

Enhancing and Promoting the Values of Democracy and Participation

Aiming to identify, document, and primarily address the challenges faced by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Southern Europe, the team of 'Civic Champions' announces the launch of its project activities. Civic Champions is an international project funded by the European Union's 'Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values' program and is implemented by the Center for the Study of Democracy (Bulgaria), CESIE ETS (Italy), KMOP (Greece), and CARDET (Cyprus).

The primary goal of the project is to contribute to the promotion of the values of democracy and social justice. In response to the challenges and threats recorded in modern democracies that have led to the shrinking space for civil society, Civic Champions aims to empower civil society organizations. Collaborating based on a structured implementation plan, the project partners will develop a series of practical tools to enhance the capacity of organizations and members of CSOs to address the shrinking space for civil society, misinformation, and online threats.

The official launch of the project took place with the inaugural and planning meeting of the partners, during which the steps and activities to be carried out in the coming years were determined. Specifically, the partners will prepare studies on the state of Civil Society in Southern Europe and will develop an early warning and response mechanism for the threats faced by Civil Society. Additionally, they will develop and offer a training program for civil society members and produce a documentary to debunk myths and negative narratives.