

EN

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Answer given by Mr Síkela
on behalf of the European Commission
(25.6.2025)

The Commission recognises the need for a vibrant, strong and well financed civil society, because of its essential contribution to democracies based on the rule of law and fundamental rights. The Commission welcomes for civil society organisations to diversify their funding sources, provided the funders operate lawfully, transparently, and in line with EU values and legal obligations.

EU funding is provided after public and transparent calls for proposals. Proposals are evaluated against pre-announced selection and award criteria by independent experts and only the highest ranked proposals are selected for funding. The funding is provided in full transparency and in line with the Financial Regulation¹.

During implementation, EU funded projects are closely monitored to ensure that they are implemented according to the grant agreement. In the event of incorrect implementation or in cases of fraud, irregularities, substantial errors or serious breach of contractual obligations, including the violation of EU values, the grant may be suspended, terminated or reduced and funds may be recovered.

The Commission's support is based exclusively on the merit of proposed activities, alignment with EU policy objectives, and compliance with democratic principles. Any concerns about misconduct or conflicts of interest are addressed through established oversight mechanisms, including audits, European Anti-Fraud Office investigations, and exclusion procedures. Based on the rules of the Early Detection and Exclusion System², entities engaging in grave professional misconduct can be excluded from receiving EU funding.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj/eng>.

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=legissum:0603_3#:~:text=It%20amends%20the%20EU%E2%80%99s%20basic%20financial%20rules%20and,economic%20operators%20%28i.e.%20businesses%2C%20companies%20and%20non-commercial%20organisations%29.