

## Defence of Democracy Package – what does it mean for EU civil societies?

23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2024

9:00 – 10:30 WET (Lisbon)

10:00 – 11:30 CET (Bratislava, Budapest, Oslo, Riga, Warsaw, Ljubljana, Praha, Valetta, Zagreb)

11:00 – 12:30 EET (Athens, Bucharest, Nicosia, Sofia, Tallinn, Vilnius)

**NOTE: Session opened to Active Citizens (ACF) Fund Operators (FOs) representatives, ACF project promoters and other interested NGOs in all both ACF Beneficiary and Donor States.**

**Access will be possible based on prior registration [HERE](#)**

**The Zoom link will be sent only to those registered.**

On 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 the European Commission adopted [the Defence of Democracy package \(DoD\)](#), ahead of the 2024 European elections.

The central piece of this package is, a foreign funding directive, aimed at **enhancing transparency and democratic accountability of interest representation services and activities on behalf of third countries** to influence the “**development, formulation or implementation of policy or legislation or public decision-making in the internal market.**”

It also includes **two recommendations which aim to promote free, fair and resilient elections and the participation of citizens and civil society organisations to policy-making.**

The aim of this package is to tackle the threat of foreign interference with more transparency, while at the same time **encouraging civic engagement and citizens' participation** in our democracies. Here is what media wrote about DoD so far: [Politico](#), [Reuters](#).

During the meeting we are going to unpack the DoD and discuss its impact on European civil societies.

CET: 9:55 – 10:00	<b>Welcome &amp; Prepare</b> [get hooked to Zoom and grab your coffee]
CET: 10:00 – 10:05	<b>Welcoming remarks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stefania ANDERSEN (she/her)</b>, Operational Director at the Civil Society Development Foundation (ACF Romania)</li> <li>• <b>Anna FEDAS (she/her)</b>, Bilateral and Regional Cooperation Coordinator at the Stefan Batory Foundation (ACF-National in Poland)</li> </ul>
CET: 10:05 – 10:35	<b>Introduction to the topic delivered by Aarti NARSEE (she/her)</b> , Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer at the <a href="#">European Civic Forum</a>
CET: 10:35 – 11:00	<b>Q&amp;A session</b> led by Stefania ANDERSEN and Anna FEDAS
CET: 11:00 – 11:30	<b>Internal meeting for Active Citizens Fund Operators</b> [at the same zoom link]

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