

Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway



**Active
citizens fund**



**ACTIVE
CITIZENS FUND
PORTUGAL
2018—2024**



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First meeting
of the Programme's
advisory group
composed by
26 participants.

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ACTIVE CITIZENS FUND

The Consortium formed by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and the Bissaya Barreto Foundation was selected in November 2017 through a public tender as the managing entity in Portugal for funds from the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area intended for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) – the Active Citizens Fund.

Following the implementation of the 2013–2016 Active Citizenship Programme by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the 2018–2024 Active Citizens Programme represented a renewed and more robust opportunity for Portuguese NGOs to join forces, strengthen their voice and their capacity to act and mobilise civil society and citizens for a more active and participative community life, promoting tolerance, social justice and transparency in public affairs.

The Programme had a global budget of 11.5 million euros supported by public funds of the Donor Countries of the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area (EEA Grants) – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

←...

Radices Project,
Outcome 3,
Reducing social
isolation of the
elderly through
intergenerational
craft workshops.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR AN INCLUSIVE EUROPE

The Programme's main objective was to strengthen civil society and active citizenship and empower vulnerable groups in Portugal. To achieve this, the Programme supported 182 projects.

To achieve this, the Programme supported **182 projects** that promoted democracy, active citizenship, good governance, and transparency; defended human rights, equal treatment, and non-discrimination; promoted social justice and the inclusion of vulnerable groups; and strengthened the institutional capacity of NGOs to improve the conditions and effectiveness of their action.

The Programme supported organisations and projects in their various phases and dimensions, from small to large organisations, innovative concepts to the replication and scalability of proven solutions, or continuity of support for deserving organisations. Within the limitations of project selection through competitive procedures, the Programme has established several bridges with other programmes of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, initiating or continuing their support, when appropriate.

**Supported projects impacted
+65,000 beneficiaries.**

←
Neighborhood
Correspondents
Project, Outcome
1, Mentoring
programme
between journalists
and young people
in the Rego
neighborhood.

OUR VISION

Project
“CERCI Braga –
Capacity-building
for impact”,
Outcome 4
“Magical Walk”:
Fundraising event.



We believe that greater civic participation, greater knowledge and respect for Human Rights, greater inclusion of all, particularly the most vulnerable, and more capable NGOs within a more organised sector will contribute to a stronger and more united society and, as such, be more resilient to threats to our society and democracy.

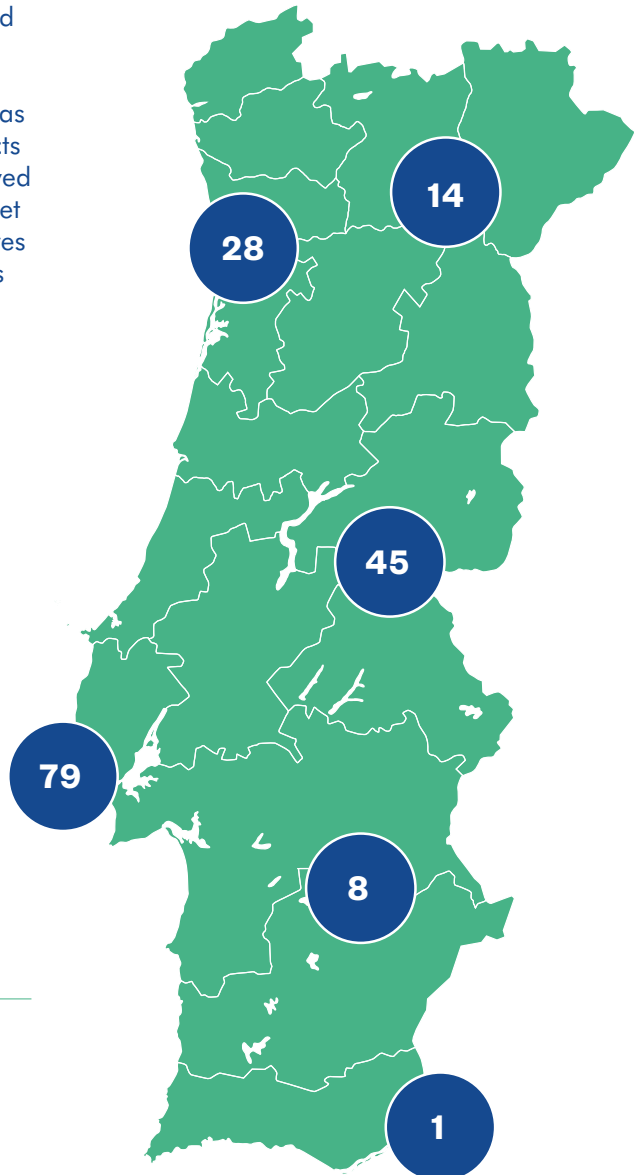


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OUTREACH

The Programme is also concerned with a balanced development of Civil Society in Portugal. Therefore, one of its objectives was to reinforce the number of projects promoted by NGOs in underserved areas or led by underserved target groups through outreach measures and specific support mechanisms for these organisations in the application process.

Compared with the previous mechanism, the Programme more than doubled the number of projects led by NGOs located outside the metropolitan areas of Lisbon and Porto, reaching over 40% of the total number of projects.





OUTCOMES

The projects were supported under 4 outcomes:

Strengthened democratic culture and civic awareness

Increased support for Human Rights

Vulnerable groups are empowered

Enhanced capacity and sustainability of civil society



Project Reshape,
Outcome 3,
Ceramic workshop
for convicts.

STRENGTHENED DEMOCRATIC CULTURE AND CIVIC AWARENESS

Under this Outcome, **38 projects** were supported, promoting dialogue and cooperation between NGOs and public bodies, education for citizenship, strengthening young people's involvement in the community, participation of young people in decision-making processes, civic activism, volunteering and solidarity, advocacy and monitoring of public policies, awareness campaigns, and media literacy actions to combat fake news and misinformation.

These include the "Neighbourhood Correspondents," which promoted a mentoring programme between journalists and neighbourhood youths for the production of journalistic pieces about their community through their eyes and with their own voices. It also includes the "Civitas" project, which launched a game about the Portuguese Constitution, co-created by children from Belmonte, Covilhã, and Fundão, and achieved a partnership with the National Parliament for its commercialisation. While participants in the "Politically Aware" project interviewed members of Parliament, participants in "Youth for the Planet" were challenged to develop actions linked to environmental causes in Portugal, to promote the civic participation of young people. In Ribeira Grande, the "+ Voice – ageing with dignity" project promoted the civic participation of seniors through the creation of local senior centres.

#civic participation
#citizenship education
#monitoring public policy



Project "Molde 50",
Outcome 3,
Sewing workshop
for women over
50 in vulnerable
situations.

Results reached by supported projects:

Over 3 500 people educated in citizenship

More than 1 200 volunteers recruited

**Over 80 initiatives implemented
promoting access to information
on public / private policies**

**15 evidence-based reports produced
on public / private policies and reported
in the media**

INCREASED SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Under this Outcome, **26 projects** were supported to promote human rights education and training, particularly among young people, activities to prevent or tackle discrimination and all forms of violence, Human Rights advocacy, and participation in decision-making processes relating to public policies.

These include the “Giving a Stage to Difference” project, which used the playback theatre method to mobilise and raise awareness of Human Rights, and the “Click Delete” project, which raised awareness about the issue of sexual violence based on images. In Covilhã, young people from the “Coolaboratory” project carried out several campaigns to raise awareness of Human Rights, offering carnations to passersby who would abdicate, even theoretically, any right, on the occasion of 25 April, all of whom refused. In Évora and Madeira, young people from the “It’s How It Is” project co-created murals to raise awareness of the acceptance of difference, and the professionals from the “Diverse and Active” project provided training and created tools to promote diversity and non-discrimination in the workplace.

#advocacy for Human Rights
#awareness raising for Human Rights



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Projeto CIVITAS,
Eixo 1, Lançamento
do jogo sobre
a Constituição
no Parlamento
Nacional.

Results reached by supported projects:

**Over 5 400 youths mobilised
to engage in Human Rights work**

**Over 1 600 professionals
trained in Human Rights**

**Over 110 Human Rights campaigns
carried out**

10 national policies and laws influenced

VULNERABLE GROUPS ARE EMPOWERED

Under this Outcome, **54 projects** were supported, promoting the social and professional paths of young people at risk of social exclusion, support for victims of domestic and sexual violence, integration of refugees, migrants, minority groups. It also supported the integration of former inmates, through arts, sports, and culture, economic empowerment of vulnerable individuals, and intergenerational cooperation.

Among these is the “Dreaming with Survivors” project, which was designed by and for survivors of childhood cancer to improve their quality of life and overcome inequalities of opportunities and access. In Cascais, the “Wave by Wave” project promoted the inclusion of young people living in foster homes through surf. In a kitchen in the Arroios market, the “Mezze-school” project offered refugees and migrants hope in flavors and aromas, where they learned not only cooking but also created links between cultures. In the “Caregiver Hearts” project, the inclusion of these groups resulted in their professional integration into elder care, which also addressed the lack of staff in this field. In Leiria, the “Spin with Me” project integrated members of the Roma community and brought society closer to Roma culture. In nursing homes in Esposende, the “Neighbourhood Memories” project prepared letters of rights, life story books, and advance directives with seniors and people with dementia.

#economic participation of vulnerable groups
#inclusion of at risk youth
#empowerment of vulnerable groups



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Project
“#Rights.com”,
Outcome 2,
Human Rights
awareness
campaign
led by youths.

Results reached by supported projects:

**50 NGOs adopted
participatory methods**

**Over 3 600 vulnerable
individuals empowered**

**More than 1 100 beneficiaries
of improved services**

ENHANCED CAPACITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Under this Outcome, **64 projects** were supported, aimed at preparing needs assessments and action plans for organisations, as well as training, mentoring, and consultancy in advocacy and fundraising, governance, planning, administrative and financial management, communication and marketing, management and recruitment of volunteers, monitoring and evaluation techniques, and actions to support the development and consolidation of NGO platforms and networks.

These include the “Capacity-building to Believe” project, which strengthened the NGO through the review of its strategic positioning, improvement of its fundraising and advocacy capacity with political decision-makers, and practical application of this capacity through the implementation of a communication campaign and a public awareness campaign combined with fundraising. The “CALL – Communication & Advocacy Learning Lab” project trained NGOs in the areas of communication and advocacy for social change, media relations, and storytelling. The “Empower APAV” project improved the volunteering, communication, and fundraising management of the project promoter, and the “IAC – Invest, Update, Train” project improved the governance, management, fundraising, and impact assessment of the organisation. The “Human Rights Platform” project created a new umbrella organisation in this subsector, with the aim of creating synergies and action between various organisations, enhancing their voice and impact on Human Rights.

#NGO Platforms and Networks
#NGO capacity-building



Project “Caregiver Hearts”, Outcome 3, Training of migrant and refugee women in elderly care, focusing on palliative care.

Results reached by supported projects:

Over 1 600 NGO staff and more than 250 NGOs trained

160 NGOs adopted effective management procedures

27 NGOs started referencing research / evidence in their advocacy work

13 NGOs reduced their dependency of public funding

BILATERAL COOPERATION

The Programme also looked to promote cooperation between Portuguese civil society and entities from the Donor Countries, as well as the establishment of partnerships between Portuguese NGOs, partnerships between Portuguese NGOs and public or private entities located in Portugal or in other Beneficiary Countries, and partnerships of Portuguese NGOs with international organisations.

Bilateral cooperation initiatives supported activities aiming to deepen relations between Portuguese NGOs, entities from the Donor Countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway), and international organisations, such as the Council of Europe or subsidiary agencies like the Fundamental Rights Agency, through the exchange of international experiences, the sharing and transfer of knowledge and good practices, to strengthen the capacity and effectiveness of NGO action in Portuguese civil society, as well as the preparation of more robust projects.

36 projects in partnership with donor country entities

In the 2018—2024 mechanism, bilateral cooperation initiatives sought to promote active ageing, youth participation, and social inclusion through arts and sports, to tackle corruption and gender violence and discrimination, to compare drug policies, legal and incarceration systems, and shelters for victims of domestic violence, and to exchange knowledge and experiences in mental health care, advocacy and public policy monitoring, communication, fundraising, financial management, volunteer management, and designing, implementing, and evaluating social projects.

The Programme also organised visits with Portuguese NGOs to Norway and Iceland, to meet local organisations and participate in events.

REGIONAL COOPERATION

Regional cooperation initiatives are activities that contribute to the Programme’s objective and promote regional exchange and networking among the EEA Grants beneficiary countries to strengthen the Civil Society sector.

The Programme has participated in and co-organised several events in partnership with Fund Operators from other EEA Grants beneficiary countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia).

Project “CALL –Communication & Advocacy Learning Lab”, Outcome 4, Communication and media training for NGO staff.



Highlights include the International Conference Digital4Good in Lisbon, the Digital Sovereignty Conference in Ljubljana, the capacity-building workshops to support the Fund Operators of the Active Citizens Fund in their capacity development role in Athens, and the Improving Affordable Housing in the Mediterranean Region conference in Valletta.



CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation was created in 1956 by the will of Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian, a philanthropist of Armenian origin who lived in Lisbon between 1942 and 1955. Of Portuguese nationality and established in perpetuity, the Foundation's fundamental purpose is to improve people's quality of life through art, charity, science, and education.

The Foundation carries out its activities from its headquarters in Lisbon and delegations in Paris and London, as well as support from Portugal to the Portuguese-speaking African countries and Timor-Leste, as well as in countries with Armenian communities.

The Foundation has a museum, which houses Calouste Gulbenkian's private collection, and a modern art centre, which brings together the most important collection of modern and contemporary Portuguese art; an orchestra and a choir; an art library and archive; and a garden, which is a central space in the city of Lisbon, where educational activities also take place.

In conjunction with cultural activities, the Foundation fulfils its mission through innovative programmes that develop pilot projects and provide support through scholarships and subsidies to institutions and social organisations.

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BISSAYA BARRETO FOUNDATION

The Bissaya Barreto Foundation is a private social solidarity institution of public benefit, based in Bencanta, Coimbra. Since its creation in 1958, it has continued the social work created and bequeathed by its patron, Fernando Bissaya Barreto, an illustrious doctor and university professor who, in the central region of the country, built and guided a wide network of assistance, educational, training, and cultural organisations.

To this end, the Foundation operates in the areas of social intervention, education, culture, professional training, and health.

The Foundation has nurseries and kindergartens, a basic and vocational education establishment, a language academy, a temporary reception centre for children and young people at risk, a geriatric centre, protection and monitoring units for the elderly, a support and response service for elderly people experiencing situations of violence, and elderly people who are alone or isolated, socially and/or geographically, and a professional training centre.

The Foundation includes places of reference in the cultural itineraries of the Centre region and the country, through Portugal dos Pequenitos and the Bissaya Barreto Museum, Documentation Centre, and House of Arts.

The Foundation works closely with other organisations in the community, participating in multiple social partnerships and research mainly on education and social areas.

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