

## CALL FOR FACILITATORS

### Hyperpolarisation in Europe: looking back, thinking ahead

Europe Lab 11 – 15 August 2025  
Application deadline: 15 May 2025

The Civil Society Forum e.V. (CSF) is looking for three facilitators for its 10th Europe Lab, this year taking place in Weimar, Germany. This year's Europe Lab is titled "Hyperpolarisation in Europe: looking back, thinking ahead." Each facilitator should be an expert on a topic relevant for one of the following workshop streams:

#### **Stream 1: Pluralist democracy amid the rise of the far right**

This stream investigates the way policy makers, activists, social movements, media organisations and civil society deal with old and new social issues in the context of the rise of the far-right as well as the implications of a hyperpolarised political climate on interpersonal interactions across the divide. What happens when elected leaders begin to reject the very same democratic mechanisms through which they gained power? How can governments and civil societies protect democracy while engaging voters who feel represented by the far-right? What does it mean to defend democracy in this climate – and what role can youth play?

#### **Stream 2: Climate change: policies and backlash**

This stream examines historical cases of international and European climate policy, highlighting how and why policy can provoke significant backlash. Climate policies must be feasible, effective and fair. Resistance arises not only from powerful, antagonistic stakeholders throughout the economy but also from activist movements that emerge in response to policies perceived as neglecting societal needs, for example the "gilets jaunes." How can we learn from these examples to ensure future climate policies remain both effective and equitable?

#### **Stream 3: Persecution, prejudice and genocide – how can we prevent tragedy?**

This stream deals with examples of persecution, prejudice and genocide over history aiming to provide theoretical and practical understanding. Participants will discuss the foundations of persecution in both past and present contexts. In an increasingly polarised world where civic spaces are systematically being dismantled, how can bridges be built across borders, movements, racial and ethnic groups? How can identity politics mobilise movements while not dividing larger, aligned groups that are otherwise unified for broader, more universal goals? Special consideration will be given to applicants with unique personal experiences relevant to the topic.

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## SHORT PROJECT SUMMARY

Europe Lab is a social laboratory and networking programme for early career professionals, students and civil society leaders from the EU, EEA, Balkan countries, Eastern Partnership countries, Russia, and Central Asia organised by CSF. Each year, Europe Lab takes place at a site of significance to the local culture of remembrance. This year, 36 early career professionals, activists and students from various countries and disciplines will be chosen and invited to come to Weimar, Germany from 11-15 August 2025.

This year's Europe Lab is titled "**Hyperpolarisation in Europe: looking back, thinking ahead.**" The streams for this year's theme will deal with the trends of hyperpolarisation within Europe as well as the threat of the far-right to European civil society and just, social governance. The participants will have the possibility to form teams and apply for small grants to implement their projects. They will be supervised by experienced facilitators and the CSF Secretariat team.

## PROJECT GOAL AND TARGET GROUP

The goal of the project is to establish long-lasting partnerships among early career professionals and students from across Europe. This is done via thematic workshops that provide them with resources and the chance to exchange their best practices in civil society engagement as well as network as part of the Europe Lab community.

The target group of Europe Lab are **students and early career professionals (in their 20s and 30s)** representing civil society or academia from the EU, EEA, Eastern Partnership Countries, Russia, the Balkans and Central Asia.

## EXPECTED SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

During three days of intensive workshops (titled streams) participants should acquire new knowledge in their respective topics, as well as build relationships and exchange knowledge among themselves. Each facilitator will be responsible for facilitating three days of a workshop in one of the topics with a group of 12 participants and helping to conceptualise realistic project ideas during and after the event. Experience and expertise in one of the topics is necessary, as well as experience and skills in facilitating workshops with small groups over the period of a few days.

## EXPECTED AMOUNT OF WORK PER FACILITATOR

- Preparation of a programme for one of the topics in cooperation with the Europe Lab team;
- Participation in up to 3 preparatory meetings before the event;
- Conduction of 3 days of a workshop stream (12 August - 14 August) during the Europe Lab meeting in Weimar, Germany for one group of 12 participants;

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# CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM



- Arrival in Weimar on 11 August before noon for an offline project meeting and presence between 11 August until 14 August evening.
- Consultation in preparing a realistic project idea to apply for a mini-grant and supervision of an early project conceptualisation process (3-5 online meetings with project participants after the event). The CSF Europe Lab team will support this process.

## REMUNERATION

A total remuneration of **1500 EUR gross** per facilitator is envisaged.

## APPLICATIONS

Should you be interested in the role of facilitator at Europe Lab 2025 please send your CV and short letter of motivation or your proposal for the workshop stream to Christoph Sproul ([info@europe-lab.net](mailto:info@europe-lab.net)) by **15 May 2025**. If you have any questions regarding the programme or application process, please feel free to submit them to Christoph Sproul as well.

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