

EU STRATEGY FOR CIVIL SOCIETY



November 2025

An open civic space with a vibrant civil society is at the core of our democracies.

Civil society organisations are essential: they contribute to policymaking and raise awareness about important social issues and foster citizen engagement.

With the EU Strategy for Civil Society, the Commission is stepping up its engagement with civil society, and will further support and protect civil society organisations in their work.

The Strategy proposes concrete actions at EU and national level.

Strengthening engagement

- ▶ Establish a **Civil Society Platform** to provide regular dialogue with organisations working to promote EU values.
- ▶ Create a **dedicated website** to ensure transparency on the Commission's engagement with all civil society organisations.
- ▶ Set out **10 new guiding principles** for dialogue with civil society organisations.



Support and protection in an open, safe and enabling civic space

- ▶ Set up a new **Online Hub on civic space** to facilitate access to existing projects, tools and protection resources.
- ▶ Work with **Member States** to build capacity and strengthen civic space and protection for civil society organisations.



Funding

- ▶ EU budget: **€9 billion** is foreseen under the Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034 for the new **AgoraEU** funding programme, which will help to promote shared values, including democracy, and to support the European cultural diversity, its audiovisual and creative sectors, media freedom, and the involvement of civil society.
- ▶ Stronger links with private donors and pro bono legal communities.



The EU has already delivered under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV): since 2021, the programme has provided financial support to projects involving more than 6,000 civil society organisations across all Member States and some non-EU countries.

EU External Action

- ▶ We will scale up our support to ensure an enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders across the world, particularly through our EU Delegations.

