



EU-RUSSIA CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ГРАЖДАНСКИЙ ФОРУМ ЕС-РОССИЯ

How to choose the right status for your organisation

The EU-Russia Civil Society Forum offers the opportunity to **choose between two statuses, member and supporter**. Whilst both statuses imply rights and responsibilities, the difference lies in the level of involvement and commitment of your organisation within the Forum's activities.

Forum members and supporters share some rights:

- Both members and supporters are welcome to participate in CSF activities, such as the General Assembly, public events, thematic projects, etc.
- However, the **participation within Working Groups and projects is different**: Whilst both members and supporters can be members of a Working Group and actively participate in its activities, only members can initiate a new Working Group. Regarding projects and call for proposals, members can initiate and coordinate a new project, whilst supporters can only act as partners.
- The difference between statuses also concerns **voting rights**: only members can vote during the General Assembly and when a decision is put on vote by members. They can also have their **representatives nominated and elected in the Forum bodies** (Board, Working Group Coordination, etc.)
- Members have priority, when it comes to receiving assistance in organising advocacy activities, finding potential project partners, and other services. Supporters receive limited access to such benefits.
- However, both can receive assistance from the Forum in case of repressive actions by authorities that are contrary to international standards for the operation of civil society organisations. They also receive information and can place their information in the Forum media.
- Membership for members and supporters is currently free of charge

Forum members and supporters also share responsibilities:

- Both share the values enshrined in the Mission Statement of the Forum and the goals elaborated in the Forum Articles of Association; they respect the Forum Articles of Association and abide by their provisions
- Both respect decisions of the GA, the Board, Working Groups, etc.
- Both abstain from action potentially causing damage to the Forum and contradicting its purposes

However, **choosing member status implies active participation in the Working Group as well as in the events** - apart from the General Assembly. What is more, members should share their own publications related to the topics covered by the Forum, contribute to the production of statements, the newsletter, other Forum publications and surveys.

Finally, members should engage with recruiting potential new members, especially from under-represented regions, matching the Forum purposes, promote its activities, and work for its recognition in relevant local and national contexts.