



WORLD NGO DAY 27th February 2026

The Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations in the Council of Europe (CINGO) welcomes you to join a hybrid event to celebrate World NGO day on 27th February 2026 - and to mark the start of CINGO's 50th Anniversary year.

Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law: [Now More Than Ever!](#)

Friday 27 Feb 2026, 13.00 – 15.00 CET

Online (with this [ZOOM LINK](#)) and in person in the Agora (room G04), Council of Europe, Strasbourg

Programme

1. Opening remarks & moderation: President of CINGO Gerhard Ermischer
 - The theme of World NGO Day 2026 '*Moments of Impact*'
 - Message from World NGO Day founder Marcis Skadmanis
 - Introduction to CINGO 50th anniversary year (10 mins)
2. Urska Umek, Head of Division of Democratic Institutions and Civil Society - *The importance and role of civil society, NGOs and CINGO in the Council of Europe in the context of contemporary and urgent challenges* (10 mins)
3. Jeremy McBride: Chair of the Expert Council on NGO Law and leading European Human Rights Lawyer. Launch of the final report into Recent Adverse Developments for Non-Governmental Organisations in Europe and its implications for Council of Europe and civil society organisations (15 mins)
4. Moderated panel discussion and questions from the audience online and in room (15 mins)
5. In line with the World NGO Day theme of 'Moments of Impact' this session will showcase some examples of NGOs making significant impact in collaborations with other actors:



- a. From Crisis to Collaboration: CINGO Youth's Role and Youth Action on the Ground: Scaling Hope and Trust in Extraordinary Times: Lessons from the Türkiye–Syria Earthquake Response
 - b. The role of civil society organisations in extending democracy and inclusion for the most marginalized and at risk people: The Responsive Social Services Project. ATD and IFSW Europe.
 - c. The outputs from the collaborative BRIDGE project: shaping civic futures in the Council of Europe's New Democratic and Social Rights Pact.
(35 mins)
6. Online participant Inquiry Participants will have the opportunity to prioritise some key areas of action for and by civil society by CoE and CINGO for the next year. (total 20 min).
7. Thanks and close