

## CIVIL SOCIETY AWARD

### BY EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

#### *Celebrating the defenders of democratic values*

##### *Description*

Since 2018, the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) presents its Civil Society Award to celebrate the outstanding and courageous work of organisations from the Eastern Partnership region who are on a daily basis defending core democratic values, advancing democratic reform, contributing to the political, economic and social development of their countries, and helping people and communities in vulnerable situations.

Civil society organisations in the Eastern Partnership countries are key drivers of reform and vocal defenders of democratic values. Even when facing unfavourable, challenging and often repressive conditions, they do not give up and work tirelessly for the benefit of their communities and for the common good.

In times of conflict, war, democratic crackdown, or worldwide health crisis, civil society has mobilised people in defence of democracy, fundamental rights, and freedoms, and supported vulnerable communities and the economy.

In times of democratic reform, civil society has proved to be an essential counterpart for the government, holding it to account and to ensure an inclusive reform process.

The Civil Society Award honours and celebrates the courage, commitment, and contribution which civil society organisations show on a daily basis to defend and strengthen democracy, freedom, justice and dignity for all people in the countries of the Eastern Partnership.

##### *Previous awardees*

**2018 – Davit Petrosyan (Armenia)** – *for his courageous and instrumental leadership mobilising youth and students in the context of Armenia's 2018 street protests, eventually leading to the Velvet Revolution.*

**2019 – PromoLex (Moldova)** – *for their outstanding and courageous work in the field of the political, economic and social development of their countries and defending core democratic values.*

**2020 – Belarusian Civil Society (Belarus)** – *for its essential help to the victims of the repressions during the 2020 authoritarian repression in Belarus. The award was symbolically received by Andrej Stryzhak, BYHelp.*

**2022: Ukrainian Civil Society (Ukraine)** – *for their extraordinary mobilisation in support of the war effort, providing humanitarian aid, alleviating suffering while continuing to support democratic reforms.*

## **Selection**

*The EaP CSF Civil Society Award is given to a civil society organisation to recognise their outstanding work in the EaP region. The achievements of the nominee could be, but are not limited to, promoting of European integration, reforms facilitation and democratic transformation, strengthening civil society's capacity and resilience and contributing to an enabling environment for civil society, defending democratic values and human rights. Nominations of organisations active in more than one EaP country are especially welcomed.*

## Eligibility

To be nominated to receive the EaP CSF Civil Society Award, an organisation must fulfil the following criteria:

1. Be a member organisation of the EaP CSF
2. Be a non-partisan organisation, with an excellent reputation
3. The activities that warrant its nomination for the award should have taken place in the calendar year preceding the award (November 2022-November 2023 for the 2023 award)

## Process

The selection process follows the following step:

1. A call for nominations is shared among EaP CSF members.
2. The EaP CSF Secretariat checks the nominations received, does the necessary checks and reverts to the organisations submitting the original nominations to

ask for further details if needed. The Secretariat then proceeds sharing the nominations with the Steering Committee.

3. Steering Committee members review the nominations and after a joint discussion (online or offline) decide by a simple majority vote who should obtain the award.

### **Timeline for the EaP CSF Award 2023**

July 27	Call for nominations is shared with members. Call is open between July 27 and August 28.
August 21	Reminder sent to members
August 28	Call closes
August 28 – September 4	Secretariat does the necessary checks
September TBC	Steering Committee decides on the nominee