

How to Establish a Civil Society Advisory Board: The **proactive** Experience



What is a Civil Society Advisory Board (CSAB)?

A panel of **civil society organisations** (CSOs) which best represent human diversity, including **vulnerable groups**. CSAB members provide valuable insight, expertise, and guidance through participation in workshops, focus groups, interviews and/or field exercises. This dedicated board helped PROACTIVE achieve the “Nothing About Us, Without Us” motto.

What worked for PROACTIVE?

Demystifying EU projects

Providing knowledge about how EU projects work helped incite interest.



Pro-Tip:

Using a list of FAQs to address common concerns straight away simplifies the recruitment process

Snowballing invitations

Each CSO was asked to provide contacts of other organisations that they thought would be interested.

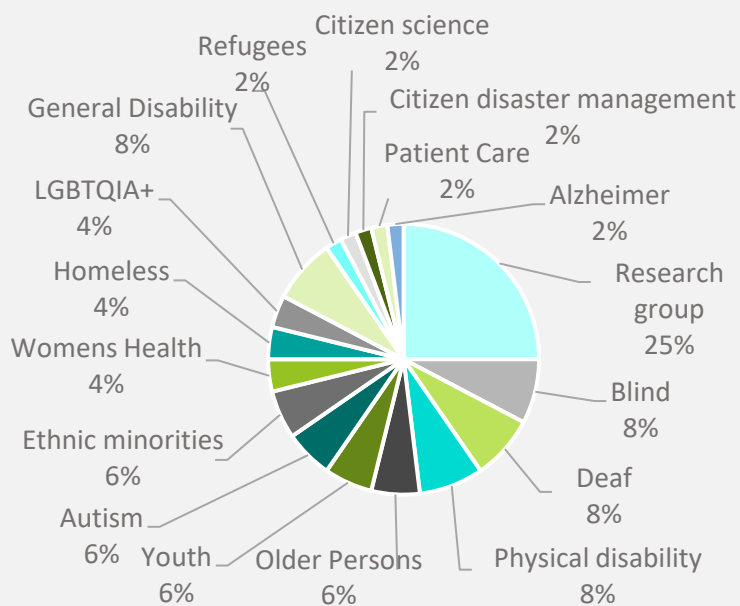
“It’s all about who you know”

Explaining the benefits

Joining the CSAB was an opportunity for CSOs to voice the rights, needs and expectations of the groups they represent.

Sharing responsibilities

Many CSOs are small and rely heavily on volunteer-based work force. Allowing for several persons from a single organisation to split responsibilities aided recruitment.



Composition of CSAB members



Pro-Tip:

Using a Collaboration Agreement instead of an NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement) avoids administrative hurdles.

