



Project **snapshots**

In Hungary, the project 'Glassvillage' has increased the knowledge and awareness of NGOs, citizens, and local elected representatives of their rights to access and publish public information.

Project link: bit.ly/2aJBei4

In Estonia, local governments worked in cooperation with local civic organisations in the project e-Governance Academy which increased the awareness and capacity of local governments to implement open, transparent and participatory governance. Project link: bit.ly/2fyZK9K



“The NGO capacity building programme implemented in Greece turned out to be the most comprehensive such programme conducted in the country to date, resulting in improved organisational capacity in 95% of the project promoter NGOs.”

Sotiris Laganopoulos, Bodossaki Foundation
(Fund Operator in Greece 2009-2014)



Supporting civil society

What is the Active Citizens Fund?

Support to civil society is a key priority for Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway in the EEA and Norway Grants. An Active Citizens Fund funded by the three donors will be established in each of the 15 beneficiary countries of the Grants. The objective is to develop the long-term sustainability and capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs) and the civil society sector as a whole, with the aim of strengthening its role in contributing to policy and systemic change, promoting democratic participation and active citizenship.

www.activecitizensfund.org
www.eeagrants.org
f t i in EEANorwayGrants

Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway



Active citizens fund

Why support civil society in Europe?

A vibrant civil society constitutes a fundamental building block in any democratic society. Enabling people to take part in policy-shaping and decision making is key to democratic legitimacy. CSOs play a vital role in mobilising and engaging citizens and raising awareness of key issues and challenges in society, both as partners for the government and as watchdogs.

What is supported?

The objective of the Active Citizens Fund is to strengthen civil society and active citizenship and empower vulnerable groups.

There are five thematic areas eligible for support that should contribute to reach the objective:

- Democracy, active citizenship, good governance and transparency
- 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
- Social justice and inclusion of vulnerable groups
- Gender equality and gender-based violence
- Environment and climate change

How does it work?

Funding for projects is made available through open calls for proposals in each beneficiary country for different thematic areas. Local organisations act as interlocutors in each country and re-grant project funding to civil society. This contributes to the capacity building of the sector through the organisations' support to applicants and beneficiaries.

When will funding become available?

Calls for proposals will be launched from the middle of 2018 and onwards. Follow www.eeagrants.org for updates.

Who can benefit from the funding?

The lead applicant for a project has to be an NGO registered in the country where the call is launched. Eligible project partners include, but is not limited to, public and private organisations, international organisations, and informal and ad-hoc groups.



Iceland

Where will funding become available?

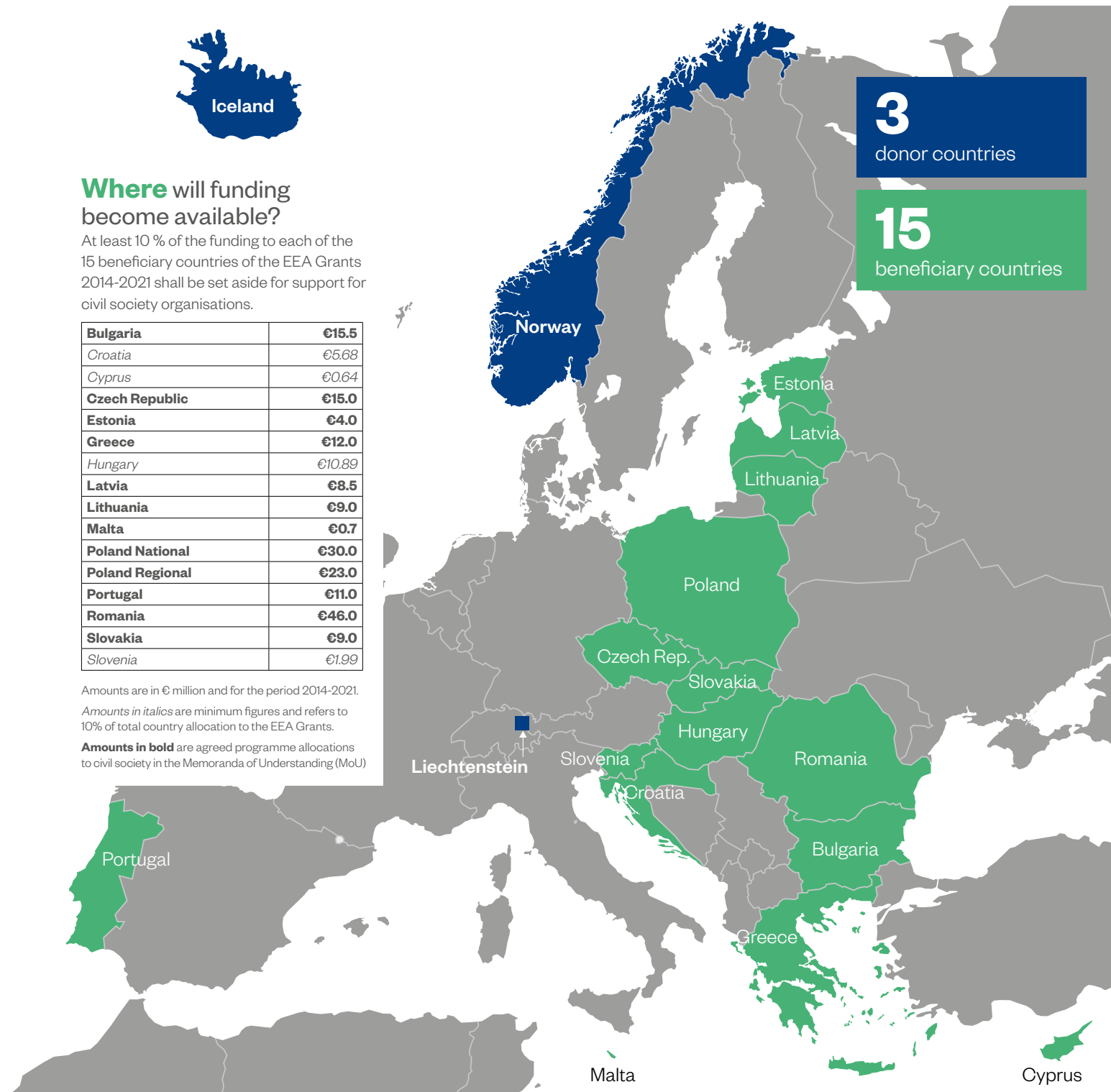
At least 10 % of the funding to each of the 15 beneficiary countries of the EEA Grants 2014-2021 shall be set aside for support for civil society organisations.

Bulgaria	€15.5
<i>Croatia</i>	<i>€5.68</i>
<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>€0.64</i>
Czech Republic	€15.0
Estonia	€4.0
Greece	€12.0
<i>Hungary</i>	<i>€10.89</i>
Latvia	€8.5
Lithuania	€9.0
Malta	€0.7
Poland National	€30.0
Poland Regional	€23.0
Portugal	€11.0
Romania	€46.0
Slovakia	€9.0
<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>€1.99</i>

Amounts are in € million and for the period 2014-2021.

Amounts in italics are minimum figures and refers to 10% of total country allocation to the EEA Grants.

Amounts in bold are agreed programme allocations to civil society in the Memoranda of Understanding (MoU)



3
donor countries

15
beneficiary countries

Cooperation with donor partners

The Active Citizens Fund seeks to strengthen bilateral relations between civil society organisations in the beneficiary and donor countries through cooperation. The Norwegian Helsinki Committee is the contact point for cooperation with Norwegian organisations. Human Rights Centre in Iceland is the contact point for cooperation with Icelandic organisations.

About the EEA and Norway Grants

The European Economic Area (EEA) and Norway Grants represent the contribution of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway towards a green, competitive and inclusive Europe. There are two overall objectives: reduction of economic and social disparities in Europe, and to strengthen bilateral relations between the donor countries and the 15 beneficiary countries. For the period 2014-2021, the total contribution is €2.8 billion.

Under the EEA Agreement, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are part of the European internal market. The EEA Agreement sets out the common goal of working together to reduce social and economic disparities in Europe.

Key achievements from our previous civil society programmes

