

Basic criteria

The following basic criteria for eligibility are developed based on the *Swedish CSO strategy (2016 - 2022)*, the *Guiding principles for Sida's engagement with and support to Civil Society (2019)*, the *Strategy for Sweden's reform cooperation with the Western Balkans and Turkey for 2021 – 2027*, the *Global standard for CSO accountability* and the *Proposal on the scope and set-up of the Democracy, Human Rights and Anti-corruption Fund (DHRA) in Albania*.

1. Formal requirements

1. Be registered as a not-for-profit organisation
2. Be non-partisan

2. Field of operations:

The CSO should:

1. Be able to explain how its programmes contributes to democratic governance, gender equality, greater respect for human rights, rule of law, anti-corruption, increased accountability of decision makers or a more peaceful society.
2. Be able to explain how it works towards sustainable, structural changes in society in a longer perspective.
3. Be able to explain its sources of legitimacy and how it is regarded as representative by those it claims to represent.
4. Have a network at local level.
5. Be engaged in at least two of the follow thematic areas of work:

Empowerment, participation and protection of rights of vulnerable groups - Roma and Egyptian communities, LGBTI persons, PLWDs and persons living in poverty.		Advocacy and being a collective voice to influence the public and decision makers. Strengthen civil society – government dialogue	
Increased gender equality. Women's empowerment, including economic empowerment, leadership, and political participation.		Strengthen capacity of duty bearers at national or local government level for increased transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption	
Strengthen social and economic rights of disadvantaged groups.		Promoting public participation in local or central political processes in matters that affect people's lives	
Freedom of expression, access to information and investigative journalism		Changes in in socio-cultural norms, stereotypes, attitudes, and behaviours in society	
Human Rights awareness and education		Strengthen people's capacity for reconciliation, conflict and violence prevention, including gender-based violence, and resilience to anti-democratic influences.	
Access to justice			

3. Governance structure:

1. Have adequate statutes, written mission and vision statements and goals that are accurate reflections of its operations and be able to explain how it works according to these.
2. Have a governance structure with separated roles and responsibilities divided on governing and executive bodies, i.e., a general assembly (if membership organisation), an independent and active supervisory board and an executive director, where the same persons are not involved at several levels.

4. Financial management:

1. Have an accounting software using recognized accounting standards.

2. Have separate authorization of expenditure from handling of payments.

5. Strategic importance and commitment

1. Be assessed to play strategic roles and have potential to become catalytic to systemic change within one of the Embassy's thematic portfolios
2. Be assessed to have a vision, mission and goals which coincide to a large extent with the themes and priorities of the core support programme.
3. Be assessed to be able to substantially contribute to the results defined in the core support programme's ToC and results framework
4. Be committed and willing to further improve and develop its practises, effectiveness and institutional capacities

Final Selection Criteria and requirements for core support

The CSO shall:

1. Have a long-term Strategic Plan which:
 - *outlines its strategic direction through a clear vision and mission.*
 - *is based on the CSO's identified needs for changes in society and own priorities.*
 - *includes a clear Theory of Change (ToC) with clear chains of changes and which explains the CSO's role in contributing to these changes. The ToC shall guide the formulated overall expected impact and outcomes.*
 - *includes the present organisational structure and capacity and required organisational developments to implement the Strategic Plan*
 - *has integrated cross cutting perspectives in the context analysis, expected results and operations – i.e., the poverty perspective, the human rights-based approach, gender equality, conflict sensitivity and environmental sensitivity.*
 - *explains its methods and routines for monitor progress, learn from experiences, adapt programmes, and manage risks.*
 - *Includes a risk management matrix*
 - *Was developed in a participatory manner with relevant stakeholders, staff and members*
 - *Is approved by its supervisory board*
2. Have a clear results framework which corresponds to the Strategic Plan and includes one overall expected impact result at the end of the strategic period and monitorable outcomes at programme levels formulated according to results-based management (RBM) with indicators and means of verification.
3. Apply the human rights-based perspective in its operations, meaning that it:
 - *empowers rights holders to assert their rights and/or strengthen duty bearers' capacity to fulfil their obligations.*
 - *applies the human rights principles of participation, non-discrimination, accountability, and transparency in its work processes*
4. Be able to demonstrate that its values, vision, mandate, and Theory of Change are well known among its staff and volunteers
5. Be able to explain how it uses democratic working methods internally
6. Promote gender equality in its programs, policies, structures, and employment practices

7. Have a comprehensive Strategic Budget which includes all present and likely future income sources, all projects, all foreseen costs and covers the same period as the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Budget shall show present funding gaps and be approved by the Supervisory Board
8. Have adequate documented financial management and control routines and ethical guidelines/Code of Conduct to reduce the risk of corruption, bribery, misuse of funds, conflicts of interest and prevention of sexual harassment and bullying. Its procurement guidelines shall require competitive and transparent bidding processes in purchases of goods and services
9. Have adequate policies for conflict of interest, procurement, anti-corruption, external audit, and management of human resources (including setting salaries) which have been approved by the Supervisory Board
10. Execute governance according to its statutes and internal policies and have a functioning, independent supervisory board.
11. Have conducted an external statutory audit of its financial statement