

Civil Dialogue Award

Call for nominations

Civil Society Europe (CSE) is launching the call for nominations for the 1st edition of the Civil Dialogue Award. If you are part of an EU Institution, Agency or Body that has organised a civil dialogue initiative, or a civil society organisation that has participated in one, keep reading below!

Civil Dialogue refers to the regular, structured and meaningful interaction between institutions and organised civil society along the entire cycle of law- and policy-making, from specific thematic areas to programmatic issues and agenda-setting.

Civil Dialogue is enshrined in the EU Treaties: Art. 11 TEU states that “the institutions shall maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue with representative associations and civil society”. However, according to the [research](#) Civil Society Europe carried out for the “EnTrust” Horizon 2020 project, “there is common agreement among Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Europe that EU governance lacks a culture of civil dialogue”.

Against this backdrop, the proposal for a Civil Dialogue Award aims to acknowledge and celebrate those institutions, departments and units in the EU policy making sphere upholding strong engagement with civil society in their work. The Award will gather existing good practices regarding engagement of civil society to foster a strengthened culture of civil dialogue and promote the idea of an EU inter-institutional framework on civil dialogue.

Eligibility criteria

The Civil Dialogue Award will be focused on good practices and initiatives of meaningful involvement of civil society organisations in EU policy making that took place **in the past 3 years** (from 2022 onwards). **The initiatives looked at are the ones carried out by directorates, sections, units, committees of the EU Institutions, EU Agencies, EU advisory and consultative bodies, inter-institutional bodies, and European political groups.** This includes but is not limited to:

- European Commission
- European Parliament
- Council of the EU
- European Council
- European Court of Auditors
- European Central Bank
- European Court of Justice
- EU Council Presidencies
- Permanent Representations to the European Union
- National administrations, when involving civil society organisations for the definition of national positions on EU policies
- EU Agencies

- EU advisory bodies (European Economic and Social Committee, European Committee of the Regions, others)
- Independent bodies (European Ombudsman, European Data Protection Supervisor, others)
- European Parliament's political groups

Here follows a non-exhaustive list of the types of eligible practices and initiatives:

- Participative dialogues in the framework of the adoption and/or adaptation of policies or legislation.
- Strategic ongoing dialogue processes still to be translated into a concrete policy or legislative initiative.
- Open forms of dialogue such as stakeholders fora, EP intergroups and interest groups.
- Regular annual or biannual dialogue events co-organised with civil society.
- Structured feedback systems for implemented policies, possibly leading to the publication of a report.

Practices and initiatives organised by officials/MEPs etc.. on an individual basis are not eligible for the Award.

Nominations

Nominations can be put forward by:

- **The candidate unit/department/committee etc...itself**
- **Another unit/department/committee**
- **Civil society organisations.** In this case, before the nominated initiatives pass to the next stage, the Award organisers will contact the indicated candidates to make sure they agree to participate in the evaluation process.

Each nomination must include a clear explanation of the type of initiative presented, the process of involvement of civil society, the results, as well as the main contact persons.

Nominations can be made via [this form](#). The deadline for submitting nominations is **01.08.2025**.

Evaluation process

The nominations will be evaluated by a dedicated Jury, whose members will be selected by Civil Society Europe from the non-profit sector, academia and media, based on their expertise on civil dialogue at the EU level.

The Jury will review the applications for the Award, develop a shortlist to be invited to the Award Ceremony, and select the final winner(s) of the Award. Shortlisted nominees (officials and the civil society organisations contacts) might be invited for an interview with the Jury members as part of the evaluation process. The winner(s) will be announced only during the Award Ceremony. The decisions of the Jury are final and binding.

The Jury will autonomously organise its proceedings and develop its working rules.

The guiding principles of the evaluation criteria will include but not be limited to:

- Regularity of the initiative (as opposed to one-off initiatives)
- Inclusiveness of the initiative
- Meaningful involvement of civil society in the initiative (role allocated to civil society, involvement in agenda setting, openness to the input of civil society organisations etc...)
- Impact of the initiative
- Quality of the follow-up to the civil society organisations involvement
- Sustainability over time

Award Ceremony

The shortlisted initiatives will be invited to the Civil Dialogue Award Ceremony, where the winner(s) will be announced. The Ceremony event will involve civil society organisations, EU institutions, relevant international organisations, academia and media.

The awardee(s) will be entitled to use the logo “Winner of the Civil Dialogue Award 2025”. The organisers of the shortlisted initiatives will also be entitled to use the logo “Shortlisted for the Civil Dialogue Award 2025”.

Timeline

- 1 August 2025: Deadline for submitting nominations
- July-October 2025: Review of nominations and potential interviews with shortlisted nominees
- November-December 2025: Award ceremony

Contacts

For further information, please contact Civil Society Europe’s Secretariat at info@civilsocietyeurope.eu

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