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Information webinar

Stronger Roots Program Call for Proposal

Pillar 2 - Transversal collaboration



May 12, 2025



10:00pm - 12:00pm



online, Zoom

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Technical challenge

- can you see and hear us?
- please rename yourselves → name_organization_COUNTRY
- please have the mic muted
- if you want to ask us anything, use the chat
- the webinar will be recorded
- the presentations will be sent out afterwards

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Agenda

- **Stronger Roots Program (5 minutes)**
- **transversal collaboration and networks' internal development + Q&A (50 minutes)**
- **application guidelines and eligibility criteria (20 minutes)**
- ➔ **in breakout rooms for CZ, SK, HU, PL**
- **country specific eligibility criteria + Q&A (40 minutes)**

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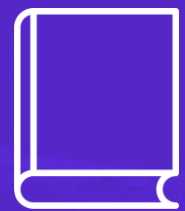
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Stronger Roots program



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Summary



Call for Proposals in the Stronger Roots Program

handbook with all the relevant information for CZ, SK, HU, PL

- collective and individual consultations
- please answer the survey sent out afterwards
- thank you and good luck

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Breakout rooms

→ Czechia

- www.osf.cz
- stronger.roots@osf.cz

→ Slovakia

- www.osf.sk
- stronger.roots@osf.sk

→ Hungary

- www.niok.hu
- tarsadalmibazis@niok.hu

→ Poland

- www.batory.org.pl
- strongerroots@batory.org.pl

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)(glopolis



Transversal collaboration for civil society networks

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**It allows us to focus on advocacy for
social and affordable housing**

WHY network transversal collaboration

- bridging gaps between various people, organizations, institutions, their interests, approaches and views in the polarised society
- networks in civil society are natural bridges between individuals and collective action efforts
- by engaging with diverse stakeholders systemic changes could be started/progressed/resolved (and gaps potentially reduced)

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Network transversal collaboration

The goals of the Call for Proposals:

- to strengthen the collaboration and develop closer relationships between the civil society networks and a diverse **external stakeholders**
- to enhance **internal development** and closer collaboration among the **network's member organizations**

➡ Both areas are equally important!

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What IS network transversal collaboration

- **concept developed by Glopolis in 2019 as part of the Stronger Roots Program**
- **process of civil society networks strategically engaging with stakeholders of diverging approaches, interests and/or worldviews in order to tackle collectively the complex and systemic issues that our societies or communities face**

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How to look for diverse stakeholders?

- differences can be seen in the **interests, approaches, perspectives or priorities** regarding a certain issue the network is trying to solve
- there are varying **objectives, values, or levels of influence**
- the gaps could also be **ideological, political, inter-sectoral** (between civil society, business or government), **regional and generational**

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What IS NOT network transversal collaboration (1/2)

- **NOT about persuading others** about our truth but rather finding a common denominator or shared agreement (especially relevant for advocacy networks)
- **NOT about target groups** but rather (potential) partners respecting their interests, needs and limitations

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What IS NOT network transversal collaboration (2/2)

- **NOT a one-off project** but rather a long-term effort of building the relationships and constructively engaging with the stakeholders
- **NOT about raising awareness nor education** but rather about tangible effects of engagement with limited number of most relevant people (quality vs. quantity)

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Choosing the stakeholders

Aim to engage systematically with diverse, domestic stakeholders, from these areas:

- **state institutions**, members of parliament
- **regional authorities**, local municipalities
- **private companies**, business associations
- **other civil society organizations or networks**

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Collaboration/engagement outside the network scale

The level of engagement depends on various factors: topic, divergency of partners, stage of the discussion,...



➡ Shift is important!

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Internal consolidation of the network

All activities leading to more impactful, resilient network that is capable of meaningful engagement with its member organizations.

- activities should contribute to the **strategic goals of the network** (advocacy goals, capacity building goals etc.)
- activities should reflect **current needs of the network and its members**

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Tips for writing the proposal (1/3)

- **KNOW** your long-term vision of the collaboration and internal development - Where should it lead after the project ends? What is the ultimate goal?
- **THINK** about what your network needs the most to get stronger in next 2 years.
- **FOCUS** on goals and activities which are achievable in 18 months - What will the project contribute to in this vision? What are the project's specific goals, and how can they be achieved?

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Tips for writing the proposal (2/3)

- **THINK about the stakeholders' interests** - Why should they be willing to collaborate? What interests do you share? What are their views and potential motivations?
- **THINK about the stakeholders' needs** - What do they need? What are they struggling with? What can they gain from the collaboration? What can you do to ensure their engagement is meaningful rather than just formal?

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Tips for writing the proposal (3/3)

- **FOCUS on qualitative engagement rather than quantitative** - It is more effective to engage fewer stakeholders more deeply, rather than simply aiming for higher numbers.
- **ANSWER all the sub-questions in the concept note form** - They are all important!

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Expected results of the project

- Have to be specific and clear.
- Need to have **impact on the society or community.**

- What will change thanks to the project?

Examples:

- Ministry XY will adopt a new policy on...
- Our network will become more participatory in terms of small members' participation in decision-making within the network...

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Will the project contribute to...?

Key questions to ask yourselves to make sure you are meeting the expected results.

- ...progressing the strategic goals of the network?
- ...improving the relationship/advancing engagement with the chosen stakeholders?
- ...broadening of your understanding of the context, in which your network operates, and of the ways of working with the stakeholders?
- ...internal consolidation of the network?

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Case studies (1/3)

Green NGO Cooperation Network

field of work: **environmental protection**, country: **Hungary**



church based and
youth groups became
new members



individual and group
interviews and
meetings, new PR
strategy, online tools,
active participation



higher advocacy
potential and stronger
resilience and
representativeness of
the network

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Case studies (2/3)

Association of Organisations Working in Penal Affairs

field of work: **penal and criminal justice, prison conditions**, country: **Czechia**



General Directorate of
the Prison Service - from
opponent to a partner



changes in the
membership base,
refreshed strategy and
working styles



establishing partnership
with key institution,
first common project for
prisoners and their
families

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Case studies (3/3)

Antena – Network for Independent Culture

field of work: independent culture centres, country: Slovakia



Art Support Fund
(state institution)



participatory strategic
planning (Fund
involved), intensive
meetings



engaged members,
closer relationship with
management of the
Fund

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Stronger Roots Program impact (1/2)

Thanks to the Stronger Roots Program supported networks are able to:

- better understand the partners they engage with
- discover new ways to reach out to and build relationships with both current and potential new partners
- initiate cooperation with entirely new types of actors
- adopt more flexible and open approaches

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Stronger Roots Program impact (2/2)

Thanks to the Stronger Roots Program the grantees are able to:

- let go of preconceived notions about the impossibility of collaborating with public authorities
- work together even without 100% mutual agreement or alignment
- better understand the needs and priorities of their member organizations

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Expert and peer support program

What to expect in case the project is approved.

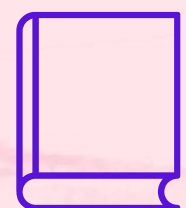
- kick-off meeting in each country
- 3x two-day workshops (Prague, Bratislava, Budapest/Warszaw)
- cca 3 online workshops
- individual expert consultancy
- regular update calls

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Information and inspiration sources



[How to Engage with Divergent Stakeholders](#)

toolkit with practical tips and little bit of theory



[The Concept and Impact of Network Transversal Collaboration](#)

explanation of the transversal collaboration concept in theory



[Case studies of former Stronger Roots grantees](#)

folder with several stories of our former grantees

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Transversal collaboration for civil society networks

Questions & Answers

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Application guidelines and eligibility criteria for Pillar 2

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Application guidelines and eligibility criteria for Pillar 2

- Program for CSOs platforms, coalitions and networks (formal and informal)
- Strengthening collaboration with divergent stakeholders
- Building the network internally

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General conditions

- One proposal per organisation can be submitted
- Budget must be in between 20.000 EUR - 35.000 EUR
- Duration of the grant is 18 months: January 2026 - June 2027
- We expect to support 4 - 10 projects in each country

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Eligible activities

Engaging with diverse external stakeholders

- organizing meetings, events, strategic debates, workshops or negotiation processes
- mapping stakeholders and collecting evidence for joint activities
- involving indifferent or opposing stakeholders in joint action
- events or processes building or improving relationships stakeholders
- building or expanding the coalitions of divergent stakeholders
- international activities within the EU in well justified cases

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Eligible activities

Internal consolidation of the network

- review of network's strategies, statutes and internal processes
- building a consensus among members
- building capacities for crisis communication and crisis management, mediation
- expanding membership activities
- engaging the members in co-designing the network's objectives, strategy, impact measurement, evaluation or communication
- activities to support members with specific needs (especially small, less formal, younger and out-of-capital members)

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Eligible costs

- personal costs (up to 80% of a grant)
- cost for goods (careful with the depreciacion), works and services (including external experts)
- travel, accommodation and subsistence
- indirect costs (up to 7% of a grant)
- costs must occur within the period of project implementation
- must comply with national law on taxes, labour and social security
- must be reasonable, justified, cost-effective

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Principles

Respecting EU values

Respecting gender equality and nondiscrimination

Protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults

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Eligibility criteria

- CSOs from Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia
- Network registered or existed for at least 6 months as a legal entity or its member organisation registered 1 year prior the deadline
- Having at least 7 civil society member organizations in the given country
- Mission and activities must comply with the EU's rights and values
- Project leaders must have the capacity to communicate and participate in events in English
- Not previously received grant for Transversal collaboration of networks

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Definition of networks and members

- Networks can be:
 - B. Formal** (registered)
 - C. Informal** (non-registered, but record of cooperation within recognised platform)
- Members must be:
 - At least 7 unique independent CSOs**
(not independently registered units within the same organisation - e.g. Scouts)

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Non-eligible organisations

Political party-affiliated associations, public sector, governmental and intergovernmental institutions, religious institutions, profit distributing cooperatives or informal groups are not eligible to apply for our support. Neither a sole proprietorship nor a natural person is an eligible project applicant.

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Application process

Two stages:

1. Concept note

- Proposal
- Annual report 2024 or summary of activities
- Financial report 2024 or financial overview

2. Full application - more elaborated project with detailed budget for selected organisations + incorporating feedback

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Evaluation process

- Administrative check
- Eligibility check
- Evaluation based on set criteria
(for full application stage + interviews for shortlisted)

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Evaluation criteria

- Relevance of the Project for this Call (20 points)
- Transversal Collaboration Focus (25 points)
- Potential of the Network, Internal Strengthening, and Project Impact (25 points)
- Quality of the Project (30 points)

Maximum points: 100

Threshold: 60 points

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Timetable

- Consultations: up to 10 June 2025
- Deadline for concept notes: **16 June 2025 - 13:00 !!!**
- Administrative and eligibility check: until the end of June
- Evaluation process: July - August (evaluators + committee)
- Full application: September - October (including info webinar)
- Evaluation process: October - November (including interviews)
- Results: November
- Contracting successful organisations: November - December (grant: 60% + 30% + 10%)

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