

Funding and support for CSOs in National Foundation of Civil Society in Estonia (NFCS)

Marten Lauri coordinator of NGO consultants in CDCs

Evelyn Valtin coordinator of international cooperation

2017

Pre-story

- in 1990s funding for CSOs came mostly from the west, but it ended
- problems – few state financing; not for capacity building
- 2002 – Estonian Civil Society Development Concept
- 2007 – parliamentary elections as a breakthrough for founding NFCS
- 2008 – NFCS was founded
 - High hopes from CSOs
 - Supporting the stronger or the weaker end?
 - Bigger grants to a few vs smaller grants to everyone
 - Focus setting? Uncovered areas?
 - The role of the founder (the State)?

What does NFCS do?

Our statute says we are helping to:

1. **build the capacity** of Estonian CSOs to develop civil society
 2. **shape the environment** that fosters civic action
- state financed (Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Finance)
 - carrying out Estonian Civil Society Development Concept, also Civil Society Development Plan 2015-2020
 - annual budget: about 3 million euros

A puzzle to solve: are we a smart grant giver or the leader of developing CSOs?

Who do we support?

CSOs acting in **public interest**, organisations encouraging their activity.

Requirements for CSOs (as a rule):

- being registered in Estonia, at least 1 year
- acting in public interest
- following the Principles of Ethical Operation of Non-profit Org-s (*see next slide*)
- not under the dominant influence of the state or local municipality
- displaying information about themselves publicly on their webpage

Eligible applicant is **neither** a political party **nor** employers' association, business association, labour, professional or trade union

Code of Ethics of Estonian NGOs

Adopted in 2002 at the General Assembly of the Roundtable of Estonian NGOs.

Sharing and acting on the bases of **values** such as: integrity, equality, dignity, openness, solidarity, collaboration, diversity and reliability

Principles of ethical operation:

- Democratic governance
- Civic courage and care
- Sustainability and prudence in using funds and resources
- Responsibility and accountability
- Openness and transparency
- Independence and avoiding conflicts of interest
- Honouring commitments and recognition of authorship of ideas
- Tolerance

Our activities

I Grants

- focused open calls for raising operational capacity
- local initiative programme for small-scale local development projects
- programme for innovative solutions for societal problems

II Supporting activities

- CSO consultants in 15 County Development Centres (co-op contract)
- list of manuals and tips on how to plan development, prepare projects,
- grants for activities developing a wide range of NGOs
- grants for big civil society events in Estonia, research on civil society

III International cooperation

- Contact Point of EU programme „Europe for citizens“,
- travel grants to exchange good civil society development experience
- other measures to encourage international cooperation, participating in networks

Our grants and support to CSOs

I Grants

- Open calls to **raise CSOs' operational capacity (development leap!)**
e.g. capability of managing, communication, being better in advocacy, raising income (incl social entrepreneurship)
- Grants for **local initiative** small-scale projects on grassroot-level (ca 800 projects per year)
- New programme/incubator for **smart solutions** to societal problems
(gathering ideas, incubator for 6 of them, starting grant for 3 of them)

Our grants and support to CSOs

II Supporting activities

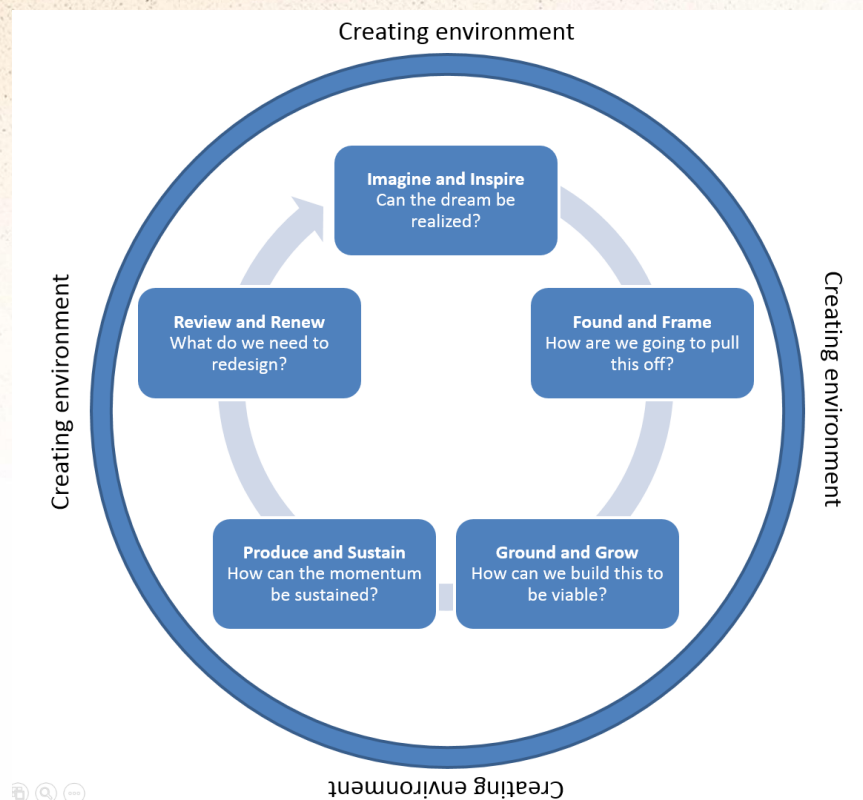
- **NGO consultants** in County Development Centres*
- some **development programmes** (trainings for CSOs)
- grants for **activities developing a wide range of CSOs**
- grants for **big civil society Events** (eg honouring volunteers event, Let's Do It clean up day, Opinion Culture festival)
- **research on civil society** (after every 4-5 years a thorough CSO survey etc)

In addition:

- mediating **database of experts** in capacity building
- **list of manuals**, tips on how to plan development, write projects etc

NGO consultants in counties

- 15 County Development Centres (all over Estonia)
- free advice to CSOs on different issues
- trainings, networking etc
- managing „online advisor“ website for CSOs
- currently in progress: development programme for CSO managers/board members



NÄGEMISPUUDEGA
KASUTAJATELE

MAKiS
TEEJUHT VABAÜHENDUSTELE

Portaali haldab
KÜSK Kodanikuühiskonna
Sihtkapital

ET

Siseveeb

Avaleht

Nõuanded veebis

Tähtjad ja
sündmused

Toetusvõimalused

Soovituslik lugemine

Küsi nõu

LOGI VÄLJA

MAKIS - teejuht vabaühendustele internetis

Otsi lehelt..



VAJAD ABI?

Hetkel aktuaalsed teemad



Majandusaasta aruande esitamine

Majandusaasta aruande esitamise tähtaeg läheneb. Loe siit, kuidas koostada ja esitada majandusaasta aruanne



Organisatsiooni asutamine

Loe lähemalt, mida peaksid teadma enne kodanikuühenduse asutamist



Vabatahtlike kaasamine

Loe siit, mida peaksid teadma enne vabatahtlike kaasamist ühingu tegevusse



Maakondlikud konsultandid

Igas maakonnas on Sulle abiks konsultant, kes on valmis Sind nõustama organisatsiooni kogu elukaare jooksul. Siit leiad kiiresti konsultantide kontaktandmed. Nõu pakume ka vene keeles.



LÄHENEVAD TÄHTAJAD

04.05

Eesti-Vene piiriülese koostöö programmi tähtaeg

06.05

Teeme Ära talgupäev

10.05

Kaasamise kevadkool

12.05

Eesti-Läti programmi teise taotlusvooru tähtaeg

Vaata kõiki tähtaegu ja sündmusi



2017



Mai

E	T	K	N	R	L	P
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

Tänane kuupäev

Uudised ja teated

UUS!

Ootame tagasisidet nõustamisportaali kasutamise kohta

Sel laupäeval toimub taas üle-eestiline Teeme Ära talgupäev

Our grants and support to CSOs

III Supporting international co-operation

- Contact Point of EU programme „**Europe for citizens**“
- **travel** grants
- grants to cover self-financing in international projects
- grants for **international big events** held in Estonia
- (grant programme to NGOs in Estonia's EU Council Presidency period)

Who are we in NFCS?

- Our office **team**: 11 people (men and women of all ages 😊)
- **The Supervisory Board**:
4 representatives of public sector, 5 of civil society organisations
- **The assessor team (16 members)**:
commonly every project is evaluated by 3 of them

The decision making process differs depending on the grant.
Strict division of responsibilities **to avoid conflict of interests**

Being a smart, transparent grant-giver...

- following **the Code of Ethics of Estonian CSOs** (honesty, transparency, involvement, cooperation, impartiality etc)
- following **The guidelines for state funding for CSOs**
- **involving** CSOs in grant-planning, giving **feedback**
- supporting activities, constant communication with CSOs
- **impartial assessment** of projects
- **project database** on our website
- close contact with other grant givers (Open Estonia Foundation, Integration Foundation, Government Office – regarding Republic of Estonia 100, Ministry of Interior)

Some future challenges

- Improving measuring the impact of grants
- High demand, low supply (more CSOs, less funding)
- The role of NFCS shifting to being a civil society competence center?
- Sharing experience with other grant givers

Thank you! ☺

www.kysk.ee/nfcs

E-mail: kysk@kysk.ee