

## Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

### Working Group 5 Meeting

26 May 2026, Online

#### Agenda

1. Introduction by the outgoing Working Group 5 (WG5) Coordinators
2. Round of introductions and presentation of the WG5 delegates
3. Introduction to the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) and WG5
4. Statutory elections and presentation of EU and EaP WG5 Coordinator candidates

#### Summary

On 26 May 2026, the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum organised the first online meeting for the 2026-2028 cycle of Working Group 5 (WG5) – Social Dialogue, Social and Labour Policies.

The meeting began with a short introduction from the outgoing WG5 Coordinators, followed by a round of introductions from the Working Group delegates. In total, 22 organisations are part of the Working Group.

*(For the full list of EaP CSF delegates, please consult this [page](#)).*

Together, these organisations bring a diverse range of perspectives, expertise, and experience to the Working Group.

Following the introductions, the Director of the EaP CSF Secretariat delivered a brief overview of the Forum, explaining its role as the civil society dimension of the Eastern Partnership policy. He highlighted the Forum's mission to strengthen civil society in the Eastern Partnership countries, represent civil society in policymaking and implementation, and support democratic transition and European integration across the region.

The meeting then turned to the presentation of the Working Group 5, outlining its role in advancing social dialogue and relevant labour policies within EU–Eastern Partnership countries relations. It covered the group's core activities as well as the different ways members can collaborate and share information.



Funded by  
the European Union

Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum  
Avenue de Cortenbergh 120, 1000 Brussels  
[www.eap-csf.eu](http://www.eap-csf.eu)

In continuation, the Policy and Advocacy Manager outlined the EaP Civil Society Forum's advocacy work, highlighting its key policy outputs, including position papers (e.g. [WG5 – 2025](#)), the [annual Resolution](#), and the [Eastern Partnership Index](#). She also presented the main advocacy entry points, such as consultations with EU institutions, events, meetings with Member State representatives, and participation in regional and other meetings and platforms. Finally, she provided an overview of the 2026 advocacy calendar, including Working Group meetings, contributions to the annual Resolution, the EaP Civil Society Summit in Chişinău, Republic of Moldova on 24-26 November, and opportunities to participate in regional events and ad hoc meetings.

The Communications Manager presented the Forum's communication channels, including its website and a [dedicated section](#) on the Working Groups, bi-monthly newsletter for members and external audiences and the Members' Update for internal communications. She also explained how members can contribute by sharing success stories, best practices, event information, photos, and journalist contacts to increase the visibility of their work across the Forum's platforms.

The Governance Manager provided an overview of the Forum's structure and governance. He explained the roles of the Secretariat, National Platforms, Working Groups, and the Compliance Committee, highlighting how they support the Forum's activities, coordinate civil society engagement, and ensure accountability. The presentation also outlined the responsibilities of Working Group Coordinators, including leading policy and advocacy work, coordinating members throughout the year, representing the Working Group within the Forum, engaging new civil society organisations, contributing to communications, and selecting experts to represent the Forum in external meetings.

Following this, the five applicants to the position of WG5 Coordinators presented their candidacies and shared their motivations for applying to the role.

**The candidates from the EaP region were:**

1. Sergiu Iurcu, National Trade Union Confederation of Moldova, Republic of Moldova.
2. Raisa Liparteliani, Georgian Trade Unions Confederation, Georgia.
3. Artur Finkevich, Foundation "Young Belarus", Belarus.

**The candidates from the EU were:**



Funded by  
the European Union

Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum  
Avenue de Cortenbergh 120, 1000 Brussels  
[www.eap-csf.eu](http://www.eap-csf.eu)

1. Anh Helge, Olof Palme International Center, Sweden.
2. Valentin Liviu Chifor, NTUC MERIDIAN, Romania.

The meeting concluded with an announcement that the online election for the Working Group 5 Coordinators would open for 24h shortly after the meeting. Delegates were subsequently sent an email containing instructions on how and where to cast their votes.

The results were announced by email the following day as follows:

- **WG5 Coordinator from the EU:** Anh Helge, Olof Palme International Center, Sweden.
- **WG5 Coordinator from the EaP:** Sergiu Iurcu, National Trade Union Confederation of Moldova, Republic of Moldova.



Funded by  
the European Union

Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum  
Avenue de Cortenbergh 120, 1000 Brussels  
[www.eap-csf.eu](http://www.eap-csf.eu)