CIVIL SOCIETY STARTS WITH YOU.

Act now!

5 ways to become active and shape our society

What is active citizenship – and what is it good for?

Human rights, freedom, dignity, equality, democracy and rule of law. These are the values that shape our society.

But we have to build them together – and that requires open dialogue and participation.

Our society needs people who contribute. People who take an interest in their community, who want to be part of decision making, who want to make a difference.

In short, civil society starts with you. But how do you actually go about it?

Here are four concrete ways for you to get involved and take action.

Get informed

You can’t make a difference if you don’t know what’s going on. There are many ways to empower yourself with information:

Tip 1: Read up

It’s easier to get engaged when you know what’s going on. There are countless newspapers, online magazines, social media, news websites, blogs and other online and offline platforms where you can come across different opinions, thoughts, ideas and plans. You can contribute by participating in forums, posting messages on social media, or reaching out to your local newspaper.

Tip 2: Participate

Most organisations have regular updates about their activities and progress. Sign up to their newsletter to stay informed. You can always start with ours, you can do so here.

Tip 3: Donate money

If you have money to spare, consider donating to causes that you believe in. Most NGOs and civil society organisations are in need of more funding, and have a website where you can easily set up a recurring or one-time donation.

Tip 4: Donate time

If you have the time, you can offer your help. You can volunteer for organisations or events that you are interested in, or can be assigned a project.

Support (local) initiatives

There are many local organisations and community groups that contribute to our society every day. They often rely on our help in their activities.

Tip 1: Spread the word

One of the easiest ways to help organisations is by spreading awareness of their cause. Use your own channels to talk about their activities, needs and participation options.

Tip 2: Donate time

Volunteering can take as much or as little time as you want and can be anything from manual labour to operating a phone or computer. Contribute your time and energy by joining an existing initiative or starting your own project.

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Tip 1: Look around

It’s often the small things that have the biggest impact. Look around in your direct area to find ways to contribute. Perhaps there’s a neighbour you can help, or a group you can join – the options are often closer than you think.

Tip 2: Get in touch

Would you rather volunteer for an organisation? Do you already have one in mind? Look for any contact information on their website or get in touch with them via social media. You can turn to local organisations or municipalities – or us! – for help.

Tip 3: Join a group

Don’t know how to find the right organisation for you? Municipalities often have lists of organisations that are looking for help. You can either find an organisation you like, or be assigned a project.

Tip 4: Speak up

If something is important to you, the people in your immediate environment are the first to support and help you. Tell them about your ideas and plans, ask them to think along, or invite them to get involved.

Get engaged

A vibrant democracy is all about participation. Become part of an active community by encouraging and involving family, friends or neighbours. As a citizen, you have several options to take part.

Tip 1: Speak up

If something is important to you, the people in your immediate environment are the first to support and help you. Tell them about your ideas and plans, ask them to think along, or invite them to get involved.

Tip 2: Reach out

One by one, Europe’s active citizens are making a difference. Get in touch, interact and collaborate with them in (local) projects. For this, you can turn to local organisations or municipalities – or us! – for help.

Tip 3: Take action

Are there no local initiatives yet? Do you want to draw attention to a specific problem? Are there circumstances that need change? Join or start your own initiative and invite others to think along. Don’t know where to begin? Visit eeagrants.org to get inspired.

These tips show you some of the many ways to contribute – hopefully they’ve inspired you to take action.

Together, we can create a vibrant, well-functioning society.

Our work in 15 European countries unites us around the values we share. They help reduce social and economic disparities, with a focus on democracy, human rights and inclusion.

Do you want to know more about these civil society projects?

Or do you have an idea for a project in your region? Visit eeagrants.org