

THE STATE OF THE CIVIC SPACE IN EUROPE: WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Online Study Visit

12-14 July 2021

Draft Programme

12 July 2021 | 10:00-11:45 CEST

Setting the scene – Introductory Session

10:00-10:20 - Keynote speech

- Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar, MEP, Chair of the LIBE Committee (S&D)

Q&A

10:25-11:15 - Panel Debate, The state of the civic space in Europe

Panellists are invited to share their views on the shrinking of the civic space in Europe, analysing the multiple and diverse attacks on democracy and civic participation occurred over the past years. The discussion will also touch upon the measures introduced with the pandemic and the actions undertaken so far by the EU to safeguard the respect of the Rule of Law.

- Aarti Naarse, CIVICUS – The state of the civic space
- Vanja Skoric, ECNL, CSE civic space WG – The EU toolkit to protect the Rule of Law
- 5-10' Q&A after each speaker

break

11:20-11:40 - Citizenship education for strengthening the democratic fabric of our societies

- Jessica Fiorelli, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, LLLP

Q&A

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Citizenship education for democratic participation

- Lessons learned from the Citizenship & Lifelong Learning Monitor – Andrei Frank, SOLIDAR Foundation
- Case studies from: ARCI (IT), La Ligue (FR)



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Institutional tools to protect the civic space

- The civil dialogue – Giada Negri, Research and Advocacy Officer, European Civic Forum
- Ups and downs of the civil dialogue in Croatia - presented by Sara Lalić, Director of the Centre for Peace Studies (HR)

14 July 2021 | 9:30-12:00 CEST

Recognising and reacting to the attacks on the civic space

- Diminished funding for CSOs
Case studies from: WEA (UK), CDI (North Macedonia)
- Increased bureaucratic burden
Case study from: School with Class Foundation (Poland), presented by Agata Łuczyńska
- Artificially created competition in the civic space
Case study from: IDC (Serbia), presented by Aleksandra Dimić

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Concluding session

- Looking ahead: Progressive Ideas for Participatory democracy
 - Dr. Filip Milacic, Senior Researcher, FES
 - Dr. Ania Skrzypek, Director for Research and Training, FEPS
- Wrapping up and outlining the statement

