



ECRE Annual General Conference 2025

Thursday 5 June 2025

Hotel Gromada, plac Powstańców Warszawy 2, 00-030 Warsaw, Poland

Workshop Number: 2

Room: Stokrotka

Time: 11.00 – 13.00

Title	Implementation of the Pact: NGO opportunities – legal counselling, monitoring mechanisms, contingency plans and preparedness
Organiser	European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify and explore opportunities for NGO engagement in the implementation phase of the Pact, with a focus on three topics: legal counselling, monitoring, and contingency planning2. Exchange on national developments and early practices in order to highlight existing concerns and present good practices3. Discuss potential collaboration with relevant institutions at both the national and EU levels in order to promote a rights-based implementation of Pact provisions
Facilitator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eleonora Testi – Senior Legal Officer, ECRE
Table Hosts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sara Kekuš - Program Director, Centre for Peace Studies (CMS)• Elise Martin Gomez – Head of EU Advocacy, Forum réfugiés• Martin Rozumek - Director, Organization for Aid to Refugees (OPU)
Format	World Café: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Table 1: Legal counselling (Host: OPU)• Table 2: Monitoring mechanisms (Host: CMS)• Table 3: Contingency plans and preparedness (Host: Forum réfugiés)
Description	One year after the approval of the legislative texts that make up the Pact on Migration and Asylum and one year before their full applicability, significant

	<p>challenges have already emerged in the implementation phase. These include the exclusion of civil society actors from national implementation planning, the refusal of some EU member states to engage in core elements of the new system, and an early emphasis on restrictive measures that risk undermining access to fair procedures and adequate reception conditions. Rather than addressing existing weaknesses in national asylum and reception systems, the current focus risks exacerbating them.</p> <p>Despite this, there are key areas where civil society can contribute effectively through advocacy, expertise, and operational presence — ensuring that fundamental rights remain central to the implementation process. Legal counselling, monitoring of rights compliance, and emergency preparedness have been identified as particularly relevant areas of work.</p> <p>This workshop will use the World Café format to facilitate dynamic, small-group conversations on the above-mentioned themes. Participants will rotate between tables — each hosted by a facilitator — to share experiences, identify good practices, and discuss challenges and opportunities at both the national and EU levels.</p> <p>The workshop will end with a collective discussion to share views on existing challenges, action points and recommendations for NGO engagement in the Pact's implementation phase. The outcomes will inform ECRE's broader advocacy and support civil society's role in shaping rights-based implementation across Europe.</p>
Contact	For more information about this workshop, please contact Eleonora Testi .