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European Center for
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How can I use EU Law to protect my civic space? An overview of guides and resources

**Who is responsible for what: the EU, the Member States or both?
And what principles govern the relationship between the EU and its Member States
in the exercise of their respective competences?**

- ECNL Learning Center – Participation – [EU Law: How It Affects Space for Civil Society – Competences](#);
- ECNL – Philea: Handbook – [How to Use EU Law to Protect Civic Space – Second Edition](#) (2023) – Parts I.1, 2;
- Articles 4(3), 5, [Treaty on the Functioning of the EU](#) (“TFEU”)

What is EU law? Definition and different sources

- ECNL Learning Center – Participation – [EU Law: How It Affects Space for Civil Society – What Is EU Law?](#)
- ECNL – Philea: Handbook – [How to Use EU Law to Protect Civic Space – Second Edition](#) (2023) – Part I.3
- European Commission – [Types of EU law](#)
- CJEU Case Law – [CURIA – Search form](#)

What is the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and where does it apply?

- [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU](#);
- ECNL Learning Center – Participation – [EU Law: How It Affects Space for Civil Society – Primary Law](#);
- ECNL – Philea: Handbook – [How to Use EU Law to Protect Civic Space – Second Edition](#) (2023) – Part I.3.2;
- Fundamental Rights Agency of the EU – [Handbook: Applying the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in law and policymaking at national level Guidance](#) – Part I (General Orientation);
- Fundamental Rights Agency of the EU – [Charterpedia](#);
- European Parliament – [Protecting fundamental rights within the Union](#).

When does a national law – or an equivalent measure – have to comply with EU law?

- ECNL Learning Center – Participation – [EU Law: How It Affects Space for Civil Society](#) – Scenarios and guiding questions with examples;
- ECNL – Philea: Handbook – [How to Use EU Law to Protect Civic Space – Second Edition](#) (2023) – Part I;
- Fundamental Rights Agency of the EU – [Handbook: Applying the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in law and policymaking at national level Guidance](#) – Part II (Practical Tools).

How can you use EU law to protect civic space? Practical examples

- ECNL Learning Center – Participation – [EU Law: How It Affects Space for Civil Society](#) – Scenarios and guiding questions with examples;
- ECNL – Philea: Handbook – [How to Use EU Law to Protect Civic Space – Second Edition](#) (2023) – Part II.

What are the concrete legal avenues at national and EU level to challenge national laws – or equivalent measures – as incompatible with EU law?

- ECNL Learning Center – Participation – [EU Law: How To Use EU Law To Enforce Your Rights](#) – How/where to challenge national law incompatible with EU law;
- ECNL – Philea: Handbook – [How to Use EU Law to Protect Civic Space – Second Edition](#) (2023) – Parts III and IV.

What is the “Rule of Law” and what are the EU advocacy avenues to strengthen it in your country?

- ECNL – Philea: Handbook – [How to Use EU Law to Protect Civic Space – Second Edition](#) (2023) – Part V;
- European Commission – [Annual Rule of Law Cycle](#);
- European Council, Council of the EU – [Article 7 procedure](#);
- European Commission – [Rule of Law Conditionality regulation](#).

What are Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs) and how can I defend myself or my organisation against them?

- EU [Anti-SLAPP Directive](#);
- Council of Europe adopts [Recommendation on countering the use of SLAPPs](#);
- CASE Coalition – [How to Identify a SLAPP](#);
- CASE Coalition – [Resources](#);
- [European Anti SLAPP Monitor](#).