



APPLICATION GUIDELINES

CALL FOR 'FELLOWSHIPS WITHOUT BORDERS' 2026

EaP Civil Society Fellowships

Supporting Civil Society Leadership in the Eastern Partnership Countries

NOTICE This is an open call for fellowship applications. Applications for 2026 Civil Society Fellowships Without Borders programme are accepted via the online application system:

<https://eapcivilsociety.eu/application-form-2026>

Submission of Application Forms can be made **at any time** in electronic format before the **closing deadline of 11th September 2026**. **Applicants** are encouraged to make submissions as soon as possible before the closing deadline.

Please check the eligibility criteria before applying. When submitting an application, applicants must follow all instructions contained in the guidelines and ensure submission of a complete application. Should you have any questions regarding your application, please contact fellowships@eapcivilsociety.eu.

PLEASE NOTE THAT FELLOWSHIPS ARE AWARDED TO INDIVIDUALS. THIS IS NOT A GRANT SCHEME FOR ORGANISATIONS.



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1. Background

The European Union is committed to supporting civil society in Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) and as such channels part of its support through the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Facility. In coordination with a range of projects and programmes, the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Facility project sets out to strengthen the role and increase the capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs) and activists in the Eastern Partnership to engage in the policy making processes and policy dialogue, promote reforms and public accountability, foster local democracy, local development and engage citizens in public debate. The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Facility was established in 2011, and the current phase of the project is for the period 2021 to 2028.

The [Eastern Partnership Civil Society Facility](#) has administered the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Fellowship programme since 2017, with 20 young civil society activists/leaders selected in each of its first four years, and an additional 145 Fellows selected for 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2025. To date, the Fellowship alumni network has a total of 225 Fellows from across the six countries of the EaP. Details about some of the Fellows and their areas of interest can be found at <https://fellows.eapcivilsociety.eu>¹. The activities of these previous Fellowships should be reviewed by potential applicants to new Fellowships in order to get ideas about what is possible and to avoid any duplication.

The second Call for Fellows in 2026 - **Fellowships Without Borders** - responds to the challenges faced by civil society activists from EaP region, who have limited opportunities for civic engagement in their home countries and are increasingly forced to relocate abroad. The fellowship is intended for those who wish to build cross-country partnerships and exchange experiences with civil society actors in other countries.

2. Objectives and Priorities of the Civil Society Fellowship programme

The main objective of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Fellowships is to support civil society activists or civically minded people who demonstrate a deep commitment to leading positive social change in their communities (including IT experts such as software engineers, data scientists, and designers who innovate at the intersection of technology and the needs of their communities). The Fellowships will build the Fellows' capacity to constructively engage with communities and authorities and contribute to reforms in the EaP countries. The Fellowships, including the 'Fellowships Without Borders', should be linked to the priority themes of the EaP² and areas of a particularly challenging nature in the region:

- Having a resilient, sustainable and integrated economy
- Strengthening accountability, rule of law, and security
- Ensuring environmental and climate resilience
- Contributing to resilient and inclusive digitalisation
- Promoting participatory decision-making and social justice

¹ Please note that the Fellowship website displays only the profiles of Fellows who have provided explicit consent for their information to be published.

² Applicants can learn more about the post-2020 priorities for the Eastern Partnership at: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/system/files/2021-09/eap_future_priorities_eng.pdf



2.1 Different Types of Fellowships

Generically, there are two different types of Fellowship on offer. Both types of Fellowship share the same benefits (described in Section 3), and either type of Fellowship can be used under this Call for 'Fellowships Without Borders'.

Community Engagement Fellowships are designed to support Fellows engaging in one or more of the following activities:

- **Collecting local evidence:** supporting fellows to collect and analyse evidence on key issues of public service delivery at the local and national levels.
- **Involvement in policymaking:** allowing fellows to gain expertise on specific policy issues, draft policy paper/recommendations and organise advocacy campaigns; helping fellows get access to government channels in order to better get their ideas across.
- **Capacity development:** supporting mentoring and job shadowing schemes and involving fellows in training of trainers in order to train other members of their organisations, as well as members of other CSOs from relevant networks. This may also include, although not exclusively, job shadowing or study visits with CSOs in EU Member States.
- **Involvement in monitoring public administration** activity and results: supporting fellows in developing a multitude of monitoring activities, including on technical issues such as public financial management, budget transparency and oversight.
- **Improvement of CSO accountability and link to constituencies:** supporting fellows in improving the transparency and accountability mechanisms of their organisations and in better linking activities to citizens' needs.
- **Cooperation among civil society actors:** allowing fellows to organise activities bringing various CSOs and activists together on issues of common interest. This may include actions enhancing coordination of civil society actors in exile, for example on joint advocacy work.

The **Civic Digital Fellowships** will facilitate Fellows to use their expertise to contribute to, develop or further promote and raise awareness about **technological solutions for community needs**. These Fellowships are designed to support Fellows engaging in one or more of the following activities:

- **Advocacy campaigns** on issues such as open data, data quality, e-services for citizens, and budgetary transparency.
- **Improving the quality of data** (such as making existing public data machine-readable or generating and publishing open and reusable data needed for further development of digital solutions for transparency and accountability in the region).
- **Developing new digital solutions** addressing community needs, helping citizens better hold governments to account, contributing to the improvement of public services, and/or improving CSO accountability.
- **Promoting/rolling out and expanding the existing** civic tech solutions that address community needs, help citizens better hold governments to account, contribute to the improvement of public services and/or CSO accountability, and building the relevant skills of the potential users.

Examples of Fellowship activities in line with the above topics can be found on the Fellows' profile pages: <https://fellows.eapcivilsociety.eu>.



2.2 Fellowships Without Borders

All applications to the Fellowships programme which match the eligibility requirements in section 4 below and which are in line with the objectives described above will be considered by the Selection Committee. Applicants may choose either the Community Engagement type of Fellowship or a Civic Digital Fellowship. The choice of type of Fellowship will be dependent on the proposed activities of the Fellowship. The eligible activities are described below in Section 4.2.

For this specific Call, applicants for a ‘Fellowship Without Borders’ **must demonstrate**:

1. Commitment to positive social change — compulsory

Applicants must show that they are committed to leading or contributing to positive social change in their community, or for the benefit of their community³.

2. The “Without Borders” component — a choice between 2A or 2B or both

Applicants must clearly explain how:

2A. a learning activity in another country will be used to strengthen their constructive engagement with their communities and/or the authorities;

and/or

2B. they will support their fellow citizens active in civil society in another country to contribute to policy dialogue and advocacy on behalf of their community wherever it is situated.

In Section 5 below (How To Apply) there is a description of the questions that need to be answered in the application form in order to demonstrate the criteria above. Applicants are strongly advised to ensure that their demonstrations of relevance and eligibility for this Call are clearly articulated in the application form. They should also bear in mind the scoring system that will be used to evaluate their applications (as explained in Section 6).

This Call encourages potential Fellows to make applications for a ‘Fellowship Without Borders’ which will facilitate citizens from the six countries to undertake an advocacy, mobilisation, investigative, or learning activity in another country of the Eastern Partnership, or their own, or in an EU Member State or in an EU Candidate Country.

The following countries are eligible locations for activities:

EU Partner Countries	
Eastern Partnership	Candidate countries
Armenia	Albania
Azerbaijan	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Belarus	Kosovo ⁴
Georgia	Montenegro
Moldova	North Macedonia

³ In this instance a community may be a geographic location, a specific sector, or a group of citizens or practitioners.

⁴ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



Ukraine		Serbia
		Turkey
EU Member States		
Austria	France	Malta
Belgium	Germany	Netherlands
Bulgaria	Greece	Poland
Croatia	Hungary	Portugal
Czech Republic	Ireland	Romania
Cyprus	Italy	Slovakia
Denmark	Latvia	Slovenia
Estonia	Lithuania	Spain
Finland	Luxemburg	Sweden

Indicatively, 'learning activities' may include study visits, job shadowing, internships, and/or research. Any activity must focus on learning practical ways to support civic engagement and civic dialogue. Indicative 'advocacy, mobilisation, or investigative' activities may include campaigns, organisation development, advisory services or data collection and analysis for domestic or exiled civic communities.

Eligible costs are the same as the regular EaP Civil Society Fellowships, including costs for developing and launching new civic tech solutions, or upgrading & expanding existing ones. Costs may be incurred in any Eastern Partnership country, EU Member State, or EU Candidate Country. In addition to the Fellow, fellowship projects' beneficiaries must be citizens of the Eastern Partnership countries. (More details about eligible actions and costs can be seen in Section 4).

3. Technical & Financial Support for Fellows

Fellows will be able to obtain an average of 5,000 euros in financial support for their Fellowship. Please note that the funds are provided in euros and not any other currency. The eligibility of costs which can be covered by the financial support is described below, but in general the financial support can be used in the Fellow's own country or any other country covered by the Eastern Partnership, in the Member States of the EU, or EU Candidate Countries. In addition, the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Facility project team will support Fellows to benefit from suitable e-learning activities and organisational/operational capacity development trainings/webinars, as well as opportunities to participate in international events. Furthermore, the project will continue to support the networking of the alumni (including previous generations of Fellows), through the organisation of alumni events and development of alumni actions and collaborations.

4. Eligibility

There are three specific sets of eligibility criteria:

- Eligibility of applicants to be Fellows
- Eligibility of actions under the Fellowships
- Eligibility of the costs of actions under the Fellowships

Each of these eligibility areas is explained in detail below. Applicants should review these carefully before making an application.



4.1 Eligible Applicants

In order to be eligible for a fellowship, the applicant must:

1. be a natural person and not a legal entity;
2. be a national of one of the Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine);
3. be above 18 years old;
4. not previously have benefited from the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Fellowship programme;
5. have a proven track record of:
 - a. for community engagement fellowships, working (including by volunteering) either in a civil society organisation, including Trade Unions, cooperatives, or professional associations, or with a civic engagement group or initiative group and/or taking a leading role in his/her community by advancing issues related to public service delivery and accountability, and developing local capacities;
 - b. for civic digital fellowships, professionally contributing to the development of IT solutions and/or voluntarily developing innovative digital products;
6. have a good working level of English, as well as have appropriate language skills for the chosen location of the proposed action;
7. assume responsibility for the action proposed and show commitment to the action proposed.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FELLOWSHIPS ARE FOR INDIVIDUALS AND NOT FOR ORGANISATIONS. However, if a Fellow requires the support of an organisation to secure their safety or to administer funds for them, this will be considered by the Evaluation Committee.

Proof of citizenship and age can be provided by a passport copy.

As proof of eligibility, an applicant to the Community Engagement Fellowships should provide a recommendation letter from a relevant CSO/Trade Union/ Cooperative /Professional Association or community organisation. Applicants to the Civic Digital Fellowships may provide a recommendation letter from a recognised IT professional (such as an employer, academic, tutor, colleague on a tech-related project) instead of a recommendation letter from a civil society actor.

As proof of a good working level of English, applicants must have a B1 level of English, as defined according to the [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#). Level B1 means you have the following abilities:

- You can understand the main points of clear standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc.
- You can deal with most situations likely to arise while travelling in an area where the language is spoken.
- You can produce simple connected text on topics that are familiar or of personal interest.
- You can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

Proof of the level of English may include one or more of the following: certification from an internationally recognized English language testing organisation (e.g., IELTS, TOEFL, Pearson, Trinity College); proof that you have studied at degree level using English as the language of tuition; personal



recommendation letter, with reference contact details, from an employer, university, or international organisation.

4.2 Eligible Project Activities

Applicants are required to provide details on the project which they intend to implement in order to achieve their stated outcome (results) of the Fellowship Without Borders. A successful Fellowship project addresses problems in the lives of the applicants' communities, regions and countries by promoting reforms, increasing public accountability, building solidarity networks and civic capacities, and/or monitoring the performance of governmental institutions.

The outcome and implementation of the proposed Fellowship project should also have a positive influence on the development of the applicant's leadership skills.

The proposed project should be implemented within a maximum of a 6-month period, and ideally a shorter time, and include **realistic and ideally sustainable outputs** that will contribute to the expected Fellowship outcome.

The Fellowship programme will provide support in broad areas of project activities, as long as the proposals meet the criteria described above in 2.2. Indicatively, activities may include:

- Evidence-based research or monitoring of how public services are delivered at national / local/ community level;
- Using evidence to draft policy papers and recommendations for decision-makers;
- Advocacy campaigns on issues of public concern;
- Better tailoring civil society organisations' activities to citizens' needs;
- Developing new solutions on issues such as e-transparency and e-participation, and expanding or upgrading existing technological solutions for EaP citizens' community needs;
- Developing digital solutions to contribute to a community's mitigation of climate change or addressing other needs, such as those of IDPs and refugees in a community;
- Promoting constructive dialogue and bringing civil society and authorities together to develop common solutions, and to improve access to government channels by civil society;
- Strengthening organisations' capacity to act effectively, including training of trainers in order to train other members of their organisation, as well as members of other CSOs;
- Supporting mentoring and job shadowing schemes in order to build capacities that can be transferred to other members of the organisation;
- Activities that build cooperation between CSOs and activists in any part of the Eastern Partnership with similar CSOs and activists in the EU Member States and Candidate Countries;
- Raising awareness and building relevant skills of end-users of civic tech solutions, and generating re-usable open data;
- Cooperation between civil society organisations, including trade unions and professional associations, and business on issues of common interest;
- Activities that help CSOs become sustainable, encourage philanthropy, mobilize private-sector and/or public support, promote volunteering, and empower individuals to take an active role in addressing shared challenges.



Also, preference will be given to applicants whose proposed actions do not overlap with the activities of previous fellowship projects. All applicants are advised to check previous projects on the project website: <https://fellows.eapcivilsociety.eu>⁵.

The following types of action are **ineligible**:

- actions concerned solely or mainly with construction, procurement of works or supplies;
- actions supporting political parties or candidates;
- actions supporting the army or other military bodies;
- actions including proselytism (i.e., attempt of any religion or religious individuals to convert people to their beliefs);
- activities that are normally carried out by the applicant and/or affiliated entities as part of their usual work.

Location

Actions must take place in the countries of the Eastern Partnership region, in the EU, or in an EU Candidate Country. (Please refer to the table of countries in Section 2.2 above).

Number of applications per applicants

The applicant may **not** submit more than one Application for this Call for Fellowship applications. Applicants who have already benefited from the Fellowship programme will not be eligible.

4.3 Eligible Costs

The proposed budget for a Fellowship action should be realistic and be based on the objectives and activities set out in the Fellowship project proposal.

The provided financial support of the Fellowship programme shall cover:

- specific activities outlined in the application form submitted by the applicant;
- travel and accommodation expenses to/from or/and within the host country;
- communication and visibility costs (including distribution and promotion);
- costs incurred from services of a mentor (s), if required;
- overhead expenses, such as accounting services, office or shared space rent, legal services to open accounts, but these cannot exceed 10% of the total budget of the project and cannot include fees or a salary to the Fellow;
- bank transfer charges;
- consular fees, if relevant;
- insurance (if relevant)

NOTE: In the case of proposals involving mobility, the host organisations based in the EU Member States, Candidate Country, or other Eastern Partnership country, shall facilitate the visa support. However, the applicants are expected to cover consular fees from the fellowship funds.

The following types of costs are **ineligible** for inclusion in the Fellowship budget:

- Fees, salaries, or any payment to Fellows;

⁵ Please note that the Fellowship website displays only the profiles of Fellows who have provided explicit consent for their information to be published.



- Fees or any payment to a superior of the Fellow at her/his workplace;
- Costs for purchasing equipment (the rental of equipment may be allowed if justified by the action).

It should be noted that **successful applicants will be solely responsible for meeting any specific tax requirements in their country of residence.**

The rates and charges included in the proposed budget have to be based on objective data that could be verified. It is an applicant's responsibility to ensure the accuracy of budget calculations and the estimation of costs.

The proposed budget should normally not exceed 5,000 EUR, however, in exceptional cases, a higher budget can be approved by the Selection Committee if justified in the application. The Selection Committee reserves its right to award a lower amount for the Fellowship, following the final revision of the proposed budget.

Those awarded a 'Fellowship Without Border' may receive an advance of funds into their nominated bank account or account of a partner organisation, or through an accredited financial transfer mechanism, or may request the Fellowship programme organisers to make direct payments, on their behalf, to service providers. The administrative arrangements for transferring and reporting on funds will be individually agreed with each awarded Fellow.

5. How to Apply for a Fellowship Without Borders

Any individual meeting the applicant eligibility requirements above may make an application to be awarded a Fellowship Without Borders.

Before preparing an Application for submission, all potential applicants should follow these steps:

- Carefully read the Guidelines and make a list of questions for seeking clarifications if some information is unclear;
- Check eligibility criteria;
- Obtain appropriate proof of eligibility: an applicant to the Community Engagement Fellowships should provide a letter of recommendation from a relevant CSO/Trade Union/Cooperative/Professional Association/community organisation; applicants to the Civic Digital Fellowships should provide a recommendation letter from a recognised civic tech or IT professional (such as an employer, academic, tutor, colleague on a tech-related project);
- Obtain the necessary proof document(s) to demonstrate your level of English. These may include one or more of the following: certification from an internationally recognised English language testing organisation (e.g., IELTS, TOEFL, Pearson, Trinity College); proof that you have studied at degree level using English as the language of tuition; a personal recommendation letter, with reference contact details, from an employer, university, or international organisation.
- Ensure your CV is up-to-date and in a format for uploading (PDF or Word file) - applicants who need guidance for drafting a CV may go to <https://europa.eu/europass/en/create-europass-cv>
- Participate in the live webinar 'How to prepare a successful fellowship application' or view a recorded version of the webinar;
- If interested in collaborating with CSOs in EU Member States, review the list of CSOs that have an interest in hosting Fellows: <https://eapcivilsociety.eu/download/16699/>;



- Clarify questions by submitting them to the following email address: fellowships@eapcivilsociety.eu

After completing all the above steps, the applicant can prepare a Fellowship Without Borders Application Form, choosing either the Community Engagement format or the Civic Digital format. The benefits are the same for both formats, however, if your proposal includes the development (or expansion) of a specific digital solution it is more suitable to use the Civic Digital version of the application form. All other applicants should use the Community Engagement version.

The Application must be completed in English, and applicants must use the template provided and make attachments/uploads of supporting documents as requested. The templates are for drafting a Budget and an Activity Plan and are available to download from the online application form.

Applicants are recommended to review the online application form so that they can prepare responses to the application questions and have all the relevant information at hand to fill in all sections of the form. The form includes sections and questions as follows:

- **Tell Us About You** - where you're required to provide personal details, provide your reference details, and level of English
- Your **professional experience**, including civic activism, and your CV
- Descriptions of **your achievements and motivation** for being a civil society Fellow
- What is the **problem or constraint that your fellowship project will address**. What evidence do you have about the problem and what aspect of the problem can your fellowship change?
- The **title** of your Fellowship Without Borders Project
- Fellowship Without Borders Project **Objective** – please provide a concise objective, based on the purpose
- **Activities** to achieve the Objective, with a list of the concrete **outputs** from the activities (e.g., Number of publications, people trained) and, if relevant, a brief explanation of how the outputs will be sustained.
- **Where** will the activities take place
- A description of **who will be involved** in the project (including details of any organisation in the EU, Candidate Countries, or EaP region that will be required to host the Fellow and/or activities). The Full Application template requires information about three categories of stakeholders: Organisations/people assisting the Fellow to implement the project; Participants of the project's activities, and/or other beneficiaries of the project; Other stakeholders important for the success of the Fellowship and related project.
- Details of any **specific capacity** weaknesses that the Fellow, and/or partners, may have and for which the Fellow will need assistance to address in order to successfully implement the action.
- **When and for how long** the activities will take place, indicating the month (M) and duration for each activity.
- A dedicated **draft communication plan** to demonstrate activities to promote the Fellowship project, such as the production of visibility materials, campaigns / publications in social media or key events for communicating about the project. If awarded a fellowship, this draft communication plan should be finalised and re-submitted within 10 days after the Fellowship agreement is signed.



- The **budget** for the Fellowship Without Borders, providing an overall total cost and a breakdown of the costs following the budget template. If you are planning public offline events within your fellowship project, include the design and production of a project banner and handouts.
- A description of any **risks** that may impact the implementation of the Fellowship and how the risks might be mitigated, and comments about any similar existing projects and how the proposed project might differ or contribute to the existing one.

In addition to the four sections of the Fellowship application, applicants must also complete the section on 'Proof and Other Supporting Documents', which requires the attachment/upload of documents:

- Proof of citizenship (obligatory)
- CV (obligatory)
- Recommendation letter (obligatory)
- Proof of level of English (obligatory)
- Budget (obligatory)
- Plan of Activities / Gantt Chart for your Fellowship project using the available template (obligatory)
- Reference letter of partner organisation, mentor, or coach (optional)

The Application Form can be completed and submitted online at <https://eapcivilsociety.eu/application-form-2026>. For applicants who face cybersecurity risks when making an online submission, please request an alternative submission mechanism by emailing us at eapcivilsociety@protonmail.com.

Applicants can **submit online at any time** after the Call for Applications is announced and before the final closing deadline. **Only one application per applicant is allowed. For this 2nd Call for the 2026 cohort, the closing deadline is 11th September 2026.**

Questions may be sent by e-mail no later than 5 days before the deadline for the submission of applications to fellowships@eapcivilsociety.eu. All received questions and answers as well as other important notices to applicants during the course of the procedure, will be published at <https://eapcivilsociety.eu>. It is therefore advisable to consult the abovementioned website before asking new questions in order to be informed of the questions and answers already published.

6. Evaluation & Selection

An independent Selection Committee will oversee the evaluation of every application at every stage. The Committee ensures that assessors comply with the eligibility criteria and evaluate applications in line with the scoring mechanisms explained below. Once the Selection Committee has completed its work, the list of applicants to be awarded Fellowships is approved by the European Union representatives.

The first step in assessing applications is to check the eligibility. Thus, all applications will be screened to ensure eligibility of:

- The applicant
- The application target country / partner
- Location of activities



- The application being within the scope of EaP Civil Society Project objectives and the specific requirements of this 'call
- The applicant's level of English
- Supporting documents
- The budget

Applications which pass the first step will then be assessed as follows:

The evaluation criteria are divided into headings and subheadings. Each subheading will be given a score between 0 and 5 as follows: 0 = no valid response / no relevance; 1 = very poor; 2 = poor; 3 = adequate; 4 = good; 5 = very good.

Experience & Motivation of Applicant (max. score 10)	Score
Experience contributing to civil society, or relevant technical experience for Civic Digital Fellowships, and demonstrated leadership (on a scale of 0-5)	
Motivation to be a Fellow (on a scale of 0-5)	
Purpose of the Proposed Fellowship Without Borders (max. score 15)	
Area of Fellowship is relevant to applicant's experience and competence (on a scale of 0-5)	
Problem or constraint that your fellowship project addresses is evidenced as a priority (on a scale of 0-5)	
The Fellowship is likely to lead to a positive change (on a scale of 0-5)	
Fellowship Without Borders Project Design (max. score 25)	
The Objective is clear, and all the proposed activities are relevant and feasible in terms of achieving the objective (on a scale of 0-5)	
The expected outputs are realistic and, where relevant, can be sustained (on a scale of 0-5)	
The beneficiaries and other stakeholders are relevant and appropriate (on a scale of 0-5)	
There is a clear and achievable communications plan (on a scale of 0-5)	
The budget is well-developed and realistic (on a scale of 0-5)	
<i>Total Score</i>	<i>/50</i>

Applications scoring a total of 40 points or more are likely to be recommended by the Selection Committee to be awarded, pending any outstanding compliance checks (e.g., of language skills, recommendation letters). The compliance checks may require the applicant to be interviewed by the Selection Committee.

As a regional programme, the Selection Committee will endeavour to ensure that the shortlist of applicants to be recommended for awards has appropriate representation from all the countries.

7. Fellowship Awards

For this 2nd Call for the 2026 cohort, there is a total quota of 25 Fellowships to be awarded.

The quotas are for the total of all Fellowships, with no specific quotas between the two different types of Fellowship (Community Engagement and Civic Digital).

Awarded Fellows will be able to begin the implementation of their Fellowship Action within 30 days of signing their Fellowship contract.



8. Indicative Timeframe

- 2nd Call for 2026 Fellowships opens on 22.06.2026.
- An Information webinar on how to make a Fellowship application will be made 'live' on 15.07.2026 and thereafter, it will be available to view as a recording at <https://eapcivilsociety.eu>.
- The deadline for submissions is 11.09.2026
- Awards of the Fellowships from the 2026 2nd Call are expected by December 2026

9. Implementation of the Fellowship

Once an applicant has been awarded a Fellowship, they become a Fellow. The responsibilities of being a Fellow include a number of key aspects and procedures, which are described below. These also include the use by Fellows of specific templates for reporting and frameworks for monitoring their fellowship projects. Details on the use of these templates and frameworks will be provided during the contracting phase.

9.1 Contracting

A successful applicant will receive by email a letter of award. The letter of award will indicate that the fellowship is to be awarded to them, subject to acceptance of the following conditions:

- i. Accept all conditions of the Fellowship agreement.
- ii. Use the Fellowship funds only as specified in the action proposal.
- iii. Maintain records of the usage of the Fellowship funds.
- iv. Implement the proposed action in line with the proposed timing.
- v. Provide the requested reports at the specified time and respond to any requests for information about the Fellowship by the Project team.
- vi. Provide a written acknowledgement of receipt of payments of the Fellowship funds.
- vii. Repay any portion of the funds not used for the specified purposes.
- viii. Refrain from use of the funds for any purpose prohibited by law.
- ix. Where relevant, and especially for the Civic Digital Fellowships, ensure compliance with any data protection and privacy regulations, and ensure users' personal data is protected.
- x. Cooperate with any efforts of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Facility – Regional Actions Project to publicise the Fellowship award, including the signature of the consent letter, and adherence to the EU's guidance on visibility.
- xi. Participate in the networking events organised by Eastern Partnership Civil Society Facility – Regional Actions Project.

The acceptance of conditions should be indicated in the response e-mail within 2 working days after receipt of the notification. At the contracting phase, the Selection Committee decides whether to accept the proposed amounts or rates on the basis of the provisional budget submitted by the applicants, by analysing factual data of similar actions. The checks may give rise to requests for clarification and may lead the Selection Committee to impose modifications or reductions to address such mistakes or inaccuracies. It is not possible to increase the amount of the Fellowship as a result of these corrections.

Applicants should note that, if successful, they will be contracted as an individual. Fellowship contracts cannot be signed with a legal entity.



The contracting authority for the Fellowships is the leader of the consortium implementing the EU-funded Eastern Partnership Civil Society Facility: GDSI Limited, located at Block 15, Galway Technology Park, Parkmore, Galway, H91 AY0Y, Ireland.

9.2 Reporting

The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Facility project team will guide and monitor the implementation of each Fellowship project. Timely submission of concise status reports (a template will be provided) is required, including monitoring data to show progress towards, or achievement of the Fellowship outputs. It is the responsibility of the Fellows to ensure that the project team is provided with photos, videos, publications, media articles, and any other items that can be used to promote the Fellowship and to evaluate its success.

After completion of the action, each Fellow must submit a final report to demonstrate the results of proposed actions.

In line with the contractual agreement, Fellows are required to provide reports and evidence of expenditure at the mid-point in their implementation and at the end of implementation.

9.3 Visibility

The Fellows must take all necessary steps to publicise the fact that the European Union has financed the action. As far as possible, actions that are wholly funded by the European Union must incorporate information and communication activities designed to raise awareness of specific or general audiences of the reasons for the action and the EU support for the action in the country or region concerned, as well as the results and the impact of this support. Applicants must comply with the objectives and guarantee the visibility of the EU financing as specified in the Communication and Visibility Requirements for EU External Actions (https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/knowledge-hub/communicating-and-raising-eu-visibility-guidance-external-actions_en), as well as in any relevant country-specific communication and visibility guidelines (if applicable). On an exceptional basis, where the visibility requirements may negatively impact on safeguarding issues, derogation of the requirements may be requested.

Fellows will be provided with training on how to promote their Fellowships and how to comply with the EU's visibility requirements, and furthermore, will be required to acquire prior approval from the EaP CSF project team for use of any visibility materials. All Fellows will be required to update and finalise their communication plan within 10 days of signing their Fellowship Agreement.

9.4 Networking & the Fellowship Alumni

The alumni network was created with the first intake of Fellows.

The selected 2026 2nd cohort of Fellows is expected to join the Alumni network of the Civil Society Fellowship Programme. It will give the 2026 Fellows an opportunity to:

- participate in regular networking meetings aimed at building communication channels between fellows from the six countries, exchanges of experiences, ideas and exploring new opportunities together.
- participate in capacity building events, organised within the project and the Alumni network.



- promote their profile on the project website and information exchange on civil society activities within the EaP countries.
- share relevant information on new platforms for communication.
- be involved in the project mentoring facility (as a mentee and as a mentor).

The alumni are encouraged to participate in the activities of the project (for example, via contribution to publications, debates to which alumni are invited as speakers, elaboration of small common projects, info sessions and hackathons). The project team will facilitate activism and networking by maintaining the online alumni community.

10. Complaints

At any time during the process of applying for or implementing a Fellowship, applicants or Fellows may raise an issue of complaint. In the first instance, complaints should be made in writing and submitted by email to the relevant member of the EaP Civil Society Facility project team at fellowships@eapcivilsociety.eu with the subject title 'complaint'. A response to such emails will be made within 10 working days. If the complainant is not satisfied with the response, they may submit their complaint in letter form to the Selection Committee which will discuss the matter with the representatives of the European Union and respond accordingly.