

Directorate-General for Communication

PARTNERSHIP

**with Civil society organisations (CSOs) and other multiplier
networks**

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

rev 05/2023

1. PURPOSE OF THE PARTNERSHIP

In a pluralist democratic society, citizens should have the opportunity to be properly and fully informed so they can participate actively and effectively in public life and take part in political debates. The purpose of the partnership is to establish a long-term cooperation mechanism with civil society organisations (CSOs) and other multiplier networks with an interest in entering into a voluntary collaboration for communication purposes with the European Parliament, represented by the Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM), to the mutual benefit of the parties.

For the purpose of this partnership, ‘civil society organisations (CSOs) and other multiplier networks’ are understood to be not-for-profit organisations representing or pursuing objectives of general interest recognised by the EU¹. These organisations may have a variety of different legal statuses, depending on the national legislation of the country in which they are established. They may include, but are not limited to, general interest groups, youth organisations, professional associations and foundations. The European Parliament, as an impartial EU public institution, is not aligned with any specific political party, religion or belief.

The purpose of the partnership is not to establish a commercial relationship with the partners (procurement) or to provide financial support to communication actions (grant). It will not give rise to any payment or reimbursement of costs incurred in the implementation of the partnership.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The European Parliament seeks to select communication partner organisations with whom it shares the common objective of promoting democratic engagement in the European Union and encouraging as many European citizens as possible to play an active role in the European democratic process, including by participating in the European elections.

The objective of the partnership is to facilitate collaboration between the European Parliament and the partner to multiply the impact of the European Parliament’s communication campaigns aiming to support democratic engagement in the EU, notably in the run up to the 2024 European elections.

3. AREAS AND MEANS OF COOPERATION UNDER THE PARTNERSHIP

The European Parliament and its partner organisations share common values and define common actions with the overall objective of increasing the outreach of the European Parliament’s actions in relation to the 2024 European elections (EE24).

- Concrete means of cooperation from the European Parliament side include:
 - permission to use the partnership visual identity ‘Communication Partner for the European Elections 2024’ on communication material produced by the partner;

¹ The reference to general interests recognised by the European Union covers in particular the objectives mentioned in [Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union](#).

- a key contact person from the European Parliament elections team;
 - sharing of specific information on a more regular basis;
 - sharing of campaign materials and timelines in advance;
 - exclusive and specific networking sessions for partners (subject to availability);
 - availability of European Parliament staff to speak at partners' events (subject to availability);
 - invitation to seminars as experts or moderators, as well as to courses organised by the European Parliament or to European Parliament campaign-related events, subject to availability.
- Concrete means of cooperation on the CSOs' side include:
- increasing the visibility of the European Parliament's communications to their members, notably on social media, at events, etc., as outlined in their activity plan focusing on the EE24 and in compliance with the DG COMM code of conduct;
 - giving visibility to the partnership with the European Parliament for the EE24, e.g. publishing the partnership visual identity 'Communication Partner for the European Elections 2024' with their communication actions and material.

4. HOW TO PARTNER WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Eligible organisations

To be eligible, applicants must:

- be legal persons constituted and registered as a legal entity in a Member State;
- be not-for-profit organisations;
- represent or pursue objectives of general interest recognised by the EU;
- be members of together.eu.

Application procedure

In order to apply for a partnership, any interested organisation meeting the eligibility criteria can fill in the partnership application form provided in the annex and send it to the European Parliament by email to partnership-agreement@europarl.europa.eu together with the following supporting documents in any of the EU official languages:

- proof of establishment (e.g. extract from an official journal, copy of articles of association, extract from association register or any other relevant supporting document);
- latest annual activity report (or equivalent document) of the organisation;
- partnership activity plan defining the outreach strategy and the actions to be implemented under the partnership based on the checklist annexed to the application form.

In addition, in the application form, applicants declare on their honour that they or their representatives are in none of the exclusion situations detailed in Section 6 of the partnership agreement. Lastly, they undertake to comply with the code of conduct for the European Parliament's communication partners, as well as the terms and policies of together.eu.

The European Parliament's staff will carry out a desk review of the application in order to determine whether the applicant is eligible for a partnership.

Formalisation of the partnership

Eligible applicants will be invited to sign a partnership agreement with the European Parliament. The agreement will define the scope, objectives and duration of the partnership; as well as the rights and obligations of the parties and the conditions for suspension and withdrawal. The partnership will remain valid until the end of 2024 unless it is renewed by mutual agreement of the parties.

5. SITUATIONS OF EXCLUSION

The partner is excluded from the partnership if a legal person or natural person who is a member of the administrative, management or supervisory body of the legal person, or who has powers of representation, decision or control with regard to the above-mentioned legal person is in any of the situations referred to in Article 6 of the partnership agreement.

6. TERMS OF THE PARTNERSHIP

Upon signature of the partnership agreement, the partner undertakes to:

- (a) respect the common general objectives that formed the basis for establishing the partnership, as mentioned in Article 1 and in the partnership activity plan in Annex II to the partnership agreement, as well as the code of conduct set out in Annex III;
- (b) cooperate and exchange information regularly and transparently with the European Parliament on the implementation and the follow-up to implementation of the partnership activity plan set out in Annex II, as well as on other matters of common interest related to the partnership agreement;
- (c) inform the European Parliament immediately of:
 - i. any change in its legal, financial, technical, organisational or ownership situation or to its name, address or legal representation;
 - ii. any change regarding the exclusion situations listed in Article 6 of the partnership agreement.

The partnership agreement does not entitle the partner to represent the European Parliament under any circumstances.

To enhance the transparency of actions implemented under the partnership agreement, it is strongly recommended that communication partners register on the [EU Transparency Register](#).

7. DATA PROTECTION

Any personal data included in the Partnership and the subsequent communication actions must be processed by the European Parliament in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725, in accordance with and for the purposes set out in the Privacy policy available at <https://together.eu/privacy-policy>.

8. CONTACT AND REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Questions or queries may be sent by email to partnership-agreement@europarl.europa.eu.