



## EU-RUSSIA CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM ГРАЖДАНСКИЙ ФОРУМ ЕС-РОССИЯ

### How to choose the right status for your organisation

The [EU-Russia Civil Society Forum](#) (CSF) offers the opportunity to **choose between two statuses, CSF member and CSF supporter**. If both statuses imply rights and responsibilities, the difference lays in the level of involvement and commitment of your organisation within the Forum's activities.

Forum members and supporters share the following rights:

- Both members and supporters are welcome to participate in CSF activities, such as the General Assemblies, public events, thematic projects etc.
- However, the **participation within Working Groups and projects is different**: if both members and supporters can be members of a Working Group and participate actively, only members can initiate a new Working Group. Regarding projects and calls for proposals, members can initiate and coordinate a new project and supporters can only act as partners.
- The difference between statuses also concerns **voting rights**: only members can vote during General Assemblies. Members can also have their **representatives nominated and elected in the Forum's bodies** (Board, Working Group etc.)
- Members have priority when it comes to receive assistance in organising advocacy activities, finding potential project partners and other services. Supporters receive limited access to such benefits.
- However, both members and supporters 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 organisation. They also receive information and can place their information in the Forum's media.
- Membership for members and supporters is free of charge

Forum members and supporters also share responsibilities:

- Both members and supporters share the values enshrined in the Mission Statement of the Forum and the goals elaborated in the Forum's articles of Association; they respect the Forum's Articles of Association and abide by their provisions.
- Both members and supporters respect decisions of the GA, the Board, Working Groups etc.

- Both members and supporters 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. 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 context.