



Gender equality and gender-based violence

EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021

The EEA and Norway Grants have two main objectives: to reduce social and economic disparities and to promote bilateral relations between the Donor and Beneficiary States. Gender equality contributes directly to both objectives as it is a premise for sustainable social and economic development. Iceland and Norway are leaders in this field, ranking first and second in the Global Gender Equality Index, thus gender equality is also an obvious theme for bilateral cooperation with Beneficiary States.

The EEA and Norway Grants offer a unique opportunity for entities from Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein and 15 EU countries to work together to promote gender equality.

Background

The [EEA and Norway Grants](#) have addressed gender equality through the three financial mechanisms to date. In the 09-14 mechanism, gender equality was a “horizontal concern” listed in the Regulations. Horizontal concerns are not featured in the 14-21 financial mechanism, but gender equality remains an important value underpinning the Grants.

The range of activities and dedicated programme (components) in the current funding period reflect both the high bilateral interest in the topic and its importance for the overall objectives of the Grants:

- Two programme areas explicitly address gender equality: [PA4 - Work-life Balance](#) and [PA22 - Domestic and Gender-based Violence](#)
- Several programmes under other headings such as justice, home affairs, business, innovation, applied research, health, human rights, local development and Roma have dedicated components addressing gender equality
- The [Active Citizens Fund](#) includes gender equality as a focus area for support to civil society organisations.
- The [Fund for Youth Employment](#) has highlighted women as a target group and end beneficiaries in the call for proposals.
- In the event of a new call in the [Fund for Regional Cooperation](#), gender equality projects could be eligible for funding.
- Several bilateral initiatives with Iceland have already taken place or are under development e.g. to reduce the gender pay gap in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, promote work-life balance in Lithuania and promote gender equality in the Foreign Service in Slovenia.
- Core indicators in the results frameworks of programmes are disaggregated by gender.

In addition, it should be noted that gender equality projects could be relevant under other EEA Norway Grants programme areas, although not explicitly listed. A more detailed overview of the programmes with dedicated gender elements is found below.

How to find partners?

Funds are generally available to facilitate partnerships, including travel support. The national programme webpage and/or the fund operator's web page is a useful resource, or they can be contacted directly for information about relevant open calls, eligibility or cooperation opportunities. The EEA Norway Grants Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) [website](#) is also a useful resource.

The [donor programme partners](#) in each programme ([Rannís](#) or the [National Energy Authority](#) for Iceland) or in the case of the Active Citizens Fund, the [Norwegian Helsinki Committee](#) and the [Icelandic Human Rights Centre](#) can assist you in finding a partner. They will have an overview of upcoming information meetings, partnership events, seed/travel funds and calls for proposals coming up in their field. In cooperation with the programme/fund operators, the donor programme partners and the Norwegian Helsinki Committee regularly arrange matchmaking events which may be of interest.

Some donor programme partners and the Helsinki Committee have also established [databases](#) in which you can enter your information and express your interest in cooperation. Finally, the many Donor State embassies are engaged in the EEA and Norway Grants and will be able to facilitate partnerships.

More information may be found in the [Partnership Guide](#) on the FMO website.

Programmes with gender focus or elements

Gender Equality and Work-life Balance Programme in Portugal

The [programme](#) (EEA Grants) aims to promote equal gender opportunities in the labour market, improve accountability systems for women's equal participation and strengthen systems to address and prevent domestic and gender-based violence. In addition to four pre-defined projects, funding will be made available through five open calls and two small grant schemes. Three calls, and the small grant schemes have closed, but the indicative timeline for the two remaining calls; Call 2: Ungendering choices and behaviours; and Improving the legal system to foster gender equality, is Q4 2019.

Domestic and Gender-based Violence Programme in Slovakia

The [programme](#) (Norway Grants) aims to support survivors of domestic and gender-based violence by creating conditions for effective assistance and support them to escape the violence and re-integrate into society and the labour market. The focus is on vulnerable groups, including children, and the Roma population. Projects shall contribute to the provision of quality services by public entities and NGOs working for survivors, primarily through support to shelters and counselling services. The programme also addresses broader gender equality issues, e.g. through education and awareness-raising, institutional support and capacity building for women's and equality organisations, targeted measures and services for work-life balance. Several open calls will be launched; the call texts are found on the [website](#) of the Programme Operator. Partners from Norway and other Beneficiary States are eligible.

Local Development Programme Estonia

One aspect of the [programme](#) is to support measures to reduce domestic and gender-based violence and combat gender inequalities. This will be done through pre-defined projects to strengthen support and services for survivors of gender-based violence and establishing a virtual competence centre on gender equality. Two open calls provide venues for cooperation: one open call for projects covering

awareness raising activities on gender-based violence and to discourage demand for prostitution (Call 3) (Norway Grants); and one small grants scheme to train specialists in gender-based violence and develop a therapy programme for sex-buyers (SGS 3) (EEA Grants). The tentative timing for the calls is Q4 2019. The call texts will be published on the [website](#) of the Programme Operator.

Human Rights Programme in the Czech Republic

The [programme](#) (Norway Grants) will address the protection of survivors of domestic and gender-based violence through projects establishing specialized centres and capacity building in the existing intervention centres. Organizations providing interventions targeting violent offenders in order to protect potential victims will be supported. An important component is capacity building in public administration, for education professionals and social workers through training and awareness raising to improve the knowledge of current, new and emerging forms of gender-based violence. A criminological research project will analyse the scope of domestic and gender-based violence and support the development of evidenced-based and efficient policy development in the field. The launch of open calls is planned by the end of the year. The call text will be found on the [website](#) of the Programme Operator.

Justice Programme in Bulgaria

The [programme](#) (Norway Grants) aims to improve the judicial system and strengthen the rule of law. The target group is vulnerable people, including children and Roma, victims and perpetrators of domestic and gender-based violence, prisoners, juveniles, the judiciary and public administration, law students and the general public, all benefiting from an improved justice system. The aim is to make the justice chain more efficient and enhance cooperation and networking between justice institutions, prosecution and correctional services. The programme will also support a new training centre for legal professionals. An open call (Call 2) for projects improving the capacity of Bulgarian authorities in the area of domestic and gender-based violence is tentatively scheduled for 2020. The call text will be published on the [website](#) of the Programme Operator.

Justice Programme in Romania

In the area of domestic and gender-based violence, the [programme](#) (Norway Grants) will improve central and local authorities' capacity to implement the Istanbul Convention. To this end training will be provided for relevant actors, including judges, the police and social workers. New standards and working tools for social and medical services will be expanded, while services for perpetrators will be established. There is a focus on vulnerable groups and Roma. There will be no open calls in this programme, but bilateral cooperation could be funded from bilateral funds.

Business Development and Innovation Programme Poland

The aim of the [programme](#) is increased value creation and sustainable growth in Poland's private sector. It will contribute to increased competitiveness in Polish private enterprises by supporting innovation in products, technologies, services and processes. One aspect of the programme is a small grants scheme for female-led enterprises (SGS) (Norway Grants) to increase their competitiveness by innovative development, commercialization or application in the area of green industry, blue growth or welfare technology. The scheme will be structured in flexible modules of i.e. R&D, innovation advisory services, mentoring support and small investments to be combined. Eligible partners are private and public entities established in Poland and/or Norway. The tentative timing for the launch of the call is Q4 2019. The call text will be published on the Programme Operator [website](#).

Applied Research Programme Poland

The [programme](#) aims to increase scientific excellence; improve technology transfer processes and application of research results; and support female researchers and young researchers consolidating their research careers. The launch of the small grants scheme for female researchers in applied technical science (Norway Grants) is planned for Q3 2020. The call text will be published on the Programme Operator [website](#).

Research Programme Czech Republic

The [programme](#) (EEA and Norway Grants) supports capacity building in applied research, including support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), social sciences, humanities and arts research. Support will be given to collaborative research projects between the Czech Republic and the Donor States and additional points awarded to female led projects or projects including women researchers. A call will be launched in Q4 2019. The call text will be published on the Programme Operator [website](#).

Research Programme Romania

The [programme](#) supports research teams from Romania and the Donor States, conducting research in social sciences and humanities, including gender studies and social inclusion, as well as numerous other fields. The second call (Norway Grants) will close in December 2019. The call text is published on the Programme Operator [website](#).

The Active Citizens Fund

According to an agreement between Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and the EU, 10% of the EEA Grants are allocated to civil society through the Active Citizens Fund. In each country, the Fund is managed by operators which are independent of local, regional and central government, political parties and religious institution. The Active Citizens Fund has many open and upcoming calls relevant for gender. The Icelandic Human Rights Centre and Norwegian Helsinki Committee can assist promoters looking for partners.

Overview of operational Active Citizens Funds and **tentative** dates of calls:

EE-ActiveCitizens

Fund Operator: [Open Estonia Foundation](#) (lead) in consortium with the Network of Estonian Non-profit Organisations

Open call: 14/10-09/12.2019

Availability of funding:

Call 2: Call for small grants (capacity building) – Q4 2019

Call 3: Call for medium and large projects – Q3 2020

Call 4: Call for small grants (capacity building) – Q4 2020

Call 5: Call for small grants (capacity building) – Q4 2021

SK-ActiveCitizens

Fund Operator: [Ekopolis Foundation](#) (lead) in consortium with Open Society Foundation Slovakia and the Carpathian Foundation

Open Call: 22/10-01/02/2021

Availability of funding:

Call 2: Call for small, medium and large grants - Q3 2020

Call 3: Call for small and medium grants -Q3 2021

A separate call for bilateral initiatives is open from December 2018 to February 2021.

BG-ActiveCitizens

Fund Operator: [Open Society Institute - Sofia](#) (lead) in consortium with the Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation and the Trust for Social Achievement Foundation
CSOs actively address gender equality and domestic and gender-based violence EEA grants

Availability of Funding:

Call for Strategic Projects – Q3 2020

CZ-ActiveCitizens

Fund Operator: [Open Society Fund Prague](#) (lead) in consortium with the Committee of Good Will - Olga Havel Foundation and the Czech Scouting Institute

Availability of funding:

Call1: Call for Strategic and mid-sized partnerships – Q3 2019

Call 2: Call for Matching Grants projects – Q2 2020

Call 3: Rolling call for action grants – Q3 2020

Call 4: Call for mid-sized projects Q2 2021

Bilateral Call from Q3 2019 to Q4 2023

GR-ActiveCitizens

Fund Operator: [Bodossaki Foundation](#) (lead) in consortium with Allileggie Solidarity Now

Availability of funding:

Call 2: Call for micro-grants, medium and large projects – Q4 2019

Call 3: Call for micro-grants, medium and large projects – Q1/Q2 2020

A separate, ongoing call for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives is open from 21.02.2019 to 21.06.2024

MT-ActiveCitizens

Fund Operator: [SOS Malta](#)

Availability of funding:

Call 1: Open call for proposal closes on 25 January 2020

PT-ActiveCitizens

Fund Operator: [Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation](#) (lead) in consortium with Bissaya Barreto Foundation

Availability of funding:

Call 4: Call for large and institutional projects – Q4 2020

Call 5: Call for small projects – Q2 2021

Call 6: Call for small projects – Q2 2022

A separate call for Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives is open from July 2018 to June 2023

RO-ActiveCitizens

Fund Operator: [Civil Society Development Foundation](#) (lead) in consortium with the Romanian Environmental Partnership Foundation, Resource Centre for Roma Communities, PACT Foundation and Frivillighet Norge.

Availability of funding:

Call 2: Round 1) Q3 2019 Round 2) Q2 2020

Call 3: Round 1) Q3 2019 Round 2) Q2 2020

Call 5: Round 1) Q3 2019 Round 2) Q2 2020

Call 7: Round 1) Q3 2019 Round 2) Q2 2020

Call 8: Round 1) Q3 2019 Round 2) Q2 2020

Call 10: Q2 2020

Bilateral Calls:

Call 2: Seed money facility 2Q 2020

Call 3: 3Q 2021 ongoing

SL-ActiveCitizens

Fund Operator: [Centre for Information Service, Cooperation and Development of NGOs](#) (CNVOS) (lead) in consortium with Legal and Information Centre Maribor (PIP) and the Society for the Advancement of Voluntary Work Novo Mesto

Availability of funding:

Call 3: Call for 'quick response funds' – Q1 2020

Call 3: Call for institutional grants – Q2 2020

Call 4: Call for small projects – Q1 2021

In addition, the following programmes have smaller components related to gender equality.

Programme	Financial Mechanism
BG-HOMEAFFAIRS	NO FM
GR-ROMA	NO FM
LT-ACTIVECITIZENS	EEA FM
RO-HEALTH	EEA FM
RO-LOCALDEV	EEA&NO FM
SK-INNOVATION	NO FM