



Election of a Member of the Forum Bureau: national level organisations
CANDIDATES – NATIONAL LEVEL

Name	Organization	Country
Mohamed AHSISSENE	EuroArab	Spain
Najib Obaid BABAKERKHAIL	French Refugee Council	France
Aitolgon BORONBAEVA	Danaker	Poland
Olha CHEREPIUK	Svitlo Community Centre	Czech Republic
Agapi CHOUZOURAKI	Greek Council for Refugees	Greece
Daniel CYVENKO	Together in Europe – Czech-Ukrainian Cultural Center	Czech Republic
Idil GOGUS	DaMigra e.V.	Germany
Alexandra HARKAY	KMOP – Social Action and Innovation Centre	Greece
Sylvia HOLZHAEUER-RUPRECHT	SIMAMA-STEHL AUF E.V	Germany
Gurgen PETROSYAN	Human Development Research Initiative	France

Election of a Member of the Forum Bureau: national level

Name and Surname:	Mohamed Ahsissene	Mr ☒ Ms ☐
Organisation:	EuroArab	
Function:	First Secretary	
Country:	Spain	
Website:	https://www.euroarab.eu/	
Your organisation is active since....:	2014	
Your organisation represents NGO sector:	Yes ☒	No ☐ (please describe more in details)

Please state networks that your organisation belongs to/established partnerships with other organisations (if any).

How would you liaise with organisations from other Member States?

The EUROARAB.EU organization is based in Barcelona and aims to unite Europe and the Arab world. It is composed of individuals trained in various fields, The members are represented by a board of directors that reflects a wide range of cultural backgrounds.

The members come from various EU countries, including Spain, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Sweden, and Finland.

- The National Youth Council of Catalonia (CNJC)
- Spanish Youth Institute, Injuve | Madrid
- Spanish Network of the Anna Lindh Foundation
- The Barcelona Municipal Immigration Council (CMIB)
- NOVACT - International Institute for Nonviolent Action

We will conduct ongoing, substantive communication with organizations in other member states, systematically exchanging information pertaining to experiences, strategic initiatives, recent developments, cooperation, collaboration, and reciprocal support.

Motivation of the candidate: What do you want to contribute and to achieve as a member of the Forum Bureau? How would you use your experience and your network to contribute to the work of the Forum?

Born in Tetuan, Morocco, I am part of multicultural Catalonia. I hold a degree in Law and Political Science and completed doctoral programs in Penitentiary Law and International Development Cooperation. I have worked in various international organizations as well as government institutions, including the Catalonia–Maghreb program on unaccompanied immigrant children of the Generalitat de Catalunya, the Euro-Arab Foundation for Higher Studies in Granada, and the Medinadat research program on media.

I currently work as a News Analyst (Analyst Specialist) at News Corp. and am also part of the Research Support Staff in the Department of Technology at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona. I seek to contribute my knowledge and expertise—both practical and theoretical—to the Forum Bureau and to

offer my extensive experience and network of contacts in the field of immigration, both in countries of origin and destination.

With a strong sense of social commitment, I have been and continue to be a volunteer in various associations, including serving as former Vice President of the Association of Moroccan Students of Catalonia and as a founding member and first secretary of the Center for Euro-Arab Researchers and Professionals (EuroArab).

Election of a Member of the Forum Bureau: national level

Name and Surname:	Najib Obaid Babakerkhail	Mr ☒ Ms ☐
Organisation:	French Refugee Council	
Function:	Founder & Director	
Country:	France	
Website:	www.frenchrefugeecouncil.com	
Your organisation is active since...:	2013	
Your organisation represents NGO sector:	Yes ☒	No ☐ (please describe more in details)

Please state networks that your organisation belongs to/established partnerships with other organisations (if any).

How would you liaise with organisations from other Member States?

French Refugee Council-FRC is an independent humanitarian and non-governmental organization led by refugees and refugee activist since 2013 with the aim to support and empower refugees. French Refugee Council as a member of European Council of Refugee and Exile –ECRE, since its establishment has sought to provide practical support to asylum seekers and refugees and has been supporting refugees to re-build their lives, with an ultimate goal that all refugees have a decent life as a full member of the society, self-determined and recognized as human beings with skills, experiences, idea and thoughts. FRC as a refugee lead organization speaks up for asylum seekers and refugees by ensuring that they have access to education, employment opportunities, legal information and can make economic contributions to their host communities. FRC is supported by a dedicated team of 480 volunteers all over France by offering practical support and advice to asylum seekers and refugee throughout their journey in France and offer a helping hand to support and empower them to rebuild their lives. French Refugee Council is an active member of AUAA, the Talent Hub, RISE, and hundreds more organizations and networks.

Motivation of the candidate: What do you want to contribute and to achieve as a member of the Forum Bureau? How would you use your experience and your network to contribute to the work of the Forum?

As founder and director of the French Refugee Council, my work has always centred on defending human dignity, amplifying the voices of displaced people, and building bridges between refugee communities and European institutions. Joining the Bureau of the Migration Forum would allow me to bring this commitment, along with years of frontline experience, to a collaborative European platform where practical solutions and policy dialogue can meaningfully improve the lives of migrants and refugees. My primary objective as a Bureau member would be to ensure that the perspectives of refugees and grassroots organisations are reflected in the Forum's priorities and outputs. I aim to contribute to a more balanced policy discourse—one that recognises both humanitarian obligations and the socioeconomic value of inclusion. Through the French Refugee Council, I work closely with

community leaders, legal support organisations, integration networks, and local authorities across several EU Member States. I would use this network to:

- Bring lived experience and evidence-based insights from refugee communities directly into Forum discussions.
- Support cross-border cooperation between civil society actors working on protection, integration, and access to rights.
- Identify emerging challenges and propose practical, field-tested recommendations.
- Strengthen communication channels between EU institutions and refugee-led initiatives, helping ensure that affected communities are not only consulted but actively engaged.

My goal is to contribute to a Forum that is accessible, impactful, and rooted in the realities faced by migrants and refugees every day. I believe that durable solutions require collaboration, transparency, and the meaningful participation of those with direct experience of displacement. By serving on the Bureau, I hope to help shape a Forum that embodies these principles and strengthens.

Election of a Member of the Forum Bureau: national level

Name and Surname:	Aitolgon Boronbaeva	Mr ☐ Ms ☒
Organisation:	Stowarzyszenie Danaker diaspora of women from Kyrgyzstan in Poland	
Function:	Founder and Executive Director	
Country:	Poland	
Website:	https://danakerdiaspora.eu/	
Your organisation is active since...:	2023	
Your organisation represents NGO sector:	Yes ☒	No ☐ (please describe more in details)

Please state networks that your organisation belongs to/established partnerships with other organisations (if any).

How would you liaise with organisations from other Member States?

In 2024, Danaker initiated and established the "European Alliance of Women from Kyrgyzstan in Poland," uniting diaspora organisations from 14 European countries. Through EU-funded projects and EU Global Diaspora Facility (EUDiF - ICMPD), we liaise with diverse diaspora networks across Europe.

Motivation of the candidate: What do you want to contribute and to achieve as a member of the Forum Bureau? How would you use your experience and your network to contribute to the work of the Forum?

I am eager to contribute to building inclusive migration and integration policies within the European Union. As a migrant women, we have personally experienced marginalisation, discrimination, and isolation across different sectors. Nobody offered us a seat at the table, but through advocacy and leadership, we have learned to bring our own chairs.

Through Danaker and the European Alliance of Women from Kyrgyzstan, I work to amplify the voices of migrant women and youth, ensuring that no one is left behind. My ambition is to address the unique challenges faced by migrant women in host countries, remove systemic barriers, and create pathways for their full participation in social, economic, and political life.

As a member of the Forum Bureau, I would use my experience, leadership, and transnational network to strengthen the visibility of grassroots migrant-led organisations and to promote policies that empower migrant women as active agents of change in their communities. My goal is to contribute to building stronger connections between civil society actors, enhance policy dialogue, and promote gender-responsive, inclusive, and sustainable approaches to migration governance in Europe.

Election of a Member of the Forum Bureau: national level

Name and Surname:	Olha Cherepiuk	Mr ☐ Ms ☒
Organisation:	Svitlo Community Centre	
Function:	Director	
Country:	Czech Republic	
Website:	www.skautskyinstitut.cz/svitlo	
Your organisation is active since...:	2022	
Your organisation represents NGO sector:	Yes ☒	No ☐ (please describe more in details)

Please state networks that your organisation belongs to/established partnerships with other organisations (if any).

How would you liaise with organisations from other Member States?

Svitlo Community Centre collaborates with the City of Prague, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Office of the Government, IOM Czechia, UNICEF, UNHCR, Skautský institut, Ukrajinská iniciativa, and a broad network of local NGOs. Through the KRYLA peer-to-peer platform, we also engage with youth, migrant, and community-based networks focused on integration and social inclusion.

To liaise with organisations from other Member States, I would establish structured communication channels, participate in thematic EU networks, and develop joint initiatives addressing shared integration challenges. I would promote regular knowledge exchange, encourage cross-border partnerships, and ensure that insights from migrant communities are reflected in collaborative work. My aim is to build systematic, long-term cooperation that strengthens inclusion and supports evidence-based policymaking across the EU.

Motivation of the candidate: What do you want to contribute and to achieve as a member of the Forum Bureau? How would you use your experience and your network to contribute to the work of the Forum?

As the Director of Svitlo Community Centre in Prague, I coordinate initiatives supporting integration, employment, and empowerment of Ukrainian refugees in the Czech Republic, with a special focus on youth. Through our projects, including the innovative peer-to-peer platform **KRYLA (Wings)**, we have built bridges between newcomers, local institutions, and the labour market, preventing exploitation and fostering intercultural dialogue.

As a member of the Forum Bureau, I want to contribute my experience in community leadership, youth participation, and NGO-government cooperation. I aim to strengthen the voice of diaspora organisations, promote practical tools for inclusion, and ensure that EU policies reflect the real challenges and potential of migrant communities. My goal is to bring forward innovative, community-

based approaches, foster exchange between Member States, and support collaboration between civil society and policymakers to create fairer, more inclusive integration systems across Europe.

Election of a Member of the Forum Bureau: national level

Name and Surname:	Agapi Chouzouraki (also Houzouraki)	Mr ☐ Ms ☒
Organisation:	Greek Council for Refugees	
Function:	Lawyer and advocacy officer	
Country:	Greece	
Website:	www.gcr.gr	
Your organisation is active since...:	1989	
Your organisation represents NGO sector:	Yes ☒	No ☐ (please describe more in details)

Please state networks that your organisation belongs to/established partnerships with other organisations (if any).

How would you liaise with organisations from other Member States?

As a representative of a leading national organisation in the field of asylum and human rights, our NGO is firmly embedded in a robust network of European and international partnerships, given that we are the oldest NGO in the field of refugee protection in Greece.

The Greek Council for Refugees (GCR) maintains long-standing membership in the **European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)**, contributing to coordinated European advocacy and policy development. We also hold **Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC**, we collaborate operationally with the **UNHCR since our establishment in 1989 and the latest years with IOM, too building synergies for inclusion**. We are also members of PICUM and EUROMED.

These affiliations have enabled our organisation to maintain consistent engagement with EU institutions, international agencies, and civil society actors across Member States. Additionally, our strategic cooperation over the years with organisations such as the **Dutch Council for Refugees, Save the Children, Oxfam and more** reinforces our commitment to transnational capacity-building and exchange of best practices across the EU and the UK.

In representing a national NGO at EU level, I would prioritise **structured, transparent, and reciprocal liaison mechanisms** with organisations from other Member States and would further promote **operational collaboration** through joint projects under EU funding frameworks. Communication would be maintained through regular bilateral and multilateral coordination meetings, shared digital platforms for secure information exchange, and the organisation of joint thematic events that enhance collective visibility and influence at EU level. Finally, I would encourage the institutionalisation of partnerships through Memoranda of Understanding, shared monitoring frameworks, and sustainable co-funding arrangements.

Motivation of the candidate: What do you want to contribute and to achieve as a member of the Forum Bureau? How would you use your experience and your network to contribute to the work of the Forum?

As a representative of a national civil society organisation with long-standing engagement in refugee protection, asylum law, and child rights advocacy, I seek to contribute to the Forum Bureau by strengthening the coherence, inclusiveness, and evidence-based orientation of the European Migration Forum. My principal motivation is to advance a Bureau that meaningfully reflects the expertise, operational realities, and strategic priorities of civil society actors working on the ground across the Union. I aim to support a Forum that not only facilitates dialogue, but also systematically translates civil society perspectives into actionable insights for European policymaking and offers a space for possible funding opportunities to be discussed and bided upon multiple actors' cooperation.

During more than five years of coordinating legal teams at the Greek Council for Refugees, I have developed an in-depth understanding of the interdependence between national practices and EU-level frameworks. This experience has equipped me with the capacity to synthesise frontline evidence, identify emerging trends, and articulate policy-relevant recommendations. Also, Since 2021, my role as coordinator of the Child Rights Advocacy Network (CRAN), amplifying children's voices to a policy level in Greece and the EU has further strengthened my ability to build consensus among diverse organisations, facilitate collective advocacy strategies, and ensure that particularly vulnerable groups—such as unaccompanied and separated children—are effectively represented in policy discussions. I would use this experience to promote stronger cross-sectoral collaboration within the Forum.

If elected, I will work to reinforce transparency, expand cooperation between national and EU-level actors, and contribute to a Forum that is forward-looking, participatory, and responsive to the complex realities shaping migration and protection across Europe.

Election of a Member of the Forum Bureau: national level

Name and Surname:	Daniel Cyvenko	Mr ☒ Ms ☐
Organisation:	Together in Europe – Czech-Ukrainian Cultural Center / Společně v Evropě – Česko-ukrajinské kulturní centrum z. s.	
Function:	Chairman / Founder	
Country:	Czech Republic	
Website:	https://uaeu.cz/	
Your organisation is active since...:	2025	
Your organisation represents NGO sector:	Yes ☒	No ☐ (please describe more in details)

Please state networks that your organisation belongs to/established partnerships with other organisations (if any).

How would you liaise with organisations from other Member States?

We cooperate with Czech cultural, educational, integration and human rights partners and join national coordination platforms. Through our YouTube channel *Vseprocz* we connect with Ukrainian refugees and organisations in SK, PL, DE and with the global *Strichka* network we strengthen cooperation and information exchange among Ukrainian organisations worldwide.

Motivation of the candidate: What do you want to contribute and to achieve as a member of the Forum Bureau? How would you use your experience and your network to contribute to the work of the Forum?

I came to the Czech Republic from Ukraine 17 years ago and am now a Czech citizen. My own migration experience has given me a deep understanding of integration and the real challenges migrants face. As Chairman of *Společně v Evropě – Czech-Ukrainian Cultural Centre*, I coordinate projects promoting cultural understanding, education and social inclusion. Since the beginning of the war, our organisation has become an active communication bridge between institutions, NGOs and migrants — taking part in monthly coordination meetings of the Czech Government's Department of Human Rights and the European Congress of Ukrainians.

Our multilingual YouTube channel *Vseprocz*, with more than 15,000 followers and tens of thousands of monthly viewers, supports Ukrainian refugees and migrants in Czechia, Slovakia, Poland and Germany, offering reliable information, feedback channels and informal research. Through the *Strichka* international platform, we stay connected with Ukrainian civil society worldwide.

If elected to the EMF Bureau, I will use these networks and my communication experience to ensure that the voices of migrants and refugees — especially those displaced by the war — are heard in European policy discussions and that integration becomes more effective, inclusive and humane.

Election of a Member of the Forum Bureau: national level

Name and Surname:	Idil Gogus	Mr ☐ Ms ☒
Organisation:	DaMigra e.V. (The Umbrella Association of Migrant Women Organisations)	
Function:	Policy Advisor	
Country:	Germany	
Website:	https://www.damigra.de/	
Your organisation is active since...:	2014	
Your organisation represents NGO sector:	Yes ☒	No ☐ (please describe more in details)

Please state networks that your organisation belongs to/established partnerships with other organisations (if any).

How would you liaise with organisations from other Member States?

We participate in alliances such as the CEDAW Alliance Germany, Alliance Istanbul Convention, and Network UN1325, collaborating with civil society and conducting outreach. We aim to work with organisations through EU projects, exchanges on best practices to build lasting cross-border cooperation.

Motivation of the candidate: What do you want to contribute and to achieve as a member of the Forum Bureau? How would you use your experience and your network to contribute to the work of the Forum?

I want to strengthen the visibility and influence of migrant women's perspectives on EU level. Through my work at DaMigra and my own professional background, I have gained deep experience in intersectional advocacy, empowerment of refugee and migrant women, and cooperation with diverse civil society actors. I want to contribute by ensuring that gender, migration, and anti-discrimination issues are addressed together, and that policy debates reflect the lived realities of those most affected.

DaMigra's extensive network of 60+ migrant women's organisations provides a strong foundation for bringing grassroots perspectives, good practices, and expertise into EU-level discussions. I aim to foster structured dialogue between civil society and EU institutions, enhance cross-border cooperation, and support innovative approaches that empower migrant and refugee women. I also want to bring the experience and expertise of our member organisations and their representatives into EU-level political discussions, ensuring their perspectives are meaningfully included.

Election of a Member of the Forum Bureau: national level

Name and Surname:	Alexandra Harkay	Mr ☐ Ms ☒
Organisation:	KMOP – Social Action and Innovation Centre	
Function:	Research and Policy Coordinator	
Country:	Greece	
Website:	https://www.kmop.gr/	
Your organisation is active since...:	1977	
Your organisation represents NGO sector:	Yes ☒	No ☐ (please describe more in details)

Please state networks that your organisation belongs to/established partnerships with other organisations (if any).

How would you liaise with organisations from other Member States?

KMOP is a member of the European Migrant Entrepreneurship Network, the EU Civil Society e-Platform Against Trafficking in Human Beings, the Hellenic Platform for Development, the EQUALS Global Partnership, the National GBV WG and the Hellenic Anti-Poverty Network, and chairs COFACE Families Europe.

Motivation of the candidate: What do you want to contribute and to achieve as a member of the Forum Bureau? How would you use your experience and your network to contribute to the work of the Forum?

Migration shapes my personal story, which is why I have dedicated my professional career to working alongside displaced persons. Today, being part of KMOP – a CSO bridging grassroots realities and policy development since 1977 – I have witnessed how policies translate into lived experiences. This perspective and understanding of how policies can impact human needs is what we want to bring to the EMF Bureau.

KMOP's experience is rooted in fieldwork with migrants, host communities, local authorities and policymakers. We foster labour market integration of migrant workers through co-creating strategies with Local Authorities; provide psycho-social support to vulnerable groups; advance civic participation by supporting Migrant Councils and designing integration courses. We train public servants and professionals in identifying and safely referring victims of trafficking. Our experience is strengthened by our network, spanning EU Institutions, research centres and CSOs across the EU, enabling us to mobilize diverse perspectives.

Migration intersects with every social challenge. Through Bureau membership, KMOP will ensure this intersectional reality shapes our collective work.

Election of a Member of the Forum Bureau: national level

Name and Surname:	Sylvia Holzhaeuer-Ruprecht	Mr ☐ Ms ☒
Organisation:	SIMAMA-STEHAUF e.V	
Function:	Founder & Board Member	
Country:	Germany	
Website:	https://simama-stehauf.de/	
Your organisation is active since...:	Since 35 Year Registered since May 2018	
Your organisation represents NGO sector:	Yes ☒	No ☐ (please describe more in details)

Please state networks that your organisation belongs to/established partnerships with other organisations (if any).

How would you liaise with organisations from other Member States?

Our organization, with 65+ volunteers and youth members across 11 EU countries, participates in state and national consultations. Engaging through civil society mechanisms such as GFMD, GCM, and ICMPD, fostering collaboration, strategic initiatives, continuous dialogue with policymakers Stakeholders

Motivation of the candidate: What do you want to contribute and to achieve as a member of the Forum Bureau? How would you use your experience and your network to contribute to the work of the Forum?

For over 35 years, my advocacy has centered on social protection, justice, and the right to decent work, fair wages, and access to health care—especially for women and girls. As a member of the Forum Bureau, I aim to strengthen intersectional approaches that place people, not systems, at the center of policy design. Migration is not only about mobility but about dignity, equity, and participation. We need data-driven narratives that reflect the lived realities of migrants and expose structural inequalities that reproduce exclusion. My work across networks in Europe and Africa has built bridges between grassroots voices and policy spaces. I will contribute by amplifying underrepresented perspectives, fostering inclusive dialogue, and advancing evidence-based recommendations that ensure social and economic justice for all migrants, particularly those marginalized by gender, race, or status. The Forum must become a transformative space where data meets human experience to reshape Europe's migration narrative.

Election of a Member of the Forum Bureau: national level

Name and Surname:	Gurgen Petrosyan	Mr ☒ Ms ☐
Organisation:	Human Development Research Initiative (HDRI)	
Function:	President	
Country:	France	
Website:	https://contacthdri.wixsite.com/my-site	
Your organisation is active since...:	2017	
Your organisation represents NGO sector:	Yes ☒	No ☐ (please describe more in details)

Please state networks that your organisation belongs to/established partnerships with other organisations (if any).

How would you liaise with organisations from other Member States?

HDRI collaborates with European and regional networks in the fields of migration, youth, and human rights, including IGLYO, the EU4Youth Dialogue, CSPPS, ILGA Europe, EaP CSF and various grassroots CSOs in the EU and Eastern Partnership countries.

Motivation of the candidate: What do you want to contribute and to achieve as a member of the Forum Bureau? How would you use your experience and your network to contribute to the work of the Forum?

As a refugee from Armenia residing in France, I bring both personal insight and professional experience to the European Migration Forum. Through the Human Development Research Initiative, I lead efforts to promote inclusion, protect migrants' rights, and strengthen cooperation among civil society actors. As a Bureau member, I aim to amplify the perspectives of grassroots and underrepresented communities, particularly refugees and LGBTQ+ migrants. I will contribute to shaping a more participatory and effective dialogue between CSOs and EU institutions. My experience in advocacy, project coordination, and European cooperation equips me to help the Bureau strengthen 4 transparency, follow-up, and collaboration within the Forum. My goal is to ensure that EMF outcomes translate into meaningful action benefiting migrants and the societies that welcome them.