



REGISTRATION: <https://forms.gle/573TcoapCD5Xta3j7>

Deadline: 17th Sept.

Registered participants will receive a zoom link via email prior to the event.

What is "Reclaim our Civil Space!" about?

The project aims at addressing the trends of democratic backsliding and shrinking civil space observed in Central and South-eastern Europe, by enhancing regional cooperation and networking among civil society organizations from the bottom up.

Does it all start with a [webinar](#)?

Yes! We will tell you about the main outlines of the program and you will get to know each participating organization. In a moderated panel discussion involving representatives of each partner (see below) we will discuss questions such as:

- What is the state and main trends of civil society in the various countries and what motivated partners to join the project?
- What are their goals, what do they hope to achieve through the project in the coming 3 years?
- How can CSOs and community groups get involved and benefit from this project?

You will learn about the kinds of activities are foreseen in your country and how you and your organization can *be part of the change this project brings to our region*. The discussion will be followed by Q&A session, too.

Do you really want to work with me on this one?

Yes, there will be plenty of opportunities for you and other CSOs/groups to participate! "Reclaim our Civil Space!" builds on broadening the grassroots basis and constituency of civil society through training and mobilizing activist groups and movements, and linking this local level to the European by developing together the outlines of a comprehensive European civil society policy.

Which are the participating countries?

The project will be implemented by CSOs from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Slovakia with expert support from Norway.

The "Reclaim our Civil Space!" project benefits from a 1,8 million € grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation.



Veronika Móra (Hungary, moderator) has been working at Ökotárs - Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation since 1997 and holds the position of the director since 2007. Earlier, she was the national consultant for the Dutch Foundation Milieukontakt Oosteuropa, but also worked for the eco-counselling office of Ecoservice Foundation. With HEPF and earlier, she's been working on a variety of issues related to ecological consumption, gene technologies and public participation. Since 2003 she's been leading HEPF's program aimed at improving the legal-fiscal environment of civil society, but also gained experience in managing and overseeing grant programs of various sizes, not least the Hungarian NGO Fund under the EEA/Norwegian Financial Grants. Besides her full-time occupation, she also holds voluntary positions in a number of organizations, among in the board of the Hungarian Donors Forum. She is a biologist by education, and also has a degree in organisational psychology, and more recently gained a diploma in environmental law.

Lucie Smolková (Czech Republic) has been one of the leading figures of the Czech Fridays for Future movement. In September 2019, she was one of a group of one hundred green ticket holders selected from activists all around the world to participate in a UN Climate Summit in New York. In Brno, she encouraged the emergence of Brno's Climate Coalition consisting of activists, theatres, and NGOs. In cooperation with the national Climate Coalition, she coordinated the campaign "Week for Climate", with over 150 different events held in about 50 cities around the Czech Republic. Currently, she is working at the Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation as a project manager of the Reclaim our Civil Space! project. Besides, she is in a lecturer-trainer in the organization NaZemi that focuses on Global Development Education.





Stefánia Kapronczay (Hungary) currently serves as the Executive Director of the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (since July 2013). She graduated cum laude from the Faculty of Law at ELTE as lawyer, and also completed a five-year master program in sociology in 2010. Stefania started working at the HCLU in 2005 and was the Head of the Patients' Rights Program from March 2008 to August 2012. As program director Stefania lead HCLU's effort to stop restrictions on reproductive rights, criminalization of homelessness and to foster the rights of persons with disabilities. Between August 2012 and July 2013 she was a scholar at Stanford University, attending courses on human rights and public interest work and graduating as Master of the Science of Law. Stefania wrote her dissertation on the sexual and reproductive rights of people with disabilities. She was elected as the co-chair of the International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations in May, 2014, and was a German Marshall Fund fellow in 2015. Stefania is an advisory board member to School of Public Life, a community-based research and training centre, former member to the advisory board of the Rajk László College for Advanced Studies. She is a 2018 class member of the European Young Leaders (EYL40) programme.

Peter Medved (Slovakia) is a Director of the Ekopolis Foundation. Under his leadership the foundation was transformed from being international project into an institution implementing programmes and projects focused on environment and civil society with partners from public and private sectors. Under his leadership, of Ekopolis has been involved in management of EEA NGO Fund programmes as well as the NGO Block Grant and Partnership Fund under the Swiss Financial Mechanism, and number of international EU projects. Peter played instrumental role in programming, fundraising, and managing programmes implemented in partnership with corporate partners, such as the Public Spaces Program, integrating public participation and revitalisation of public spaces, Living Energy Fund supporting implementation of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, the Green Belt Program reconstructing or restoring ecologically valuable sites and others. Peter is a member of the Governmental Council for Non-Profit Organizations and a Board member of the State Environmental Fund.



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Gunnar Ekeløve-Slydal (Norway) is Acting Secretary General and Director of Policies at the Norwegian Helsinki Committee. He started to work in the NHC in 1997, focusing on international justice issues, including the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC). He started NHC's activities in Central Asia and directed projects in Turkey and Armenia. He has led the NHC Russia program, programs of studying accountability mechanisms in Rwanda and the Western Balkans, NHC promotion of minority rights in Norway and participated in a review committee of Norway's National Institution for Human Rights. He is involved in fact work, publication of reports and policy briefs, and co-ordinates the Norwegian NGO-Forum for Human Rights. He has been involved with human rights since the late 1980s and started out as editorial assistant and later editor of the Nordic Journal on Human Rights. He learned from

some of the pioneers in human rights law and practice in Norway. Before joining the NHC, Gunnar worked as a church musician and composer. He has written extensively on human rights issues, international criminal law, and philosophical topics, including textbooks, reports, and articles. He studied philosophy, religion, history, mathematics, journalism, and human rights. He is an adjunct lecturer at the University of South East Norway.

Lubomira Kolcheva (Bulgaria) is the Director of the Bulgarian Environmental Partnership Foundation. She holds a degree in Sociology (Society and Politics) from the Central European University, where she first found her interest in civil societies and the socio-political factors that inform and influence their changing agendas in Central and Eastern European countries. Lubomira has participated in a working group of NGO representatives at the Council of Ministers in Bulgaria that assisted in the drafting of a regulation for the operation of a Civil Society Development Council (a new NGO-elected body, responsible for outlining priority areas for policies that support civil society). Through her involvement in BEPF activities on awareness raising and capacity building of NGOs and young people, as a means of sustaining a healthy civil sector and networks, Lubomira helps strengthen civic groups and expand networks and contacts for collaborative civic activism in the fields of climate change, citizen participation, environmental education, etc.



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Dominika Zaręba (Poland) is Chair of the Advisory Board of the Partnership Fund, working with Environmental Partnership (EPA) since 1999, and a freelance columnist, author of books and tour guides (over 30). Her educational background is in economics. A promoter of eco-travel and author of the first Polish language publication on ecotourism („Ekoturystyka), involved in activities of the European and Global Ecotourism Network. She laid the foundations for the Greenways program in Poland and contributed to the creation of Greenway networks across Central and Eastern Europe. She has been involved and initiated dozens of community-based initiatives in Poland, Ukraine, Belarus and other countries, mostly projects related to natural and cultural heritage protection, enhancing women and civil society development in rural and urban areas. She was a speaker at over 50 events and international conferences in Europe, the US, Africa and South-America.

Ivan Djuric (Serbia) is a Program Director of the Youth Initiative for Human Rights. For a decade he has been engaged in enhancing regional cooperation in the Balkans, processes of transitional justice and dealing with the past and human rights activism. He is a member of the Advisory board of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office, member of Coalition for RECOM, and part of the Belgrade Pride organizational team.



Ionuț Sibian (Romania) is the Executive Director of the Civil Society Development Foundation, one of the most influential NGOs in Romania. After Romania's accession to the European Union in 2007, Ionuț was elected to represent Romanian NGOs in the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). His previous experience includes: President of the Romanian Federation of Development NGOs (FOND), Board member of the German Marshall Fund programme - Black Sea Trust and member of various Boards of Romanian and European organisations. Currently, he serves as member of the Orange Foundation Board.

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