Understanding signed 17 April 2018
 - Allocation to Slovenia: EUR 19,9 million
 - Allocation to the Active Citizens Fund in Slovenia: EUR 3 million
- **Country-specific concerns:**
 - Strengthen the capacity and sustainability of the civil society sector
 - Improve outreach to under-served geographic areas and target groups
 - Empowerment and inclusion of vulnerable groups, including Roma and migrants



5. When?

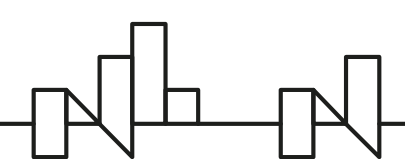
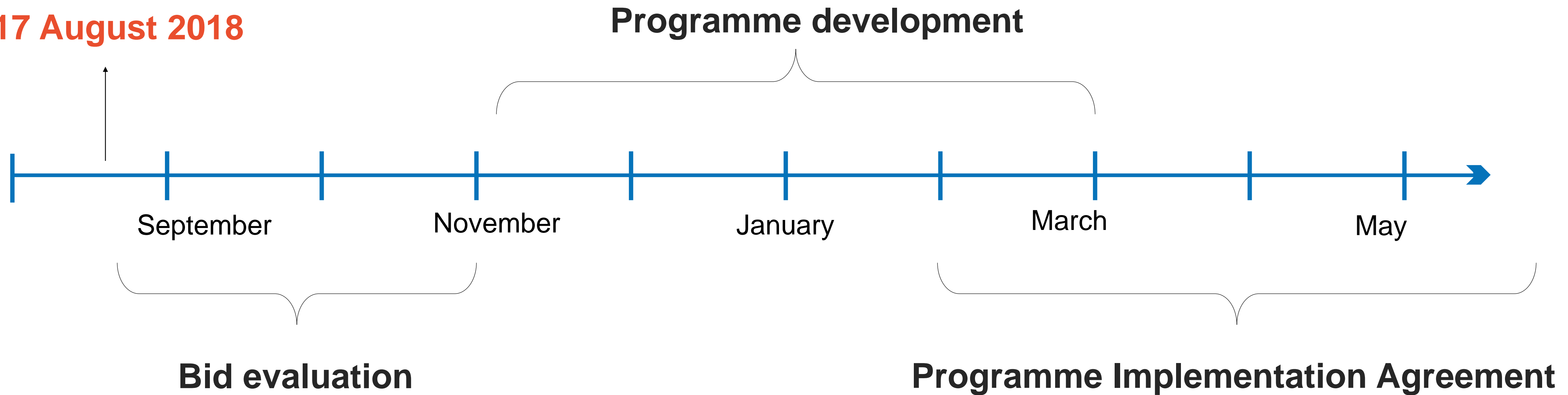
Programme period – indicative timeline



5. When?

FO contracting and programme development – indicative timeline

17 August 2018

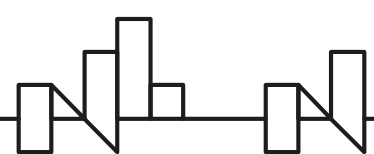


6. How?

How to apply?

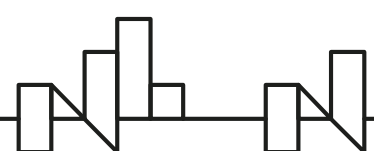
- **Bid form and supporting documents**
- Consult administrative checklist before submitting
- Submit bid to acfund@efta.int

- **Deadline: 17 August 2018, at 12:00 CEST**



Further information

- Questions to acfund@efta.int up to 10 business days before submission deadline
- Questions and answers are published on the EEA and Norway Grants website: www.activecitizensfund.org



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Mail: acfund@efta.int

The live Q&A session will start soon

Please send us your questions through the Q&A box