

# ADVOCACY STRATEGY

2024 INTER ALIA

1

Participate in  
EU  
consultations

2

Engage with EU  
decision-makers  
operating in the  
areas of youth,  
education, civil  
liberties,  
migration

3

Work with partners  
and enhance our  
presence in civil  
society networks



inter alia  
Inspiring social change

# Horizontal Aims & Objectives

1

1.1 Monitor opening of public consultations

1.2 Prepare feedback and answers to participate in open consultations

2

2.1 Advocate for better policies in youth, education, civil liberties, migration

- Monitor developments in key EU policy areas:
  - bulletin & broadcast
  - information from existing networks
- Produce statements/press releases/position papers:
  - stakeholders mapping = prepare a well structured list of contacts to send out our positions and ask for support
  - invite other organisations in common meetings and/or participate in other CSOs strategic meetings (e.g. Alliance for Youth Vote, ECI, Advocacy Working Group)

2.2 Keep decision makers accountable

- ask questions and raise issues

2.3 Participate in policy events in Brussels

3

3.1 Support existing advocacy initiatives and campaigns

3.2 Build common campaigns

## AREAS OF ACTIONS

MIGRATION

CIVIC RIGHTS

YOUTH AND  
EDUCATION

# MIGRATION

## APPROACH

The challenges associated with migration should be reframed as a crisis in reception systems across the EU rather than a migration crisis. Migration is a human phenomenon and right and, as such, the notion of "illegal migration" has to be dismissed. Our focus is on addressing social and political factors contributing to difficulties in migrants' reception and integration, encompassing policy shortcomings, public perceptions, and institutional barriers.

We aim at championing comprehensive solutions that reject policies centered on border control, instead emphasising the creation of inclusive and supportive reception environments. Inter Alia is actively engaged in searching and co-creating solutions that overcome a nation state approach to migrant reception and welcoming, focusing instead on the possibility to decentralise these processes. We aim at reimagining the European Union's stance on migration management by empowering cities and municipalities as agents of change for a solidary Europe, joining forces with civil society.

We firmly believe that successful integration is a two-way process, requiring active participation and engagement from both people on the move and the receiving society. This collaborative approach fosters understanding, cooperation, and solidarity.

To facilitate this process, Inter Alia promotes policies and implements activities/projects that encourage the exchange of cultures, skills, and human experiences. We recognise that being a migrant is a condition, not an identity trait. Individuals on the move carry various identities and are subject to layered levels of oppression. Therefore, our advocacy adopts an intersectional approach, acknowledging the complexity of migrant experiences.

Culture, arts, and heritage play pivotal roles in deepening our exploration of migration and integration, fostering understanding and dialogue. Inter Alia actively promotes cultural exchange programs, artistic collaborations, exhibitions, projects and initiatives that enhance mutual understanding and solidarity. Cultural expression is positioned as a means to challenge stereotypes, break down barriers, promote intercultural dialogue and create a shared sense of belonging.

Central to our strategy is the concept of building care-based communities. Inter Alia envisions fostering communities founded on empathy, solidarity, and care. We actively encourage and promote the creation and development of civil society networks that support and advocate for migrants' rights. Our community-based approach prioritises the well-being of individuals, recognising the importance of a solidarity-based approach in addressing the challenges faced by people on the move.

Inter Alia's strategy on migration revolves around advocating for a paradigm shift in perceiving migration challenges, fostering inclusive integration processes, and building care-based communities that prioritise the well-being of all individuals, irrespective of their migration status.

# MIGRATION



## ADVOCACY CLAIMS

### **Safe Passages and Open Borders**

Our advocacy emphasises the necessity for safe passages and open borders. To address the reception crisis, we promote policy approaches that prioritise the safety of people during their journey and promote open borders to facilitate humane reception.

### **Humane Policies for Migration Management**

Reflecting the two-way integration process, our advocacy underscores shared responsibility in crafting policies. We advocate for policies that prioritise human rights, encompassing humanitarian corridors and safe pathways for people on the move, and consider the well-being of people seeking refuge, aligning with the care-based communities approach.

### **Dignified Reception Conditions for Migrants**

We recognise migrants as individuals with diverse identities and conditions. Our advocacy calls for dignified reception conditions, encompassing healthcare, education, housing, legal protection, and employment. Through the ongoing European Citizens' Initiative campaign "Dignity in Europe", we aim at raising awareness on the reception conditions in Europe, building connections with other NGOs and Civil Society Organisations across the EU with the objective of raising a clear stance towards EU institutions. We intend to use the ECI as a tool to collect civil society's dissensus on ongoing migration policies in the EU.

### **EU Rules and the New Pact on Migration and Asylum**

We challenge current EU rules, asserting that the New Pact on Migration and Asylum fails to respect basic human rights. Different NGOs across Europe, among which Amnesty International and ECRE, have denounced that the New Pact recently adopted will not help in regulating crises nor in effectively managing migrants reception. On the contrary, the new rules adopted at EU level will contribute in deteriorating fundamental human rights of people seeking refuge. Our commitment to addressing the reception crisis involves advocating for more inclusive and rights-respecting policies at the European level. We call for a decentralised approach, engaging cities, municipalities, and rights-based NGOs and CSOs in consortium.

# MIGRATION



## ADVOCACY CLAIMS

### **End of Violence in Migrants' Treatment - Opposing Frontex and Police Brutality**

We stand against violence in the treatment of migrants. Our advocacy specifically targets Frontex and police brutality, calling for an end to these practices to create a more just reception environment.

### **Deconstruction of Public Discourse on Migration and Promotion of Intercultural Dialogue**

Aligned with the intersectional approach, our advocacy recognises the need to deconstruct dominant public discourse. We aim to challenge stereotypes and biases, fostering an intersectional understanding of migration, and countering narratives from centers of power. This can be achieved by mobilising the framework narrative and ongoing activities of the “project “Outcast Europe”, which is based on the assumption that migration and refugeeship are a source of richness for the European continent, refeeding and revitalizing societies, economies, politics and philosophies of the Old World. It aims at pointing out that cultural similarities and commonalities in experiences may open the route to contact, tolerance and coexistence as well as improve conditions for intercultural dialogue and civic participation.

### **Decentralisation of Reception and Welcoming of Migrants**

Corresponding to the socio-political approach, we emphasize the importance of community-based solutions. Our advocacy calls for empowering cities and municipalities to improve reception services and policies, aligning with the two-way integration process and going beyond minimum standards for reception. This approach aims to create welcoming environments that respect the dignity and rights of people on the move.

# MIGRATION

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

### ENHANCE INTER ALIA'S VISIBILITY IN GREECE BY SUPPORTING EXISTING CAMPAIGNS

Establish partnerships and/or collaborations with local media outlets

Constant presence and engagement in social media

Respond to key events/moments related to migration through press releases, op-eds, social media, bulletin & broadcast analyses

Conclude collection of signatures of ECI campaign and create a post-campaign strategy

### STRENGTHEN LINKS WITH LOCAL NGOS SUPPORTING AND REPRESENTING PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Organise networking sessions and events with local NGOs

Attend other NGOs events, workshops and conferences

Joint projects/campaigns with organisations operating in the area of migration

### RAISE AWARENESS ON EU DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES ON MIGRATION, WITH A FOCUS ON BUILDING OPPOSITION TO THE NEW PACT ON MIGRATION AND ASYLUM. MAKE DATA ON MIGRATION POLICY DEVELOPMENTS MORE CLEAR AND ACCESSIBLE

Bulletin & broadcast

Engage with universities and high schools for dissemination

Workshops and collaborations with experts to create informative content

Promotion of ECI: organise an in-person/online event

# MIGRATION

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

### IDENTIFY AND BUILD SYNERGY BETWEEN DIFFERENT ONGOING PROJECTS

Highlight the link between migration policies and EU elections

Strengthen correlation between migration-related ongoing projects - specifically Outcast Europe - and advocacy opportunities.

Establish regular team meetings to discuss project intersections and collaborative opportunities

### ENGAGE WITH ATHENS AND GREECE-BASED NGOS WORKING WITH PEOPLE ON THE MOVE TO INVOLVE THEM IN FROM THE SEA TO THE CITY CONSORTIUM

“Membership” campaign in FS2C

Joint workshops/sessions & campaigns with existing networks

Access funding for operational activities of FS2C

# CIVIC RIGHTS

## APPROACH

Recognising the concerning trend of diminishing civic space, Inter Alia aims to counteract this decline by actively engaging in initiatives that safeguard and expand the arena for civic participation. Our advocacy work seeks to create an environment where diverse voices can thrive and contribute to the democratic discourse. The role of civic space is crucial in ensuring pluralism and the effective functioning of public life, and it is essential in fostering diverse perspectives and safeguarding democratic values.

For these reasons, EU institutions should recognise civil society as a key partner, moving beyond a passive and receptive space. A structured and regular collaboration between EU institutions and civil society is essential for crafting policies that truly reflect the needs and aspirations of European citizens. Identifying the low involvement of civil society in decision-making processes at the EU level, Inter Alia advocates for increased transparency, inclusivity, and collaboration. We push for direct participatory mechanisms and tools that amplify the role of civil society organisations in shaping policies that directly impact European citizens. We recognise an existing disconnection between institutions, and we wish to create avenues for meaningful engagement, ensuring that the concerns and aspirations of citizens are integrated into the decision-making processes of governmental bodies.

Crucial, disabling issues we recognise lay in the limitations imposed by project-based funding on the autonomy and effectiveness of civil society organisations. Our advocacy calls for the provision of operational, multi-annual, and consistent resources. This approach aims to empower organisations, freeing them from predefined objectives and enabling them to address evolving civic challenges dynamically.

Inter Alia's overarching objective is to contribute to the development of an informed, creative, organised, and aware European demos. We believe that an engaged and enlightened citizenry is fundamental to the health and sustainability of democratic societies.



# CIVIC RIGHTS

## ADVOCACY CLAIMS

### Permanent strategy for enhancing young people's participation

Inter Alia places a strong emphasis on the need for a permanent strategy to enhance young people's participation in decision-making processes. This claim aligns with our overarching objective of building an informed, creative, organised, and aware European demos. For this reason, there is first of all a need for participatory building and sharing of youth-friendly policy information, as well as direct feedback from youth to government on specific policies, holding consultations between youth and politicians (also through social media or online platforms), with the aim to involve grassroots organisations and disengaged youth. There is a need for strategies that empower and engage the youth, going beyond traditional consultation procedures (structured dialogue, citizens' panels and councils, deliberative polls, local youth councils, participatory budgeting, civic monitoring etc.). Despite the EU Youth Strategy has institutionalised the EU Youth Dialogue, which aims at including decision makers and young people in structured dialogues, as well as the creation of National Working Groups to exchange regularly with the EC, this has revealed its shortcomings. According to an evaluation of participants' inclusion levels within the EU Youth Dialogue, National Working Groups are not equally efficient in engaging young people - in particular minority groups. We claim for a better structured and truly inclusive youth dialogue - with a focus on Greece?

### Civic skills development through education

In line with our commitment to civic empowerment, Inter Alia advocates for civic skills development through both formal and non-formal education methods. Recognising that an informed and educated citizenry is essential for a thriving democracy, our approach seeks to bridge the gap between institutions and civic struggles by equipping individuals with the skills necessary for meaningful participation in public life. We claim for more and better civic education in formal education institutions, as well as an enhanced investment in civic education in this sector. Redefining citizenship education in school and formal learning environments should give students the opportunity to actively discuss political issues, participate in school decision-making structures, and also include media literacy as well as access to diverse and unfiltered information.

# CIVIC RIGHTS

## ADVOCACY CLAIMS

### Involvement of CSOs in policy co-creation

Acknowledging the vital role of civil society organisations in shaping civic life, Inter Alia advocates for their active involvement in the co-creation of policies and for their recognition, by policy makers, as a key partner. By addressing the lack of operational, multi-annual, and consistent resources for CSOs, we contribute to building active and engaged communities that have the skills and know how to bring closer citizens and institutions.

### Civic Space and Civil Dialogue in 2024 EU Elections

Inter Alia calls for civic space and civil dialogue to be central topics in the 2024 EU elections. This advocacy claim aligns with our broader vision of civic rights, emphasising the importance of civic space in ensuring pluralism and the functioning of public life. By pushing for these issues to be at the forefront of electoral discussions, we seek to enhance the democratic process and encourage a more participatory approach to decision-making. Our objective is to engage with candidate MEPs to address the issue of a structured civil dialogue at EU level.

### Open, Transparent, and Regular Civil Dialogue

We advocate for the creation of more deliberative instruments for citizens participation in decision making processes, as well as for the enhancement and formal recognition of existing instruments (i.e. citizens councils, youth councils etc.) This claim aligns with our objective to address the disconnection between institutions and civic struggles, fostering an environment where diverse voices are not only heard but actively contribute to the decision-making processes.

# CIVIC RIGHTS

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

### WORK TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT STRATEGY TO ENHANCE YOUNG PEOPLE'S AGENCY AND PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

Collaborating with relevant stakeholders, including youth organisations, educational institutions, policymakers by providing research on young people's needs and attitudes towards EU affairs and policies

Implement and advocate for civic skills development programs through formal and non-formal education methods. Collaborate with educational institutions, NGOs, and policymakers to integrate civic education into curricula, addressing the need for an informed and educated citizenry.

Extend existing programmes for youth participation and the channels of youth participation in the design of educational skills-development programmes

### ADVOCATE FOR THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF CSOS IN THE CO-CREATION OF POLICIES

Engage in discussions with policymakers to address the lack of operational, multi-annual, and consistent resources for CSOs.

Map and engage with other CSOs networks and coalitions advocating for the same objective

ECI: campaign on making the ECI more accessible in terms of funding available, signature collection mechanism, support by EC throughout the signatures collection campaign, binding follow-up by the EC after signatures collection

Organise meeting with Greek CSOs before EU elections to coordinate activities and form stronger cross-border alliances

# CIVIC RIGHTS

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

### PUSH FOR THE PRIORITISATION OF CIVIC SPACE AND CIVIL DIALOGUE AS CENTRAL TOPICS IN THE 2024 EU ELECTIONS

Keep engagement with Civil Society Europe/Social Platform and European Civic Forum and collaborate on safeguarding of civic space

Write a short manifesto in view of EP elections advocating for open, transparent, and regular civil dialogue at local, national, and EU levels

Spread this manifesto through an online campaign

### ENGAGE IN EU LEVEL DEBATES ON REFORM OF EU TREATIES AND, SPECIFICALLY, THE REFORM OF THE ELECTORAL LAW

Advocate for the institution of transnational lists, EU-wide electoral campaign

Lowering the voting age and age of eligibility for office

Introduction of elements of proportional representation into electoral systems in conjunction with mechanisms to facilitate youth representation

Creation of e-voting and other alternative forms of voting at home and abroad

# YOUTH AND EDUCATION

## APPROACH

Inter Alia believes in the inherent potential of young people to drive change in their communities. Our approach focuses on empowering young individuals to articulate their needs and aspirations, facilitating the discovery and use of skills and competences. Through our programmes and initiatives, we inspire and enable youth engagement by providing platforms for them to voice their opinions, strive for active participation in decision-making processes, and take leadership roles in community projects. We foster a culture of inclusivity, diversity, and participation, ensuring that all young people have the opportunity to contribute to shaping their environments.

As part of our commitment to youth empowerment, Inter Alia monitors the actions of EU committees and bodies that impact youth policies. We conduct research and analysis to assess the effectiveness and impact of these policies on young people's lives. Through advocacy and policy engagement, we advocate for youth-inclusive policies that promote social cohesion and inclusion and meaningful youth participation in decision-making processes.

While there's ongoing centralisation and systematisation of EU policies on youth, we recognise the need for better coordination at civil society level to ensure the effective implementation of these policies. We advocate for greater collaboration among youth-focused organisations, fostering networks and partnerships that facilitate knowledge sharing, resource pooling, and joint advocacy efforts. By working together, civil society can amplify its impact and influence on EU youth policies, advocating for measures that address the diverse needs and challenges faced by young people across Europe. We aim at actively engaging with EU institutions and policymakers to provide input and feedback on youth policies, advocating for policies that reflect the voices and experiences of youth.

Inter Alia acknowledges the challenges faced by CSOs due to the lack of operational, multi-annual, and consistent funding. We advocate for increased support and funding for youth-focused initiatives, highlighting the importance of sustained investment in programmes that empower young people. CSOs working in the field of youth need to acquire capacity and resources to strengthen their organisational capacities, diversify their funding sources, and navigate the complexities of project-based funding.

# YOUTH AND EDUCATION

## ADVOCACY CLAIMS

### **Weak participatory policy mechanisms open to youth and CSOs**

decision-making processes should be inclusive and transparent, providing opportunities for meaningful input from all stakeholders, particularly young people and CSOs operating in the field of youth. Our advocacy calls for the creation of open channels between decision-makers and CSOs, facilitating dialogue, collaboration, and mutual exchange of ideas.

### **Need for a permanent strategy to enhance young people's participation in decision-making processes**

development and implementation of a permanent strategy to enhance young people's involvement in policy making at all levels. This strategy should encompass both formal and informal mechanisms for engagement, ensuring that young voices are heard and valued in the democratic process. Our advocacy aims to institutionalise youth participation as a core principle of governance, fostering a culture of inclusivity and empowerment where young people are actively involved in shaping policies that affect their lives. The Better Regulation Framework of the EC claims that it will ensure strengthened internal capacity to work with young people, putting in place strong and continuous dialogue throughout the policy making cycle. This has also been reminded in the [Report on the 2022 EYY legacy](#).

### **Necessity for a mainstreaming approach in EU policies focused on youth**

establishment of a Youth Test (campaign started by the European Youth Forum): This mechanism, also reinforced by the [2022 European Year of Youth Legacy](#), would ensure that the impact of proposed policies on young people is systematically assessed and taken into account during the policy-making process. The youth test would serve as a tool to evaluate the potential effects of policies on youth-related issues, such as education, employment, social inclusion, and participation. It would also promote greater coherence and responsiveness of EU policies to the needs and concerns of young people, making them more relevant and impactful.

# YOUTH AND EDUCATION

## ADVOCACY CLAIMS

### **Need for civic skills development among young people through formal and non-formal education methods**

we advocate for the integration of civic education into school curricula and the expansion of extracurricular programs that promote critical thinking, communication skills, and active citizenship. We promote the importance of equipping young people with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to participate effectively in civic life, fostering a generation of informed and engaged citizens who are capable of driving social change.

### **Need for a cross-border, institutional recognition of youth work**

youth work plays a crucial role in supporting the personal, social, and professional development of young people, and its value should be acknowledged and supported across borders. Our advocacy calls for the development of common standards and quality criteria for youth work, as well as mechanisms for mutual recognition and exchange of best practices among Member States. We aim to create an enabling environment that enhances the professionalisation and mobility of youth workers.

### **Funds available under the Erasmus+ KA3 (support to policy development and cooperation) need to be increased**

greater financial resources in this area would enable more ambitious and impactful initiatives that address pressing youth-related challenges and contribute to the implementation of youth policies at national and European levels.

# YOUTH AND EDUCATION



## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

### **RAISE AWARENESS ON KEY YOUTH ISSUES AND PROVIDE EVIDENCE-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICY REFORM**

these publications will highlight pressing youth-related challenges, analyse policy gaps, and offer concrete recommendations for policymakers to address them

### **EU ELECTIONS - INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE IN TAKING ACTION/CRITICALLY DEBATING/VOTING**

bringing forward the “I vote for myself” programme with events, initiatives and workshops, using it as a tool to increase the connection with (young) decision makers

### **ENGAGE WITH POLICY MAKERS AND MEP CANDIDATES AT EU LEVEL ON STRUCTURED CIVIL DIALOGUE**

participate in meetings and advocacy campaigns to promote meaningful engagement between decision makers and young people, ensuring that youth perspectives are considered in policy-making processes

### **CONTRIBUTE IN EMPOWERING CSOS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS IN THE THIRD SECTOR ACTIVE AT LOCAL, NATIONAL AND EU LEVEL**

offer training workshops, seminars, and mentorship programs to enhance the organisational capacity, advocacy skills, and strategic planning of youth-focused CSOs, empowering them to effectively advocate for youth rights and needs (RSCEL)



# YOUTH AND EDUCATION

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

### FOSTER INTER ALIA'S NETWORKING CAPACITY BY PARTICIPATING IN OFFICIAL AND INFORMAL ADVOCACY NETWORKS

Erasmus+ Coalition

Alliance for Youth Vote

European Youth Forum

### CREATE STRONGER TIES WITH CSOS AND GRASSROOT ORGANISATIONS INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE PREVIOUSLY INVOLVED IN INTER ALIA STRUCTURES

promote  
their actions

disseminate  
their work

provide support  
and resources to  
amplify their  
impact and reach

fostering a  
culture of youth-  
led activism and  
advocacy

### KEEP PARTICIPATING IN THE GREEK NATIONAL AGENCY FOR YOUTH'S WORKING GROUP ON INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY ERASMUS+/YOUTH & EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS AND PUSH THE GREEK NATIONAL AGENCY FOR MORE AND BETTER COMMUNICATION BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS.

### ADVOCATE FOR RAISED AND MORE CSO-ACCESSIBLE FUNDING FOR ERASMUS+ POLICY RELATED ACTIONS

Lobby EU institutions  
and national  
governments to  
increase funding  
allocations

streamline  
application  
processes

enhance support mechanisms to  
ensure that CSOs have the resources  
they need to effectively advocate for  
youth-related policy reform



inter alia  
Inspiring social change

