

The Mid-Term Review of ENPI Strategy Papers and Indicative Programmes

Information Note for Civil Society Organisations

The European Neighbourhood Policy

The European Neighbourhood Policy was established to provide a framework for privileged relationship between the European Union and neighbouring partner countries. The aim of the policy is to enhance prosperity, stability and security across the EU's border. Contractual relations with the partner countries are defined in the Partnership and Cooperation Agreements in the East and Southern Caucasus, and in Association Agreements in the Southern Mediterranean. Under these agreements jointly agreed bilateral Action Plans are developed which set out the objectives and priorities with regard to political, economic and institutional reforms. So far, a total of twelve Action Plans have been adopted.

The reforms are underpinned by a financing instrument, the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). This instrument is policy-driven and focuses in particular on supporting the implementation of the ENP Action Plans or other comparable documents. In that context, it goes further than promoting sustainable development and fighting poverty to encompass, for example, support for measures leading to closer relations with the EU, through legislative approximation, regulatory convergence and institution building. Mechanisms such as the exchange of experience, long-term twinning arrangements with Member States or participation in Community programmes and agencies are among the main tools for fostering integration with the EU.

The ENPI Mid-Term Review

For each financial period the Commission develops Country and Multi-Country (regional) Strategy Papers, establishing a strategic framework for EU cooperation with the partner countries under the ENPI, with the National and Multi-country (regional) Indicative Programmes (IPs) providing for a description of the Commission's operational response. The current Strategy Papers cover the period 2007-13, whereas the ENP IPs cover the period 2007-10.

Relations with neighbouring countries have however considerably evolved since the adoption of the ENPI. ENP Action Plans now exist for 12 countries, negotiations on new agreements were launched with Libya and Ukraine and may start with Moldova, talks for deeper partnership frameworks are also ongoing with Morocco, and new regional initiatives have been launched. In addition, in many countries significant political, economic and social development may have occurred that can have a bearing on future co-operation. This needs to be taken into account when defining the co-operation

priorities for the period 2011-13. For this reason it is important to review the programming documents. This will be done through a Mid Term Review conducted in accordance with art 7.1 of the ENPI regulation. The existing Strategy Papers will be reviewed and updated where necessary, and new IPs for the period 2011-13 will be developed and adopted.

The Review Process and involvement of CSOs

Within ENP CSOs are important players and they can play a key role in monitoring the implementation of the Action Plans. Input from CSOs will be particularly valued because it promotes national ownership and further accountability, good governance and decentralization.

It is foreseen that the review process of the Strategy Papers and the drafting process of the new IPs will take more than a year to complete (see table 1 for an overview). The process will be led by the Commission headquarters (DG RELEX). During this process consultations will be held inside and outside the Commission. The latter will involve among other players partner countries administrations, local partners, other donors and CSOs.

The views of civil society will mainly be sought in Country. This will be done using a variety of means such as ongoing dialogue with Commission Delegations, ad hoc meetings during programming missions, internet consultations and, if necessary specific events. The way CSOs will be consulted in a given country will also have to take into account the local political reality. In addition to in Country consultations exchange of views may also take place in Brussels seizing the occasion offered by events already planned.

Timetable

Phase		Description	Timing
Preparation of the Mid Term Review		This phase is internal to the Commission. Guidance on how to conduct the exercise will be elaborated and a desk review of the Strategy Papers will be carried out	November – December 2008
Main Phase	Horizontal consultation at HQ	Horizontal consultation on ENP implementation with Civil Society Platforms at Head Quarters in Brussels	December 2008
	Revision	Revision of SP and drafting of new IPs: This will be the most important period for the review and will lead to the elaboration of the revised programming documents (including the new IP)	January 2009- September 2009
	Consultation	In-country consultation of local partners and CSOs on basis of concept notes: during this period consultations with all the stakeholders will be held using a variety of means. Most of the consultations with CSOs will take place at local level.	March / April 2009
Internal processing of documents and validation procedure		During this phase the attention will be on internal processing and procedures.	October 2009 – March 2010

For more detailed information or questions CSO representatives should feel free to contact: relex-d1@ec.europa.eu.