



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Czech Republic



CIVIC SPACE COHORT

OECD DAC Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance

COUNTRY LEAD: NORWAY

SUPPORTED BY: CANADA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, ESTONIA, KOSOVO, LATVIA, MALTA, THE NETHERLANDS, SLOVAKIA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND THE UNITED STATES

Civil society is key in protecting and promoting human rights and democratisation. Civil society organisations also provide services in development and humanitarian situations and contribute to policy development through dialogue and advocacy. They are appreciated for their experience, expertise, and quick and flexible response, as well as valued for their ability to identify new, longstanding and often systemic obstacles to social, economic and democratic development. They are also valued for their capacity to innovate, elaborate and implement solutions. However, civil society actors also face difficult challenges, such as shrinking civic space and reprisals for efforts to document human rights violations and other forms of misuse of power.

On the 6 of July 2021, after an extensive consultation process the OECD DAC adopted the **Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance**. The Recommendation provides the first international framework to guide and incentivise development co-operation and humanitarian assistance providers in advancing their policies and practices to support civic space and civil society actors, at home as well as in partner countries or territories. Adherents to the DAC Recommendation are committed to its three pillars:

1. Respecting, protecting and promoting civic space;
2. Supporting and engaging with civil society;
3. Incentivising CSO effectiveness, transparency and accountability

We have developed the following call to action:

1. Support and contribute to the dissemination, adherence to and implementation of the Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance.
2. Share experiences from implementing the Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance.