

CSOs from Donor countries interested in cooperation with Lithuanian organizations

Context

The Active Citizens Fund (ACF) Operator¹ in Lithuania, facilitating the search for potential partners hosted a matchmaking event 23rd October 2019 in Vilnius, Lithuania. The matchmaking event aimed to offer opportunities for Lithuanian and Donor countries' (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway) CSOs to come together, share experience, discuss initial ideas for collaboration with the aim to eventually shape them into concrete joint project proposals to be submitted under the ACF regular open calls. The participants had an opportunity to discuss possibilities to organize bilateral cooperation initiatives under the Fund for Bilateral Relations, such as partner search visits, matchmaking events, individual short-term internships and know-how exchanges, thematic meetings or seminars.

The main target group for this event were CSOs in Lithuania and Donor countries interested in carrying on mutual projects within any of following thematic areas: 1) social inclusion and vulnerable groups, 2) civic participation (including digital activism focus), 3) civic education.

Prior the event AFC Operator received 15 applications from Donor countries' organizations to participate in matchmaking event, 10 were selected. This document contains the descriptions of all organizations, who applied for participation in matchmaking event. In some cases, organization descriptions include contact persons.

Lithuanian applicants for Bilateral cooperation initiatives are encouraged to contact these organizations. Lithuanian organizations, which are looking for project partners in Donor countries, should find this document useful too.

¹ The AFC is a programme supported through a 9 mil. € grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway as part of the EEA Grants 2014 – 2021. Fund Operator in Lithuania is Open Lithuania foundation in consortium with OSFL projects and Geri Norai LT.

CSOs from Donor countries

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1. social inclusion and vulnerable groups

Organization name	<i>FURIM Institutt</i>
City, country	Oslo, Norway
Organization website	furim.no
Organization established (year)	2013
Scope of organization activities	Local, Regional, National, International
Short description of organization and its activities	<p>FURIM aims to produce evidence-based knowledge on the areas of focus (outdoor life, youth, tourism, and sport). FURIM also aims to develop approaches in order to solve existing problems and needs through the transformation of these knowledge into technical knowledge and to use these approaches as solution tools through project-based works.</p> <p>FURIM Institute has carried out dozens of activities/projects in the past few years. We had established very good relations with many youth, sport and health organizations in Norway. As a result of concrete partnership between our organization, Norwegian Golf Federation, Diabetes Federation and some youth organizations, we had carried out a project "Girls on the Field" that helped young women with non-western background to get to know golf.</p> <p>We are working on community health improvement and social inclusion issues by using the sport as a tool.</p> <p>We are also running a gamification-based social inclusion sport project named "Play with Me" to strengthen the harmonization of refugees with the Norwegian society supported by local governments.</p> <p>In May 2017, we established an international group called "Social Innovation Working Group" under the leadership of our Institute. Members of this working group consist of educators, researchers, project developers and volunteers at various levels, including Norway, Poland, France and the United States.</p>
Bilateral cooperation expectations	<p>Basically we are working on social issues, social inclusion and social innovation, improvement of entrepreneurial skills and struggle against unemployment. We expect that the perspective project partnership would fall into one of these topics. Our organization works with a variety of target groups. We want to establish a strong partnerships with international organizations within next 2 years that would be willing to cooperate in the long term.</p>
Area of interest for mutual projects	Social inclusion and vulnerable groups

Organization name	<i>HIV Iceland</i>
City, country	Reykjavík, Iceland
Organization website	hiv-island.is
Organization established (year)	1988
Scope of organization activities	National
Contact person	Mr. Thorbjörg Inga Jónsdóttir, thorbjorg@lagathing.is
Short description of organization and its activities	<p>HIV Iceland is a national organization committed to safeguarding the rights and interests of people infected and affected by HIV, as well as combating the spread of HIV and Aids. HIV Iceland is a member organization, and membership is open to all interested parties, both individual and civil society organizations involved with HIV and human rights.</p> <p>Our objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To secure the rights and safeguard the interests of people infected and affected by HIV at all levels of society, and to ensure that their interests are taken into account by decision makers, or health and social security agencies; • to combat fear, prejudice and discrimination, and create greater public awareness of people infected by HIV; • to educate about HIV and how it is transmitted and not transmitted; • to empower people infected and effected by HIV and Aids so they can deal positively with their physical, emotional, and financial issues; • to enable people infected with HIV to improve their quality of life, so they can live with dignity and exercise self-determination; • to participate in international collaboration in response to the pandemic, particularly with sister organizations.
Bilateral cooperation expectations	Networking between Norway and Lithuania. Learning about/sharing tools to increase quality of life and human rights for people living with HIV.
Area of interest for mutual projects	Social inclusion and vulnerable groups

Organization name	<i>KUN Center for Equality and Diversity</i>
City, country	Steigen, Norway
Organization website	kun.no
Organization established (year)	1991
Scope of organization activities	Local, Regional, National, International
Contact person	Ms. Nezihat Bakar, nezihat.bakar@kun.no
Short description of organization and its activities	<p>KUN Centre for Equality and Diversity is a non-governmental organization. KUN Centre for Equality and Diversity aims to contribute to a society where women and men have equal opportunities to participate in, develop, and shape their own lives. We work continuously and systematically to combat discrimination and promote equality. We have extensive experience in conducting research, running workshops, arranging courses, conferences, and study trips on a broad range of topics. The essence of our work is to provide perspectives for change, as well as to bridge the gap between research and practice. We cooperate with government agencies, counties, municipalities and various business associations.</p> <p>Our areas of expertise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality and anti-discrimination • Gender equality and women’s empowerment • Democracy and equality • Working life and equal opportunities, work-life balance • Sexual harassment • Domestic violence, gendered violence • Social control and hate speech • Diversity and diversity management • Social inclusion and integration • Diversity of gender and sexuality • Age, (dis-) ability and discrimination <p>We participated in a number of projects with focus on different topics during the previous programme periods of EEA funding.</p>
Bilateral cooperation expectations	We would like to encounter NGOs who work in the areas of equality and diversity, for possible collaborations in the future, with the aim of developing project proposal to be submitted to EEA Grants, exchanging knowledge and good practices.
Area of interest for mutual projects	Social inclusion and vulnerable groups

Organization name	<i>Norsensus Mediaforum</i>
City, country	Oslo, Norway
Organization website	norsensus.no
Organization established (year)	2013
Scope of organization activities	Local, International
Contact person	Mr. Vedat Sevincer, vedats@norsensus.no
Short description of organization and its activities	Norsensus Mediaforum is a non-profit media association to enhance and improve the practice of media and information literacy, strategic communication, and civic participation in society with primary focus on the empowerment of young people and increasing media communication capacity of civil society as well as improving inclusion and diversity in media landscape.
Bilateral cooperation expectations	We have been working in Norway and some other countries in the field of media literacy, strategic communication and civic participation at both civil society and schools' levels and would be interested to get to know the landscape in Lithuania better and seek possibility of cooperation. We are interested in any topics including media literacy/fake news/digital media skills
Area of interest for mutual projects	Social inclusion and vulnerable groups

Organization name	<i>The Women's Shelter in Iceland</i>
City, country	Reykjavik, Iceland
Organization website	kvennaathvarf.is
Organization established (year)	1984
Scope of organization activities	Local
Short description of organization and its activities	The Woman's Shelter is the only Shelter in Iceland for women and children that can't stay at their home because of domestic violence. We serve all Iceland. It's also a temporary shelter for female victims of trafficking. We offer counseling and advice for women that don't need to stay in the Shelter but are dealing with violent partner (actual and/or past). The Shelter employs a part time lawyer and a social worker. We participate in conferences, talks and other events concerning domestic violence and give lectures/information for those interested in order to spread knowledge of domestic violence (like schools, work places, etc...). We also collaborate with many similar organizations, institutions and the public sector to prevent domestic violence and increase knowledge about the subject.
Bilateral cooperation expectations	To establish contacts and see if we can participate in some projects that can be useful for the future. We come with an open mind.
Area of interest for mutual projects	Social inclusion and vulnerable groups

Organization name	<i>Voksne for Barn (Adults for Children)</i>
City, country	Oslo, Norway
Organization website	vfb.no
Organization established (year)	1960
Scope of organization activities	Local, Regional, National, International
Short description of organization and its activities	<p>Adults for Children is a nonprofit membership organization with 2000 members, 14 local teams, 250 spokespeople. We are working for children's mental health and safe childhood. We sit down and listen to and learn from children. We don't give up until the welfare of a child is taken seriously. In this way we build strength and resilience in children. Working towards mental health of children means to reduce taboo, exclusion, and bullying. It is important for us to help children in mastering challenges in their lives. Our target groups are children and young people, parents / carers and professionals. We offer seminars, courses, lectures and other programs. We have experience in the organization of the conferences.</p> <p>International projects: Lithuania (Community Exchange Center, BKC); Russia (Zyppi's Friend, Jesper, Divorce groups); Czech Republic.</p>
Bilateral cooperation expectations	Our organization have good experience working with minorities, including emigrants from Lithuania. We hope that this experience can be useful. We are considering opportunities for the development of international activities aimed at Eastern Europe. We are open for all kinds of cooperation, which does not include investments.
Area of interest for mutual projects	Social inclusion and vulnerable groups

Organization name	<i>Women's Counseling</i>
City, country	Reykjavík, Iceland
Organization website	kvennaradgjofin.is
Organization established (year)	1985
Scope of organization activities	National, International
Short description of organization and its activities	<p>The Women's Counseling is a NGO which offers legal and social work counseling for women. Our main goal is to give counseling and support to women, on any given matter (however, we assist anyone seeking our services, regardless of their sex).</p> <p>The idea behind the Women's Counselling is to strengthen those who belong to vulnerable groups in the society, because of poverty, social exclusion on grounds of gender, race, age and other reasons. Both lawyers and social workers, law students and social work students do voluntary work for the Women's Counseling, and we do also participate in two Justice Centers in Iceland for victims of violence, in Reykjavik and Akureyri with legal counselling, guidance and support for those who have suffered violence.</p> <p>The Women's Counseling offers counseling to official bodies on all matters regarding women and women's rights and has a permanent seat with other women's rights associations in Iceland on the Equal Rights Council.</p> <p>We use the experience we get through the counseling for women to promote their wishes and need in discussions within the Parliament of Iceland, Ministries and institutions addressing women's issues.</p> <p>The Women's Counselling participates in Nordic and international cooperation of NGO's working on equal rights, social exclusion and Human rights, and participates in the meetings of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, as a part of the Icelandic delegation.</p> <p>The Women's Counselling has been a partner in the the Active Citizens funds projects since 2014 and participated in projects in Lithuania, Romania and other countries.</p>
Bilateral cooperation expectations	Projects on assistance to victims of violence, prevention and on equal rights etc. We are interested to make new contacts and participate in projects regarding these areas both to strengthen our professional work and to be able to expand our work and experience to other countries.
Area of interest for mutual projects	Social inclusion and vulnerable groups

2. civic participation (including digital activism focus)

Organization name	<i>Change the World</i>
City, country	Oslo, Norway
Organization website	world-changers.org/portal/
Organization established (year)	1997
Scope of organization activities	Local, Regional, National, International
Short description of organization and its activities	<p>Change the World works for the creation of alternative ways of life, building up sustainable human settlements, and spreading information and tools that are needed in order to achieve self-sufficiency and autonomy. We work also with local communities to empower them and be local active citizens in their communities working with concrete project to improve their life. Some of the topics we work with are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civic Participation, Facilitate a transformation from inside. • Local development of NGOs and Local Municipalities. • Entrepreneurship. • Strengthening the capacity building. • Working with kids and youth. • Concrete and innovative tools for Sustainable Development. <p>We have had partnerships within the EEA Grants program in several countries: Slovakia, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania and Romania. We have also worked in various projects regarding civil society development, sustainability and partnership in Norway, Europe and Latin America (Colombia, Chile, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador).</p>
Bilateral cooperation expectations	<p>We would like to share and learn with Romanian organizations. Our expectations are to establish collaboration and cooperation to learn from each other's experiences in the field of civic participation.</p> <p>We are looking for partnerships with organizations which are working with local communities in the area of civic participation. In addition, we are looking for organizations that want to make something good for the people and the planet.</p>
Area of interest for mutual projects	Civic participation (including digital activism focus)

Organization name	<i>Vellenes Fellesorganisasjon (Norwegian Neighbourhood organisation)</i>
City, country	Oslo, Norway
Organization website	velnett.no
Organization established (year)	1910 (from 1974 national)
Scope of organization activities	Local, National
Contact person	Ms. Ruth Våpenstad, ruviv@broadpark.no
Short description of organization and its activities	<p>VFO serves as the umbrella organization for more than 2 000 neighborhood associations in Norway. Our purpose is to support the voluntary work of associations at the community level in urban as well as rural areas. Our membership consists of individual clubs as well as their coordinating bodies at the municipal level. Local associations engage in community development. They give voice to their membership in municipal affairs, especially regarding urban planning. They involve individual members in caring for the environment and in a variety of social activities for all age groups. Through its web pages and its journal "Velposten", VFO communicates news about community development. Additionally, VFO provides advice and services for its members regarding organizing, legal issues, and practical matters, such as the upkeep of playgrounds and club houses.</p> <p>VFO have earlier been involved in EEA grants in Bucuresti in Romania, with democracy and anti-corruption projects</p>
Bilateral cooperation expectations	We want to share our experience in voluntary work on local level, to the benefit of all citizens in a local area. We feel that Lithuania is closer to our own country in culture. We want to support the voluntary work in Lithuania, since we have good experiences with it.
Area of interest for mutual projects	Civic participation (including digital activism focus)

3. civic education

Organization name	<i>European Wergeland Center</i>
City, country	Oslo, Norway
Organization website	theewc.org
Organization established (year)	2009
Scope of organization activities	International
Contact person	Ms. Valentina Papeikienė, v.papeikiene@theewc.org
Short description of organization and its activities	The EWC is a European resource centre on education for citizenship, human rights and intercultural understanding. The work of EWC builds on Council of Europe recommendations and policies, developed to ensure that the values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law are promoted in and through education. EWC's main aim is to strengthen the capacity of individuals, educational institutions and educational systems to build and sustain a culture of democracy and human rights. We focus in our work on the capacity building of educators/ education institutions (such as schools) including teachers, teacher trainers, CSO/NGOs so promote citizenship and human rights education in their work. In our work to strengthen civil society organizations, training and support in civic education is an important means to enhance competences of key stakeholders to understand, promote and uphold the values of democracy and human rights in their local communities (e.g. in partnership with schools) as well as a means to enhance active citizenship. EWC also support the translation and development of new teaching and learning Resources in the field including those from the Council of Europe like teaching controversial issues.
Bilateral cooperation expectations	Through participation in this event we would like to understand the needs of Lithuanian NGOs better in the field of civic education and citizen participation. Furthermore, we are interested to find a suitable partner (similar in work/ target groups) to discuss ideas for a joint project proposal. EWC works with good experiences, which could be interesting as well for the Lithuanian context - a project creating a networking and training platform for civil society organizations and their representatives working with issues such as active citizen participation, education, etc. Elements include strengthening "democratic" competences of participants, developing and implementing small-scale projects for active citizenship in the local community, set up partnership with schools. Such project would be based on existing materials in citizenship education in Lithuanian language.
Area of interest for mutual projects	Civic education

4. other

Organization name	<i>Bjerkaker Learning Lab</i>
City, country	Oslo, Norway
Organization website	bjerkakerlearninglab.no
Organization established (year)	2016
Scope of organization activities	Local, Regional, National, International
Contact person	Mr. Sturla Bjerkaker, sturlabjerkaker@gmail.com
Short description of organization and its activities	<p>Bjerkaker Learning Lab (BLL) is a small not-for-profit NGO enterprise in Norway run by Mr. Sturla Bjerkaker with cooperating partners. BLLs aim is to promote lifelong learning and strengthen democracy and local development by project partnership in Norway and abroad. BLL is public registered in Norway with No. 874629782 and in EU with PIC 907349447. Bjerkaker LearningLab was established 18 March 2016 in Oslo, succeeding Semakolon Kommunikasjonskontor, established in 1995.</p> <p>Among the activities and competences BLL offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult learning and education (ALE), andragogy/pedagogy and study circles • Active and quality ageing and learning throughout life • Youth at risk, drop outs, new opportunities for deprived areas • Planning and organizing study tours and visits in Norway and abroad • Project management, presentations and teaching/training • Meeting's management and facilitating group processes • Development Dialogue and Focus Group Meetings for change, regardless of topics
Bilateral cooperation expectations	<p>We have been involved in Nordic-Baltic cooperation for many years and have been several times in Lithuania. We are looking forward to renew cooperation with established and new partners especially in the field of democracy, active citizenship and vulnerable groups. We are open for new ideas and partners, but would prefer partners with some focus on lifelong learning/adult learning and education.</p>
Area of interest for mutual projects	Lifelong and adult learning

Organization name	<i>Fjellugla Kompetanse AS</i>
City, country	Tynset, Norway
Organization website	fjellugla.no
Organization established (year)	2010
Scope of organization activities	Local, Regional, National, International
Contact person	Mr. Per Halvorsen, per@fjellugla.no
Short description of organization and its activities	Our main business is within the field of adult learning on all levels. We are mostly focused now on saving and building up learning arenas for traditional crafts, local community development and young creativity.
Bilateral cooperation expectations	Finding a partner for project in traditional crafts, innovation and local community development.
Area of interest for mutual projects	Lifelong and adult learning

Organization name	<i>International Development Norway AS</i>
City, country	Trondheim, Norway
Organization website	id-norway.com
Organization established (year)	2010
Scope of organization activities	International
Contact person	Ms. Caroline Tissot, carol.tissot@id-norway.com
Short description of organization and its activities	IDN is a spin-out from SINTEF foundation, the largest contract research institute in Scandinavia. We are a core team taking care of the whole project lifecycle, from idea phase, design, management, expert tasks and reporting/closing. Our network of Norwegian and international experts is used in expert tasks to secure successful projects. The main geographical areas are Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), but with single projects and initiatives in Eurasia, Middle-East, North Africa, and Latin America. Since 2010 we have participated in more than 20 EEA/Norway Grants projects.
Bilateral cooperation expectations	We are looking for local partners that aim for project development and implementation.
Area of interest for mutual projects	Project development and management

Organization name	<i>Phronesis SA</i>
City, country	Oslo, Norway
Organization website	bjerkakerlearninglab.no
Organization established (year)	2018
Scope of organization activities	Local, Regional, National, International
Contact person	Mr. Sturla Bjerkaker, sturlabjerkaker@gmail.com
Short description of organization and its activities	<p>Phronesis SA is a non-profit co-operative consortium situated in Oslo, Norway established April 25, 2018 with the Norwegian registration number 920 589 782. The purpose of Phronesis SA is to initiate and take part in activities connected to project management and project partnerships, education in a lifelong learning perspective, local community development and cooperation, community public health issues, promoting active and quality ageing, counselling and advice, presentations and lectures, workshops and study visits.</p> <p>Members of Phronesis SA are mostly senior advisors and professionals with both educational and practical background and competence in adult education, pedagogy, project management, economy, sustainability issues, SME management, public health care, youth at risk, children with special needs and rehabilitation of drug addiction, culture and communication and presentations through video and photo.</p>
Bilateral cooperation expectations	We have been working in many different projects, with a focus on vulnerable groups as children, elderly, kids with disabilities and youth at risk. We would like to be partners with NGOs which aims to help these vulnerable groups to live a better, safer and healthier life.
Area of interest for mutual projects	Social inclusion and vulnerable groups