

CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE NETWORK (CSDN)

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a mechanism for dialogue between civil society and EU policy-makers on peace and conflict. It is co-financed by the European Union (the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe) and the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), and managed by EPLO in co-operation with the European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS).

The CSDN was established in 2010 and the fifth phase (CSDN V) began in 2023 and will last until 2026.

CSDN events take the form of dialogue meetings that bring together relevant civil society actors and EU policy-makers. They take place in Europe and conflict-affected countries with EU presence, and can be broadly categorised as follows:

- **Policy Meetings** are focused on thematic issues related to the EU's peacebuilding policies and practices. To date, they have been aimed at providing (1) civil society input into specific EU policy processes (e.g. preparation of the Guidelines on Peace Mediation); (2) civil society input into the preparation and reviews of Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions; and (3) civil society analysis of broader thematic issues (e.g. gender, peace and security).
- **Geographic Meetings** are focused on a particular country or region, and they can take place in Brussels, in the country or region in question or elsewhere. To date, they have been aimed at providing civil society input into (1) ongoing EU conflict analysis in particular countries and regions; and (2) the preparation of EU country/regional strategies and programmes.
- **Funding Instruments Meetings** are focused on the EU's external financing instruments and the wider issues of the EU's financial support for conflict prevention and peacebuilding. To date, they have been aimed at providing civil society input into the programming of the Instrument for Stability (IfS), the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), and the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-GE) Thematic Programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention (TP on PS&CP).
- **Member State Meetings** are aimed at involving EU Member State policy-makers in EU-civil society dialogue on thematic issues relating to the EU's peacebuilding policies and practices. They can take place in any EU Member State.
- **NGO Round-table Meetings** are aimed at informing NGOs that are based in Europe about EU peacebuilding policies and practices, bringing peacebuilding NGOs from the same country together and facilitating exchange and discussion among NGOs. They take place in Europe.
- **Conferences with Academics** are aimed at facilitating dialogue and connections between practitioners and academics whose work is relevant for EU peacebuilding policies and practices and emphasising short-term and long-term perspectives to encourage out-of-the-box thinking and generate ideas useful to the EU, with the possible involvement of civil society actors and EU policy-makers.
- **Training Seminars** are aimed at increasing civil society actors' knowledge and understanding of the EU's peacebuilding policies and practices, and to enable them to engage in advocacy towards EU policy-makers.

More information about CSDN events is available on the CSDN section of the EPLO website: <https://eplo.org/activities/ongoing-projects/civil-society-dialogue-network>