

Navigating Civic Space in an Age of Geopolitical and Social Upheaval

hosted by MEP, Mr Giorgos Georgiou

When: Wednesday, 18 March 2026, 15:30 to 17:00

Venue: European Parliament (Room: SPAAK 7C50)



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[Registration](#)

Across the European Union, civic space is increasingly strained by geopolitical confrontation, malign interference, and growing social polarisation. Safeguarding an enabling environment for civil society organisations and human rights defenders—through timely monitoring, early warning, and coordinated policy response—has become a central pillar of Europe’s democratic resilience.

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the [Civic Champions](#)' project final event, titled “**Navigating Civic Space in an Age of Geopolitical and Social Upheaval**”, which will take place on **Wednesday, 18 March 2026, from 15:30 to 17:00 (CET) in the European Parliament (Room:**

SPAAK 7C50), Brussels.

The event will open with a scene-setting presentation of new evidence on pressures facing civil society across Member States. It will also introduce practical, policy-oriented recommendations, including the proposal of an Early Warning Mechanism, followed by a high-level policy discussion on “**Empowering civic society organisations and activists in upholding democratic values and resilience**” with **Kristian Vigenin**, MEP, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, **Liliana Carrillo**, Founder and CEO at CollectiveUP, **Thijs Berman**, Executive Director of the European Partnership for Democracy and **Nadia Karayianni**, Head of Business Development, CARDET.

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Giorgos Georgiou
MEP, The Left group in the European Parliament

Kristian Vigenin
MEP, Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament

Liliana Carrillo
Founder and CEO at CollectiveUP

Thijs Berman
Executive Director of the European Partnership for Democracy

Nadia Karayianni
Head of Business Development, CARDET

Moderator: **Rositsa Dzhekova**, Director, Democracy Shield Task Force, Center for the Study of Democracy

CIVIC CHAMPIONS **CSD** **cesie** **kmop** **CARDET** **THE LEFT**

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The event is **organised** by the **Center for the Study of Democracy, KMOP, CESIE, and CARDET**, under the Civic Champions project, **co-funded by the European Union**, and is **hosted by Mr. Georgos Georgiou, MEP**.

If you are interested in participating in the event, please register **by the 16th of March 2026**.