



N.7/2026 - July

The first six months of 2026:
a growing network, a stronger impact

Participation, growth and consolidation: these are the words that best capture the first six months of the year for our Association.

In March, the General Assembly of Members **renewed the Board of Directors for the 2026-2028 term**, appointing three new Board members, Mariateresa Veltri, Chiara Capalti and Giuseppe Izzo, and confirming Giovanni Carotenuto as President.

In March and June, we held two important opportunities for dialogue: the [56th Italian Pro Bono Roundtable](#), hosted by **DLA Piper** in Milan, and the **57th Italian Pro Bono Roundtable**, held as part of the [9th Italy Pro Bono Day](#) and the 2026 European Pro Bono Week at **Hogan Lovells** in Rome. The two events brought together representatives of institutions, lawyers, in-house counsel, non-profits and sector experts to explore issues of national and international relevance and strengthen connections across our network. The events also featured the seminars “**Referendum on the Reform of the Judiciary: The Case for Yes and the Case for No**” and “**The Role of Pro Bono in the Training and Professional Development of Lawyers and In-House Counsel**”. We also took part in the seminar “**Lawyers and Pro Bono Work**”, organised by the **Milan Bar Association’s Human Rights Committee** through its Fondazione Forense on Monday, 15 June, with contributions from our Pro Bono Italia’s Chairman, Giovanni Carotenuto, Board member Chiara Capalti and General Secretary Elena Esposito.

During the first half of the year, we also strengthened Pro Bono Italia ETS’s presence at a number of national and international events. In March, we attended the **Civitates Forum** in Bruges, alongside approximately 200 representatives from organisations in more than 20 countries, and the **PILnet European Convening** in Frankfurt, focused on the future of pro bono in Europe and the EU Strategy for Civil Society. In June, we also took part in the **FIDU** and **IPHR** initiative on transnational repression, the “**Lawyers and Pro Bono Work**” seminar organised by the **Milan Bar Association** and the **Global Legal Pro Bono Day - Italy Edition** hosted by **BNP Paribas**, sharing experiences and exploring potential synergies to strengthen the protection of rights and the impact of legal volunteering.

The work of our Permanent Working Groups also continues. Among the most significant achievements of the first half of the year is the publication of the position paper “[Entry and Mobility of Foreign Workers in Europe](#)”, which analyses the barriers to regular access to employment and identifies possible solutions to promote more effective and inclusive mobility and stronger protection for migrant workers, refugees, asylum seekers and persons benefiting from other forms of international protection.

The [CSOs’ Legal Health Check project](#), implemented in Italy by Probono Italia ETS in partnership with **PILnet** and with the support of **Civitates - The European Democracy Fund**, has also entered its operational phase, helping civil society organisations strengthen their legal and organisational structures. Seven non-profit organisations, active in areas including human rights, inclusion, health and the environment, have joined; **eight law firms and several in-house counsels** have expressed interest to provide pro-bono work in the context of the project. Based on a **58-question questionnaire covering 13 thematic areas**, the process will result in

At the same time, from January to June, 341 requests for pro bono legal assistance were submitted through our [digital platform](#): 79 were published and 57 were taken on by lawyers in our network.

Our membership base has also grown, with several **new members** joining, including **Eversheds Sutherland**, **Simmons+Simmons**, **Lexia**, **Ropes & Gray** and **Accenture**. Accenture’s membership marks the first time a corporate legal department has joined Pro Bono Italia ETS, representing an important step towards broader involvement of in-house counsel in promoting pro bono in Italy.



The excellent results achieved during the first six months of the year were made possible **by the trust of our members and the commitment of the professionals, staff and volunteers across our network.**

To sustain our work and help promote fairer access to justice, we invite you to **allocate your 5x1000 contribution to Pro Bono Italia ETS.**

Ahead of the **30 September** deadline for filing your tax return, you can support our activities at no cost by entering our tax code **97783370154** in the box marked “*Sostegno degli Enti del Terzo Settore iscritti al RUNTS*” and signing the relevant box.

A simple, cost-free gesture that can make a significant difference to our Association.



Join our Association

Becoming a member of Pro Bono Italia ETS means sharing our goals and actively contributing to the growth of our network, which brings together lawyers, law firms, in-house counsel, corporate legal departments and non-profit organisations pursuing public benefit purposes.

To learn more, visit the relevant page on our website:
<https://probonoitalia.org/en/contact-lawyer/>

Make time for pro bono this summer

Even during the summer months, requests for legal assistance submitted by non-profits and vulnerable individuals remain available to take on through our digital platform.

lawyers admitted to the Bar, free of charge.

Put your skills at the service of those who need them

Register for the 58th Italian Pro Bono Roundtable

Following the summer break, our Roundtables will resume. The 58th edition will take place on **Wednesday, 21 October 2026**, from 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM, at the Milan offices of **Fivers**, our new member.

It will be a new opportunity for professionals, non-profits and other civil society actors committed to protecting and strengthening civic space to meet, share updates and exchange views.

The discussion will focus on the role played by **non-profit organisations** in Italy, also in light of the European Commission’s **Civil Society Strategy** published last November. In particular, we will explore **the Strategy’s implications for the Third Sector and the Italian pro bono ecosystem**, analysing the related challenges and opportunities as well as proposals for its full implementation.

Among the measures envisaged, the new **Civil Society Platform** is particularly significant. It is designed to make dialogue between the Commission and civil society organisations on the values enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union more stable, effective and meaningful. These values include fundamental rights, democracy, equality and the rule of law. For the pro bono ecosystem, its implementation may open up new opportunities for collaboration and legal support for organisations working to protect civic space.

This will be an important discussion to understand how our Association, together with its network, can help strengthen dialogue and collaboration between legal professionals and organisations committed to protecting rights and pursuing public benefit purposes.

The programme is still being finalised. As always, we look forward to welcoming distinguished guests whose experience will enrich the discussion.

Participation, either in person or via live streaming, is free of charge: register now.

Secure your place

Our Partners’ upcoming events

Annual Conference of the International Bar Association (IBA), one of the leading international events for the legal profession. Our President, Avv. Giovanni Carotenuto, will co-moderate the session “**Guardians of Advocacy: lawyers standing with lawyers worldwide**”, focusing on the role of lawyers in supporting fellow lawyers across the globe.

In addition, **from Tuesday, 10 November to Thursday, 12 November 2026**, Cape Town will host the **PILnet Global Forum 2026**, a leading international event for strengthening collaboration, sharing best practices and promoting legal pro bono worldwide.

As always, we look forward to sharing the key takeaways from these events with our community.

Thank you for the attention you give to our communications. I wish you a pleasant summer break,

Giovanni Carotenuto
Chair of the Board, Pro Bono Italia ETS



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Associazione Pro Bono Italia ETS

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