

EUROPEAN FORUM ON CIVIC SPACE PROTECTION

PARATA Regional Forum
Rome 28-29 Ottobre 2026



Day 1 | Understanding Risks, Building Protection

10:00 – Registration & Welcome Coffee

10:30 – Opening Session

From Monitoring to Protection Systems

Understanding the New Challenges for Civic Space in Europe

An overview of the current state of civic space across Europe, highlighting common patterns of restrictions and attacks against civil society organisations, human rights defenders and activists. The session will introduce the Forum's central question: how can Europe move from monitoring civic space to building effective protection systems?

11:15 – Collaborative Session I

Understanding Protection Needs

Through facilitated peer exchange and case-based discussions, participants will explore the protection needs emerging across different civic movements—including environmental justice, women's and LGBTQIA+ rights, migration, democracy and the rule of law—to identify common risks, recurring patterns and shared challenges.

Methodology: Expert inputs, peer exchange and collaborative mapping.

13:00 – Lunch

15:00 – Collaborative Session II (Parata Advice Session)

Building Integrated Protection Systems

Participants will exchange practical experiences on legal protection, digital security, psychosocial support and culture of care, exploring how these dimensions can be combined into integrated protection systems. The session will focus on practical tools, transferable practices and opportunities for cooperation.

Methodology: Practical case studies, facilitated working groups and plenary discussion.

16:30 – Collaborative Session III

International Frameworks for the Protection of Civic Space

An interactive session exploring how international human rights mechanisms, European institutions and existing protection frameworks can reinforce national protection efforts and strengthen coordinated responses.

Methodology: Scenario-based discussion and collaborative problem-solving.

18:00 – Networking Reception

Day 2 | From Civil Society Action to Institutional Responsibility

10:00 – Registration & Welcome Coffee

10:30 – Public Conference

Who Protects Those Who Defend Rights?

Building Institutional Responsibility for the Protection of Civic Space

A dialogue between civil society organisations, public authorities, European institutions and international organisations on the shared responsibility for protecting human rights defenders and civic actors. Building on the experiences emerging from the Forum, the discussion will focus on how institutional protection mechanisms can complement and strengthen civil society initiatives.

13:00 – Lunch

15:00 – Collaborative Strategy Session

Designing a Common European Agenda for Civic Space Protection

Building on the outcomes of the previous sessions, participants will identify common priorities, principles and opportunities for cooperation. Through a facilitated co-creation process, the session will lay the foundations for a common European agenda on civic space protection.

16:30 – Closing Session

Adopting the Rome Priorities for the Protection of Civic Space

Presentation of the Forum outcomes, adoption of the Rome Priorities for the Protection of Civic Space and closing remarks.

Promoted by:



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