



STEP UP FOR ACTION: OPPORTUNITIES TO EMPOWER CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Recent conferences, seminars and consultations by the European Union and its institutions have provided a great opportunity for systematic engagement of civil society voices. To promote and inspire further engagement of civil society, ECNL has launched the report “New dimensions for public participation” to support CSOs to untap the full potential of various participation tools in the European Union and its Member States.

ECNL is also launching the updated “Handbook on How to Use EU Law to Protect Civic Space”, developed jointly with Philea. The Handbook shows how CSOs can use EU law and tools to protect civic space and the rule of law in their countries. This will be helpful for both EU Member States as well as EU accession countries, since EU Commission President Ursula van der Leyen announced that certain countries with the status of candidates will be offered the opportunity to engage in an ad hoc Rule of Law Mechanism, currently under development.

We invite you to join us online for two webinars on 5-6 December 2023 to:

- follow up on the recommendations of the research on participation tools;
- discuss how to promote meaningful participation in the 2023-2024 Rule of Law consultation and a Rule of Law dialogue with stakeholders in the EU accession countries; and
- exchange good practices of using emerging tools to strengthen civil society participation in the EU, its Member States and accession countries.

DAY 1: THE EU RULE OF LAW CYCLE: HOW CAN IT REALLY ENGAGE CIVIL SOCIETY AND PROTECT CIVIC SPACE IN EUROPE?

Join us to find out how the EU Rule of Law Mechanism can contribute to strengthening civic space in your country. During this webinar, we will exchange views on experiences with the Rule of Law Cycle and discuss proposals for further improvement, look into the recently launched EU 2023-2024 Rule of Law Consultation, and discuss concrete ways and initiatives to promote and facilitate inclusive participation in the process.

Agenda

10.00 am Opening and setting the scene: EU law and Civic Space

10.10 am Brief introduction of the updated Handbook on EU Law and Civic Space: practical examples and EU Rule of Law dialogue

10.20 am Dynamic fireside chat between guest panelists and participants, moderated by ECNL, on:

- Learnings from the EU Rule of Law Mechanism: What has worked well and what could work better?
- The 2024 Rule of Law Report: How can CSOs meaningfully contribute?

11.10 am Wrap up

WEBINAR DETAILS

DAY 1:

Date:

5 December 2023

Time:

10.00 – 11.15 am CET

Registration link:

[Click here](#)

This webinar is possible thanks to a grant awarded by the Network of European Foundations – Civitates and is co-organised within the framework of the ParticipatiON Project and the Catalyst of Change Project, both funded by the European Union.



DAY 2: WHAT METHODS CAN WE USE TO INCREASE INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE EU AND WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REFORM?

Join the discussions to exchange experiences with the use of various participation methods, including online platforms, gamification, facilitation tools, university programmes and living labs, social media platforms and hybrid forms of participation. Following up on the recommendations of the research, we will identify opportunities to integrate or pilot good practices at the EU and national level.

Agenda

- 10.00 am Opening and setting the scene
- 10.10 am Participation in EU policy-making: exchange of experiences with the use of participation methods
- 10.40 am Opportunities for reform
- 11.20 am Wrap up and next steps

We hope to see you on 5-6 December, 2023!

WEBINAR DETAILS

DAY 2:

Date:
6 December 2023

Time:
10.00 - 11.30 am CET

Registration link:
[Click here](#)

