



Empowering civil society organisations and activists championing human rights and democratic values in the EU

Civic Space and the Challenges Faced

Civic space empowers individuals and groups to actively participate in political, economic, social and cultural life. Yet, civil society organisations (CSOs) across the EU are increasingly encountering security threats that undermine their effectiveness. The phenomenon of "shrinking civic space" involves physical and online attacks, harassment and intimidation, often remaining unreported due to inconsistent data collection.

Project Aim

The **CivicChampions** project is dedicated to reinforcing democratic participation in Southern Europe (Bulgaria, Italy, Greece and Cyprus) by equipping CSOs to report threats, monitor violations and build public trust.

By focusing on capacity building, establishing early warning systems, and implementing evidence-based actions, the project aims to safeguard fundamental rights and ensure a thriving civic environment.

The core objective of the project is to fortify civil society's resilience by providing reliable data, developing effective tools, and enhancing its capacity to tackle challenges such as the shrinking civic space, disinformation and online threats.



Target Audience

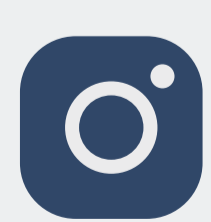
- **Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Activists:** Including NGOs, human rights defenders and other civic actors.
- **Policy-Makers:** Representatives from the governmental sector who can influence and support civic space.
- **General Public:** Engaged through awareness campaigns to build trust in civil society.

Project Results

- **Reports on the State of Civil Society in Southern Europe:** In-depth analyses of the current legal and political landscapes, documenting the main threats CSOs in Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Cyprus face.
- **Early Warning Mechanism for threats to civic space:** An online information and awareness platform to identify and address challenges CSOs, NGOs and activists face when mitigating.
- **Documentary:** A video exploration and debunking of myths and negative narratives about CSOs.
- **Capacity Building Programme for CSOs:** A comprehensive training programme to empower civil society practitioners on policy, advocacy and community engagement.
- **Events and Conferences:** National forums dedicated to examining the realities and challenges within civic space, facilitating discussions that lead to actionable strategies for empowering CSOs and enhancing citizen engagement.

Partners

- CSD- Center for the Study of Democracy, Bulgaria
<https://csd.eu/>
- CESIE ETS, Italy
<https://cesie.org/en/>
- KMOP - Social Action and Innovation Centre, Greece
<https://www.kmop.gr/>
- CARDET- Center for the Advancement of Research and Development in Educational Technology, Cyprus
<https://cardet.org/>



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