

NATIONAL PLATFORMS PROJECTS (NPP) 2026 – 2027

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR CYCLE 7

Dear Forus members,

The **2025 Peer Committee** is inviting National Platforms in the Forus network to join the **7th cycle** of **National Platforms Projects** (NPP) – a financial and technical collaboration to advance our collective agenda. The NPP is a member-led initiative that has been a flagship initiative of Forus since 2017 that seeks to strengthen the capacities, structures and operations of National Platforms of the network. In 2026-2027, the 7th cycle of NPP will focus on the specific capacities of platforms to advocate for the **protection of an Enabling Environment** for progressive civil society around the globe.

Learn about the **Strategic Priorities of the 7th Cycle of NPP** below, together with further opportunities for Capacity Strengthening for the coming months. If you are interested in becoming one of the NPP partners for the next cycle, find the [form to Express your Interest here](#).

Applications Deadline: 23rd November 2025.

In solidarity,
2025 Peer Committee (ASONOG, CICOSO, CNONGD, Cooperation Canada, Coordination Sud, Red Encuentro, REPAOC, VANI)

GUIDELINES OF NPP CYCLE 7

1. What is the 7th Cycle of NPP's?

CYCLE 7: Collectively we will be strengthening the resilience of national platforms and their capacity to advocate for the protection of fundamental freedoms and defend democratic values. More about previous cycles [here](#).

Start date of Cycle 7: January 2026 – **End date:** July 2027 (18 months) - Shorter partnerships are eligible.

Financial Support:

- Up to 25,000 euros available until July 2027.

*Possibility of requesting additional funding during the implementation of the project, if engagement levels remain high and expenditure and planned activities are on track.

Technical Support:

- Project design and budget planning and reporting – Early stages
- Thematic and regional peer exchanges – Ongoing
- Dynamic 360 project reflections and learning circles – Quarterly
- Visibility – Final stages

Our shared expectations for the NPP collaboration are to:

- **Strengthen internal structures** of the national platform, ensuring core functions (such as coordination, leadership, training, equipment, etc) are sustainably resourced.
- **Contribute to safeguarding and expanding the enabling environment** in the country by mobilising members around evidence-based, strategic advocacy initiatives.
- **Engage actively with Forus' collective impact agenda**, aligning efforts with the network's key advocacy priorities and contributing to their advancement.

2. Who is the 7th Cycle of NPP's cohort?

A group of 15 to 18 members will be prioritised by consensus of the Peer Committee during the week of 8 December 2025.

PRIORITISATION CRITERIA

Because the commitment to provide dedicated and high-quality support, NPP are set-up in cycles of 12-15 Forus members at a time. In Cycle 7, the Peer Committee's **vision and principles** designed a cohort of 15 to 18 platforms based on: a) Equal opportunities – Leave No One Behind; b) Diversity, Justice, Equity and Inclusion; c) Relevance, commitment and alignment; and d) Complementarity.

The Committee will give priority to interested platforms that indicate:

- 1) **Alignment** with at least one of the 5 Strategic Priorities of Forus INFLUENCE pillar
- 2) Diverse levels of **experience and knowledge** in developing strategic advocacy plans, policy analysis, campaigns, etc., that seek to influence national, regional and international decision-makers and power holders.
- 3) **Limited financial resources** in a large and sustainable way. Focus will be given to smaller, or emerging platforms with limited budgets and fewer staff. However, moderate to larger platforms may participate and submit their expression of interest to develop a project individually or in pair with another organization. This possible set-up

aims to complement the group and provide peer-to-peer support and accompaniment to platforms with less structured or modest coordination teams. Points will be awarded based on reported annual income brackets.

- 4) Limited experience in **previous cycles of NPPs** where the focus of the project was different to strengthening the advocacy work of the platform.
- 5) Diverse levels of **participation** in the multiple spaces and moments of Forus.
- 6) **Inclusive leadership** structure, demonstrating meaningful commitments to involving all voices of civil society in the decision-making bodies of the platform.
- 7) Strong **membership engagement**
- 8) Working in **challenging contexts** – platforms operating in environments under crisis: conflict-affected areas, humanitarian crisis, environmental disasters, etc.

*Compliance with donor requirements will be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

3. What is expected of 7th Cycle NPP's partners?

To commit to creating one or several of the following contributions to the network:

- Share data or evidence from your national context for a Forus campaign/statement
- Draft or co-draft a national advocacy plan linked to a Forus strategic objective
- Participate in at least one global/regional Forus advocacy product (statement, article, policy brief)
- Lead or co-lead a peer-learning session (e.g. Advocacy Lab, thematic exchange)
- Mentor or coach another member on advocacy practices.

PROCESS

1. Complete the Expression of Interest Form.
2. Receive and complete the 2025 Organisational Assessment, after which you will be invited to a follow-up conversation with a Peer Committee member to identify priority areas and required support.
3. Design the project and budget in collaboration with one or two members of the Forus Secretariat based on the results of the previous step's conversation.
4. Sign the partnership agreement and kick off the project.
5. All Cycle 7 partners will present their agreed project on the Forus website and participate in a dedicated space to exchange plans at the 2026 General Assembly.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAPACITY STRENGTHENING:

1. Leadership Development Programme – Series of virtual exchanges among past, ongoing and upcoming leaders of national platforms and regional coalitions and cycles of offline-online exchanges.
2. Organisational Development peer-exchange series facilitated by NPP cycle 6 partners.

3. Self-paced and Multilingual learning modules on Digital Security; AI for NGOs management and Resource Mobilisation.
4. Dedicated office hours for fundraising strategies and grant proposal feedback.
5. Micro-grants for infrastructure support for professional development and office set-up.