

EnTrust Debate

‘A pact on informed and open policy debate’:

Civil dialogue and the (dis)trust relationship between civil society and EU institutions

23 April 2024. 11:45 – 13:00 CEST

Brussels and online

This lunchtime debate delves into the relationship between civil society organisations (CSOs) and EU institutions, and the topic of creating a civil dialogue for EU policymaking.

While Article 11 of the Treaty on European Union states that “institutions shall maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue with representative associations and civil society”, the implementation of a comprehensive framework for civil dialogue is still missing. The Enlightened Trust ([EnTrust](#)) [research project](#) offers an innovative approach to understanding and addressing (dis)trust in governance, providing valuable insights and measures to support democratic societies in Europe. One section of the project studied the avenues of participation for civil society in EU-level policymaking, their relations with the EU institutions and the patterns of trust and distrust. Based on this, a training manual on civil dialogue has been drafted and tested in a training session that involved civil society organisations and personnel from the three main EU institutions.

The debate will present the EnTrust project findings (see [report](#)) and policy recommendations (see [policy brief](#)), and will provide a glance at the experience of drafting the manual and its testing. It will offer decision-makers and representatives of CSOs a space to discuss how to establish a real framework for civil dialogue and to reflect on the nature of the (dis)trust relationship between civil society and the EU.

Register [here](#)



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Agenda

11:45 - 11:50	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Gabriella Civico, President of Civil Society Europe (and moderator)
11:50 - 12:00	'A pact on informed and open policy debate' : Civil Dialogue and enlightened trust in the relations between civil society and EU institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Carlotta Besozzi, Director of Civil Society Europe
12:00 - 12:10	Training on civil dialogue : the results of a testing experience <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Matteo Vespa, Policy and Project Officer of Civil Society Europe
12:10 - 13:00	Panel discussion on the way forward for civil dialogue : <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Alessia Valentino, Fundamental Rights Policy, DG JUST C.2, European Commission- Alicja Szastko, Polish Permanent Representation to the EU, Justice and Home Affairs Section - <i>TBC</i>- Alexandrina Najmowicz, Secretary General of the European Civic Forum
13:00	Lunch

