

CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP: THE KEY TO PEACE IN EUROPE

CSO METER CIVIL SOCIETY DAYS 2025

20 MAY
2025
BRUSSELS

15.00-19.00

Thon Hotel EU
Rue de la Loi 75
Room 'France'

Keynote speeches

- **Diana Jablonska**, Head of Unit, DG ENEST C1, European Commission
- **Simona Ognenovska**, CSO Meter Project Director, European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL)

Resilience at the edge of democracy: Civil Society in Action Across the EaP

- **Tatevik Margaryan**, CSO Expert, Transparency International Anticorruption Center, Armenia
- CSO expert from Azerbaijan
- CSO expert from Belarus
- **Zurab Menagarishvili**, Policy Analyst, Civil Society Institute, Georgia
- **Florin Gisca**, Legal Advisor, Promo-LEX Association, Moldova
- **Nataliia Klymova**, Deputy Director, ISAR Ednannia, Ukraine

EaP Civil Society as a Strategic Partner in Addressing the EU's Most Pressing Challenges

- **Peter Varga**, Lead on Eastern Partnership at the Open Government Partnership
- **Alexandra Kirby**, Senior Programme Manager, European Endowment for Democracy
- **Elene Panchulidze**, Research Coordinator, European Partnership for Democracy
- **Tinatini Tsertsvadze**, Advocacy Adviser, Open Society Foundations
- **Karolina Iwanska**, Digital Civic Space Advisor, ECNL
- Member of the European Parliament (TBC)

Panel discussions from 15.00 - 18.00 will be followed by a networking reception.



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ABOUT THE EVENT

The Eastern Partnership region faces growing challenges ranging from conflict and Russian influence to political instability. Yet, CSOs remain resilient, adapting to crises, delivering aid, and defending civic freedoms. The EU's recommendation to begin accession talks with Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia in 2023 has renewed momentum for civil society engagement. This policy event explores recent trends, regional responses, and the evolving role of civil society as a strategic partner in addressing the EU's key challenges.

The event will explore how an empowered and resilient civil society supported through sustained EU–EaP cooperation and long-term monitoring tools like the CSO Meter is essential to advancing peace, security, and stability in the region, while highlighting key impact stories that demonstrate civil society's role in confronting current threats to the region and Europe as a whole.

ABOUT CSO METER

Over the past decade, the **CSO Meter** has become a vital tool for strengthening civic space in the Eastern Partnership region. The **CSO Meter Hub is a dynamic community** of 25 CSOs from the EaP region that monitors and advocates for an improved civil society environment. Together with ECNL, the Hub focuses on empowering CSOs through tools, guidance, and knowledge to proactively address the enabling environment for civil society. CSOs have used it to drive democratic reforms, while the EU has drawn on its insights to shape support and strategic action in the region.

The "CSO Meter: Empowered for Action" project is funded by the European Union. It is implemented by the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law Stichting (ECNL) and its partners: Transparency International Anticorruption Center in Armenia; Civil Society Institute in Georgia; Promo-LEX Association in Moldova; and ISAR Ednannia in Ukraine.



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- Early Warning Updates - Keeping you informed about any relevant changes and developments in each country, facilitated by expert monitoring on the ground.
- Annual Country and Regional reports - With a detailed analysis of all changes that happened in law and practice, and concrete recommendations for institutions.
- The CSO Meter Roundup - Quarterly newsletter summarising all relevant news.

