

## Tips & resources for your inspiration

How to engage in policy dialogue when the civic space is narrowed?

### → Learnings

- Survey results on the perception of civil society in Hungary:  
<https://civilizacio.net/en/activities/civic-polls>
- Ideas on how to prepare and respond to pressures on civic space, based on the experience in Hungary and with the Recharging Advocacy for Rights in Europe (RARE) community:  
<https://www.ned.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Civil-Society-Must-Be-Equipped-To-Survive-And-Resist-Foreign-Agents-Laws.pdf>
- ECNL Learning Centre - Participation mechanisms at the EU-level:  
<https://learningcenter.ecnl.org/learning-package/participation-mechanisms-eu-level>
- ECNL Updated Handbook on How to Use EU Law to Protect Civic Space:  
<https://ecnl.org/publications/updated-handbook-how-use-eu-law-protect-civic-space>

### → Cross-sector coalitions

- Czech Republic: NeoN Network of Networks:  
<https://neon-cooperation.org/>
- Slovakia: Platform for Democracy:  
<https://www.predemokraciu.sk/>
- Hungary: Civilization Coalition:  
<https://civilizacio.net/en/home>

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### → EU Rule of Law Report

- Explanation of the whole cycle:  
[https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/upholding-rule-law/rule-law/annual-rule-law-cycle\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/upholding-rule-law/rule-law/annual-rule-law-cycle_en)
- The upcoming report 2025:  
[https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/upholding-rule-law/rule-law/annual-rule-law-cycle/2025-rule-law-report\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/upholding-rule-law/rule-law/annual-rule-law-cycle/2025-rule-law-report_en)
- ECNL: Rule of Law in the EU: How does it strengthen civic space?:  
<https://ecnl.org/publications/rule-law-eu-how-does-it-strengthen-civic-space>
- Civil Society Europe guidance note for civil society organisations' monitoring and participation in the European Commission's annual Rule of Law Cycle at the national level:  
<https://civilsocietyeurope.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/CSE-guidance-note-on-RoL-report-18.12.2023.pdf>

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### → Civil society shadow reports - 2025

- Civic Space Watch:  
<https://civic-forum.eu/civicspace25>
- Liberties rule of law report:  
<https://www.liberties.eu/f/vdxw3e>

## Tips & resources for your inspiration

### → Legislation

- The Directive on European Cross-Border Associations (ECBA) aims to create a single market for non-profit organizations by harmonizing rules for establishing and operating across the EU. It would provide a simplified process for these organizations to exercise their rights in the internal market, such as freedom of establishment, free movement of capital, and freedom to provide and receive services. The directive would establish a new legal form, the ECBA, with automatic recognition in all Member States and simplified procedures for transferring their seat:  
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52023PC0516>
- Eu Cross-Border Associations brief by the RARE:  
<https://rights4.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/RARE-ECBA-Directive-Policy-Paper.pdf>
- More policy briefs by RARE here:  
<https://rights4.eu/policy/>
- Hungary: Operation Starve and Strangle 2025 - Analysis on the new Bill on the Transparency of Public Life:  
<https://helsinki.hu/en/operation-starve-and-strangle-20250522/>
- Fundamental rights: Council approves conclusions on the role of the civic space:  
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/03/10/fundamental-rights-council-approves-conclusions-on-the-role-of-the-civic-space/>

## Tips & resources for your inspiration

### → EU Civil Society Strategy

- The EU Civil Society Strategy, announced in the Commission's 2025 work programme, aims to support, protect, and empower civil society organizations and human rights defenders. It includes initiatives like a civil dialogue platform and increased investment in protection mechanisms to address threats to civic space:  
<https://civic-forum.eu/press/in-historic-decision-european-commission-promises-strategy-to-support-protect-and-empower-civil-society>

Key aspects of the strategy:

1. Focus on support and protection: to provide resources and mechanisms to help CSOs operate effectively and navigate challenges.
  2. Civil dialogue platform: will facilitate direct communication and collaboration between the European Commission and CSOs.
  3. Increased investment in protection: will allocate more resources to protect CSOs and human rights defenders from threats and harassment.
  4. Early detection and monitoring: The strategy will prioritize improving the ability to identify and respond to threats to civic space.
  5. Collaborative approach: working with CSOs and other stakeholders to achieve its goals.
  6. Long-term commitment: The strategy aims to establish a sustainable framework for supporting civil society in the long term.
- Follow the EC website for public consultations to take part in the consultation on the strategy from June till end of the summer:  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives_en)  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say_en)