OPEN CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE STEERING COMMITTEE
(up to 4 positions)

"EU Civil Resilience Mechanism – Phase II: Support for Civil Society and Grassroots Organisations"

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1. Background

The EU funded project **"EU Civil Resilience Mechanism – Phase II: Support for Civil Society and Grassroots Organisations" (EU CRM Phase II)** is implemented over a period of 24 months, starting from 15 January 2026.
The project aims to foster a vibrant civil society in the Republic of North Macedonia by strengthening democratic participation in policy and decision-making processes, promoting fundamental rights, and encouraging dialogue. Through its Civil Resilience Mechanism (EU CRM), the project provides in-kind support to civil society and grassroots organisations, enabling them to address key reform priorities, enhance citizens' resilience to social changes, and improve communication on EU accession and related reforms.
To ensure strategic oversight, coordination, and inclusive governance, a **Steering Committee (SC)** will be established as a multi-stakeholder body composed of representatives from public institutions, the Contracting Authority, the implementing contractor, and civil society.

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2. Purpose of the Call

This call invites **Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)** to express their interest in nominating a representative to serve as a member of the Steering Committee.
The inclusion of CSO representatives aims to ensure balanced stakeholder participation and to bring sectoral expertise, grassroots perspectives, and accountability to the strategic governance of the project, in line with the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA).

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3. Role of CSO Representatives in the Steering Committee

Selected CSO representatives will:

- Contribute to the strategic guidance and oversight of the project
- Provide insights on civil society needs, priorities, and challenges
- Support transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness of the EU CRM
- Participate in Steering Committee meetings (at least twice per year)
- Contribute to dialogue between civil society, institutions, and other stakeholders

The Steering Committee operates at a strategic level and does not engage in day-to-day project implementation.

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4. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, applicant organisations have to meet the following minimum requirements:

- Be legally registered and actively operating in the Republic of North Macedonia
- Demonstrate alignment with democratic values, civic participation, fundamental rights, and EU principles and values
- Have proven experience in areas relevant to civil society development, policy engagement, monitoring, advocacy, or community work
- Demonstrate capacity to contribute at a strategic and oversight level
- Show commitment to gender equality, inclusion, and non-discrimination

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5. Selection Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed based on:

- **Representativeness and community engagement**
- **Capacity to contribute to strategic guidance and oversight**
- **Added value to the overall balance of the Steering Committee**, including:
  - Geographic diversity (including organisations outside Skopje)
  - Thematic diversity
  - Balance between grassroots and established organisations

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6. Mandate and Conditions

- CSO representatives will be appointed for a **12-month renewable term**
- Each organisation shall nominate:



  - One primary representative
  - One alternate representative
- **Important restriction:**
  CSOs represented in the Steering Committee **will not be eligible to receive support under the EU Civil Resilience Mechanism (EU CRM) during their mandate**
- Representatives must:
  - Act with integrity and impartiality
  - Declare any conflict of interest
  - Respect confidentiality requirements

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7. Application Procedure

Interested organisations are invited to submit the following:

1. Proof of legal registration and evidence of active operation
2. A short statement (maximum 2 pages) describing:
   - Relevant experience
   - Motivation to participate
   - Expected contribution to the Steering Committee
3. CVs of the proposed primary and alternate representatives

Applications must be submitted electronically to:

stefanovic@cpmconsulting.eu

Deadline for submission: 06 November 2026

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8. Selection Process

The selection will follow a two-step process:

Step 1: Eligibility Screening

Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria and completeness of documentation.

Step 2: Evaluation

Eligible applications will be scored against the selection criteria.

The final selection will ensure a balanced composition of the Steering Committee.

Step 3: Absence of Conflict of Interest

Selected applicants will sign a Declaration of absence of conflict of interest and confidentiality.

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9. Additional Information

The final composition of the Steering Committee will be approved by the Contracting Authority. The Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee members may be accessed at **eu4cr.mk**.