

Funding Instrument:

Research for the Benefit of Specific Groups – Civil Society Organisations (BSG-CSO)

Research for the Benefit of Specific Groups – Civil Society Organisations (BSG-CSO) is a new funding scheme for an active participation of Civil Society Organisations in Research. The objectives of the BSG-CSO funding scheme is to:

- invite CSOs to form partnerships with research organisations;
- allow civil society organisations to find scientific responses to their needs;
- provide researchers with new inputs and perspectives for their activities;
- enrich public research agendas;
- enable research results to be used in the public interest.

The BSG-CSO funding scheme structures the way projects are submitted in response to a Call for Proposals and funded within a grant agreement. The funding scheme may stipulate the types of activities which are supported and for which purposes, the nature and number of eligible participants, the mode of partnership between the participants, etc.

The funding scheme aims to develop scientific knowledge related to CSOs' activities in order to contribute to public debate. The research results are aimed at being used for the public good.

These research results are jointly owned by the participating CSOs, or, if owners are not the CSOs, they should ensure that CSOs are provided with all the rights to use and to disseminate the results.

Civil Society Organisations such as Non-governmental, not for profit, not representing commercial interests, pursuing a common purpose for the public interest are eligible to the Funding scheme.

How it works

- CSOs identify and formulate research needs related to their activities
- RTD performers and CSOs form a partnership and combine their knowledge
- RTD performers carry out the bulk of the research
- CSOs may carry out some research
- Management, training, dissemination strategies are shared
- If relevant for the project, other participants are possible

BSG-CSO can be used within the “Cooperation” and the “Capacities” Programmes as long as its availability is specified under each Call for Proposals. In 2007 it has already been used in the Environment and Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities themes. Minimum participation and maximum EC grant is subject to the FP7 general rules and to specific provisions of the Work Programmes. In addition, three independent legal entities established in three different Member States or Associated Countries must be part of the partnership.