

# 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, (local) television channels. Start the daily habit of following the news so you always know what's happening at a national, regional, and local level.

### Tip 3: Sign up

There are many online and offline platforms where you can come across different opinions, thoughts, ideas and plans. You can contribute by participating in forums, posting on message boards, following reliable social media accounts, or reaching out to your local newspaper.

### Tip 2: Participate

Most organisations have regular updates about their activities and progress. Sign up to their newsletters to stay informed. You can always start with ours, you can do so [here](#).



### Visit [eagrants.org](https://eagrants.org)

Do you want to know how the EEA and Norway Grants contribute to civil society in Europe? [Visit our website](#) and discover our projects, news, and results.

## Support (local) initiatives

There are many (local) organisations and community groups that contribute to our society every day. They can often use 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 3: Donate money

If you have money to spare, consider donating it 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 2: Donate time

Whatever your background, work experience, gender or age, you will have a helpful skill. Reach out to any organisation to see if you can work for them as a volunteer, or for a small fee.



### Get inspired

Do you want to see examples of local initiatives, and find out what it can be like to join in? We've collected some project stories in [these videos and articles](#).

## Volunteer

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

### 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. Maybe there's a neighbour you can help, a park you can clean – the options are often closer than you think.

### 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 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 give them a call to find out if they can use your help.



### Pick your topic

Which topics are important enough to commit to? And how do you find out which activities are already there? The EEA and Norway Grants provides funding through various programmes and topics. [Explore them here](#).

## Get engaged

A vibrant democracy is all about participation. Become part of an active community by encouraging and involving friends, family 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 3: Take action

Are there no local initiatives yet? Do you want to draw attention to a specific problem? Are there circumstances that need to change? Join or start your own action and invite others to think and act. Don't know where to begin? Visit [eagrants.org](https://eagrants.org) to get inspired.

### Tip 2: Reach out

One by one, Europe's active citizens are making a difference. Get in touch, interact, and collaborate with them in (voluntary) projects. For this, you can turn to local organisations or municipalities – or to us! [Find out which projects we're supporting in your area](#).



### Get funding

Do you have an idea or plan for an initiative in your area? [Here's how you can apply for funding](#).

**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 unite 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 [eagrants.org](https://eagrants.org)