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EaP | Eastern
Partnership



2026 Civil Society Fellowships How To Make Your Application

Webinar Agenda:

- 2 types of Fellowships - which one for me?
- Success factors for a Fellow
- The Application process
- Q & A

**EASTERN PARTNERSHIP
CIVIL SOCIETY FACILITY
PROJECT**

#EaPCivilSociety

Eastern Partnership Civil Society Facility in a Nutshell

Objective: to strengthen the role and increase the capacity of CSOs and activists in the EaP region to:

- engage in policy making processes and policy dialogue,
- promote reforms and public accountability,
- foster local democracy, local development and engage citizens in public debate.

Implemented by a consortium led by GDSI Limited (Ireland)

Timeline: June 2021 – April 2028

Website: <http://eapcivilsociety.eu/>

01

Capacity building activities

Courses, trainings, webinars, coaching and mentoring for civil society

02

Civil society fellowships

Community engagement fellowships and civic digital fellowships

03

Civil society hackathons and civic tech activities

Annual ideathons and hackathons, development of digital solutions

04

Civil society networking and ad-hoc support

Regional networking, relevant regional and international events and helpdesk for EU grantees

05

Country specific communication campaigns

Communication campaigns to improve the public image of civil society

06

Mappings, analyses, studies and research

To contribute to the EU's better understanding of CS

Two Types of Fellowship, But One Set of Benefits

Every selected Fellow will benefit from:

- Financial support – approx. 5,000 euros
- Training & coaching
- Networking and other opportunities
- Joining the Fellowship alumni





**Community
Engagement
Fellowships**

**Civic Digital
Fellowships**

Community Engagement Fellowships

We're looking for activists who can demonstrate a deep commitment to leading positive social change in their communities and who have plans to contribute to that change through:

- **Involvement in policy-making (national or local)**
- **Collecting local evidence**
- **Involvement in monitoring public administration**
- **Capacity development**
- **Improvement of CSO accountability and link to constituencies**
- **Strengthening cooperation between CSOs**



Civic Digital Fellowships

We are looking for civically minded individuals who want to use their expertise to contribute to, develop or further promote and raise awareness about **technological solutions for community needs**.

The Fellowships are designed to support Fellows engaging in:

01

Advocacy campaigns

Open data, data quality, e-services for citizens, budgetary transparency,..

02

Data and its quality

Making existing data machine-readable, generating & publishing new data,..

03

Developing new civic tech solutions

Community needs, governments' accountability, improvement of public services,..

04

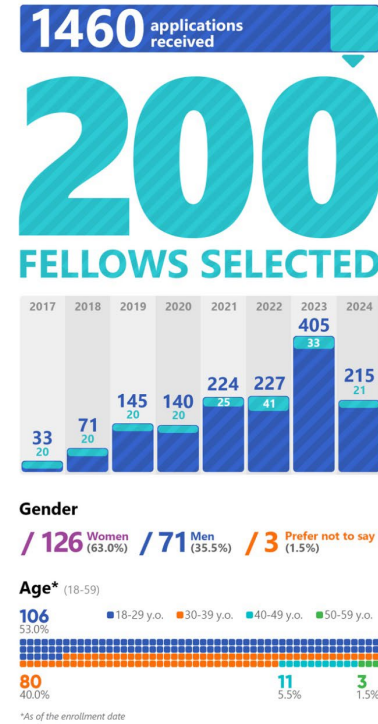
Promoting & expanding existing civic tech solutions

and building the relevant skills of the potential users

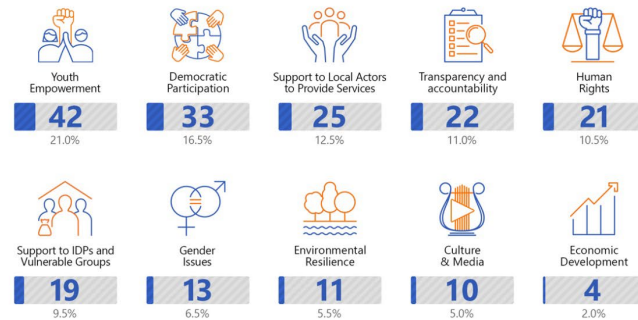
Eastern Partnership Civil Society Fellowships 2017-2024

#EaPCivilSociety
#CivilSocietyFellows
#EaPFellows

Supporting Civil Society Activists in the Eastern Partnership Countries



Key Themes of the Fellows' Actions



Key Functions of the Fellows' Actions



Background information: The EaP Civil Society Fellowship Programme is funded by the European Union and administered by its 'Eastern Partnership Civil Society Facility' Project (<https://eapcivilsociety.eu>). The Fellowship Programme is aimed at supporting civil society activists and civilly minded people in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. To-date (since 2017) the Fellowship alumni has a total of 200 Fellows from across the six countries of the EaP. Check Fellows' profiles at <https://fellows.eapcivilsociety.eu>



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<https://fellows.eapcivilsociety.eu/>

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Specific Theme for 2026 1st Call

Additional evaluation scores will be given to Concept Notes that respond to the specific theme of this 'Call':

Civil Society Resilience

We'll explain more about this later in the presentation when we look at 'how to make a winning Concept Note'



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Are You A Potential Fellow?

- ☐ Citizen of an EaP country
- ☐ Good English
- ☐ 18+ years old
- ☐ Not previously an EaP Fellow
- ☐ Proven track record and
- ☐ **A great idea for how your Fellowship will contribute to change**

Fellowship Success Stories



Oleksii Marushchak

Cristina BERLINSCHI



Fellowship Success Stories



Nensi MKRTCHYAN



Ketevan TVILDIANI

The Application Process

Only selected Concepts move to step 4 & 5

01

Read the [Guidelines](#)

02

Prepare a Concept Note

03

Submit Your Concept Online

04

Use the Incubation Period to Develop Your Full Application

05

Submit Full Application & Supporting Documents

Three sections:

1. Tell Us About Yourself
2. What's Your Experience and Motivation
3. What's the Purpose of Your Fellowship

Once you make the submission, you cannot change your Concept Note. But, before submission, you can log-in as many times as you like to work on your application

The Online Concept Note Form



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Preparing a Winning Concept Note

- Eligibility & Relevance
- The Evaluation Grid
- Lessons Learnt

Is Your Fellowship Concept Really Relevant?

Is your proposed
Fellowship needed?
What difference will it
make?
Who will benefit?
How will they benefit?



Is Your Concept Eligible???

Do you meet all the
eligibility requirements?
Have you uploaded your
CV?

Is the proposed purpose of
your fellowship broadly in
line with your experience
and stated motivations

Have you completed
every section of the
Form in full? And
completed all in
English??

Evaluation of Concept Notes

Experience & Motivation of Applicant	Score
Experience contributing to civil society, or relevant technical experience for Civic Digital Fellowships, and demonstrated leadership (max.3 points)	
Motivation to be a Fellow (max.3 points)	
Purpose and Beneficiaries of Proposed Fellowship	
Area of Fellowship is relevant to applicant's experience (max.3 points)	
Outcome is clear, achievable, and Fellowship justified (max.3 points)	
Beneficiaries are relevant for the Fellowship (max.3 points)	
The Fellowship responds to the theme of 'Civil Society Resilience'. (Yes= 3 points; Partially=1 point No= 0 points)	
Total Score	/18

Domains for contributing to resilience

Institutional & Organisational Resilience

- *Strategies for sustainable CSO resourcing*
- *Supporting accountability and strong CSO governance*
- *Adaptive capacities and supporting mental well-being*

Social & Network Resilience

- *Building solidarity for civic space*
- *Bridging social divides*
- *Networks/platforms for sharing knowledge/experience*

Legal & Political Resilience

- *Advocacy for an enabling environment*



***Civil Society
Resilience***

Safeguarding Issues



- Digital security
- Principle of 'do no harm'
- Modifications during implementation

Common Reasons for Failure



1. Non-Eligibility
2. Unclear or unrealistic purpose
3. Applicant demonstrates little or no experience related to the proposed purpose
4. Proposed beneficiaries are too vague or general

*From the last 'call' 216
Concept Notes were
submitted, but only 65
selected for Full
Application stage*

From Concept Note To Full Application

1. Successful Concept Note applicants will be informed of their selection by email and **provided with an online link** to open a Full Application
2. During the **Incubation Period** (Jan-Feb 2026) you will be working on your Full Application including:
 - Designing a set of **activities** which will achieve your Fellowship **objective** and include a list of concrete outputs, along with a proposed **budget**
 - Uploading all supporting documents (passport, nomination and/or other reference letters, EN proof)!

*Use the **Incubation Period** to develop your Fellowship project*

Timeline

17th November

- 1st Call for 2026 Fellowships Open

26th November

- 'Live' Info Session Webinar

30th December

- Closure for Concept Notes

Incubation Phase: January-February 2026

15 February
2026

- Closure for Full Applications

April 2026

- Fellowships Awarded

Implementation Phase: May-October 2026

Questions about eligibility

- Is there an age limit?
- Which countries are targeted?
- Can I apply for both types of Fellowship?
- Can I apply through my organisation?

Questions about the application process

- Can I complete a Concept Note form 'offline' and submit?
- Do I need to submit supporting documents with my Concept Note?
- If my Concept Note is not selected, can I delete my registration and start again?

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Check the Frequently Asked Questions on the [Project website](#)

Don't forget to check out the
top tips
and **FAQs**
on the web site:

www.eapcivilsociety.eu

*Any
questions?*



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Best wishes for your application!

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