# Civil Society Europe – Membership Offer

## WHO WE ARE

Civil Society Europe (CSE) is the **coordination of civil society organisations at the European (EU) level**. It is **currently composed of [24 platforms and networks of civil society organisations](#)** (CSOs) among the most representative CSOs active at the EU level in a wide variety of areas, such as civic participation, education, social rights, environmental and animal rights, culture, transparency, international cooperation, volunteering, youth, patients' rights, the fight against racism and other forms of discrimination, as well as the rights of persons with disabilities.

**Through its membership, CSE reaches out to millions of people who are active in or supported by not-for-profit organisations and CSOs across the EU**. CSE was created by several CSOs as a follow-up of the European Year of Citizens, and established as an international not-for-profit organisation in 2016. Since then, CSE has carved out a unique space as the coordination of civil society organisations which are interested in strengthening the role of civil society and civic space at EU level and is recognised as the point of reference for EU institutions on civil dialogue and civic space.

## OUR MISSION

CSE's mission is to **contribute to EU recognition of the essential role and value of independent and plural CSOs in building and nurturing a democratic society that is based on fundamental rights**. CSE also **works to create the conditions for** the development of **a strong and independent civil society voice** and **an effective, open, and structured civil dialogue at the EU level**, as well as **a thriving and enabling civic space** across the Union.

## OUR OFFER

Are you looking to join forces and do advocacy work on your interests as a civil society organisation? Are you looking for a community and a learning space where you can network with and learn from like-minded CSOs and build your capacities?

Look no further, **CSE offers opportunities to collaborate through:**
- **Advocacy**, including: building a common, strong civil society voice on transversal issues, like the future of Europe, alongside the voice of social partners; implementing and reviewing EU Treaty provisions on civil dialogue; developing an open civic space, including through calls for tools and mechanisms for civil society's participation in decision-making and access to funding;
- **Learning:** supporting mutual learning among CSOs at both EU and national levels, exchanging good practices, and developing common solutions;
- **Tools:** providing CSOs with tools to reinforce their accountability towards their members, citizens and institutions at all levels;
- **Watchdog:** reinforcing CSOs' capacity to play a watchdog role by providing guidance for action.

## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Since its inception, CSE has:

- **Built a common advocacy agenda** together with diverse and representative networks and platforms of CSOs that are working on the main areas of citizens' concerns, aimed at EU institutions;
- **Put civic space (its existence and safeguarding) on the EU agenda**, notably by publishing the first reports with evidence of the shrinking civic space at the EU level and ensuring that civic space is included in the rule of law cycle;
- **Ensured the participation of civil society within the Conference on the Future of Europe** (CoFoE) **by launching a Civil Society Convention for the CoFoE** (80+ member organisations, 200+ recommendations developed); the Convention obtained 5 out of 8 seats for civil society within the CoFoE itself;
- **Made innovative proposals to strengthen civil dialogue at EU level** through joint reports;
- **Contributed to the review of EU funding rules**, for instance through the inclusion of volunteers' work and the increase of funding for CSOs in the Multiannual Financial Framework;
- **Increased EU institutions' awareness of the importance of consulting and meaningfully taking into account CSOs' perspectives** regarding the Recovery and Resilience Facility, and **provided guidance to national CSOs.**

## OUR MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

**CSE is a membership-based organisation and unique value-based community.** It is open to all European networks of not-for-profit associations that:
1. **have member organisations in or are represented through their members in at least half of EU countries,**
2. **have a legal status,** and
3. **endorse CSE's mission statement.**

All full members have equal status in the organisation.

**CSE also partners with other CSOs that are non-profit and driven by a public benefit.** Currently, CSE's partners include: the Philanthropy Europe Association (Philea) and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC).

**If you are interested in becoming a member, please fill in the application form available on our website and send it to Nastassia Maes, Membership & Engagement Officer of Civil Society Europe**, at nastassia.maes@civilsocietyeurope.eu.