

# **Strategy of Civil Society Development in Slovakia**

## **Action plan for 2022-2026**

August, 2022

## Introduction

The Strategy of the Civil Society Development in Slovakia for 2022-2030 (hereinafter referred to as the "Strategy") is the basic strategic document of the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society, which focuses on the support and sustainable development of civil society, strengthening the principles of open government and a well-governed society.

The priority of the Strategy is to increase the level of citizen participation, strengthen the principles of active citizenship, build and deepen cooperation between civil society and the public sector, create a favourable environment for the development of civil society and its greater systemic resilience, and ensure systematic collection of on civil society.

The Strategy is cross-cutting in nature, comprising 4 thematic areas within which strategic objectives with concrete actions are defined. The different objectives of the Strategy will be implemented through two action plans.

The Action Plan of the Strategy of Civil Society Development in Slovakia for 2022-2026 (hereinafter referred to as "Action Plan"), based on the Strategy, has been developed in cooperation with representatives of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations. Its aim is to adopt a coherent framework of tasks for the fulfillment of strategic objectives and measures.

Specific tasks are formulated for selected measures of the Strategy, which identify those responsible for the implementation of each task or define them as a cooperating entity. At the same time, each task is associated with a timeframe necessary for the completion.

Since the Strategy is a strategic document covering the period up to 2030, some of its measures that are not included in this Action Plan will be addressed in the next Action Plan to be implemented in 2027-2030.

## Strategy of Civil Society Development in Slovakia – Action plan for 2022-2026

Policy Area 1		Active Citizenship			
Objective	Measure	Commitment	Deadline for implementation	Responsible	Partners
1.1 Increase the level of citizen participation in civic, political and social participation (volunteering, donorship and membership of organizations), which is a key factor in fostering interpersonal and general trust and building social capital.	1.1.1. In cooperation with civil society partners, consistently involve the public (with an emphasis on vulnerable groups and the general public) in selected public policy-making processes. The selection and number of public policies to be developed in a participatory manner involving the public, as well as the selection of vulnerable groups to be involved in participatory processes, is fully within the competence of individual ministries, other central government bodies and other advisory bodies to the government of the Slovak Republic, which will prepare the public policies. Vulnerable groups include, in particular, children and young people, the elderly, national and ethnic minorities, the disabled, etc. The OPG DCS will provide support to public policy makers in the preparation and implementation of public participation in public policy making processes.	1. Increase public participation (with an emphasis on vulnerable groups and the general public) in selected public policy-making processes.	31 December 2023, 31 December 2024, 31 December 2025, 31 December 2026	ministers, heads of other central government bodies, Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities and Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for National Minorities	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society
	1.1.2. Ensure regular evaluation of opportunities for public participation in governance (also beyond the scope of legal obligations, i.e. within the meaning of the Rules for Public Involvement in Public Policymaking, adopted by Government Resolution No. 645/2014) and obstacles to their use, and use the findings of this evaluation to amend these rules and improve the current state of the art so that these opportunities for participation are increasingly accessible and comprehensible.	2. Prepare an analysis on the use and application of the recommendation material Rules for Public Involvement in Public Policymaking (Government Resolution No. 645/2014) and to prepare an amendment to these rules on the basis of the analysis.	31 December 2025	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society	
	1.1.3 Ensure, with the participation of civil society, the expansion of volunteer programs in different areas of the organizations' activities, ensure their financial sustainability, ensure adequate staffing, financial and spatial capacities of volunteer centers as a key element in the development of volunteering infrastructure through the implementation of a financial mechanism to support long-term volunteer programs and volunteer centers from public funds.	3. In cooperation with civil society partners, expand volunteer programs in different areas of the organizations' activities, ensure their financial sustainability, ensure adequate staffing, financial and spatial capacity of volunteer centers as a key element in the development of volunteering infrastructure through the implementation of a financial mechanism to support long-term volunteer programs and volunteer centers from public funds.	31 December 2024	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society	

	1.1.7 Promote education and training for volunteering at all levels of education in schools and educational establishments and organizations dedicated to non-formal education and work with youth according to the Strategy of Education and Training of Children and Youth for Volunteering.	4. Annually support education and training for volunteering at all levels of education in schools and school educational establishments and organizations dedicated to non-formal education and work with youth according to the Strategy of Education and Training of Children and Youth for Volunteering.	31 December 2023, 31 December 2024, 31 December 2025, 31 December 2026	Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport	
	1.1.8. Promote training in volunteer management, the provision of consultations and advice in this field and a quality label in the area of work with volunteers with the objective to improve the quality of work with volunteers.	5. In order to improve the quality of work with volunteers, support the promotion of volunteering and the need for management in working with volunteers in the environment of non-governmental non-profit organizations.	31 December 2025	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society	
1.2 Broaden the circle of citizens who are committed to democratic values and the principles of active citizenship and actively contribute to the protection of democracy and its institutions, including participatory democracy, promote the protection of rights and freedoms, including the rights of minorities, monitor the exercise of public authority, and thus reduce socio-political risks arising from national and global threats.	1.2.1. With the participation of civil society, design and implement concrete measures to support existing and increase the supply of new civic education programs that develop knowledge, skills and competences for active participation in social problem-solving and governance. These programs will be implemented both in formal/school and non-formal/non-school education.	6. In cooperation with civil society partners, propose and implement concrete measures to support existing and increase the supply of new civic education programs in formal and non-formal education.	31 December 2026	Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society

<b>Policy Area 2</b>		<b>Cooperation between the Public Sector and Civil Society</b>			
Objective	Measure	Commitment	Deadline for implementation	Responsible	Partners
2.1 Name and promote the mutual benefits, societal benefits and multiplier effect of cooperation between the public sector and civil society, which also arises from the increased involvement of civil society in public policy-making processes.	2.1.1. Define public services, establish quality criteria and, in agreement with civil society, define a transparent model for their evaluation. Open up the debate in the basic social network of these services provided by state bodies and organizations, also creating space for non-state service providers and for partnerships with them. Facilitate access to public funding to cover such services. Ensure quality control (cost-effectiveness, efficiency) of the services provided.	7. In cooperation with civil society partners, propose legal regulation related to public services implemented through non-governmental, non-profit organizations, including the way they are financed.	31 December 2024	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society	
	2.1.2. Strengthen the participation of civil society representatives and non-governmental non-profit organizations in participatory processes at national and regional level, especially in various working groups/commissions developing or monitoring public policies, legislation and major decisions through institutional grants to non-governmental non-profit organizations.	8. Strengthen and technically ensure the participation of civil society representatives and non-governmental non-profit organizations in participatory processes at national and regional level, in particular in various working groups/commissions developing or monitoring public policies, legislation and key decisions through institutional grants to non-governmental non-profit organizations.	31 December 2023	ministers	
	2.1.3. In cooperation with civil society, develop and implement a tool to assess the involvement of non-governmental non-profit organizations and other organized civil society actors (platforms and associations of non-governmental non-profit organizations, trade unions, churches, etc.) in the decision-making of public administration bodies, from the local to the national level.	9. In cooperation with civil society partners, develop and implement a tool to assess the involvement of non-governmental non-profit organizations and other organized civil society actors (platforms and associations of non-governmental non-profit organizations, trade unions, churches, etc.) in the decision-making of public administration bodies, from the local to the national level.	31 December 2026	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society	
	2.1.4 Increase public administration staff awareness of the benefits of public sector cooperation with civil society and strengthen the participatory capacities of public administration, for example through training, methodological guidelines and direct participation in the activities of non-governmental non-profit organizations.	10. Raise public administration staff awareness of the benefits of public sector cooperation with civil society and strengthen the participatory capacity of public administration, for example through training, methodological guides and direct participation in the activities of non-governmental non-profit organizations.	31 December 2023	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society	ministers, heads of other central government bodies

	2.1.6. In the event of a pandemic, environmental or natural disaster or other emergency, invite representatives of development non-governmental non-profit organizations with substantial experience in dealing with humanitarian crises to advisory bodies (e.g. crisis staffs).	11. Design or modify the institutional and legislative system of crisis management so that in the event of a pandemic, environmental or natural disaster or other emergency situation, representatives of relevant non-governmental non-profit organizations working in the field of development cooperation and humanitarian aid are invited to advisory bodies (e.g. crisis staff). The proposal will also include support, including financial, for their capacities, including the provision of humanitarian assistance in preventing and dealing with the consequences of crises in the Slovak Republic and those outside the Slovak Republic with a direct impact on the Slovak Republic.	30 June 2023	Minister of the Interior	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society
	2.1.7 Strengthen the capacity of the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society to ensure continuity of staff capacity outside national projects, including autonomous analytical staff, to ensure the implementation of the commitments arising from the Strategy of Civil Society Development in Slovakia for 2022-2030 and the development of a supportive environment for civil society.	12. Strengthen the capacity of the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society, including autonomous analytical staff, to ensure the performance of commitments arising from the Strategy of Civil Society Development in Slovakia for 2022-2030 and the development of a supportive environment for civil society.	30 June 2024	Minister of the Interior	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society
2.2 Build and deepen partnership and transparent dialogue between civil society and public administration as a prevention against attacks or the spread of negative attitudes towards civil society.	2.2.2. With the participation of civil society, strengthen existing and develop new tools to combat misleading and deceptive information about non-governmental non-profit organizations. Implement these tools in partnership with civil society.	13. In cooperation with civil society partners, strengthen existing and develop new tools to combat misleading and deceptive information about non-governmental non-profit organizations. Implement these tools in partnership with the civil sector.	30 June 2026	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society	Minister of the Interior
	2.2.3. Strengthen partnership communication with civil society through the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations and the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society.	14. Strengthen partnership communication with civil society through the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations and the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society.	31 December 2026	Minister of the Interior	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society

<b>Policy Area 3</b>	<b>Favorable Environment for the Development of Civil Society and its Increased Systemic Resilience</b>				
Objective	Measure	Commitment	Deadline for implementation	Responsible	Partners
3.1 Maintain and strengthen the institutional and legislative framework of non-governmental non-profit organizations and update this framework on the basis of experience from Slovak and international practice.	3.1.1 Maintain the current legislation governing the establishment, functioning and dissolution of non-governmental non-profit organizations and improve the legislation in areas where the application practice shows the need for improvement.	15. Develop an analysis of the existing legislation on the establishment, functioning, dissolution and conditions of operation of non-governmental non-profit organizations. On the basis of the analysis and application practice, prepare legislative proposals aimed at streamlining these processes or modifying the conditions for the activities of non-governmental non-profit organizations.	30 June 2024	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society	Minister of the Interior
	3.1.2. Strengthen the competences of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations, the Chamber of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations and the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society.	16. Strengthen the competences of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations, the Chamber of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations and the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society.	31 December 2025	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society	Minister of the Interior
	3.1.3. Prepare an amendment to Act No. 162/2014 Coll. on Public Collections and on Amendments and Additions to Certain Acts to reflect the current state of technology in the online environment.	17. In cooperation with partners from civil society, prepare a proposal for legislative changes concerning public collections and submit it to the Government of the Slovak Republic for consideration.	31 December 2026	Minister of the Interior	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society
	3.1.5. Extend the Unified Methodology for the Assessment of Selected Impacts (approved by Government Resolution No. 234/2021) to include impacts on the activities of non-governmental non-profit organizations and other organized civil society actors and active citizenship. Support these aspects of the analysis with methodological guidelines.	18. Develop an analysis of impacts on the activities of non-governmental non-profit organizations and other organized civil society actors and active citizenship (as part of the Unified Methodology for the Assessment of Selected Impacts), including relevant methodological guidelines, and submit them to the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Economy of the Slovak Republic.	31 December 2023	Minister of the Interior	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society
		19. Following the implementation of Commitment 18 of the Action Plan, extend the Unified Methodology for the Assessment of Selected Impacts (approved by Government Resolution No 234/2021) to include impacts on the activities of non-governmental non-profit organizations and other organized civil society actors and active citizenship.	31 December 2025	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy	

<p>3.2 Create new financial instruments and simplify and streamline existing ones in order to broaden the range of beneficiaries, expand the range of financial instruments and make the delivery of financial support more efficient.</p>	<p>3.2.1. Create new support mechanisms for non-governmental non-profit organizations along the lines of the Fund for the Support of the Arts (Slovak Arts Council), where public funds are redistributed by independent, respected foundations or consortia of foundations (which have long been active at the national and community level in Slovakia, e.g. the so-called Norwegian Funds - ACF program or in the past the so-called Swiss Funds), while preserving the autonomy of civil society and following the arms-length approach, where the perceived distance between the donor and the recipient is increased.</p>	<p>20. Develop a proposal for new support mechanisms for non-governmental non-profit organizations and draft legislative intentions for each mechanism.</p>	<p>30 September 2026</p>	<p>Minister of the Interior, Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society</p>	<p>Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance</p>
	<p>3.2.2. Allow funding in the form of block grants or other forms of redistribution of EU funds (and legislate accordingly) to increase the uptake of EU funds in the small and micro-beneficiary segment.</p>	<p>21. Develop and implement a system of funding in the form of block grants or other forms of redistribution of EU funds in the Framework for the Implementation of EU Funds and related relevant documents, in order to achieve the individual objectives in the area of EU cohesion policy.</p>	<p>30 September 2023</p>	<p>Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization</p>	<p>Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society</p>
	<p>3.2.3 Create conditions for effective implementation of the principle of partnership and multi-level governance in EU funds in accordance with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014 of 7 January 2014 on a European Code of Conduct on Partnership in the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds, including capacity building on the side of the public administration and the establishment of a coordination and management structure under the auspices of the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society.</p>	<p>22 Create conditions for the effective implementation of the principle of partnership and multi-level governance in EU funds in accordance with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014, including capacity building on the side of the public administration and the establishment of a coordination and management structure under the responsibility of the Office of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society.</p>	<p>30 September 2023</p>	<p>Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society</p>	<p>Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization</p>
	<p>3.2.4. Seek opportunities to allocate funds for new ways of financing non-governmental non-profit organizations, including the possibility of an initial investment for the launch of a charity lottery (regulated in Act No. 30/2019 Coll. on Gambling and on Amendments and Additions to Certain Acts, as amended).</p>	<p>This commitment will be implemented through Commitment No 20.</p>			



	3.2.6 Modify the current grant mechanisms so that project funding includes institutional support for the applicant. Introduce a scheme of long-term, so-called institutional or strategic grants to support the organizational development of non-governmental organizations.	23. Review existing subsidy schemes financed from the state budget from the perspective of eligible applicants and, if justified, include among eligible applicants all relevant legal forms of non-governmental non-profit organizations, as defined by Act No 346/2018 Coll. on the Register of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations and on Amendments and Additions to Certain Acts. Consider the possibility of including institutional support for the applicant in the project funding, together with the introduction of a scheme of long-term, so-called institutional or strategic grants to support the organizational development of non-governmental non-profit organizations; or to add as eligible purposes the development of capacity and infrastructure of civil society.	31 December 2024	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization, Minister of Transport and Construction, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Minister of the Interior, Minister of Defense, Minister of Justice, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Minister of Environment, Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Minister of Culture, Minister of Health, Head of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic	
	3.2.7. Support the funding of multi-year projects of non-governmental non-profit organizations from grant schemes and thus enable grant recipients to receive funding for a longer period than one calendar year.	24. In cooperation with civil society partners, map the possibilities and obstacles to multiannual financing of non-governmental non-profit organizations' projects from subsidies provided from the state budget and, on the basis of the findings, prepare a proposal to amend the relevant legislation.	31 December 2024	ministers, Head of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic	
	3.2.8. Amend or propose legal regulations concerning the subsidy mechanisms of individual ministries in order to facilitate the spending of public resources, mainly by reducing the administrative burden.	25. Propose a legal regulation concerning the subsidy schemes of individual ministries where non-governmental non-profit organizations are eligible applicants in order to facilitate the use of public resources, mainly by reducing the administrative burden.	30 Jún 2026	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization, Minister of Transport and Construction, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Minister of the Interior, Minister of Defense, Minister of Justice, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Minister of Environment, Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Minister of Culture, Minister of Health, Head of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society

	3.2.10. Adopt legislation to ensure the recognition of volunteering as a form of co-financing in projects from public sources.	26. Draft a proposal of legislative changes regulating the recognition of voluntary work as a form of co-financing in projects funded from public resources.	31 December 2023	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
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<b>Policy Area 4</b>		<b>Systematic Collection of Data on Civil Society</b>			
Objective	Measure	Commitment	Deadline for implementation	Responsible	Partners
4.1 Create an open, freely accessible and integrated data system on civil society.	4.1.1 Extend the functionality of the Register of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations to be a source of up-to-date information on civil society in real time, implementing the principles of open data.	27. In cooperation with civil society partners, propose adjustments to the functionalities of the Register of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations.	31 October 2024	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society	Minister of the Interior
	4.1.3. For the purposes of the satellite account and regular data collection on non-governmental non-profit organizations, harmonize the areas of generally beneficial purpose in the Register of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations with the International Classification of Nonprofit and Third Sector Organizations ICNP/TSO (International Classification of Nonprofit and Third Sector Organizations), taking into account the specificities of non-governmental non-profit organizations in Slovakia.	28. Apply the areas of public benefit purpose in the Register of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations harmonized with the International Classification of Nonprofit and Third Sector Organizations ICNP/TSO (International Classification of Nonprofit and Third Sector Organizations) for the needs of the satellite account and the regular collection of data on non-governmental non-profit organizations.	30 June 2025	President of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society
	4.1.4. Modify, where possible, the existing system of statistical data collection, which, based on the UN's methodology for the satellite account of non-profit and related institutions and the measurement of volunteering, will enable the socio-economic contribution of the non-profit sector and volunteering to be statistically processed on an ongoing basis, and will also be helpful for improving the quality of services provided by non-governmental non-profit organizations and other civil society actors, as well as for the development of public policies.	29. Modify, where possible, the existing statistical data collection system, which, on the basis of the UN's methodology for the satellite account of non-profit and related institutions and the measurement of volunteering, will enable the socio-economic contribution of the non-profit sector and volunteering to be statistically processed on an ongoing basis, and will also be useful for improving the quality of services provided by non-governmental non-profit organizations and other civil society actors as well as for the development of public policies.	31 October 2025	President of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society
	4.1.6 With the participation of civil society, evaluate available data and analyses monitoring the consequences and impacts on civil society organizations during crisis situations.	30. In collaboration with partners from civil society, evaluate available data and analyses monitoring the consequences and impacts on civil society organizations during crisis situations.	31 August 2025	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society	
4.2 Establish a framework for regular evaluation of the effectiveness, relevance and adequacy of existing financial support instruments used by the public sector to support civil society.	4.2.2 Evaluate the contribution of charity advertising in order to make it more effective and attractive.	31. Develop an analysis of the benefits of charity advertising with a view to making it more effective and attractive.	31 August 2025	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

<b>Preparation of the new action plan</b>					
Objective	Measure	Commitment	Deadline for implementation	Responsible	Partners
Continue with the implementation of the Strategy of Civil Society Development in Slovakia for 2022-2030.	-	32. Prepare a draft Strategy of Civil Society Development in Slovakia Action Plan for 2027-2030 and submit it to the Government of the Slovak Republic for consideration.	30 June 2027	Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the Development of Civil Society	