



# ecads

European Citizen Action Service



## **WORK PROGRAMME 2024**



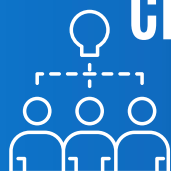
**CAMPAIGNS**

**3**



**ONLINE  
COURSES**

**2**



**CROWDSOURCING  
PROCESSES  
WITH CITIZENS**

**2**



**EVENTS**

**29**



**TRAINING**

**20**



**PROJECTS**

**8**



**SERVICE  
CONTRACTS**

**2**



**PROJECTS  
OF ECAS MEMBERS**

**UP TO 12**

# About ECAS

The European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) is an international, Brussels-based non-profit organisation with a pan-European membership and more than 30 years of experience in empowering citizens in order to create a more inclusive and stronger European Union by:

- Promoting and defending citizens' rights, and
- Developing and supporting mechanisms to increase citizens and citizen organisations' democratic participation in, and engagement with, the EU.

ECAS believes in an inclusive, transparent, citizen-centric and democratic European Union in which citizens' rights are at the heart of decision-making at all levels and in which citizens are informed, consulted and active participants.

ECAS delivers its mission by implementing projects, services to citizens, training, advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns, research and high-level events in two focus areas:  
EU RIGHTS and EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY.

## ECAS in Central and Eastern Europe: from the Region for the Region

Cautious of specific regional challenges, at the end of 2021, ECAS established its first branch office in Bulgaria with the aim of implementing tailored initiatives in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) to tackle negative tendencies related to democratic deficiencies, such as the spread of disinformation and populist narratives, backsliding of the rule of law and narrowing of civic space.

The branch is also developing technical expertise in innovative online tools for citizen engagement, such as crowdsourcing through digital platforms and digital dashboards for ethical social listening.

### Anti-disinformation alliances in CEE

In the period 2022 – 2024, ECAS is supporting civil society organisations (CSOs) coalitions in Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Poland to form anti-disinformation alliances to combat false narratives and implement impactful campaigns. Thus, CSOs in CEE would be able to react to disinformation attacks and build resilience among their target groups with effective and proactive communication. The knowledge accumulated will feed into the creation of an operational framework for civil society actors to counteract the phenomenon. It will consist of practical guidelines such as ideal alliance size and composition, capacity-building tools, approaches to various disinformation threats, etc. Its purpose is to allow CSOs to build coalitions faster, in response to emerging narratives and not to rely on finding solutions by trial and error. This framework will be tested through campaigns against disinformation before the European Parliament elections in 2024.



## Promoting EU Values in Bulgaria

During 2023 – 2025, ECAS will be implementing as part of a partnership led by the Open Society Institute – Sofia the ProEUvaluesBG project in order to raise public awareness of EU values at a national, regional and local level in Bulgaria and to provide capacity building and financial support to Bulgarian CSOs in order to enhance their role as key messengers in promoting these values.

ECAS's branch in Bulgaria will provide targeted capacity building support to CSOs to promote and uphold EU values. National-level CSOs will be strategic allies in reaching out to citizens, while grassroots CSOs will 'learn by doing' how to promote EU values in their work. All project activities cater to the creation of a community of practice for the promotion of the Union Values among citizens across Bulgaria.



## The European Hub for Civic Engagement

In 2023, ECAS became a managing partner of the [European Hub for Civic Engagement](#) - a digital platform for civil society collaboration to strengthen Civic Space and Democracy in Europe. In 2024, ECAS and its partners – Alliance4Europe and Citizens for Europe – will continue to design and develop many tools and opportunities for collaboration that can help civil society organisations across Europe in delivering their mission and in carrying out impactful campaigns towards the European Elections 2024 and beyond.

## ECAS's Training Centre

Based on our 30+ years of experience in EU Rights & Democracy, EU funding & Project Management, EU advocacy, citizen engagement & capacity-building, ECAS provides training to a variety of stakeholders: civil society professionals, legal experts & citizens, and public authorities on various subjects and in different online and offline formats. Through the [Civil Society Accelerator](#) (CSA), ECAS supports citizens and small Civil Society Organisations (CSO) free of charge to maximize their impact and achieve their EU related mission.

# PROJECTS 2024

## HORIZONTAL PROJECTS FOR THE EU RIGHTS AND EU DEMOCRACY FOCUS AREAS

### EURECA (European Citizenship Accelerator) 2024

EURECA 2024 project will further develop the capacities of ECAS and its members to empower citizens and promote EU citizenship rights during the European Parliament's election year and will give citizens the opportunity to contribute to the implementation of the European Democracy Action Plan and the EU Citizenship Report.

EURECA will strengthen European citizenship and identity through support for the freedom of movement in the EU and the fostering of EU mobile citizens' rights, with a special emphasis on their voting rights in the host countries. This will be achieved through capacity building of rights advice organisations and public authorities in Belgium and Luxembourg, implementation of an online course on political participation, and an online tool with practical information on how, when, and where EU citizens can register on the electoral rolls for all EU Member States and in all EU languages.



The EURECA European Democracy activities will contribute to developing mechanisms to increase citizens' democratic participation in, and engagement with, the EU based on EU values. This impact will be achieved through the capacity building of CSOs on how to counter disinformation and other forms of interference in the democratic debate, a campaign around the elections based on 'First Aid Democracy Toolkits' for 2000 citizens, CSOs and EU decision-makers, presenting the guidelines co-created with citizens for a sustainable digital transformation that leaves no one behind to the newly elected representatives, and implementing an online course on crowdsourcing of citizens' opinions.



ECAS will re-grant to its members in the EU to increase their capacity to develop coherent and coordinated activities in the areas of Citizenship Rights and European Democracy. Three EURECA awards will solicit citizens' ideas of how to improve electoral rights, and the Citizen Activation Mentoring Scheme will provide tailored advice to at least 75 small CSOs in the EU.

**Funder:** CERV operating grant (part of 4-year framework contract)

**Timeframe:** 2024



## ProEUValuesBG project

The ProEUValuesBG project raises public awareness of EU values at national, regional and local levels in Bulgaria and provides capacity-building and financial support to Bulgarian CSOs in order to enhance their role as key messengers.

The project is led by the Open Society Institute – Sofia (OSIS) in collaboration with ECAS and Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation (WCIF). Two funding streams are available for applicants – one for grassroots CSOs and the other for initiatives and strategic actions from more experienced organisations.

ECAS leads the project's capacity-building work, providing online and in person training to aspiring and selected applicant organisations. Grassroots CSOs selected in the smaller funding stream receive intensive and detailed capacity-building, while masterclasses and exchanges of good practices will support organisations implementing larger projects. The training programme called "Guide," will focus on the three thematic areas of the call – European rights, Democracy and Non-discrimination.

**Funder:** CERV programme through the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)

**Timeframe:** January 2023 – December 2025





# Specific projects per focus area: EU RIGHTS

## Your Europe Advice

Your Europe Advice is an online EU advice service provided by legal experts from ECAS operating under contract with the European Commission. It consists of a team of about 60 lawyers who cover all 24 official EU languages and are familiar with both EU law and national laws in all EU countries. Your Europe Advice replies to questions from citizens or businesses on their personal EU rights. The experts respond to the questions within 72 hours, free of charge and in the language chosen by the user. Enquiries can be submitted either via an online form or by phone (00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11).

**Funder:** DG GROW, European Commission

**Timeframe:** multiannual, till end of March 2024





## PROMISE (Post-pandemic Reinvention of Mobility for Inclusive and Sustainable Europe)

PROMISE's vision is to increase awareness of mobile EU citizens, civil society, and local administrations on current obstacles to freedom of movement by helping them to interpret and implement Directive 2004/38 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely in the EU. The project will raise awareness on the new structured Guidelines (a new Communication is supposed to be issued in the first half of 2023) of the European Commission to the Member States on the Freedom of Movement Directive through awareness-raising campaigns, tailored training to public administration and rights advice organisations in the countries hosting the higher number of EU mobile citizens.

**Funder:** European Programme of Integration and Migration (EPIM)/Network of European Foundations

**Timeframe:** June 2022 – November 2024



# PROMISE

Your rights on the move



## **BOLSTER project (Bridging Organisations and marginalised communities for Local Sustainability Transitions in Europe)**

The BOLSTER project is designed to understand how marginalised communities are affected by the European Green Deal (EGD)-related policies and to see if involving these communities in decision-making processes increases the support for transition plans. The project has 13 partners from 12 different countries that are working together on seven Work Packages (WPs) in order to make the BOLSTER project achieve its objectives, to actually succeed in helping marginalised communities and become an example to other Horizon Europe related projects to come.

**Funder:** Horizon Europe framework programme

**Timeframe:** multiannual, till the end of August 2025

# BOLSTER



# Specific projects per focus area: EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY

## European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) Forum

The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) Forum is an online collaborative platform that offers support to citizens when organising a European citizens' initiative. The Forum allows citizens to learn more about the European Citizens' Initiative through best practices and enables them to discuss EU policies and European Citizens' Initiative proposals, to find partners in other countries, to ask for legal, campaigning and fundraising advice from experts, and to exchange experiences. The Forum is operated by ECAS on behalf of and under contract with the European Commission.



**Funder:** Secretariat-General of the European Commission

**Timeframe:** multiannual, till the end of November 2025





## MORES Project (Moral Emotions in Politics)

MORES project argues that better understanding of the role of moral emotions in politics – which is a neglected approach in the field of study of political emotions – can provide key insights into making policymaking more responsive to citizens' and policymakers' emotional needs and values. MORES will study how moral emotions, especially positive ones, contribute to the stabilisation of political identities, and how they, especially negative ones, trigger division and polarisation.

MORES aims to better understand the political role of moral emotions in order to develop a normative-analytical framework to inform democratic decision-making on how moral emotions should interact with values, policies and political practises; how their unifying potential realised and their divisive power is limited; how should the extremes of either under- or overemotionalisation of politics be avoided; and what kind of practical tools as well as policy recommendations can enhance emotional regulation in politics and integrate citizens' emotional needs into policymaking.

**Funder:** Horizon Europe framework programme

**Timeframe:** multiannual, till the end of December 2026



## **EU-CIMBLEY Project (Creating an Inclusive European Citizens' Assembly)**

EU-CIEMBLY project addresses the need for the introduction of new forms of citizens' participation and deliberation in EU political life and, particularly, an EU Citizens' Assembly whose design and implementation fully addresses issues of intersectionality, inclusiveness, and equality. This project will provide the analytical framework and the prototype through which a tool can be created in the form of a Citizens' Assembly that can be established at the EU level and with features allowing for the transfer of a (modified) prototype to the national and local levels of EU Member States. To do this, the project moves from theorising to evaluating and finally piloting such a tool and concludes with recommendations. In this way, EU-CIEMBLY seeks to be the first project that uses an academic and theoretical understanding of issues of intersectionality, equality, and power relations in the design of an innovative and inclusive EU Citizens' Assembly.

**Funder:** Horizon Europe framework programme

**Timeframe:** multiannual, till the end of December 2027



# EVENTS 2024

## January

- BOLSTER Project mid-term Conference in Oporto (January 22nd to 25th)
- Webinar - "Grant-making to ECAS members in the EU 2024" launch (January 31st)

- ECI Forum Webinar "Communicating your ECI"

## February

## March

- Civil Society Week 2024 (March 4th-7th) Workshops on
  1. "Success factors for e-democracy participatory initiatives: ECIs, crowdsourcing legislation, participatory budgeting" (March 4th)
  2. "Towards a Digital Transformation that leaves no one behind" (March 5th)
  3. "How to Navigate the ECI support infrastructures" (March 5th)
  4. EP Elections toolkit for civil society: How to successfully campaign and tackle disinformation during the election campaign (March 6th)
- State of the Union Citizens' Rights Conference (March 19th)
- BOLSTER Project - Regional policy dialogues on Just Transition (online)



- BOLSTER Project - Regional policy dialogues on Just Transition (online)
- Masterclass with Bulgarian CSOs implementing pro-EU Rights and Values projects
- Webinar on anti-disinformation for Civil Society Organisations

**April**

**May**

- BOLSTER Project - Regional policy dialogues on Just Transition (online)
- Kick-off meeting of the grantees - ECAS members, Brussels

**June**

- Focus group on voting rights in Belgium (June 14th)
- Masterclass with Bulgarian CSOs implementing pro-EU Rights and Values projects
- ECI Forum Webinar "Engaging the unengaged: how to reach a larger audience"
- BOLSTER Project - EU policy dialogue on Just transition in Brussels
- CORE workshop on Communication of the EC Directive 2004/38

- Digital Democracy Day 2024 (September 15th)
- Freedom of movement training, Belgium (September 10th)
- Freedom of movement training, Belgium (September 17th)
- Freedom of movement training, Belgium (September 24th)
- Masterclass with Bulgarian CSOs implementing pro-EU Rights and Values projects
- ECI Forum Webinar “ECI as the tool to achieve your democratic goals”

**September**

**October**

- Freedom of movement training, Luxembourg (October 1st)
- Freedom of movement training, Luxembourg (October 8th)
- BOLSTER Project - Regional policy dialogues on Just Transition (online)
- Online networking session for Bulgarian CSOs implementing with Bulgarian CSOs implementing pro-EU Rights and Values projects
- Webinar on anti-disinformation for Civil Society Organisations

- BOLSTER Project - Regional policy dialogues on Just Transition (online)
- Online networking session for Bulgarian CSOs implementing with Bulgarian CSOs implementing pro-EU Rights and Values projects

**November**

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 **@ecas\_europe**

 **ECAS - European Citizen Action Service**

 **European Citizen Action Service (ECAS)**

 **@ecas\_europe**

 **@ECASBrussels**



**info@ecas.org**

**HEADQUARTERS:  
BRUSSELS**

**European Citizen Action Service  
12 Cantersteen  
BeCentral  
1000 Brussels  
Belgium**

**BRANCH OFFICE:  
SOFIA**

**European Citizen Action Service  
Branch Bulgaria  
65 Evlogi i Hristo Georgiev Blvd  
1142 Sofia  
Bulgaria**