

## **EU SEE Programme Description (short version)**

EU SEE is the landmark project [funded by the European Union](#) for monitoring deteriorations and improvements in the enabling environment for civic space across 86 countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, the Americas and the Caribbean.

EU SEE has been established in response to the authoritarian pushback of the last decade and the increasing restrictions on the enabling environment for civil society.

EU SEE is coordinated by an international consortium of CSOs, including [Hivos](#) (lead), [CIVICUS](#), [Democracy Reporting International](#), the [European Partnership for Democracy](#), [Forus](#), [Transparency International](#), and network members in each country.

EU SEE consists of an Early Warning Mechanism with [subscribable alerts](#), yearly snapshots, and an annual country focus report.

EU SEE Early Warning Mechanism feeds into the Flexible Support Mechanism, which is intended to support CSOs on the ground, and is coordinated by [Oxfam Novib](#) together with [CIVICUS](#), [Protection International](#) and [Urgent Action](#).

## **Programme Description (long version)**

The EU System for an Enabling Environment for Civil Society (EU SEE) is a consortium of international organisations and network members in 86 countries in Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, the Americas and the Caribbean. The partnership implements and maintains an Early Warning and Monitoring Mechanism to document changes and shed light on critical trends in the enabling environment for civil society. EU SEE equips civil society, governments, and stakeholders with actionable insights to address challenges and leverage opportunities effectively. It focuses on addressing deterioration in the enabling environment and supporting opportunities for improving the enabling environment for civil society.

While 'civic space' and 'enabling environment' are often used interchangeably, the enabling environment refers to a broader, action-oriented concept. It encompasses laws, social attitudes, and resources that not only protect fundamental freedoms but actively facilitate civil society's ability to operate effectively and sustainably. Within such an environment, civil society can engage in political and public life without fear of reprisals, openly express its views, and actively participate in shaping its context. It includes a supportive legal and regulatory framework, access to sustainable resources, public participation and perception of civil society.

EU SEE comprises two complementary components designed to address deterioration in the enabling environment and act on opportunities for the enabling environment.

The first component implements and maintains an Early Warning and Monitoring Mechanism to document changes and shedding light on critical trends in the enabling environment, and issues Country Focus Reports that measure progress and deterioration of the enabling environment, providing an in-depth analysis of the enabling environment situation in each of the 86 countries. This will contribute to the capacity and ability of civil society to detect and respond to situations of a deteriorating or improving enabling environment, and to what other actors can do to support civil society in a specific context. The international consortium, coordinated by Hivos, includes CIVICUS, Democracy Reporting International, the European Partnership for Democracy, Forus and Transparency International, and network members in 86 countries.

The second component responds with flexible financial support for civil society through its Flexible Support Mechanism (FSM). The mechanism supports civil society to advocate for a sustained enabling environment, develop resilience and protect organizations and individuals. It is led by Oxfam and implemented together with CIVICUS, Protection International and Urgent Action Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Both components include a strong advocacy dimension both at national and international level in order to galvanise supporters around the globe and mobilise

diplomatic and financial assistance to organisations and activists who are protecting and promoting an enabling environment for civil society. The EWM also includes a research component to analyse common features, government strategies and geopolitical trends affecting the enabling environment of civil society organisations.

The EU SEE programme is funded by the European Union.