



International
Civil Society Centre

Solidarity Action Network (SANE)

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW



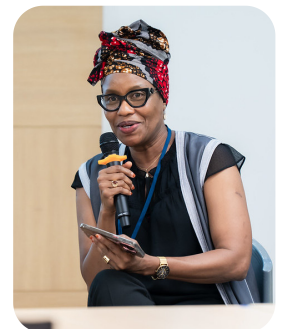
What is SANE?

The Solidarity Action Network (SANE) brings together international and national civil society organisations - (I)CSOs - working to strengthen resilience and solidarity in the face of shrinking civic space and shifting operating conditions.

At a time when operating environments are becoming more complex and constrained, SANE creates a trusted space for organisations to come together. Through peer exchange and collaboration, members learn from each other, test new ideas, and build collective approaches to the issues shaping civic space today and in the future.

What we do

- ✓ **Encourage collective learning** by convening (I)CSOs to share experiences and learn from one another in a trusted space
- ✓ **Raise awareness** of key and emerging civic space issues through curated events and the publication of knowledge resources
- ✓ **Capture and showcase good practices** to share lessons and inspire the wider civil society sector
- ✓ **Provide a platform for collaboration** to help defend and expand civic space
- ✓ **Strengthen future readiness** to move beyond just reacting to crises towards more proactive approaches



Our focus areas

As civic space continues to evolve, SANE works on key areas that matter most to our community:

Responding to anti-rights actors

Anti-rights actors are becoming an increasing challenge for civic space, as they grow more organised, coordinated, and influential in advancing fear-based narratives and exclusionary agendas. We support (I)CSOs to better understand this landscape, strengthen their responses, and develop narratives that uphold human rights and democratic values.

Navigating digital change

Digital technologies are reshaping civic space. Alongside new opportunities come growing risks. We help (I)CSOs navigate digital threats, leverage emerging opportunities, and strengthen their digital resilience.

Anticipating futures for civil society operating space

We support civil society professionals to anticipate change and prepare for the future. Through futures thinking and strategic foresight, we help organisations explore emerging trends and signals, consider possible future scenarios, test their strategies, and translate insights into practice.



International Civic Forum 2024 in Johannesburg



What are our goals?

Strengthen the resilience and solidarity of (I)CSOs to navigate changing operating conditions for civil society

- Provide a safe space for exchange and collaboration on key civic space issues
- Support more strategic responses to anti-rights actors
- Build knowledge and skills to address digital challenges and opportunities

Enhance the capacity to anticipate futures for civil society operating space

- Explore emerging trends affecting civic space
- Strengthen futures thinking and its practical application
- Support organisations to stress-test and adapt their strategies

Benefits

As a member, you will:

- Connect with peers in a trusted and collaborative environment
- Stay ahead of key trends shaping civic space
- Explore opportunities for collaboration and joint action
- Access exclusive insights and resources



International Civic Forum 2023 in Brussels



Who's part of our community?

The SANE community brings together representatives from international and national civil society organisations, as well as networks working across areas such as human rights, humanitarian action, development, and social justice, all with a shared interest in protecting and expanding civic space.

A dedicated Working Group of (I)CSO representatives provides strategic guidance, ensuring SANE remains relevant and responsive to the needs of civil society.

What SANE members say:



“If we didn't have this space, where would I be having this technical exchange, generating ideas, [...] thinking about civic space and how it applies to a global organisation?”

“Civic space is a sensitive topic and there are not many spaces where the conversation around it is deliberate, intentional and purposeful.”



“[SANE] are inventing something that you would not have the time or resources to do on your own.”



Key activities

SANE Peer Exchanges

SANE Peer Exchanges are quarterly, practitioner-led online conversations that provide a trusted space for civil society organisations to share experiences and learn from one another on key civic space trends and challenges.

2026 dates

- #1 19 March, 15:00 – 16:00 CET, online
- #2 18 June, 15:00 – 16:00 CEST, online
- #3 17 September, 15:00 – 16:00 CEST, online
- #4 3 December, 15:00 – 16:00 CET, online

International Civic Forum

An annual in-person convening bringing together leaders from civil society and other sectors to reflect on key civic space challenges, build connections, and identify opportunities for collaboration.

Past editions have focused on addressing anti-rights actors, digital trends shaping civic space, anticipating civic space futures, and countering mis- and disinformation.

Next edition

25-26 November 2026, Europe (tbc)

Get involved

We are always open to welcome new members to the SANE community.

If you are interested in joining or learning more, please contact:

Eva Gondor - egondor@icscentre.org



Membership fees

SANE community

Annual membership for online events (charged per organisation)

EUR (excl. VAT)

Centre's shareholder organisations	free of charge
Centre's core supporters	400
Philanthropic organisations	800
International civil society organisations	500
National civil society organisations and networks	250

International Civic Forum

Fee for the two-day, in-person event (charged per person)

EUR (excl. VAT)

Centre's shareholder organisations	500
Centre's core supporters	640
Philanthropic organisations	1000
International civil society organisations	800
National civil society organisations and networks	300



The International Civil Society Centre leads the SANE initiative. We are owned and supported by 16 international civil society organisations. We bring these organisations together to share knowledge, strengthen collaboration, and tackle the significant challenges facing civil society today.

Through hosting events, facilitating peer learning, and analysing future trends, we help organisations explore new ideas, respond to emerging risks, and shape the future of civil society. Together, we strive to ensure that civil society remains strong, connected, and capable of advancing justice and dignity for individuals and communities worldwide.

We look forward to welcoming you to the SANE community!



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