

Endorsement statement by the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum for the “Joint letter of civil society representatives to the leaders of the European Union on vaccine needs of the EU’s Neighbourhood” dated 18th June 2021

Brussels, 24 June 2021

The Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum reiterates its support to the repeated advocacy efforts made by civil society representatives through their [second joint letter](#) on COVID-19 vaccination in the Eastern Partnership region sent to EU leaders on the 18th of June 2021.

Since the publication of [the first letter on the 18th of April 2021](#), the EU has made tremendous progress in vaccinations and aims for 70% of its total population to be vaccinated by the end of July. Between the first and second joint letter, according to the [Global Change Data Lab](#), more than 124 million EU citizens, or about 36% of the total population, have received at least one dose. In comparison, in the same time window, the six EaP countries pooled together saw about 1.8 million of their people vaccinated, which amounts to 2.4% of the total population.

These figures embody the fears expressed in April by civil society organisations. The vaccine sharing mechanism together with COVAX has not delivered tangible results in the region, while EU Member States are, for the most part, focussing on their own vaccination processes.

Through their letter, the civil society representatives once again present how a small donation of 59 million doses (compared to the 3.7 billion doses the EU has approved for purchase) would allow the six Eastern partners and the six Western Balkan states to ensure 70% vaccination coverage.

Based on the above-mentioned points, the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum repeats its endorsement to the joint letter of civil society representatives while urging EU leaders to seriously consider its recommendations which are absolutely vital to achieve the EU’s ambitious goals for the future of the Eastern Partnership.

Members of the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

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