European Center for
Not-for-Profit Law

WEBINAR INVITATION 26-27 SEPT. 2023

EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY VOICES: LEVERAGING THE POTENTIAL OF PARTICIPATORY TOOLS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

Civil society voices must be taken into account when policies are made. But what novel tools can empower people and effectively channel their voices into EU decision making? How can CSOs use existing participatory processes to uphold the rule of law in the EU? What are the challenges of using all these tools and conditions needed for success? Join the webinars on 26 and 27 September, 2023 to discuss ways how we can strengthen civil society participation in the EU and its Member States.

DAY 1: TOOLS TO INCREASE INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE EU

What are the good practices of novel tools already used to increase participation? What are the gaps and opportunities for reform?
A new ECNL research identifies key safeguards and new horizons of participation in the EU with focus on online platforms, gamification and some other tools. Join the discussion with practitioners who have put such novel tools into action and consider the methods that policymakers can leverage to facilitate inclusive discussions with civil society.

10.00 am: Opening and setting the scene
10.10 am: ECNL research: mapping of participation methods, Q&A with **Eszter Hartay, ECNL**
10.30 am: Exploring new horizons in participation: how emerging methods can be leveraged to facilitate inclusive discussions. Panel discussion facilitated by Emina Nuredinoska, ECNL with:

- The potential of online platforms- **Nil Homedes Busquet, Decidim**
- Role of higher education in promoting participation- **Igor Vidacak, University of Zagreb**
- The potential of gamification- **Tim Laning, Grendel Games**
- The potential of gamification- **Christina Holm, Playable** (TBC)
- Engagement of civil society in EU related policies in Latvia- **Kristine Zonberga, Civic Alliance - Latvia**
- Shaping civil society participation at the EU- **Ângela Guimarães Pereira, European Commission - DG Joint Research Centre** (TBC)

11.20 am: Experiences with the use of participation methods and opportunities for reform

WEBINAR DETAILS DAY 1:

Date:
26 September 2023

Time:
10.00 - 12.00 am CET

Registration link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vdeCvqj4uH9cu91xOpcys77lst9OwqtZn

This event is organised by the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law Stichting (ECNL) within the framework of the ParticipatiON Project, funded by the European Union.

Funded by the European Union

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DAY 2: TOOLS TO UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW IN THE EU

Join the webinar to find out more from ECNL and Philea about the updated version of the *Handbook on How to Use EU Law to Protect Civic Space*, which highlights how CSOs can use EU participatory tools to uphold the rule of law. Originally published in May 2020, the user-friendly guide for CSOs, philanthropic organisations as well as lawyers offers an overview of EU law arguments and legal avenues available to defend their civic rights and freedoms in the EU. The webinar will offer the opportunity to discuss the effectiveness of such tools with EU institutions' representatives, gather feedback on experiences of engagement in such tools (or lack thereof) and proposals for improvement. Feedback from webinar participants will inform the final version of the Handbook, to be launched by the end of the year.

10.00 am: Opening and setting the scene: EU law and Civic Space
10.10 am: Brief introduction of EU Law Handbook: updates
10.20 am: The Rule of Law dialogue: How can it strengthen civic space in the EU? Panel discussion with **Joze Strus, DG JUST, European Commission** and civil society.
11.00 am: Room for Improvement: Q&A – gathering of feedback

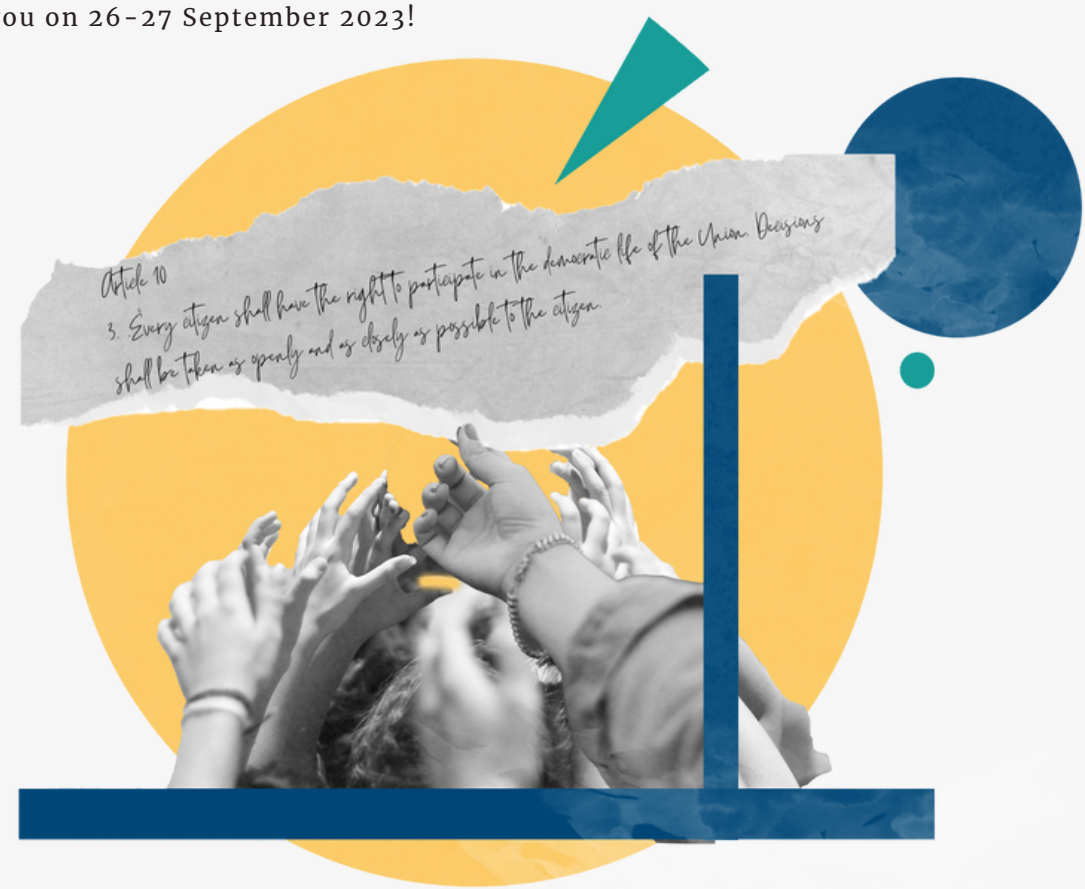
We hope to see you on 26-27 September 2023!

WEBINAR DETAILS DAY 2:

Date:
27 September 2023

Time:
10.00 - 11.30 am CET

Registration link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtd-CgrjooHNNLu_Liyw0dHlmpnpoXedE7_



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Co-funded by the European Union

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