

WORKING TOGETHER

CIVIL SOCIETY IN ACTION



Civil society organisations (CSO) play a vital role in strengthening democratic life, protecting human rights and promoting citizen participation across Europe.

Their importance has been reaffirmed in the Secretary General's 2024–2027 Roadmap on the Council of Europe's Engagement with Civil Society and in the New Democratic Pact for Europe, which emphasises the need to safeguard civic space.



Civic space is where democracy breathes. Our responsibility is to keep this space open and protect those who sustain democratic life.

Alain Berset, Secretary General of the Council of Europe



New Democratic
Pact for Europe

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In Armenia, the Council of Europe Office in Yerevan implements co-operation activities under the Council of Europe Action Plan for Armenia 2023–2026.

These initiatives with national and local authorities and civil society organisations support the alignment of national laws and practices with European standards in the area of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, while also promoting dialogue, transparency and inclusive public participation.



COUNCIL OF EUROPE ACTION PLAN FOR ARMENIA 2023–2026



Council of Europe
Action Plan for
Armenia 2023–2026

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE ENGAGING WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

Dialogue and participation

We actively involve civil society organisations in consultations, steering committees, and regular co-ordination meetings. Their input informs legislation and reform processes, including through thematic discussions, needs assessments, and policy development.

Engagement during Council of Europe visits to Armenia

We facilitate direct dialogue between CSOs and our monitoring and advisory bodies, including the Commissioner for Human Rights, the Venice Commission, and Parliamentary Assembly delegations. These exchanges contribute to expert opinions, assessments, and public reform debates.

Capacity-building and impact

We strengthen CSOs' capacity to engage effectively with the European Court of Human Rights, including through Rule 39 interim measures in urgent cases and Rule 9 submissions supporting the execution of judgments. Enhanced knowledge of national legislation and European Social Charter standards also improves responses to social rights violations.



Networking and co-operation

We support CSOs' participation in networking platforms that foster peer exchange and co-operation with public institutions. Their feedback is systematically integrated into the design, implementation and follow-up of our projects.

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Inclusive policy and outreach

We ensure regular engagement with diverse and marginalised groups, including displaced persons, women and children, persons deprived of liberty, and healthcare and patient associations. This inclusive approach strengthens policy relevance and impact.

Youth engagement

Youth organisations actively participate in dialogue with public authorities and other stakeholders, and in capacity-building activities, particularly in areas such as anti-discrimination, health, and community development.



Financial support

Through small grants, we support CSO-led initiatives promoting the socio-economic inclusion of women and girls, including refugee women, as well as women's empowerment, youth engagement, and community development.

CSOs as experts and partners

We collaborate with CSOs as national consultants on European human rights standards and support the development of awareness-raising and service-oriented materials that are relevant, accessible, and trusted by communities.



OUR IMPACT

Through these efforts, civil society is strengthened as a key partner in advancing human rights, democracy, and the rule of law in Armenia.

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