



Civil Society Europe Newsletter

June 2026

Welcome to our June 2026 newsletter! In this edition, find out about the Civil Dialogue Forum, the open letter to European leaders for a strong EU long-term budget, our infographics on civil society funding, and much more!

What has CSE been up to?

Civil Dialogue Forum: From Dialogue to Framework

On 23 June, a high-level forum on civil dialogue took place in the European Parliament. **Civil Society Europe contributed to the organisation of the event**, co-hosted by the European Parliament and the European Commission.



The event brought together representatives of civil society organisations and EU institutions —including **Commissioner Michael McGrath** and the **EP Vice-presidents Katarina Barley and Nicoale Ștefănuță**— for a high-level panel discussion. This was followed by the presentation of practical examples of civil society engagement with EU institutions, as well as an overview of the priorities and plans of the upcoming Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU in relation to civic space.

Read more about the Civil Dialogue Forum [here](#) or check the event's agenda [here](#).

A Budget that Works for Citizens: the Multiannual Financial Framework and Civil Society

On 22 June, Civil Society Europe and the Partnerships Team of the European Parliament organised a **high-level event on the Multiannual Financial Framework**.

Speakers in the event included the European Parliament vice-Presidents Ștefănuță and Verheyen and the vice-chair of the BUDG Committee Lewandowski, as well as representatives of the European Commission from DG JUST, EAC and CNECT, and of civil society. It was an opportunity to discuss the next EU multiannual budget, the funding of civil society, and the role of civil society in AgoraEU, the programme to support culture, media and civil society.



The event also coincided with the launch of our [report on making the EU budget work for citizens](#) and our [report on the partnership principle in the MFF](#).

Read more about the event [here](#) or check the agenda [here](#).

Civil Society in Policy Making: From the National to the European Level

On **10 June**, Civil Society Europe, together with 5 of our members from the Green 10, co-organised a **cross-sectoral peer-learning event** with national civil society organisations.



The event included a plenary session about the **attacks on NGO funding at EU level**, as well as a roundtable of **best practices on resisting shrinking civic space** at national level. NGO representatives from Poland and Hungary shared their strategies to resist attacks, while representatives from Czechia and Slovakia shared current challenges they are facing. In a more interactive session, participants split into breakout groups and **co-designed tools to resist attacks**.

The event concluded with a **“fishbowl” panel with MEPs from the S&D and Greens/EFA political groups**: Helene Fritzon, Marit Maij, Ana Miranda, Erik Marquardt and Jean Marc Germain. In this informal and direct exchange, participants had the opportunity to share the realities they face at national level and discuss with the MEPs.

Read more about the event [here](#).

More than 300 Organisations Sign CSE Letter to European Leaders for a Strong EU Long-term Budget!

On **18 June 2026**, as the European Council meeting in Brussels took place, Civil Society Europe and a wide number of organisations have launched an **open letter in support of a strong EU budget for the period 2028-2034**. It has been signed by 316 EU-level, international, and national organisations from all 28 EU countries.

The letter **supports the European Parliament's proposal** to dedicate the full budget proposed by the Commission to new investments. This approach would allow the EU to invest more in social cohesion, sustainable development, research and innovation, youth, culture, external action and the green transition. Signatories also request a discussion on how the EU budget is financed, supporting the development of new and genuine own resources.



Read the full open letter [here](#).

Civil Society in the EU Long-term Budget: Infographics

We carry on with our 'Voices of Millions' campaign! In the month of June, we have launched a series of **infographics on civil society funding and the Multiannual Financial Framework**, the EU's long-term budget.



Civil Society in the EU Long-term Budget

Curious about civil society funding in the next EU long-term budget?

Discover more about it through **Civil Society Europe's infographics**

The first infographic covers the **state of funding for civil society in the EU** and explores the question: is civil society receiving the support it needs in the next EU long-term budget? This thread is then continued with a second infographic which digs into **developments needed to ensure stable funding** so that civil society can thrive.

This series is part of our campaign 'Voices of Millions', aiming to raise awareness on the representative power of civil society across the EU. Access the infographics on [our website](#) and all social media channels ([LinkedIn](#), [BlueSky](#) and [X](#)).

CSE at the ReBuilding Democracy Conference in Pécs, Hungary



On **17-18 June** CSE participated in the **ReBuilding Democracy Conference**, organised by a consortium of Hungarian civil society organisations in Pécs. During the event, which gathered activists and NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans, CSE **presented its work on the Multiannual Financial Framework**, in a panel discussion together with the European Civic Forum and the Irish Embassy in Hungary.

CSE at the General Assembly of the International Disability and Development Consortium

On **10 June**, CSE participated at the **IDDC General Assembly**, speaking at the panel **“United in Diversity: Building alliances to protect human rights and diversity”**. The panel, which also included representatives from CAN Europe, EDF and CONCORD Europe, discussed the challenges faced by civil society organisations in an increasingly hostile civic and funding space. It also reflected on the importance of coalition building with other organisations, and strategies to do so.

Events you don't want to miss

Civil Society Co-designing Quality: Building Resilience in a Challenging Environment

Can quality build resilience in civil society organisations? As civic space keeps shrinking across Europe, many organisations are searching for more **adaptive approaches to quality management** that support learning, participation and collaboration.

On 14 October 2026, Civil Society Europe will host the event “**Civil Society Co-designing Quality: Building Resilience in a Challenging Environment**”, under the **CoQuality network**. The event will build on the findings of a CoQuality European study on quality management, and will bring together relevant stakeholders to assess how quality can promote resilience, partnership and change.



When? 14 October 2026, 9:30 - 16:30

Where? Royal Library of Belgium, Mont des Arts 28, Brussels

[Register here](#) until 17 July, 2026, and read the [draft agenda here](#).

Call for Participants: Drafting of the Civil Society State of the Union 2027



Are you an EU-level civil society organisation? We are kicking off the preparation of our **Civil Society State of the Union 2027**. As the European Commission President presents their assessment on the state of affairs in the European Union each year, it is crucial that civil society complements this picture with our own perspective.

We are now ready to draft our 2027 Civil Society State of the Union, with the goal of taking stock of the state of affairs in the EU, and gathering ideas and demands identified by civil society for change. Participation involves **taking part in one of the thematic sub-working groups**. Register for participation [here](#).

Deadline to apply: **13 September 2026**

Other news

Lifelong Learning Awards 2026: Apply Now!

Applications for the 2026 [Lifelong Learning Awards](#) are now open! The [Lifelong Learning Platform](#) is seeking innovative practices related to its Annual Theme: "[Reimagining validation and recognition](#)" across four categories: Best Policy, Organisation, Tool, and Learner. This is your chance to gain European visibility and join us in Brussels for the [LLLWeek](#) 2026. [Apply](#) with your initiative before 31st August and become a LLLAwards winner!



Participate in Volonteurope's Safeguarding Survey

As part of the "Safe Spaces" project, [Volonteurope](#) has developed a survey to better understand how youth workers across Europe **perceive, experience, and implement safeguarding** in their daily practice. The results of the survey will inform the development of practical safeguarding e-learning modules, tools, and guidelines aligned with Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps standards.

The survey is open to respondents all across Europe. [Access the survey here](#) and submit your answers **by 15 July 2026**.



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