

CHANCE Network CHARTER

ERASMUS Operating Grants Framework Partnerships – EU YOUTH IN POWER:
**Boosting engagement of EU young citizens in democratic process to fight
corruption and organised crime** – project number 101227755



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Section 1: Preamble and Objectives

PREAMBLE

We, the undersigned member organisations of the CHANCE Network — Civil Hub Against organised Crime in Europe — establish this Charter as the foundational document for our shared mission, structures, and principles.

Rooted in the experiences and aspirations of diverse European civic actors, CHANCE is a community of organisations that resist organised crime and corruption by promoting justice, transparency, and civic resilience.

This Charter affirms our collective commitment to upholding democratic values and fundamental human rights, building a European civic space capable of confronting organised crime through social mobilisation, advocacy, and transnational solidarity, establishing governance practices that embody inclusivity, integrity, and accountability, and supporting one another across borders in a spirit of mutual trust and shared responsibility.

This Charter sets forth the Network's objectives, governance, membership criteria, and ethical commitments. It serves as a constitutive framework for collaboration and a living foundation for future development.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CHANCE NETWORK

The CHANCE Network defines the following as its core objectives, collectively expressing its mission and serving as the basis for its strategic and operational actions.

1. Promote civic engagement against organised crime, mafia-type or high-risk criminal activities and corruption across Europe and beyond, by empowering civil society organisations and local communities.
2. Build public awareness of the harms and mechanisms of organised crime, corruption, and impunity through education, storytelling, advocacy, and related campaigns.
3. Strengthen the civic infrastructure for transparency, accountability, and democratic rule of law by promoting cooperation between grassroots actors, investigative institutions, and public authorities.
4. Affirm the dignity and rights of all innocent victims of organised crime and human trafficking, and support their families in the pursuit of justice, remembrance, and reparation. CHANCE recognises that protecting and empowering victims is central to repairing the social fabric, restoring meaning to lives shattered by violence, and continuing the collective fight for justice.
5. Support the social reuse of assets confiscated from criminal organisations as a tangible form of social restitution, justice, sustainability, and economic solidarity.

6. Combat criminal exploitation of natural resources and environmental harm by ecomafias and other criminal networks. The CHANCE Network opposes all forms of organised crime that endanger ecosystems, public health, and environmental justice through pollution, illegal waste disposal, or predatory economic systems. We promote civic oversight, policy reform, and sustainable alternatives to resist these threats and protect the common good.
7. Foster cross-border collaboration by sharing anti-mafia and anti-corruption knowledge, methodologies, and resources among civil society actors in different contexts, and by encouraging appropriate engagement with and among other relevant actors, such as institutions and law enforcement agencies.
8. We seek to foster cooperation with our sister networks ALAS (América Latina Alternativa Social) and PLACE (Peace and Liberation in Africa through Change and Engagement) in shared initiatives, exchanges, and transnational projects to strengthen global-civic solidarity and mutual learning across continents.
9. Develop shared strategies and capacities for advocacy at the European level and beyond, including influencing public policy and legislation on anti-corruption, antimafia, and civic freedom.
10. Provide a collaborative platform for joint projects, mutual support, and strategic coordination between members.
11. Protect civic space and freedom of association, ensuring that organisations and individuals engaged in anti-mafia and anti-corruption work are respected, supported, and defended.
12. Promote constructive engagement between civil society, public authorities, and the private sector in addressing organised crime, preventing corruption, and safeguarding democratic institutions and processes.
13. Promote a culture of legality and civic accountability by supporting education, cultural strategies and citizen-led monitoring initiatives that empower individuals and communities to understand, observe, and respond to corruption, organised crime, and institutional failure.

Section 2: Values

The CHANCE Network is built on a foundation of shared values that guide how we work, relate, and act together. These values are the ethical compass of the Network:

1. Integrity and Transparency

We act with honesty, openness, and accountability in all our actions. We reject corruption, manipulation, and secrecy and commit to full transparency in our governance and resource use.

2. Solidarity and Co-responsibility

We stand together across borders, cultures, and contexts. We support one another in times of challenge and success, recognising that all share responsibility for the Network.

3. Nonviolence and Human Dignity

We uphold the dignity, rights, and freedoms of all people. We oppose all forms of violence, discrimination, and intimidation, and work to dismantle systems that perpetuate harm.

4. Participation and Inclusion

We believe in democratic, participatory processes that welcome diverse perspectives and lived experiences. Every voice matters, and decisions should reflect collective input and consent.

5. Independence and Civic Autonomy

We are independent of political parties, governments, and private interests. Our legitimacy comes from civic action, grassroots organising, and public accountability.

6. Justice and Rule of Law

We defend legality as a tool for social justice, not repression. We advocate for fair laws, equitable enforcement, and legal systems that uphold the public good over private power.

7. Care and Respect

We cultivate a culture of mutual respect, listening, empathy, and care. We approach conflict constructively and value human connection in our collaborations.

8. Sustainability and Responsibility

We work for long-term social impact. We are mindful of our actions' environmental, social, and economic sustainability and seek to build resilient communities and institutions.

9. Diversity and Equality

We embrace difference as a strength. We reject all forms of exclusion or discrimination based on identity, origin, belief, ability, or background. We strive for equity within the Network and in society.

Section 3: Membership and Structure

3.1. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Membership in the CHANCE Network is open to civil society organisations and civic actors that share the values and objectives set out in this Charter and are committed to upholding its principles. This Charter serves as the sole constitutive document of the Network, encompassing its values, membership criteria, code of conduct, and governance framework. No supplementary documentation is required to confirm a member's obligations.

The Network recognises four categories of affiliation: Full Member Organisations, Candidate Member Organisations, Partners, and Individual Participants.

- **Full Member Organisations** are the core decision-making constituents of the CHANCE Network. To qualify as a Full Member, an organisation must be a non-profit entity legally registered in its country of operation. Admission as a Full Member requires the formal signing of this Charter. Full Members hold voting rights within the Network, participate in strategic decision-making, and are entitled to appoint representatives to the Board. They may also nominate individuals to serve on the Executive Committee.
- **Candidate Member Organisations** are non-profit legal entities undergoing a defined accession process, as described in [Section 7](#) of this Charter. During a trial period of up to twenty-four months, Candidate Members hold observer status, may participate in CHANCE activities, and attend Board meetings in a non-voting capacity. Upon completing the candidate period, and subject to Board approval, they may be granted Full Membership.
- **Partners** may include public institutions, philanthropic foundations, informal networks, funders, international organisations, or other relevant bodies that support CHANCE's mission. Such entities may be admitted to the Network upon the endorsement of at least one Full Member Organisation. Although they do not hold voting rights or governance responsibilities, they may be invited to attend specific meetings or contribute to selected initiatives. The status of Partners is reviewed every two years to ensure continued alignment with the Network's objectives.
- **Individual Participants** commit to CHANCE's values and actively contribute to its work. These individuals may be invited to participate in the Network's Forum or its working groups. However, they do not possess voting rights and may not represent the Network externally unless explicitly mandated by the Board.

3.2. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The CHANCE Network is structured to ensure effective decision-making, broad participation, and coherent coordination among its diverse membership. Its organisational model consists of three interrelated bodies: the Board, the Executive Committee, and the Forum.

- The **Board** is the strategic and decision-making body of the Network. It is composed of representatives formally appointed by Full Member Organisations. The Board is responsible for setting and updating the Network's strategic direction, approving the admission of new members and Partners, endorsing annual plans and budgets, reviewing engagement and governance every two years, and adopting or amending this Charter. Decisions within the Board are taken by consensus wherever possible; if consensus cannot be reached, the voting and quorum procedures outlined in [Section 4: Governance and Decision-Making](#) of this shall apply.
- The **Executive Committee** serves an operational and advisory function. It comprises individuals nominated by Full Member Organisations and may include external experts invited to contribute specific competencies. The Executive Committee coordinates the Network's calendar and internal communications, prepares Board agendas, supports the implementation of Board decisions, and manages shared tools and documentation. It also plays a supporting role in project coordination and in facilitating collaboration among members. The Executive Committee has the mandate to propose operational tools, methodologies, and resource allocations, and it serves for a renewable term of one year, subject to confirmation by the Board.
- The **Forum** is a participatory space that fosters dialogue, collaboration, and exchange across the wider CHANCE community. It is open to Full and Candidate Member Organisations, Partners, and individual participants endorsed by a member or project partner. The Forum meets periodically—either in person or online—to share knowledge and updates, stimulate new collaborations, discuss broader trends affecting the Network, and contribute to an inclusive and transparent internal culture. While the Forum does not possess formal decision-making authority, it plays an essential consultative role and may formulate proposals or recommendations for the Board's consideration. The Forum may propose items for the agenda of the Board or request that the Executive Committee respond to its recommendations.

Section 4: Governance and Decision-Making

The CHANCE Network adopts a governance model grounded in consensus, shared responsibility, and distributed leadership. This model ensures that the Network functions democratically, transparently, and effectively while preserving all Full Member Organisations' autonomy and equal standing.

4.1. DECISION-MAKING PRINCIPLES

Four core principles guide decision-making within the Network. First, the Network prioritises consensus among Full Member Organisations as the preferred method of reaching decisions. Consensus is understood not as unanimity in enthusiasm, but as the absence of sustained objection following adequate discussion.

Second, when consensus cannot be achieved within a reasonable timeframe, the Network allows for formal voting, subject to clearly defined quorum and majority thresholds as outlined in this Charter.

Third, decisions are taken by organisations rather than individuals. Each Full Member Organisation has one vote, regardless of the number of delegates it may send to meetings or working groups.

Fourth, all decisions must be appropriately documented and shared. Minutes of meetings, records of votes, and relevant supporting materials are circulated via the Network's designated communication channels to ensure transparency and accountability.

4.2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The network's governance is exercised through five key components: the Board, the Executive Committee, the Chair, the Forum, and the Permanent Secretariat.

The Board is composed exclusively of Full Member Organisations and is the highest authority within the Network. It is responsible for approving changes to membership status, setting strategic priorities, amending the Charter, reviewing and endorsing financial plans, electing and renewing the Executive Committee, and adopting collective declarations or campaigns. Its authority includes the final approval of proposals and recommendations brought forward by other bodies within the Network.

The Executive Committee is the operational arm of the Network. It implements the Board's decisions, prepares proposals for consideration, coordinates the internal calendar and meeting agendas, ensures communication and follow-up among members, and maintains formal records of Network activities. Members of the Executive Committee are nominated by Full Member Organisations and serve renewable one-year terms. The Committee may also include individuals invited for their specific expertise.

The Network Chair is selected from among the Full Member Organisations and serves a one-year term. The Chair is elected—or confirmed by consensus—by the Board and is responsible for presiding over Board meetings, facilitating discussions, and guiding the decision-making process.

The Forum is a consultative space open to all Full and Candidate Members, Partners, and approved individual participants. While the Forum holds no formal decision-making power, it enables dialogue

across the broader Network, allows for the emergence of collective insights, and may submit recommendations for the Board's consideration.

The Permanent Secretariat of the CHANCE Network is held by the organisation Libera. As Secretariat, Libera is responsible for the administrative coordination of the Network, including convening meetings, circulating agendas, hosting digital infrastructure, and transparently and accountably managing any shared finances on behalf of the Network.

4.3. DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

Any Full Member Organisation or member of the Executive Committee may propose items for decision by submitting them to the Executive Committee, which prepares and circulates the agenda before each Board meeting. Decisions are then discussed in facilitated sessions aimed at reaching consensus.

The Board may vote if consensus cannot be reached, provided that the relevant quorum requirements are met. For non-financial decisions, a simple majority vote is sufficient, and the meeting must reach a quorum of at least 40% of Full Member Organisations at the time of the vote. A simple majority also applies for financial decisions, but a higher quorum of 70% at the time of the vote is required.

Amendments to this Charter require the unanimous agreement of all Full Member Organisations, either in person or by proxy. If a single organisation blocks consensus on a Charter amendment and no resolution is reached after six months of good-faith dialogue, the remaining Full Members may initiate a vote to remove the objecting organisation from the Network. This vote must meet the same quorum and majority thresholds required for amending the Charter. If the vote succeeds, the organisation is removed, and the amendment may proceed.

Organisations that cannot attend a meeting may assign a proxy vote to another Full Member Organisation. The proxy must be granted in writing and submitted before the relevant meeting. No Full Member Organisation may hold more than two proxy votes at any given meeting.

4.4. MEETING MODALITIES

The Board shall convene monthly digital meetings, typically on a fixed date, to monitor strategic implementation, share updates, and make decisions as needed.

Each year, the Network shall convene a meeting of the Forum, involving members of the Board, Candidate Member Organisations, and other participants in the Forum as defined in this Charter. This meeting should take place in person when funding permits, with the possibility of online participation or fully online convening if necessary. The Forum meeting provides a structured opportunity for collective reflection, strategic dialogue, and cross-cutting collaboration across the CHANCE Network. While it does not have decision-making authority, it may submit recommendations or proposals to the Board for consideration.

Extraordinary meetings may be convened at any time either by the Executive Committee or at the written request of at least three Full Member Organisations. Such requests must include a clear agenda and rationale for the meeting.

Section 5: Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct forms an integral and binding part of the CHANCE Network Charter. By signing the Charter, each member organisation commits to upholding the standards herein and ensuring that their delegates, staff, volunteers, and representatives do likewise.

The Code reflects our shared values and defines the behavioural norms that support trust, collaboration, and accountability within the Network.

5.1. PARTICIPATION AND COMMITMENT

Participation in the CHANCE Network requires more than nominal affiliation; it entails an active, ongoing commitment to the shared work, responsibilities, and values articulated in this Charter. Each member organisation is expected to engage meaningfully in the network's life and contribute to its sustainability and success.

Active participation includes attending meetings, contributing to discussions, and participating in collective projects, campaigns, or working groups. Persistent absence, non-responsiveness, or disengagement from Network activities may prompt a review by the Board and could result in remedial measures as outlined in this Charter.

To ensure accountability and effective representation, each member organisation shall formally designate at least one individual to act as its representative within the Network. This delegate is responsible for expressing the organisation's position in discussions and decisions and maintaining consistent communication with the rest of the Network. Any change in designated representation must be communicated promptly and transparently.

Timely and respectful communication is an essential aspect of membership. Members are expected to respond to messages and requests within reasonable timeframes and notify the relevant bodies—particularly the Executive Committee or Chair—if they are unable to participate in scheduled meetings or complete agreed-upon tasks. Clear and courteous communication is integral to maintaining mutual trust and operational coherence.

5.2. RESPECT AND INCLUSION

The CHANCE Network is committed to cultivating a culture of mutual respect, inclusivity, and dignity in all its activities and interactions. All members are expected to uphold these principles, which are fundamental to the network's integrity and to the strength of its transnational collaboration.

Members shall engage with one another in a spirit of fairness, openness, and civility. Differences of opinion and approach are welcome, but must be expressed constructively and in good faith. Harassment, personal attacks, or any form of aggressive or disrespectful behaviour will not be tolerated and may be subject to review under the provisions of this Charter.

The Network recognises diversity as a core strength. It actively opposes all forms of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, political belief, socioeconomic status, disability, nationality, or any other identity or background. Equal participation and equitable treatment are essential to the Network's legitimacy and cohesion.

CHANCE also commits to fostering a safe and supportive environment where members feel empowered to contribute, raise concerns, and challenge ideas without fear of intimidation or marginalisation. The Network values dissent when expressed respectfully and views it as a necessary condition for robust democratic dialogue.

5.3. INTEGRITY AND ETHICS

The CHANCE Network holds integrity as a foundational value, and all member organisations are expected to act with honesty, transparency, and accountability in every aspect of their participation in the Network.

Members must conduct themselves ethically in all contexts related to the Network's work. This includes faithfully representing facts, honouring commitments, and avoiding any conduct that could bring the Network into disrepute or compromise its mission.

Confidentiality is to be respected in all internal matters as detailed in [Section 6.7](#) of this Charter.

To preserve the network's independence and neutrality, members must avoid conflicts of interest. No member may exploit their affiliation with CHANCE for private financial gain, partisan political purposes, or reputational leverage that misrepresents the Network's collective position. If a potential conflict arises, it must be declared to the Executive Committee without delay.

Where a member is entrusted with shared financial resources—whether through project coordination, logistical hosting, or stewardship of pooled funds—they are required to manage these resources with full transparency. This includes timely financial reporting, clear record-keeping, and prioritising the Network's collective interest above institutional or personal benefit.

5.4. COLLABORATION AND SOLIDARITY

The CHANCE Network is built on collective effort, mutual support, and shared purpose. All members are expected to collaborate and contribute their expertise, resources, and energy to advancing the Network's common mission.

Collaboration within the Network is not limited to formal projects or campaigns. It also includes the regular exchange of information, the sharing of methodologies and experiences, and the provision of technical, strategic, or moral support to fellow members facing challenges in their work. Members are encouraged to offer assistance and identify opportunities for joint action proactively.

When disagreements or tensions arise, members must approach conflict with a commitment to respectful dialogue and problem-solving. Differences should be addressed constructively to preserve

relationships and reinforce shared values. If needed, the Executive Committee may serve as a mediator or facilitator to help resolve disputes.

Underlying all forms of collaboration is a shared sense of responsibility. Each member contributes to the credibility, effectiveness, and cohesion of the Network as a whole. This collective responsibility demands that members act not only in pursuit of their own objectives but also in ways that strengthen CHANCE's broader mission and standing.

5.5. CONSEQUENCES OF MISCONDUCT

Membership in the CHANCE Network entails a responsibility to uphold the commitments set out in this Charter. Where there is evidence that a member organisation has violated these commitments—whether through misconduct, disengagement, or actions that compromise the reputation of the Network or of another member organisation—the Board may formally review the matter.

Following such a review, the Board may determine that remedial or disciplinary measures are necessary. These may include issuing a formal warning, requesting corrective action within a defined timeframe, suspending the member's participation in meetings or activities, or revoking membership in severe or repeated cases. Any such decision shall be proportionate to the circumstances and taken to protect the integrity of the Network.

Before any final decision is made, the organisation in question shall have the right to be informed of the concerns raised and to respond in writing or, if appropriate, in person. The Board shall consider this response and may seek additional input from the Executive Committee before reaching a final determination.

An organisation whose membership has been revoked may request reinstatement no earlier than one year after the removal date. The Board will consider such a request and must include a clear demonstration of changed conduct and renewed commitment to the principles of this Charter. Reinstatement is subject to the same review and approval procedures as new applications for membership.

5.6. SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

In line with its commitment to the dignity and safety of all individuals, the CHANCE Network requires that all members comply with the Network's Child Protection Policy, which is attached as Annexe II to this Charter. The Policy establishes minimum safeguarding standards to be upheld by all members, particularly in contexts involving children, adolescents, or other vulnerable persons. Violations of the Child Protection Policy shall be treated as breaches of this Charter and may result in disciplinary measures as described in Section 5.5. Members are expected to take all reasonable steps to align their internal practices with the Policy's principles and report any concerns to the Executive Committee.

Section 6: Operational Guidelines

The CHANCE Network operates with a flexible and collaborative approach to internal functioning, while maintaining clear structures to ensure transparency, coordination, and shared accountability.

6.1. MEETINGS AND COORDINATION

The CHANCE Network maintains a rhythm of regular meetings and structured coordination mechanisms to ensure continuity, transparency, and inclusive participation across its membership.

The Board of the Network convenes monthly digital meetings, typically scheduled on a fixed day—for example, the third Monday of each month. These meetings provide a platform for exchanging updates, making collective decisions, and monitoring the implementation of strategic priorities. Attendance and engagement in these meetings are considered a core obligation of Full Member Organisations.

The Executive Committee meets more frequently, as required, to coordinate day-to-day operations, prepare agendas for Board meetings, and respond to emerging issues. These meetings are essential for ensuring the timely execution of Board decisions and the smooth functioning of the Network.

In addition to these standing meetings, the Network may establish working groups, composed of representatives from interested organisations and individuals within the Forum. These groups are tasked with addressing specific themes or initiatives and reporting their work back to the Board or Executive Committee. The creation, scope, and mandate of working groups are governed by the procedures outlined in [Section 6.5](#) of this Charter.

Each year, the Network shall convene a meeting of the Forum, bringing together members of the Board, Candidate Member Organisations, and other participants in the Forum as defined in this Charter. This annual meeting serves as a moment of collective reflection, strategic dialogue, and community-building across the wider CHANCE Network. Where feasible, the Forum meeting should be held in person, with project budgets supporting travel and accommodation costs. If external funding is not available, the meeting shall be held online, with the aim of ensuring inclusive participation and maintaining continuity of engagement. While the Forum does not possess formal decision-making authority, it plays a consultative role and may formulate recommendations for the Board and propose items for future discussion.

Extraordinary meetings may be called at any time, either by the Executive Committee or at the written request of at least three Full Member Organisations. Such requests must include a proposed agenda and a clear explanation of the urgency or strategic importance of the issues to be addressed.

6.2. COMMUNICATIONS AND TOOLS

Effective communication is essential to the CHANCE Network's coherence, transparency, and collaborative culture. To this end, the Network maintains a shared set of digital tools and communication protocols that facilitate participation, coordination, and institutional memory.

A shared digital workspace, currently hosted on a platform such as Google Drive, stores and manages documents, meeting records, working group outputs, and other materials relevant to the Network. This space is accessible to all Full Members and, where appropriate, to Candidate Members and Partners.

The Network also maintains a shared calendar, which coordinates recurring meetings, project deadlines, and major events. The executive committee regularly updates the calendar, which is accessible to all members to support planning and visibility.

Official communications within the Network are conducted through designated mailing lists and messaging platforms, as determined and maintained by the Executive Committee. Each member organisation must ensure that its key contact persons are subscribed and can promptly receive and respond to internal communications.

The network's working language is English, which is used for meetings, documents, and communications. Where feasible, interpretation or translation may be arranged to support the participation of members whose primary language is not English, particularly during in-person assemblies or public-facing events.

To promote accountability and preserve institutional knowledge, all Board and Executive Committee meeting minutes are recorded and shared with members promptly. These records form part of the Network's collective documentation and may be archived in the shared digital workspace.

6.3. PROJECT COORDINATION

Projects undertaken within the CHANCE Network represent key instruments for achieving its objectives and strengthening collaboration among members. The development and implementation of such projects must be guided by the principles set out in this Charter, particularly those relating to transparency, collective responsibility, and alignment with the Network's mission.

Responsibility for individual projects rests with the lead organisation or organisations, which bear full accountability for the project's design, execution, reporting, and financial management. While these lead organisations act autonomously within the project's scope, they must ensure that all activities and outputs remain consistent with the CHANCE Network's values and public image.

Subject to the terms outlined in [Section 6.6](#) of this Charter, the use of the CHANCE name, logo, or other identifying elements in connection with a project, event, publication, or campaign requires prior approval. This ensures that the Network's identity is used appropriately and that all public representations of CHANCE reflect its collective will.

In the spirit of mutual benefit, any methodologies, tools, reports, or other outputs generated by CHANCE-affiliated projects that may be useful to the wider Network should be made available through the shared digital platform. These outputs may be presented or discussed during Board or Forum meetings to stimulate broader uptake or adaptation.

While projects form an essential part of the Network's operational landscape, they must not overshadow the Network's broader strategic dialogue or community-building functions. Board meetings and assemblies should strike an appropriate balance between project reporting and other agenda items related to governance, strategy, and values-based reflection.

6.4. FUNDRAISING AND RESOURCES

The CHANCE Network encourages a proactive and collaborative approach to fundraising, recognising that financial sustainability is essential to achieving its objectives and maintaining operational independence. All member organisations are invited to contribute to the identification and development of funding opportunities that align with the network's mission and values.

Member organisations are encouraged to explore funding possibilities—individually or in partnership—that may support CHANCE initiatives, joint projects, or capacity-building efforts. When developing or coordinating grant applications involving the CHANCE Network, members must ensure transparency with the Board and secure any necessary approvals for using the Network's name, logo, or identity.

The Network may occasionally incur shared costs, such as expenses related to communication tools, website hosting, meeting logistics, or basic administrative support. These costs may be covered through dedicated project budgets, joint fundraising initiatives, or voluntary contributions from member organisations. The Executive Committee is responsible for identifying such needs and making appropriate proposals to the Board.

The Permanent Secretariat is responsible for the transparent administration of any shared funds. Libera, as Secretariat, shall maintain proper accounting records and ensure compliance with legal or donor requirements. All financial reports relating to any shared resources must be submitted to the Board annually and made available to members through the shared digital platform.

All financial activity undertaken in the name of the CHANCE Network must adhere to the highest standards of accountability and ethical conduct and must be documented clearly and accessibly. The Board, upon the request of 40% of its members, may require independent audits to ensure the proper use of funds and maintain trust among members and external stakeholders.

6.5. WORKING GROUPS

The CHANCE Network may establish working groups to address specific thematic areas, operational challenges, or strategic initiatives requiring focused attention and expertise. Working groups serve as flexible instruments for collaboration and problem-solving, allowing members to deepen engagement around particular topics while contributing to the overall development of the Network.

A working group may be established either by the Board's decision or at the initiative of the Executive Committee and must be grounded in a clearly defined purpose. Each group shall operate under a specific mandate that outlines its objectives, expected outcomes, duration, and reporting lines. The board may amend or extend mandates as required.

Participation in working groups is open to representatives of Full and Candidate Member Organisations, Partners, and endorsed individual participants from the Forum. Groups are encouraged to be inclusive and to draw on the diverse perspectives and expertise available within the Network. Each group may appoint a coordinator or focal point to facilitate communication and ensure accountability.

Working groups are expected to operate transparently, sharing updates with the Executive Committee and regularly reporting on their progress to the Board. Where appropriate, they may present proposals or draft outputs for broader discussion and adoption by the Network.

A working group may be dissolved once it has fulfilled its mandate, or by decision of the Board or Executive Committee, where its continued relevance, activity, or alignment with the Network's priorities is no longer evident.

6.6. LOGO AND COMMUNICATION USE

The CHANCE Network's name, logo, and visual identity express its collective values, reputation, and public presence. These elements are to be used responsibly and consistently in ways that reflect the network's mission and shared ethos.

Use of the CHANCE logo in connection with projects, publications, events, campaigns, or any public communication requires prior written authorisation from the Executive Committee acting on its behalf. This applies to internal initiatives involving multiple members, external partnerships, or public-facing materials. Requests for logo use must specify the context, purpose, and intended audience.

The CHANCE identity must not be used to endorse or imply endorsement of positions, campaigns, or organisations that the Network has not expressly approved. Misuse of the logo—including unauthorised use, misleading representation, or association with activities that contradict CHANCE's values or positions—constitutes a breach of this Charter and may lead to disciplinary measures.

While members are encouraged to highlight their affiliation with CHANCE in appropriate contexts, all such references must respect the network's autonomy and decision-making processes. Public statements made on behalf of the Network must be coordinated with the Executive Committee and, where relevant, approved by the Board.

Efforts to increase the Network's visibility—through media outreach, joint campaigns, or participation in public events—should contribute to a coherent and credible public image. Members are encouraged to share communication materials through the Network's official platforms and to collaborate in amplifying key messages and initiatives.

6.7. CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION

The CHANCE Network is committed to protecting the confidentiality of its internal communications and the personal data of individuals engaged in its work. These commitments are essential to maintaining trust among members and ensuring compliance with applicable legal and ethical standards.

Members must respect the confidential nature of internal discussions, whether held during meetings, in written exchanges, or through collaborative workspaces. Information designated as confidential—either explicitly or by its nature—may not be shared outside the Network without prior authorisation from the Executive Committee or, where applicable, the affected parties. This obligation applies equally to draft materials, strategic documents, funding proposals, and sensitive operational matters.

Only authorised spokespersons or formally designated representatives may speak publicly on behalf of the Network. Such authorisation may be granted either by the Board or, where appropriate, by the Executive Committee in relation to its own members. Individual members may not present personal views or institutional positions as those of the Network without an explicit mandate.

Where appropriate, individual members are invited to inform the Network when participating in events that may be relevant to the Network's mission, thereby helping to further the Network's objectives.

The CHANCE Network adheres to data protection and privacy principles that are in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and other relevant legislation. Personal data collected by or on behalf of the Network—such as contact details, meeting attendance, or participation records—shall be used solely for legitimate internal purposes. Such data must be stored securely, accessed only by authorised persons, and not shared with third parties without informed consent, except where legally required.

The Executive Committee is responsible for ensuring that appropriate data protection practices are followed across the Network's activities and responding to any concerns or breaches reported by members.

Section 7: Accession of New Members

To ensure the integrity, diversity, and continued development of the CHANCE Network, the following formal procedure shall govern the admission of new Full Member Organisations.

This procedure is based on the principles of transparency, integrity, inclusiveness, gradual integration, and collective decision-making, and applies to all new applications for Full Membership.

7.1. APPLICATION PROCESS

Organisations that wish to join the CHANCE Network as Full Members must initiate their application by submitting a written request to the Executive Committee. This request must include the organisation's full legal name, registration details, and legal status; a description of its internal governance structure; and a clear statement of its mission and objectives. In addition, the application must contain a motivational letter outlining the organisation's interest in joining the Network, its willingness and capacity to contribute actively to the Network's activities, and any relevant experience in the fields of anti-corruption, anti-mafia work, support for victims, civic mobilisation, youth education, or the protection of democratic institutions.

Where applicable, applicants should also indicate any existing relationships with CHANCE member organisations and refer to any previous engagement with CHANCE events or activities. Each application must be accompanied by a signed declaration confirming the organisation's commitment to this Charter and its principles.

7.2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SCREENING

Upon receipt of a complete application, the Executive Committee shall review the submission within no more than four weeks. This screening aims to ensure that the applicant has met all formal requirements, that the documentation is complete, and that there are no disqualifying concerns, such as political partisanship, discriminatory practices, or legal or ethical violations. During this process, the Executive Committee may request clarifications or additional information from the applicant.

If the application is deemed eligible and appropriate, the Executive Committee shall recommend the organisation for admission as a Candidate Member of the CHANCE Network.

7.3. CANDIDATE MEMBERSHIP PERIOD

Candidate Membership shall be granted for an initial period of twelve months. During this time, the candidate organisation may attend meetings of the Board as an observer without voting rights, participate in CHANCE working groups and activities, and engage with members of the wider Network. Each Candidate Member will be assigned a liaison, who may be a member of the Executive Committee or a representative of a Full Member Organisation, to support the candidate's orientation and integration.

A brief self-evaluation shall be submitted by the Candidate Member after six months, providing reflections on their engagement and alignment with the Network's principles. The candidate period may be extended once, for a maximum total duration of twenty-four months, subject to a decision by the Board. If no consensus is reached regarding the candidate's admission as a Full Member by the end of this period, the application shall be closed and the organisation shall not be admitted.

7.4. EVALUATION AND ADMISSION

Before the conclusion of the candidate period, the Executive Committee shall evaluate the candidate organisation's participation, compatibility with the Network's mission and values, and quality of interactions with existing members. The evaluation will take into account whether the organisation has attended at least two Network meetings and contributed meaningfully to the work of at least one working group or initiative.

Based on this evaluation, the Executive Committee may propose the candidate organisation for Full Membership. Admission requires a formal vote by the Board, with approval contingent upon a two-thirds majority of Full Member Organisations present and voting, excluding abstentions.

7.5. REJECTION AND RECONSIDERATION

At any stage in the accession process, the Board may reject an application. In such cases, the applicant shall be informed in writing of the reasons for the decision. The organisation may request reconsideration within three months, submitting any additional information it deems relevant. If the board upholds its rejection following reconsideration, the decision shall be final and binding. An organisation whose application is rejected must wait at least two years before submitting a new application.

Any individual on the Board or the Executive Committee affiliated with the applicant organisation must recuse themselves from all stages of the evaluation and decision-making process relating to that application.

Section 8: Amendment and Review

8.1. AUTHORITY TO AMEND

This Charter is a living document that reflects the shared commitments, structures, and principles of the CHANCE Network. While it is intended to provide stability and clarity, it must also be capable of evolving in response to the network's growth, changes in context, and lessons learned through experience.

Amendments to the Charter may only be adopted by the Board, composed exclusively of Full Member Organisations. Any proposal to amend the Charter must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee by at least one Full Member Organisation. Upon receipt, the Executive Committee shall circulate the proposal to all Full Members and include it as a formal agenda item at the next scheduled meeting of the Board. Additional time may be allocated for internal consultation and collective reflection where appropriate.

Decisions to amend the Charter require the unanimous agreement of all Full Member Organisations, either in person or by proxy, excluding abstentions. If one member blocks consensus on a proposed amendment, and no agreement is reached within six months despite good-faith efforts to resolve the matter, the remaining Full Members may vote to remove the objecting organisation from the Network. Such a vote must meet the same quorum and majority thresholds applicable to Charter amendments. If the removal is approved, the amendment may be adopted without the consent of the removed organisation.

In addition to responding to specific proposals, the Charter shall be subject to a general review every three years, or more frequently if deemed necessary by the Board. The Executive Committee is responsible for initiating this review and coordinating input from across the Network. The review process shall include opportunities for consultation with Candidate Members, Partners, and other stakeholders in the Forum. However, final decisions regarding amendments rest solely with the Board.

Section 9: Formal Adoption

This Charter was formally adopted by the undersigned organisations on the occasion of the CHANCE Network General Assembly, held in Bucharest on June 20, 2025.

By signing this Charter, each organisation affirms that it is duly authorised to enter into this commitment and act on its legal entity's behalf following its internal governance procedures. Signing this Charter confirms the organisation's acceptance of Full Membership in the CHANCE Network. It constitutes a binding declaration of its commitment to the objectives, values, code of conduct, and governance structures set out herein.

Each signatory agrees to uphold the principles of transparency, solidarity, and collective responsibility, and to contribute actively to the Network's development, integrity, and public mission.

Each signatory further confirms its acceptance of any annexes attached to this Charter, which form an integral part of the Network's constitutional framework. In particular, signatories agree to abide by the Child Protection Policy set out in Annexe II, and to implement its principles within their organisational practices to the extent reasonably possible.

The Permanent Secretariat of the CHANCE Network shall retain the original signed version of this Charter. Certified digital copies shall be circulated to all members and may be made publicly available, where appropriate, for transparency and accountability.

The following organisations are the founding Full Members of the CHANCE Network:

1. BASTA!
2. DeMains Libres
3. Eine Welt e.V.
4. Hola
5. Libera
6. mafianeindanke e.V.
7. Repubblica
8. Asociatia pentru Cooperare si Dezvoltare Durabila
9. ENGIM
10. Entretodos
11. Open Space Foundation

Annexe I:

Model Declaration for Future Members

Organisations wishing to join the CHANCE Network as Full Members must complete and sign the following declaration upon their admission:

Declaration of Accession to the CHANCE Network Charter

Name of Organisation: [Full legal name]

Country of Registration: [Country]

Legal Status: [e.g. Non-profit organisation, Foundation]

Date of Signature: [DD/MM/YYYY]

On behalf of the above-named organisation, I hereby declare that:

1. I am duly authorised to sign this declaration and to legally bind the organisation to the terms of the CHANCE Network Charter.
2. The organisation accepts and commits to the rights, responsibilities, and principles of Candidate Membership as defined in [Section 7](#) of the Charter, including the conditions for participation, evaluation, and potential admission as a Full Member.
3. The organisation affirms its commitment to the objectives, values, code of conduct, and governance structure of the CHANCE Network as set out in the Charter.
4. The organisation understands and agrees to abide by the procedures for participation, internal communication, decision-making, and accountability described in the Charter, including those relating to review, withdrawal, or removal from the Network.
5. Upon successful admission as a Full Member by decision of the Board, the organisation further undertakes to uphold the collective responsibilities of Full Membership and to participate actively in the life of the Network.

Signed by:

Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Annexe II:

CHANCE Network Child Protection Policy

This policy is binding upon all Full Members of the CHANCE Network and forms an integral part of the CHANCE Charter, as adopted on June 20, 2025.

Child Protection Policy

CHANCE is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children in its care. We recognise the responsibility to promote safe practices and to protect children from harm, abuse and exploitation.

For this policy and associated procedures, a child is recognised as someone under the age of 18 years. This policy applies to all our representatives, whether staff or volunteers, whenever they are carrying out an activity on behalf of CHANCE.

All people involved in CHANCE will work together to embrace difference and diversity and respect children's and young people's rights.

This policy is based on and reflects the principles and values of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the EU legislation.

The people involved in CHANCE are committed to taking all reasonable steps to promote child protection. They are obliged to protect children from any form of violation of their rights, such as violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation.

OUR PRINCIPLES

- The welfare of children is the primary concern.
- All children, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief and/or sexual identity, have the right to protection from all forms of harm and abuse.
- Child protection is everyone's responsibility.
- Children have the right to express their views on all matters that affect them.
- Organisations shall work in partnership with children and their parents/carers to promote the welfare, health, and development of children.

OUR COMMITMENT

To do that, CHANCE will:

- Promote the health and welfare of children by providing opportunities for them to take part in the activities promoted by our network safely.
- Respect and promote the rights, wishes and feelings of children.
- Promote and implement appropriate procedures to safeguard the well-being of children and protect them from abuse.
- Involve in its activities only staff, members and volunteers who were recruited, trained, supported and are supervised to adopt best practices to safeguard and protect children from abuse and to reduce risk to themselves.
- Require staff, members and volunteers to adopt and abide by this Child Protection Policy and these procedures.
- Respond to any allegations of misconduct or abuse of children in line with this Policy and these procedures, as well as implementing, where appropriate, the relevant disciplinary and appeals procedures.
- Observe guidelines issued by local Child Protection Committees for the protection of children.
- Regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Policy and these procedures.

REVIEW

This Policy and these Procedures will be regularly reviewed:

- Following changes in legislation and guidance on the protection of children, or following any changes within CHANCE.
- Following any issues or concerns raised about the protection of children within CHANCE.
- In all other circumstances, at least every three years.

This policy is declared to be in effect immediately and remains valid until replaced by a new policy.