



Civil Society Week Albania 2025



CIVIL SOCIETY IN ACTION
#VALUESTHATINSPIRE #VOICESTHATDRIVECHANGE

WHAT IS CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK

National Civil Society Week (NCSW) is a yearly national gathering for civil society to connect, debate and create shared solutions.

The NCSW will be conceived and designed as a series of events and dedicated space for civil society organisations, to get together not just as participants, but as co-creators and co-owners.

The week creates opportunities for all actors of civil society to come together, as engines of positive changes in society, to discuss and create solutions and joint actions in the future.

Civil Society Week 2025 #NCWS2025 will take place during the period June 16 -June 22, 2025.

In resonance with other European and global initiatives, such as the European Year of Digital Citizenship Education 2025, the European Civil Society Week focusing on social cohesion and participation, and the International Civil Society Week, this year's central theme will be: "Civil Society in Action: Values that Inspire, Voices that Drive Change."

The week is organized by the National Resource Center for Civil Society in Albania, Partners Albania for Change and Development, and is implemented in partnership with organizations, activists, or formal and informal civil society groups.

The National Resource Center for Civil Society in Albania is an initiative of the Albania Partners for Change and Development, implemented in partnership with the Albanian Center for Population and Development (ACPD) and the European Movement in Albania (EMA), with the support of the European Union.

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In its fourth year, Civil Society Week brings to attention and promotes the role that civil society organizations have played and continue to play in strengthening democratic values, protecting the public interest, and encouraging citizens to be active participants in public life.

Civil society organizations play a vital role in protecting rights, delivering essential services, and making a tangible impact on communities and broader Albanian society. Civil Society Week offers a dedicated space for reflection and action, highlighting how these organizations transform values into meaningful initiatives, foster public trust, and serve as key contributors to Albania's democratic and social progress.

Civil society in Albania has been a steady and unwavering actor – through long-term engagement on the ground and immediate responses to urgent issues – supporting rights, building bridges between communities and institutions, and contributing to the cultivation of an inclusive democratic culture.

In a time of great challenges for the sector and the shrinking of civic space, it is essential to place the role of CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) at the center as unyielding contributors to the democratic life of the country. Despite difficulties, they continue to be tireless voices in support of citizens, in strengthening participation, and in encouraging reforms that bring about tangible change.

In a context where the role and contribution of civil society organizations is often underrepresented or misrepresented, #CSW2025 aims to raise public awareness of civil society as an irreplaceable actor in democratic

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development—not simply as a critical voice defending the public interest and rights, but as an active force for change, leading transformative processes and building a more just, inclusive, and sustainable society.

This year's Civil Society Week seeks to highlight that role through activities, discussions, and joint initiatives that place citizens and communities at the center. It is a call to strengthen the connection between the sector and the public, to share and promote the work of organizations, reflect the diversity of their contributions, and foster collaboration as a core value in building a democratic society.

The theme of this year also resonates with other European and global initiatives, such as the European Year of Digital Citizenship Education 2025, the European Civil Society Week focused on social cohesion and participation, and the International Civil Society Week — “Celebrating citizen action: reimagining democracy, rights, and inclusion for today's world” — which acknowledges the efforts of activists, movements, and organizations that continue to act with determination, even under difficult conditions.

This alignment further underscores the importance of international cooperation and a spirit of solidarity in supporting democracy and civic engagement.



CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK ACTIVITIES

The week includes a series of local activities organized by civil society actors throughout the country, as well as a national event which brings together all the stakeholders such as civil society organizations, activists, donors, local and central government institutions, academic institutions, businesses, media, etc. in discussion panels dedicated to the topic in focus of the week.



LOCAL ACTIVITIES OF CIVIL SOCIETY WEEK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CSOs


The local activities of the week include any activity organized from **June 16 -June 22, 2025**, by NPOs in cooperation with actors and stakeholders, that contributes to the public discussion of the topic in focus.


The NCSW will be conceived and designed as a series of events and dedicated space for civil society organisations, to get together not just as participants, but as co-creators and co-owners. It will be organised by CSOs and be implemented all over the country, including a vast of formal and non-formal events and guest speakers from the country, region, EU, and beyond (forums, workshops, fairs, debates, TEDs, thematic events for exchanges of best practices, networking events, interviews and broadcast in media of videos, documentaries on CSOs work, etc).

ACTIVITIES THEME FOR #NCSW2025


This year, #CSW2025 aims to create a space for reflection, interaction, and exchange of practices on the role and impact of civil society organizations in upholding democratic values, encouraging civic participation, and advancing social inclusion. The week's activities will offer concrete opportunities to explore how these organizations turn values into action, empower communities, build bridges for collaboration, and generate tangible impact in public life.

Below are examples of topics and issues to be addressed during the week's events:


 **Promoting democratic values through civic engagement** – Encouraging citizens' active participation in democratic processes, emphasizing its importance, and supporting their involvement in decision-making that affects their daily lives.

 **Voices driving change** – Representation and empowerment of diverse groups such as youth, women, Roma and Egyptian communities, LGBTQI+ individuals, and informal civic initiatives.

 **From local action to national impact** – How grassroots organizations have achieved concrete change in areas such as service provision, social inclusion, justice, and environmental protection.


 **Resilience and ethics in challenging times** – Practices that build public trust and legitimacy for CSOs, including adherence to the Code of Standards, transparency, accountability, and ethical governance.


 **Civil society and EU integration** – The sector's contribution to the integration process, especially in fulfilling democratic criteria, fostering citizen participation, and monitoring reforms.

 **Local democracy in action** – Community engagement in decision-making, bottom-up participation, and efforts to make institutions more accountable.

 **Inclusion and a sense of belonging** – Promoting equality and building an environment where everyone feels accepted and included.

 **Youth and civic space** – How young people are redefining activism and launching new initiatives for a more inclusive future.

 **Civic space and civil liberties** – Defending the right to organize, express freely, and build collective initiatives in an increasingly constrained public space.

 **Solidarity and cross-sector alliances** – Building partnerships between civil society, the private sector, media, and public institutions to address shared challenges.

WHY PARTICIPATE IN THE WEEK

Civil Society Week is a good way to show how civil society and other interested actors contribute and play an active role in raising and addressing issues of importance for positive changes in society, joining forces for solutions and actions common in the future, with wider and comprehensive impact.

It is also a very good opportunity for developing partnerships and networking, to promoting the work of civil society organizations, NPO networks and other actors in the field of education and training.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

Civil society organizations can join NCSW through:

- Activities organized within their projects/programs in implementation
- Activities designed specifically for NCSW with the financial support of NRC. Financial support will be provided only for a limited number of activities (15-20 activities) and will cover the event's logistical expenses. Preference will be given to civil society organizations and CSO groups with activities outside Tirana and activities proposed and implemented in partnership and with the involvement of as many actors as law enforcement institutions, academia, media, etc.



Those who are interested should fill out the [Application Form](#).

The form must be signed and sealed by an organization representative and sent to the address **info@resourcecentre.al** by May 25, 2025!

Selected organizations will be contacted by May 29, 2025!

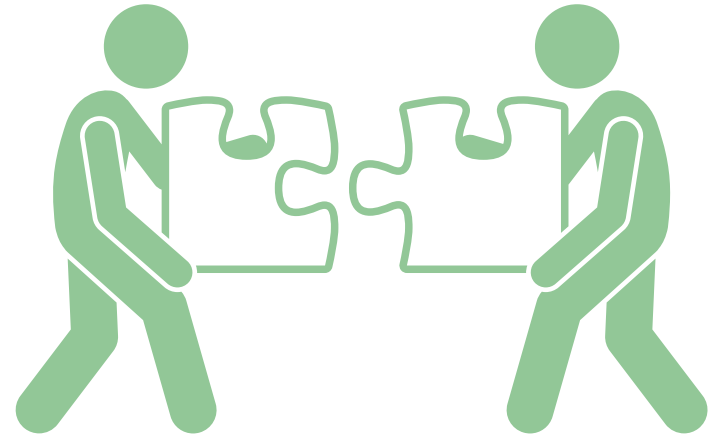
WHO CAN JOIN THE ORGANIZATION AS A PARTNER

All civil society organizations, networks of organizations, activists, or informal groups, who work and contribute to the development and addressing of the above issues can express their interest in joining NCSW as a partner organization.

AS PART OF NCSW

- All the activities of the partner organizations in Civil Society Week, under the dedicated logo of the Week, will be listed, published, and promoted in all the communication networks of the National Resource Center, as part of the NCSW Events Calendar.
- A dedicated communication plan will be developed including providing various promoting tools such as branding of the event, social media campaign, short informative and promoting videos, documentaries on CSOs' work in different sectors, etc.
- The NCSW will be widely promoted not only through NRC and other implementing partners' communication channels but also through media coverage.
- A detailed feedback and review report of what NCSW offered and organised along with conclusion and recommendations on the next steps to be taken in addressing raised thematic issues will be developed, disseminated, and published, which is widely shared with civil society organizations, donors in the country and region, central and local level institutions, academic institutions, media, businesses, etc.





CONDITIONS FOR COOPERATION

A cooperation agreement will be signed between Partners Albania for Change and Development and the partner organization. Applicants should keep in mind the main objective of National Civil Society Week: the week aims to raise awareness of the topic in focus, facilitate discussions about it and increase public and institutional interest, as well as promote the role and contribution of civil society organizations in skill development.

The activities must not be used for commercial, political, or any other kind of interests that could damage the vision and objective of the event.

Civil Albania Society Week 2025

For any questions about NCSW, write to us at info@resourcecentre.al