



Feminist Strike Berlin cc Tim Lüdemann

Facing shrinking space - How are you Civil Society?

Online-Event on 26. April 2022, 9.30 -1.30 pm (CET)

For some years now, there has been a proliferation of incidents that have put the civil society functions of advocacy and deliberative democracy under considerable pressure. Think of anti-NGO laws and other repressions such as strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP). These restrictions, also known as shrinking spaces, are not limited to authoritarian systems of government. In European countries, too, one can observe a serious contestation over the legitimate political participation and representation of civil society actors.

While governments actively seek to squeeze non-state actors out of the public sphere through a whole range of regulatory, financial and communication tools, the clout of citizens' initiatives is greater today than ever before. The Maecenata Institute for Philanthropy and Civil Society has been working on these issues for several years and, together with partners, has conducted extensive research across Europe. Our first interdisciplinary online roundtable is designed for civil society organisations from all over Europe, interested in the following questions:

Where are we standing in the contestation of European's Civil Society?

What can CSOs do to respond?

Detailed programme

9.30-11.am Insights from the Countries



Where do we stand?

Siri Hummel Focus on Germany
Maecenata Institute
Berlin

N.N. Focus on Austria
University of economics
and business Vienna

Ramon Feenstra Focus on Spain
Universitat Jaume de
Castelló

Anna Domaradzka Focus on Poland
University of Warsaw

Claire Breschard Focus on France
Institut français du
Monde associatif

11.30-1.30 pm Hands-On Training



How to become active?

11.30- 12.30 pm Help around public relations,
finance and crowdfunding and
volunteers

Facing right wing extremists

12.30 – 1.30 pm Help around hate speech,
conspiracy theories and on-
site threats

This is the first of more upcoming roundtables all over Europe to tackle these matters, within our [European Civic Space Observatory \(ECSO\) project](#). In this recently published data from Austria, France, Germany, Spain and Poland shall give insight and hands-on workshops shall bring CSO into resilience and help affected ones with their specific cases. **Please register [here](#)**.

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