

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR PEER COMMITTEE – NATIONAL PLATFORMS PARTNERSHIPS – CYCLE 7

We value your engagement in the Forus network and strongly encourage you to be part of the **Peer Committee of cycle 7**. Your involvement in this strategic activity for Forus will be crucial to shaping the path of future cycles and kicking off an even larger and more ambitious member-led support dynamic in the new **Forus Strategic Period 2025-2030**.

Please read below the modalities to work with the Peer Committee, to [apply](#) before **22 August 2025**. Expressions of interest form: <https://forms.gle/yXzTuS2nPjeEKdmB9>

Background

The [Forus' SUPPORT strategy](#) builds on the expertise that already exists in the network. Its goal is to strengthen Forus members - national NGO platforms and regional coalitions – so they can act as effective conveners, coordinators and advocates for local CSOs. By supporting each other's capacity strengthening journeys, all Forus members contribute to building the resilience of civil society globally, promoting citizen participation as well as enhancing civil society's ability to hold governments to account.

Since 2018, Forus has launched 6 cycles of [National Platforms Partnerships \(NPP\) projects](#), through which over 70 initiatives have been funded. Members receive support through this scheme during a period of 12 to 18 months. Projects are generally valued up to EUR 30,000, with 100% of the funding from Forus. The primary funder of this scheme is the European Commission, and as such, all projects must comply with the requirement of this donor.

From the beginning, the National Platforms Projects partnership scheme has been implemented through a member-led, inclusive and participatory approach. Members may submit a project proposal in English, French or Spanish, and are selected by the **Peer Committee**.

Who is the Peer Committee?

The Peer Committee steers the **cycles of support of Forus Capacity Strengthening Strategy**. Committee members will shape the cycle expected outputs, application process, selection criteria, and take final decisions on the projects participating in the current cycle.

NPP Cycle 7 Peer Committee - 2025

The Committee will be composed of staff or governance bodies of national platforms or regional coalitions from the Forus network, with advocacy, capacity strengthening, project design expertise and passion; and staff and governance members of Forus Secretariat. Members of the committee will be representative of the geographical diversity of the network, taking into consideration gender / age / language, and the different role members play within the network (governance, working group, specific project, etc.).

Why becoming a Peer Committee member?

- **Deepen your understanding of national NGO platforms across the Forus network** by engaging directly with their priorities, challenges, and areas of strength—gaining insight into the diverse realities of civil society around the world.
- **Contribute to strengthening the infrastructure of peer platforms** by exchanging proven practices, tools, and resources that enhance institutional resilience, strategic leadership, and member engagement.
- **Build your own expertise in capacity strengthening strategies, models, and approaches** through collaborative learning and meaningful interaction with fellow committee members from diverse regions and contexts.
- **Play an active role in shaping the future of Forus' Capacity Strengthening strategy** by co-designing the support mechanisms and learning opportunities that will empower the network and amplify the impact of civil society worldwide.

Profile

- **Belong to a Forus member organisation**, either as part of the staff team or governance body, at the national or regional level.
- **Bring critical thinking, lived experiences, perspectives and commitment** to thoroughly and critically review proposed frameworks and project submissions.
- **Available to actively participate in online meetings**, contributing thoughtful insights and helping to shape peer-led decision-making processes.

Approximately a total engagement of 15 hours in the course of 4 months.

TIME COMMITMENT	ACTIVITY	TENTATIVE DATES
1 hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individually review Forus 2025-2028 Capacity Strengthening Framework proposal for NPP cycle 7 • Provide feedback to the indicators of success and application form. 	September 2025 (Asynchronously)
2 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group discussion of the revised framework, proposal and form. 	September 2025 (Meeting #1)
Launch call for Cycle 7 projects		October 2025
2 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in an open call with all Forus members to answer FAQ on the application process 	October 2025
Close call for Cycle 7 projects		November 2025
2-3 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individually review and score maximum 5 project proposals per person. • Note follow-up questions or general feedback on their project proposals if needed. 	Nov – Dec 2025
2 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee discussion of the final selection • Debrief on the scoring process and next steps 	Dec 2025

**The estimated time for each activity is indicative.*

Additional Information:

- Organisations of members of the Peer Committee **are eligible to submit a project proposal**.
- A tiered approach will be used to categorize proposals, ensuring a balance of themes/ priority areas, geography, and other factors.
- Not all Committee members will review all proposals, maximum 5 projects per person in their native language. This will reduce the risk of overwhelming and eliminate the risk of a committee member assessing a project proposed by their own organisation.
- Committee members **will not be able to assess a project proposed by their own organization**.
- NPP cycles are not a competitive process since the aim of this activity is to forge partnerships with and among Forus members. **Feedback and recommendations** from the Peer Committee for further improvement are highly encouraged and valued to support each other to successfully receive the support needed.
- **Each national project submitted will be analysed by at least 2 members of the Peer Committee**. The members of the Peer Committee will rank each project submitted and compare their assessment afterwards. Each pair of evaluators will then agree on the projects they select and produce a written assessment per project, which will be translated and shared with the entire Committee.
- All project proposals will be translated to all 3 languages and saved in a protected and shared account folder for easy and safe access for committee members.

Expectations of the Selection Committee:

The Peer Committee is expected to be **accountable and transparent** vis à vis the entire Forus membership with regards to its own decision-making process; **respect the confidential** nature of the projects submitted; have a **constructive approach** of supporting the national platforms; **be flexible** and reactive when communicating with other members of the Peer Committee or Forus Secretariat; contribute to the operational decisions to be taken collectively.

Volunteers to form the Peer Committee must take into account the workload this responsibility will involve. Please note that **the months of October, November and December 2025** will concentrate the majority of the workload for the Peer Committee.

If you wish to participate in the Peer Committee for the seventh cycle, please [apply here](#) or send an e-mail to elisa.novoa@forus-international.org **by 22 August, 2025** with a few sentences on the reason why you would like to be part of it.

Regional coalitions are strongly encouraged to be part of this Committee. Members of the Peer Committee from previous cycles are also welcome to join.

For more information, please contact Elisa Novoa, Forus Capacity Strengthening Coordinator at elisa.novoa@forus-international.org