

EUROSFAT 2024 - Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy wins first place at the Civil Society Gala

[Europuls - Centre of European Expertise](#) is proud to announce that [EUROSFAT 2024 - Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy](#), organized in partnership with Democracy International, Swiss Democracy Foundation, University of Bucharest, Bucharest Cityhall, has been awarded First Place in the “Youth for Good” category at the [Civil Society Gala](#) in Romania.

EUROSFAT is the largest forum on European affairs in Eastern Europe, organized annually by Europuls, under the patronage of the European Parliament, European Commission, and the Presidency of the Council of the EU. In 2024, the forum reached a new milestone by taking on a global dimension, hosting the Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy in Bucharest, in partnership with international institutions and democracy advocates from around the world. This landmark edition brought together over 560 participants, 200 speakers, and featured 72 sessions.

About the Civil Society Gala

The Civil Society Gala is a project developed by The Institute, initiated in 2002 to support and promote the work of Romania’s associative (non-profit) sector. Now in its 23rd edition, the Gala recognizes outstanding civic initiatives that contribute to building a stronger, more engaged society.

The “Youth for Good” category celebrates initiatives created and led by young people who bring about meaningful social impact through civic engagement, democratic values, and community-driven change.

With more than 190 projects submitted this year, we are honored to have our work recognized among such a diverse and inspiring group of initiatives.

A word from the Europuls team

“In just one year, Romanians were called to vote five times: local, European, parliamentary, and twice for the presidency. It was a full-scale stress test for our democracy, marked by political turbulence, foreign interference, and even an annulled presidential election. Winning this award

is not just an honor - it's a sign that, despite everything, young people are still choosing to show up, speak out, and believe in democracy.” - Tana Foarfă, Executive Director, Europuls

“EUROSFAT 2024 - Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy meant the biggest public democracy exercise that aimed to bring citizens closer to democracy. In 2024, more than half of the globe was called to vote and Bucharest represented the capital of worldwide democracy - where ideas met, expertise and solutions became core ingredients and cross-sectorial partnerships were the main target.” - Francesca Cristea, Head of Policy&Programs

“We are incredibly proud to have made Bucharest the centre of global democratic dialogue in what has been the biggest electoral year worldwide. Bringing the Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy to Romania was no small feat, but we did it together, as a team of young volunteers who believe in participation, transparency, and the power of civic engagement.” - Alexandra Cîrjă, Head of Communication, Europuls

“The Eurosfat 2024 - Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy in Bucharest was a truly inspiring experience. I met passionate young people from across the world, all committed to shaping the future of democracy. We shared ideas, built real friendships, and created a network that I know will support me in my personal and professional journey. I left feeling hopeful and empowered, ready to play my part in rebuilding trust in our institutions.” - Oana Ene, Community Manager, Europuls

“The Global Forum on Modern Direct Diplomacy was an opportunity to meet like-minded young people from all around the world. I built lasting friendships and created a network of experts and leaders which will help me in developing my career.” - Ruxandra Botas, Volunteer, Europuls

We extend our gratitude to all our partners, contributors, and participants who made EUROSAT 2024 - Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy possible.