



Civil Society Dialogue Network

Training Seminar: ‘Peacebuilding Advocacy towards the EU’

29 – 31 January 2025

**Martin’s Brussels EU
Boulevard Charlemagne 80
1000 Brussels, Belgium**

Concept Note

Learning objectives

The training seminar will provide participants with an **analysis** of the European Union’s (EU) institutional capacity regarding conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

The overall objective of the training seminar will be

- 1) to enable participants to **increase their understanding of the EU** as a foreign policy actor
- 2) to **learn about obstacles and potential of the EU** to carry out effective peacebuilding and
- 3) to provide them with **concrete examples of advocating** for more effective policies and programmes on conflict prevention and peacebuilding at EU level.

Please note that this training seminar will not include sessions on how to apply for EU funding or on EU grant management.

Methodology

The training seminar will consist of interactive plenary sessions and small group work, with additional opportunities for networking. It will also include a tour of the European Parliament.



Content

- Facts on the EU institutions and EU external action and peacebuilding frameworks
- Discussions on key trends affecting EU peacebuilding
- Sharing of experiences from previous EU advocacy efforts
- Discussions with EU officials
- Tour of the European Parliament
- Group exercises devising advocacy strategies

Trainers / resource persons

EPLO staff members, representatives from EPLO member organisations and other INGOs, and EU officials

Background documents

- Mapping of relevant EU actors for peacebuilding
- Fact sheet: the EU and its institutions
- Other background reading relevant to the EU, peacebuilding and conflict prevention

Participants / Target audience

The training seminar is designed for representatives of peacebuilding civil society organisations who are interested in undertaking advocacy on EU conflict prevention and peacebuilding issues in Brussels. Since the number of people we can accommodate is limited, a selection will be made based upon applications received. Accommodation and travel costs for non-Brussels-based participants will be covered. Please note that in-person participation is required for the full three days of the training seminar.

Language:

English



Draft Agenda

Wednesday 29 January (Day 1)

12:30-13:30	Registration and lunch
13:30-14:00	Welcome and Introductions
14:00-15:15	Session 1: EU conflict prevention and peacebuilding framework and key trends <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short quiz• Presentation by EPLO• Discussion
15:15-15:30	Coffee break
15:45-16:45	Session 2: Influencing the EU institutions: learning from best practice and lessons learnt from past and ongoing advocacy strategies with examples from civil society organisations (CS representatives tbc)
16:45-17:00	Close of day

Thursday 30 January (Day 2)

08:30-09:00	Coffee and tea
09:00-09:30	Reflection on the first day
09:30-10:30	Session 3: Advocacy tips from inside the institutions I with EU presence (representatives tbc)
10:30-10:45	Coffee break

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a mechanism for dialogue between civil society and EU policy-makers on issues related to peace and conflict. It is co-financed by the European Union (the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe). It is managed by the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), a civil society network, in co-operation with the European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS). The fifth phase of the CSDN will last from 2023 to 2026. For more information, please visit the EPLO [website](#).

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10:45-11:45	Session 4: Introduction to devising an advocacy strategy Preparation for group exercise on Day 3 Sharing advocacy practices from participants
12:00-13:30	Lunch (outside)
Trip to the European Parliament	
14:00-16:00	Session 6: Introduction to the European Parliament and Advocacy Tips for engaging with MEPs With Parliament officials (representatives tbc) Short tour of the European Parliament building
	Close of day

Friday 31 January (Day 3)

08:30-09:00	Coffee and tea
09:00-09:30	Reflections on Day 2
09:30-10:45	Session 7: Group exercise: from theory to practice – developing an advocacy plan
10:45-11:00	Coffee break
11:00-12:15	Session 7 continued: Group exercise <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of advocacy plans to the rest of the group
12:15-13:30	Reflections on the experience, lunch and conclusion of training seminar

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