



PILLAR 1
DEMOCRATIC
PARTICIPATION



PILLAR 2
INDEPENDENT
AND EFFECTIVE
DEMOCRATIC
INSTITUTIONS



PILLAR 3
DEMOCRATIC
GOVERNANCE
AND INTEGRITY



PILLAR 4
DEMOCRATIC
FREEDOMS,
INCLUSION AND
CIVIL SOCIETY



PILLAR 5
DEMOCRATIC
FUTURE

WHAT ARE DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS?

— Democratic freedoms ensure that everyone can express their opinions and access information freely and safely, that the media is free, independent and diverse, that equality, diversity and inclusion are protected, and that civil society can operate in an enabling environment.



FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



Freedom of expression and media freedom are **guaranteed** and **protected**.

Media pluralism and **cultural diversity** ensure that a variety of voices are heard.

Journalists and others who speak out on issues of public interest are protected from intimidation, threats and violence.

Individuals of all age groups and with diverse backgrounds can **navigate** the (digital) media environment **responsibly** and **critically**.

The use of algorithms and **AI systems** online respects human rights, and the principles of transparency, accountability and non-discrimination.



PROTECTED CIVIC SPACE

Civil society actors and **human rights defenders** operate in a safe and enabling environment that upholds fundamental freedoms, facilitates participation and ensures protection from undue restrictions or threats.



3 THEMATIC AREAS

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



Effective protection is ensured against **discrimination**, **hate speech** and **hate crime**.



All individuals can equally **access** and **enjoy their rights** and participate.

Gender equality is promoted, and **gender-based violence** against women and girls and sexism are combatted.



Social protection and **minimum levels of welfare** are ensured.



Contribution to the
New Democratic Pact for Europe