

# Pro Bono Europe

Powered by THE *good* LOBBY

Born in 2015, Pro Bono Europe provides diverse legal and non-legal support services that civil society actors need to advance their missions.

**Pro Bono Europe** is the initiative by **The Good Lobby** to connect civil society organizations with professionals passionate to make **a positive impact on society**: we have an incredible network spanning from law firms to public affairs consultancies willing to volunteer their services pro bono publico - free of charge.

We have become the **one-stop-shop in Brussels for pro bono publico** that provides:

- training
- research and drafting assistance
- consulting and advice
- compliance
- representation

“Pro Bono Europe matched us with a leading international law firm and a public affairs consultancy who are working pro bono with us on the Blue Deal.”

*Antonia Leroy, Head of Ocean Policy,  
WWF*



“I do believe that our knowledge of the law has contributed to a good cause and this makes the work very rewarding and interesting. Working on a different area of the law also keeps us sharp.”

*Romina Triolo, Associate, De Brauw  
Blackstone Westbroek*

DE BRAUW  
BLACKSTONE  
WESTBROEK

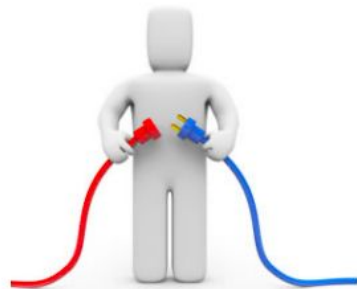
## Members include

DE BRAUW  
BLACKSTONE  
WESTBROEK

FIPRA



**KREAB**  
WORLDWIDE



**Pro Bono Europe**  
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## Beneficiaries include:



**ClientEarth**





# Join us to make a **positive** impact

The public are holding businesses increasingly accountable for their stand on societal issues. It is in our best interest to make sure everyone has a seat at the table<sup>1</sup>.

With greater scrutiny over business conduct, a window of opportunity has opened for firms to distinguish themselves by being actively involved in solutions to social and environmental issues.

Pro bono is one way the private sector can act by further professionalising and elevating the work of civil society and grassroots movements.

A successful pro bono practice attracts and retains talented professionals, strengthens corporate culture, and gives meaning to the firm's social purpose<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [2021 Edelman Trust Barometer](#)

<sup>2</sup> [2021 Edelman Trust Barometer, Special Report - The Belief-Driven Employee](#)

In addition, public trust in businesses is reinforced by their collaborations with NGOs, as these actors are seen exchanging competence (i.e. delivering on promises) and ethical behaviour<sup>3</sup>.

Yet, pro bono work is often inefficiently sourced and inadequately promoted. There is a critical lack of coordination between the actors involved. Few NGOs are effectively able to reach out with their requests, or are even aware such opportunity exists<sup>4</sup>. Therefore, there is a missed opportunity for the pool of professionals interested in investing their time and expertise in projects with a positive social impact.

This is where Pro Bono Europe leverages its network of legal and non-legal experts; by bridging the gap between a diverse array of civil society actors and connecting them with a pan-European pro bono community.

<sup>3</sup> [2023 Edelman Trust Barometer](#)

<sup>4</sup> See in particular Edelman Trust Barometer, 2021, p. 38 ss.

# Diversity is our strength

Pro Bono Europe exists to make every opinion heard on an equal footing by political decision-makers. We believe in accessible, transparent, accountable, and responsible forms of governance.

Requests are no longer focused on purely advocacy matters. They include operational issues (e.g. GDPR compliance), employment (e.g. international remote employment), financial queries, fundraising and communications.

Every week, we receive requests from NGOs, social entrepreneurs, civic startups and other purpose-driven movements. These requests touch upon a range of fields and specialities, including:

- Access to justice
- Animal rights
- Citizens rights
- Corruption and rule of law
- Economic and social justice
- Education and youth issues
- Environment and climate change
- LGBTQI+ and gender
- Migration law and refugees
- Public health and pharmaceuticals
- Social entrepreneurship

## In the heart of Europe

Pro Bono Europe has established a community of civil society actors across Europe (as shown below in the number of pro bono cases since our inception).

Because of our location in Brussels, the cases we receive are mostly focussed on EU and pan-European issues. In addition, we regularly match cases that had a national focus with great success.

As such, Pro Bono Europe is uniquely positioned to select incoming requests and connect law firms and experts from all over Europe with a diverse range of actors to enhance their potential for positive change.

“The assistance we received through Pro Bono Europe helped us to understand EU processes and political advocacy. Now we can rethink our Little Forest Initiative in a more impactful way!”

*Władysław Kastory, Beeazy / Little Forest Initiative*





## Real impact

Pro Bono Europe has matched hundreds of cases, building unique alliances for advocacy-related projects, such as legal research, strategic litigation, stakeholder mapping, and drafting legislative amendments.

We regularly publish [Impact Stories](#) on our website to highlight the most meaningful cases.

“I would recommend all professionals to get involved in pro bono assistance, whether in legal or other disciplines. For me it is very enriching to think that with my contributions, I can make an impact. If it makes you happy to help others, Pro Bono Europe is the right place for you.”

*Javier Sanchez Moro, Pro Bono Lawyer  
and Fellow*

→ Matched cases

**283**

→ Firms in our network

**30+**

→ Registered pro bono professionals

**467**

→ Hours of pro bono

**6,000+**

→ Pro bono monetary value generated

**€4.1 million**

# Our offer is tailored

We offer several services and opportunities for collaboration, including:

- Pro bono opportunities circulated in advance among members and allocated on a first come, first served basis.
- Pro bono impact stories that showcase our members' participation and impact, which are published on social media and in media outlets.
- Become a mentor for one or more of our civil society organisations, as well as our incubator programmes, to further support purposeful projects.
- Pro bono training and speaking opportunities: events designed to strengthen the capacity of civil society actors and address their most pressing needs - e.g. roundtables or webinars on themes like the EU, GDPR, nonprofits, strategic litigation, environmental law, competition law.

Get in touch with our team to discuss how membership can best fit your organisation.

Pro Bono Europe is a wonderful initiative bringing together people who act for a higher purpose. We are deeply grateful for the efforts of the pro-bono professional and the kind support of The Good Lobby.”



*Jeroen Janss, Director, Awaris EU*

Legal knowledge is a world of its own and often lacking in small CSOs or citizens movements. We encourage everybody to approach Pro Bono Europe if any legal doubts arise.”



*Jana Leutner, Pro Bono volunteer,  
Change Finance*

## About The Good Lobby

The Good Lobby helps nonprofits, activists, progressive businesses and philanthropies to gain a voice in the policy process. It has several initiatives, including Pro Bono Europe, TGL Tracker and TGL Profs, which enhance the advocacy capacity of civil society while making corporate lobbying more transparent, ethical, and sustainable.

We are a registered AISBL (international nonprofit organisation) based in Brussels, with partner offices in Milan, Paris and Madrid.

“Public decision-making improves when all parties can have their opinions heard.”

*Alberto Alemanno, Founder, The Good Lobby*





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EU Transparency Register

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