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EaP | Eastern
Partnership 

2026 EaP Civil Society

‘Fellowships Without Borders’

How To Make Your Application

Webinar Agenda:

- **What are Fellowships Without Borders?**
- **How to make a successful application**
- **The Application process**
- **Q & A**

**EASTERN PARTNERSHIP
CIVIL SOCIETY FACILITY
PROJECT**

#EaPCivilSociety

Eastern Partnership Civil Society Facility in a Nutshell

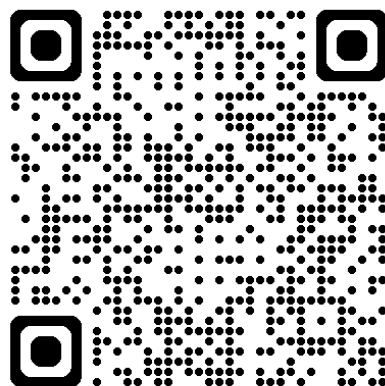
Objective: to strengthen the role and increase the capacity of CSOs and activists in the EaP region to:

- 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: <https://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

Info Session Ground Rules

1



General guidance only

We explain the Call, eligibility, application process and evaluation criteria — but we cannot predict selection.

2



Same information for all

To ensure fairness, we cannot provide private coaching or assess draft applications during the session.

3



Keep questions relevant

Please focus on the Call, eligibility, activities, budget, documents, timeline and application process.

4



Protect sensitive information

Do not share personal, organisational or security details that could put anyone at risk.

5



Be respectful and inclusive

Participants come from different countries and civic contexts — keep the discussion respectful and non-political in tone.

6



No lobbying or promotion

This is not a space to promote individual applications, organisations or political positions.

7



Check the Guidelines & FAQs

Many practical answers are already available in the Call Guidelines and FAQs on the project website.

8



Follow up by email

If a question is too specific, send it by email after the webinar. The answer will be published.

9



Official written rules prevail

If anything is unclear, the Call Guidelines and official written instructions remain the reference.



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The Project is funded by the European Union
and implemented by the consortium led by GDSI Limited



General Note

1



Recording

The session is being recorded and will be shared after the webinar on the project website.

2



Muted by default

All participants are muted by default during the webinar.

3



Q&A

Ask questions at the end during the Q&A session. You may also ask questions anonymously.

4



Chat

Use the Zoom Chat only for technical issues.

5



Keep it general

Please do not ask questions specific to your own idea, as answers will be available to everyone.

6



Time management

Help us stay on schedule by keeping questions concise.



Civil Society Fellowships

- what are they for?

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!)

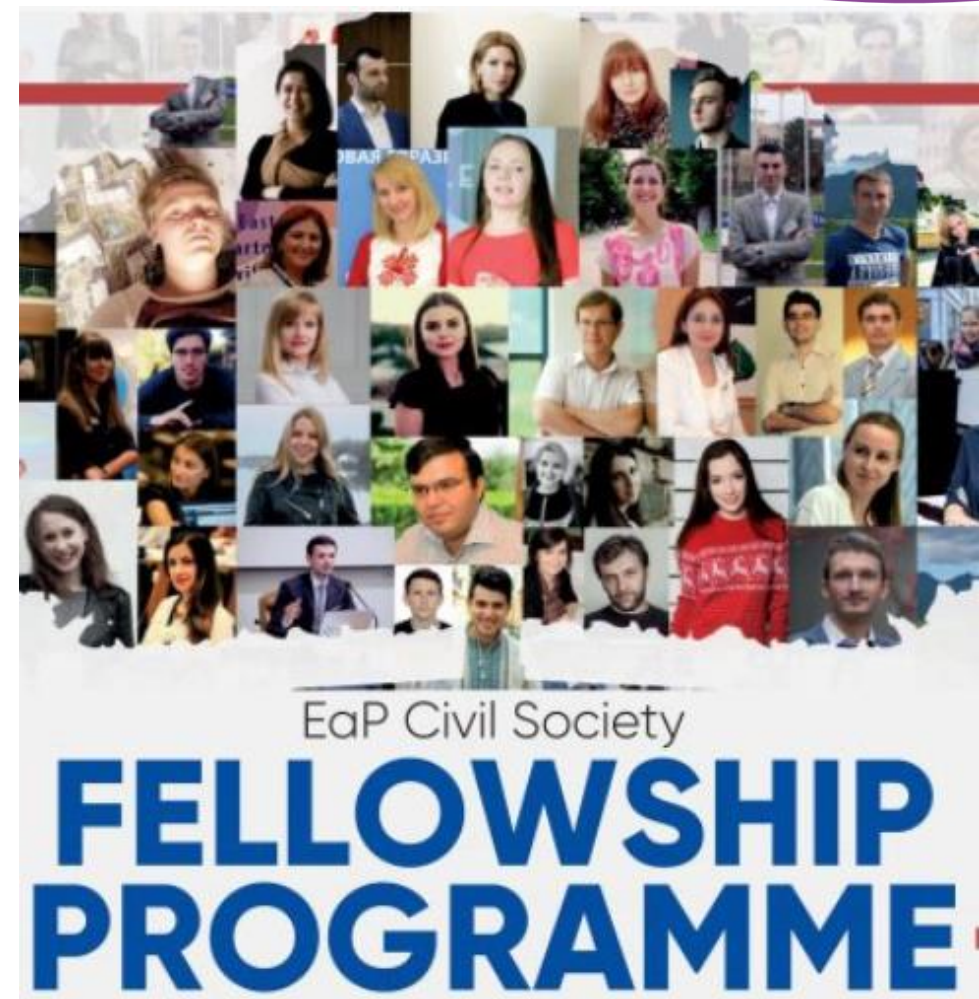
The Fellowships build the Fellows' capacity to constructively engage with communities and authorities and contribute to reforms in the EaP countries.



Civil Society Fellowships - what are the benefits?

Every selected Fellow will benefit from:

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



Civil Society Fellowships - what's the track record?

Over the last 8 years 234 fellowships have been awarded covering diverse themes and with a range of activities. Learn more at:

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

It's a competitive process - less than 15% of applications are successful

Eastern Partnership Civil Society Fellowships

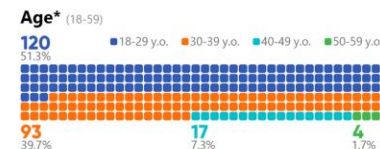
2017-2025 Supporting Civil Society Activists
in the Eastern Partnership Countries

1912 applications received

234
FELLOWS SELECTED



Gender
/ 149 Women (63.7%) / 81 Men (34.6%) / 4 Prefer not to say (1.7%)



*As of the enrollment date

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 civically minded people in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. To-date (since 2017) the Fellowship alumni has a total of 234 Fellows from across the six countries of the EaP.



Key Themes of the Fellows' Actions



Key Functions of the Fellows' Actions





**OPEN
CALL**
FOR APPLICATIONS

Eastern Partnership Civil Society
**FELLOWSHIP
WITHOUT BORDERS**

APPLY NOW!

This call offers a new
dimension to the Fellowships

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 community.

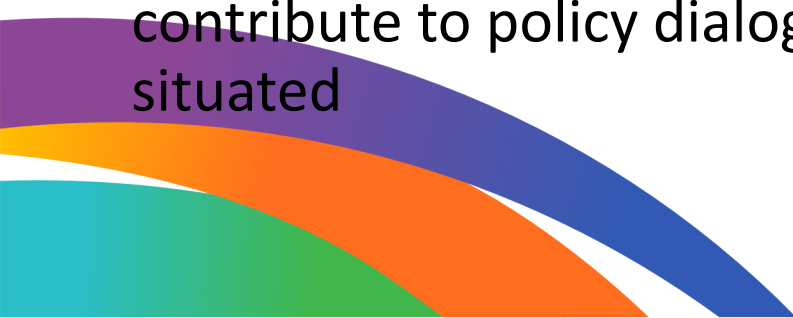
2. The “Without Borders” component — a choice between 2A or 2B or both

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



Indicative activities

If you have an ***advocacy/policy*** objective, you may want:

- Evidence-based research or monitoring of how public services are delivered at national / local/ community level
- To collect evidence to draft policy papers and recommendations for decision-makers
- Advocacy campaigns on issues of public concern



Indicative activities

If you want to achieve **capacity building** objectives, you may design activities for:

- 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



Indicative activities

To achieve ***stakeholder-engagement*** objective:

- 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
- Activities that assist activists and CSOs to better tailor their services and activities to the needs of their communities



Indicative activities

To achieve objective related to ***coalition-building and cooperation***:

- 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
- Cooperation between civil society organisations, including trade unions and professional associations, and business on issues of common interest

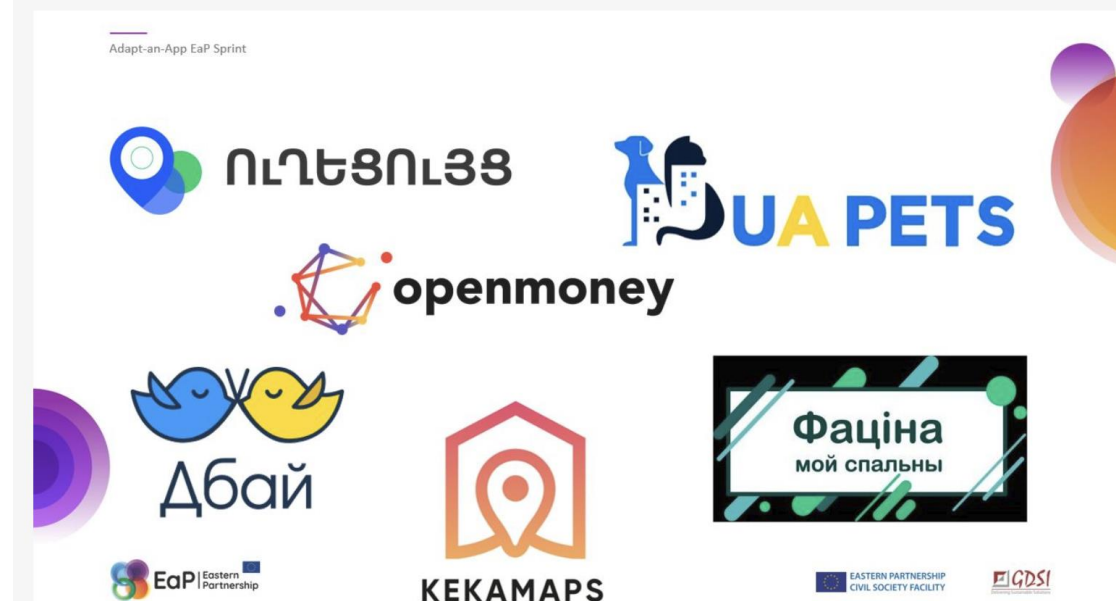


Indicative activities / Civic Digital track

To achieve objectives related to ***applying civic tech solutions for their community benefit***:

- Replicating or localising existing civic tech solutions to address the needs of your community, e.g. [DiverCity](#) in Armenia or [Market Research Tool](#) in Moldova.
- Using your experience / knowledge gained in another country to develop a new civic tech solution, e.g. [Culisele Achizițiilor Publice](#) ('People Behind Procurement') in Moldova.
- Collecting and publishing (opening) data from your community on regional / international data portals, and vice versa, making international data available for your community, e.g. [preparing and publishing datasets](#) on the Global Biodiversity Information Facility platform.

Adapt-an-App EaP Sprint



[Adapt-an-App EaP Sprint](#) was the EaP Civil Society Facility's programme in 2021, aimed at replicating selected solutions developed within 2017-2020 [EaP Civil Society Hackathons](#)

Two types of Fellowship

If your objective relates to developing some aspect of civic tech, it might be best to use the '**Civic Digital**' application form

If your objective relates to any other aspect of civic activism you should use the '**Community Engagement**' application form

If you do not have a civic tech solution in plan, **Civic Digital application form** will get you quite puzzled.

4.4. If you are proposing the development of a digital solution and you have the information at this stage, please describe the **basic technical implementation** of your solution (not more than 500 characters).

Characters count: 0

4.5. If you are proposing the development of a digital solution and you have the information at this stage, please describe the **main functionalities** of your solution, and how users (will) interact with/utilise it. (max. 300 characters).

Characters count: 0

4.8. Describe the concrete expected **outputs** of your activities (e.g., number of publications, people trained) and, if possible, add considerations you might have regarding **user acquisition and retention** (max. 500 characters):

Characters count: 0



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Are You Eligible To Be A 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**

Eligibility of the Actions

Read the Guidelines to get more advice about types of activities and review the stories from the Fellowship alumni to see what other Fellows have done: <https://fellows.eapcivilsociety.eu>

NB. Fellowship projects' beneficiaries must be citizens of the Eastern Partnership countries (wherever they are located)

Take note of actions which are **not eligible**:

- actions concerned solely or mainly with construction, procurement of works or supplies
- actions supporting political parties or candidates, or supporting the army or other military bodies
- activities that are normally carried out by the applicant and/or affiliated entities as part of their usual work



Eligibility of the Actions

Eligible country locations

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

Eligibility of Costs

Costs of implementing activities, including travel and accommodation expenses, costs of visibility and communication, fees related to mentors and/or experts, consular fees, insurance, bank charges, and overhead costs (less than 10% of total)

Ineligible costs:

- Fees, salaries, or any payment to Fellows
- 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)



The Application Process



Key Parts of the Application:

1. Your Experience & Motivations
 2. What Issue/Constraint Do You Want To Address
 3. Clear Achievable Objective
 4. Description of Activities & Measurable Outputs
 5. Who Will Be Involved
 6. A Budget, Activity Plan, & Communication Activities
- + CV, Proof of English and Citizenship, Recommendation, Other Supporting Documents

The Application Form

Evaluation Grid

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

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

*Up to 2025:
1912 applications
234 awards*

Timeline

- 2nd Call for 2026 Fellowships opens on 22.06.2026.
- The deadline for submissions is 11.09.2026
- Awards of the Fellowships from the 2026 2nd Call are expected by December 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 an Application Form 'offline' and submit?
- Do I need to submit supporting documents?
- Can I change my Application after submission?

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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Disclaimer

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