



Western Balkans: Strengthening Civil Society Engagement in Transport Policy and Projects

17-18 September 2025

Organised by Open Society Foundations and the Transport Community Permanent Secretariat, in consultation with DG MOVE and DG ENEST, this workshop brings together EU and Western Balkans civil society organisations to discuss challenges and shape future engagement in transport policy and infrastructure projects.

The event builds on a pilot project by Transport Community Permanent Secretariat that aims to foster structured participation, strengthen cross-border collaboration, and develop a roadmap for cooperation with regional and EU institutions— paving the way for a broader civil society network in the Western Balkans transport sector.

17 September 2025

Welcome Dinner

Chez Leon, Rue des Bouchers 18, 1000 Bruxelles

19:00 – 21:00 | Welcome & Networking Dinner

18 September 2025

Workshop

Arts 56, Avenue des Arts 56, 1000 Brussels

09:30 – 10:00 | Opening Session

This session presents the pilot project's goals, with institutional partners sharing their vision for stronger civil society involvement in transport policy between the Western Balkans and the EU

- Matej Zakonjšek, Director, Transport Community Permanent Secretariat
- Miodrag Milosavljevic, Deputy Director, Open Society Foundations – Western Balkans
- Stefano Paci, Acting Head of International Relations Unit, DG MOVE
- Enrica Chiozza, Head of Sector Regional Programmes Western Balkans, DG ENEST
- Sabine Trier, Deputy General Secretary, European Transport Workers' Federation,

10:00 – 11:00 | The Role for Civil Society in Transport Policy

The session will highlight the importance of CSO participation in transport policy, both from an EU and regional perspective. Representatives from the European Commission will discuss their experience with CSOs engagement, and CSOs from Brussels and the Western Balkans will share their experience and challenges in engaging with decision-makers.

- Symela Tsakiri, Team Leader Civil Society Coordination, DG ENEST
- Christina Vartsos-Tzannetakis, Policy Officer, Passenger Rights & Equal Opportunities, DG MOVE
- Anastasiia Nahorna, Mobility and Infrastructure in Ukraine, Transport & Environment
- Franc Terihati, Executive Director, Centre for Legal Empowerment, Albania

11:00 – 11:30 | Coffee Break

11.30 – 13:00 | CSO Engagement in Infrastructure Projects and Policy Reform

The session will discuss how civil society can play a more active and structured role in two key areas of the transport sector: infrastructure projects and policy reforms. Firstly, it will discuss a case study, the Brenner Tunnel, showcasing how civil society can contribute to transparency, environmental oversight, and public participation in large-scale projects. Secondly, it will address reform processes and policy engagement, highlighting how EU CSOs have influenced legislative changes and sectoral strategies.

- **Presentation:** Matej Zakonjšek, Director, Transport Community Permanent Secretariat on indicative TEN-T development/infrastructure projects and needed reforms in the transport sector.
- **Intervention:** Engagement in infrastructure projects and policy reforms in the Western Balkans.
- **Discussion:** Lessons learned? Insights and inspiration for future engagement.

13:00 – 14:30 | Networking Lunch served at the venue

14:30 – 15:30 | Regional Civil Society Framework for the Transport Sector

Working Groups: Participants will work in breakout groups to explore practical examples of effective CSO involvement in transport planning, environmental impact assessments, and public consultations. Each group will identify an existing barrier to engagement, and propose a practical solution.

Ideas Pitch: Each group will pitch their idea and solution to a real problem identified in the discussions.

15:30 – 16:00 Closing remarks

The final session will bring together key messages from the day and based on working group ideas, identify real opportunities for future twinning activities, regional workshops, and mechanisms for collaboration between civil society and institutions such as TCT, DG MOVE, DG ENEST, and OSF.

Moderator: Jeta Bejtullahu, Narrative Strategist, Last Kind Words