

<p style="text-align: center;">Mid Term Review of ENPI Programming Documents <i>Consultations of Civil Society Organisations and other external stakeholders</i></p>

In accordance with art. 7.1 of the ENPI Regulation a Mid Term Review (MTR) of the majority of the ENPI programming documents¹ has been carried out between December 2008 and October 2009. The MTR enabled the Commission to take into account possible evaluations in the relevant policy framework, any changes in the country situation, or the evolution of the international environment, and so prepare the new Indicative Programmes for the period 2011-13.

The Concept Notes

After a desk analysis and the initial discussions with other services in-house, the EC Delegations in partner countries, as well as national authorities, local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), EU Member States and other donors present in the ENP partner country, a concept note was developed. This concept note presented the approach suggested by the European Commission and outlined a number of possible areas of intervention for the period 2011-13.

Consultation of External Stakeholders

For the ENPI programming documents, the consultation of external stakeholders on the basis of these concept notes was organised in two ways: 1) in the context of the programming missions of the desk officers to the partner country, and 2) via a web-based consultation.

For the on-line consultation, a special web-page was created where the concept notes of the new Indicative Programmes were posted for comments during a period of 15 working days from April 2009 onwards (http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/mid_term_review/index_en.htm). This webpage also contained general information on the MTR process.

Interested organisations were invited to provide their suggestions on: 1) the co-operation priorities which should be supported until 2013 through the ENPI; and 2) the role of CSOs in achieving the cooperation objectives. In their contribution the CSOs were asked to be pragmatic and coordinate the input with their fellow organisations, taking the constraints of the Commission into account. These constraints included the given policy framework within which the programming documents had to be developed (European Neighbourhood Policy, the Action plans, the regional initiatives); the need to agree the co-operation priorities with the government of the partner countries; the need for focus / a limited number of intervention

¹ Exceptions include the MTR of programming documents for Belarus, and the Cross Border Cooperation programme which will be carried out in the course of 2010. The bilateral programme for Russia has been discontinued and cooperation with Russia for the period 2011-13 will now be mainly funded through the Inter Regional Programme (focusing on issues such as higher education reform and student mobility). No MTR will be carried out for the OPT as multi-annual programming is not possible at this moment in time.

priorities in view of aid effectiveness; and the limited resources (both human and financial) at the Commission's disposal.

Contributions from stakeholders could be sent either to the relevant Delegations directly or to a special MTR email inbox (RELEX-D1-ENPI-MTR@ec.europa.eu).

Meetings with Brussels-based CSO platforms

In addition to above mentioned consultation methods, several meetings² were also held with Brussels-based CSO platforms (e.g. Aprodev, Eurostep, TRIALOG / CONCORD, WWF) to explain and guide the CSO participation in the MTR process.

During one of these meetings, the Brussels-based CSO platform representatives were also asked to present their views on the MTR process. All parties agreed that the consultations were particularly valuable but that there was still room for improvement. The main recommendations of the Brussels-based CSO platforms³ included the following:

- The Commission should make the MTR process more participatory by making use of other communication channels (NGO networks and platforms such as TRIALOG, governments, etc) which would make the process more open and transparent;
- The input the various CSOs have provided is not only relevant for the MTR but also for annual programming exercises and other policy processes;
- A comprehensive mapping of the CSO sector in ENP countries by the EC Delegations should be stimulated as it could be the basis for a more transparent communication structure and ongoing dialogue;
- Best practices and experiences (notably the process in Georgia where CSO representatives were able to participate in a dialogue with the government and the Commission Delegation) should be shared with the other EC delegations;
- There is scope to broaden the engagement: CSOs could potentially play an important role in the oversight of Budget Support operations.

These recommendations have been very useful and will be taken up to the extent possible, taking due account of the political reality in the partner country, as well as the capacity and level of organisation of the relevant CSOs.

Outcome of the CSO-consultations on the MTR

The number of contributions of CSOs that were received on the individual programmes either via the Delegations or via the special MTR email inbox has varied greatly both in qualitative and quantitative terms. Quite a number of contributions were limited to the particular remit of the CSO, whereas a more horizontal overview of the priorities per partner country would

² The first in December 2008, a second 11 February 2009 and one before the summer 23 July 2009

³ Their recommendations had been based on very useful reports and contributions from their partner organizations in the field such as the Arab NGO Network for Development in Lebanon, WWF in Morocco, Green Alternative in Georgia, etc.

perhaps have been more useful. It is however important to retain that, given the unprecedented extent to which CSO consultation was conducted, this MTR was a learning process for both the Commission and the participating CSOs.

Where possible, the suggestions of CSOs have been incorporated. There were however also a number of contributions that could not be accommodated due to the Commission's restraints, as outlined above. A description of the 'rationale' that played a role in these considerations is presented in a summary format per partner country in the pages hereafter.

Final documents

The presentation to the Commission for an official decision is scheduled for the first quarter of 2010. Once the programming documents have been officially approved, they will be published on the ENP-website: http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/documents_en.htm (probably in the second quarter of 2010).

Continued dialogue

Although the consultations on the MTR of the majority of the new ENPI programming documents have now been completed, any suggestions you may have to improve similar processes in the future are always welcome and should be sent to the following email address: RELEX-D1-ENPI-MTR@ec.europa.eu

It should also be noted that the end of the MTR process does not mark the end of the consultations with Civil Society. The ENPI and its programming documents, foresees that relevant stakeholders (including Civil Society Organisations) will be consulted on the design of the measures to be implemented under the programmes and will, where relevant, be involved in the monitoring process.

<p style="text-align: center;">Commission Feedback on the input received from CSOs in the context of the MTR of ENPI Programming Documents</p>

ALGÉRIE - PIN 2011-13

Les organisations de la société civile (OSC) sont des acteurs importants et elles peuvent jouer un rôle clé dans la mise en œuvre de l'Accord d'association. Des contributions de la part des OSC ont été appréciées positivement puisqu'elles sont de nature à promouvoir l'appropriation, la bonne gouvernance et la décentralisation. Elles ont également permis de mieux cibler les interventions et de mieux saisir la réalité locale. La Commission a souhaité consulter un éventail d'acteurs aussi large que possible, incluant des organisations non-gouvernementales (ONG) et autres représentants de la société civile (intellectuels, universitaires, gestionnaires). Des rencontres informelles se sont également tenues avec des ONG internationales sur place.

La première réunion avec les OSC dans le cadre de programmation pour la période 2011-2013 a eu lieu le 16 décembre 2008, bien en avance de l'initiation de la préparation du PIN 2011-2013, afin d'établir un climat de confiance entre les représentants de la société civile et la Commission. Le but était de comprendre la perception des représentants de la SC par rapport à la réalité algérienne (économique, politique et sociale) et notamment de leur accorder un rôle dans le processus de la programmation. Ainsi l'UE a voulu connaître l'avis des participants de la SC sur le document de stratégie UE 2007-2013. La Commission a aussi eu l'occasion d'expliquer le processus d'élaboration du document de stratégie et de demander l'avis sur le contenu et sa pertinence actuelle.

Une deuxième réunion avec plusieurs OSC a eu lieu pendant la première mission de programmation le 7 mars 2009. L'objet de cette deuxième réunion était de passer en revue l'assistance de la Commission et réfléchir à la coopération future. Le contexte, les objectifs et perspectives de coopération avec l'Algérie 2011-2013 ont été abordés. Il s'agissait notamment de cerner la situation des associations et autres acteurs en tant que représentants de la société civile. Des sujets comme le financement des associations, l'autonomie des associations, la capacité et l'expérience des associations en Algérie ont été discutés.

La troisième réunion avec représentants de la SC s'est tenue lors de la deuxième mission de programmation le 1^{er} juillet 2009. L'exercice a permis de passer en revue les secteurs d'intervention, les acteurs impliqués, les types d'actions et le rôle de la société civile. Le fort potentiel de participation de la société civile dans les programmes de protection de l'environnement et de développement socio-économique local a été mis en avant, en accord avec les autorités algériennes.

ARMENIA – NIP 2011-13

During the process of preparing the new National Indicative Programme for Armenia 2011-2013, both Brussels and Yerevan-based CSOs were consulted.

Consultations with the CSO started on a discussion on the Initial Concept Note during the Programming mission to Yerevan in April 2009 when the main priorities and sub-priorities of the Indicative Programme were discussed during a roundtable discussion with the representatives of Civil Society. Around 10 representatives participated in the discussion on the suggested priorities of the EC assistance to Armenia for the period of 2011-13. Overall, the CSO recommended a stronger involvement of the CSO in the monitoring and implementation of the EC assistance programmes, recommended that the new programming document uses more measurable indicators and that it also supports capacity-building of the CSOs.

The Commission subsequently drafted a concept note outlining the envisaged priorities for EC assistance in the period 2001-2013. The concept note was posted on the website of the DG RELEX of the European Commission and on the website of the EC Delegation in Yerevan with an invitation to comment. Several written contributions were received, which were taken into account during the drafting process of the NIP where possible.

In September 2009, a second round of consultations with the representatives of the civil society took place in Yerevan on the draft programming document. The Commission explained the status of the drafting process and took note of the comments expressed by the participants.

AZERBAIJAN – NIP 2011-13

During the process of preparing the new National Indicative Programme for Azerbaijan 2011-2013 both Brussels and Baku-based CSOs were consulted.

Consultations with the CSO started on a discussion on the Initial Concept Note during the Programming mission to Baku in April 2009 when the main priorities and sub-priorities of the Indicative Programme were discussed during a roundtable discussion with the representatives of Civil Society. Six organisations participated in the discussion on the suggested priorities of the EC assistance to Azerbaijan for the period of 2011-13. Overall, the CSOs reactions to the proposed priority areas for the period 2011-2013 were positive. CSO highlighted the need to support the electoral process and recommended a stronger EC support in this area and also recommended stronger emphasis on judiciary, education and media sector as well as strengthening of the civil society through the EC programmes. The mentioned comments were taken into consideration in the drafting process for the NIP 2011-2013.

The Commission subsequently drafted a concept note outlining the envisaged priorities for EC assistance in the period 2001-2013. Despite the publishing of the concept note on the website of the DG RELEX of the European Commission in May 2009 with an invitation to comment, no written contributions were received from the civil society organisations.

EGYPT – NIP 2011-13

The process of preparing the NIP 2011-2013 for Egypt encouraged input from civil society from an early stage. Initial meetings with the CSO community took place in Cairo in February 2009,

when a mission from Brussels met with CSOs in the field of human rights and good governance as well as social and economic development. Following these consultations, the broad outlines of the European Commission's proposed areas of support were made public in April 2009 in the Concept Note document, which was published on the website of the EC Delegation in Cairo. CSOs and other actors were encouraged to comment on the proposals put forward in the Concept Note. Further meetings with CSOs were subsequently held in May 2009 in Cairo, which were an opportunity to receive feedback on the ideas presented in the Concept Note.

Three Brussels and Cairo-based CSOs submitted written input. Their recommendations stressed the following:

- Provide support to CSOs through capacity building and encouraging relevant institutional reform;
- Help to strengthen the National Council of Human Rights to enable it to fulfil its mission;
- Increase support to microfinance activities;
- Allocate more resources to environmental protection and sustainable development of natural resources and mainstream environmental issues into development cooperation;

The NIP 2011-2013 contains provisions to develop the capacity of CSO actors involved in the implementation of its programmes, including improving the organisational and operational capacity of CSOs. It also aims to further enhance the role of civil society organisations in Egypt's development process wherever possible. Support to the National Council of Human Rights is one of the possible measures that will be undertaken under the heading of "Promotion and protection of human rights" during 2011-2013. Microfinance activities will be considered as a possible means of strengthening employment and economic growth, particularly in low-income communities. Finally, environmental protection and sustainable development have been integrated as cross-cutting themes in the NIP document. Specific attention will be paid to addressing climate change in all relevant areas of support, such as the energy, transport and water sectors.

GEORGIA – NIP 2011-13

During the programming process for Georgia quite a number of local and international NGOs' representatives have been consulted, of inter-alia the following organisations: Anti-violence Network of Georgia, Association of Caucasus Lawyers, Civic Integration Foundation, Eurasia Partnership Foundation, European Choice for Georgia, Georgian Young Lawyers Association, Georgian-European Policy and Legal Advice Centre (GEPLAC), Green Alternative, Heinrich Boll Stiftung, Inclusive Foundation, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, International Crisis Group, International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy, Open Society Georgia Foundation, UK-Georgia Professional Network, and World Vision.

There were two very fruitful meetings that took place with the CSOs in Tbilisi, during the programming missions in February and in April 2009. In addition to the programming missions consultations were also organized through bilateral contacts, and wide circulation and publishing of the NIP 2011-2013 Concept Paper on the Commission website for

comments by all stakeholders. Unfortunately no written contributions were received from the Civil Society Organisations through the web-consultation.

On 13-14 April 2009 there was an ENP Workshop that took place in Tbilisi, which mainly covered ENP AP priorities, including a discussion on the MTR and NIP 2011-2013 attended by CSOs, Georgian government and EC Delegation in Tbilisi. Some written comments by CSOs on the concept paper were compiled and submitted to the EC for consideration. These comments were taken on board to the extent possible. The most outstanding message that was underlined by all the CSO representatives, and which was also taken on board in the NIP 2011-2013 was the following:

The participation of the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) is important, not only in programming stage, but also in identification of actions and monitoring of progress. CSOs are keen to taking a more active role, which should be mainstreamed into EC assistance. The establishment of a tri-partite dialogue between EC Delegation, CSOs and Georgian government could be a good means forward.

JORDAN – NIP 2011-13

During the process of preparing this NIP 2011-2013, Brussels and Amman-based CSOs were consulted. A first programming mission took place in Amman in February 2009. A large number of local and international civil society organisations were invited to a roundtable discussion on the EC's assistance strategy and possible avenues for future cooperation. Around 20 representatives participated in a lively discussion.

The Commission subsequently drafted a concept note outlining the envisaged priorities for EC assistance in the period 2001-2013. The concept note was posted on the EC Delegation's website in April 2009 with an invitation to comment. Five CSOs (local, regional and international) provided contributions. Their main recommendations stressed the need to:

- Attach more importance to the first priority: political reform and good governance;
- Attach more importance to sustainable development of the agricultural sector;
- Support capacity-building of CSOs and conduct a needs assessment survey;
- Promote participation of women in political and economic life.

The draft NIP proposes to significantly increase the % allocation for the first priority. The draft NIP foresees programmes that aim to strengthen and institutionalise the policy dialogue between Government and CSOs and enforce citizens', and specifically women's, awareness of their political and civil rights.

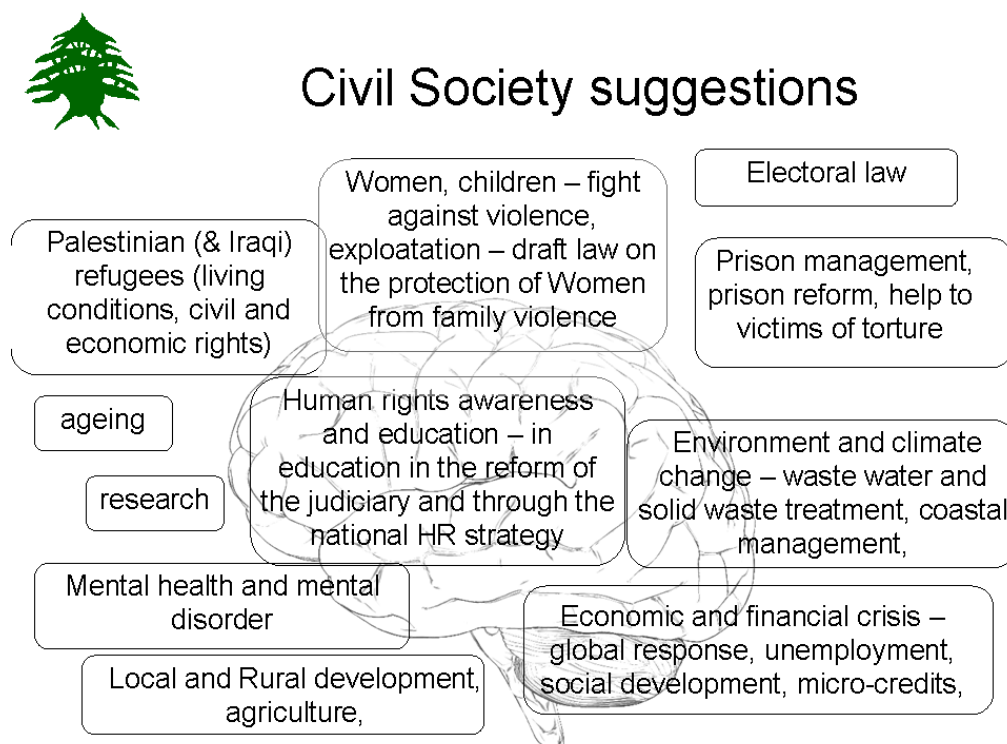
Due to the need to focus assistance on the areas where the EC has a clear added value, support to the agricultural sector is not foreseen *per se*. However, one of the programmes will pursue the implementation of Energy Consumption Efficiency Programs in different sectors, including agriculture.

LEBANON – NIP 2011-13

The mid-term review process of the 2007-2013 Country Strategy Paper for Lebanon was carried out in Lebanon and Brussels between October 2008 and July 2009. Preliminary discussions had already taken place in Brussels in autumn 2008 with the participation of Brussels based civil society organisations.

Two programming missions took place in Lebanon in January and May 2009. A Concept Note was made public in April 2009 outlining the main assumptions for future programming. The document was shared officially with the Government and the Lebanese as well as with international NGOs. A significant number of around 20 contributions were received through the functional mailbox created for this purpose and were duly taken into consideration while preparing the draft National Indicative Programme for Lebanon for the years 2011-2013.

On two occasions the main stakeholders and representatives of civil society in Lebanon were invited to discuss future cooperation objectives. A number of International NGOs and umbrella organisations also contributed to the reflection. The main areas of future cooperation raised throughout the consultation process by CSOs could be summarised in the following manner:



source: RELEX F3

On the basis of inputs received the draft NIP proposes to significantly increase the percentage allocation for the political priority of the NIP. This should allow for the reinforcement of the actions related to political reform and the improvement of human rights conditions in Lebanon. The European Union will remain active in the area of judicial reform and will support the implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy. The EU will be also ready to contribute

to the reform of the penitentiary system and the work leading to a further modernisation of the electoral framework.

The European Union will remain devoted to supporting the implementation of the Lebanese led reform agenda and will support the economic policies of the government, especially growth oriented reforms aiming at the modernisation of the economy.

Local development support will be channelled through the support offered to the Ministry of the Interior and Municipalities in implementing the decentralisation reform based on the Schéma Directeur d'aménagement du Territoire.

Climate change as horizontal priority of EU will remain a cross-cutting issue in Lebanon in the next programming period. The draft NIP proposes specific support to strengthen the management capacity of the Ministry of the Environment.

The draft 2011-2013 NIP proposes also to strengthen the activities of the European Union in the area of refugees. The EU will be ready to support the government of Lebanon in improving the economic and social rights as well as living conditions of Palestine refugees in Lebanon.

LIBYA – CSP&NIP 2011-13

In line with its international commitments, the Commission has taken care to consult stakeholders in the process of preparation of the Country Strategy paper, in particular civil society organisations.

The process of consultation started in February 2009, when the Commission submitted an explanatory note on the Country Strategy Paper 2011-2013. This note was presented to the Development Consultative Group, which gathers the main external donors, in particular all main UN agencies (UNDP, UNHCR, WFP, IOM, UNODC, WHO, UNIO), private organisations and local CSOs.

Subsequently, the Commission services drafted a concept note which presented the main elements of the country's situation as well as proposals regarding the main priorities for EC support. The concept note was also circulated to the members of the DCG and was posted on the website of the Commission (in the section dealing with the mid term review of Country Strategy Paper of the European Neighbourhood region). The Commission also informed the Brussels-based Civil Society Organisations interested in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) region that they could provide comments on the concept note.

Despite these efforts, the Commission did not receive any specific comments related to Libya either from CSOs members of the DCG in Tripoli or from the Brussels-based networks of CSOs.

MAROC – PIN 2011-13

Dans le cadre de la préparation du nouveau PIN 2011-2013 pour le Maroc, la Délégation de la Commission européenne à Rabat a lancé un exercice de consultation des acteurs de la société civile afin de recueillir leurs recommandations sur les secteurs d'interventions proposés.

La consultation s'est déroulée en deux phases: une première phase à travers une réunion entre les services de la Commission (Délégation et Siège) et les représentants d'une dizaine d'associations locales et européennes, et une seconde phase à travers une consultation en ligne qui s'est étendue du 1^{er} au 30 avril 2009.

L'exercice de consultation s'est basé sur le document préliminaire du PIN, préparé par les services de la Commission, et articulé sur les points suivants :

- avis sur les secteurs d'interventions prioritaires ;
- les acteurs les plus à même d'être impliqués;
- les types d'actions les plus pertinents à mettre en place ;
- le rôle éventuel de la société civile dans les pistes de coopération possibles.

Les recommandations et observations reçues portaient essentiellement sur les aspects suivants:

- l'importance d'une référence plus systématique à la nécessité de respecter les principes fondamentaux des droits de l'homme ;
- la nécessité d'intégrer certaines questions transversales, notamment la dimension genre, l'environnement, le handicap et la bonne gouvernance, de manière systématique au niveau de tous les programmes et à tous les niveaux du cycle de programmation ;
- l'exigüité des fonds prévus pour la société civile.

Dans le cadre de la consultation en ligne, la Délégation a reçu un seul document d'analyse du PIN spécifique à la protection de l'environnement, et présentant des observations et recommandations bien structurées sur l'ensemble des programmes proposés, accompagnées d'indicateurs environnementaux par secteur. La pertinence du document a été reconnue, ainsi que son utilité pour les missions d'identification et de formulation des programmes. Il a toutefois été considéré qu'il serait prématuré à ce stade de l'exercice d'intégrer les éléments d'analyse proposés dans le PIN, mais qu'il était plus opportun d'indiquer que les aspects environnementaux seront intégrés au niveau de tous les programmes prévus pour la période 2011 -2013.

A noter que les acteurs de la société civile basés à Bruxelles et intéressés par la Politique Européenne de Voisinage ont également été informés et consultés à plusieurs reprises tout au long de l'exercice de programmation.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA – NIP 2011-13

The Commission held its first consultations in end January 2009 with Moldova-based CSOs (including in the breakaway Transnistrian region), in the form of open-ended discussions on possible assistance priorities for 2011-2013. A two-page outline paper summarising these priorities was produced soon after. It was used to pre-select the priorities that were finally included in the concept paper and later on in the draft NIP 2011-2013.

A second round of consultations took place from 20-24 April, again in Chisinau. It allowed primarily a check of the priorities outlined in the Commission's first paper against the democratic and human rights deficits highlighted by the events that followed the April parliamentary elections to the Moldovan Parliament.

A third meeting with Moldova-based CSOs took place in early June 2009. It allowed to discuss a draft concept note outlining priorities selected based on previous consultations as well as their relative budget allocations (in percentage to the total NIP budget). In that period, the political stalemate in Chisinau and the lack of a counterpart in the government called for postponing formal discussions on the concept note that was developed shortly after this third round of consultations.

In August, while stock was being taken of the new political context in Chisinau, bilateral contacts with local CSOs allowed to refine the concept note in view of its official release for comments. The discussions focused mainly on the medium-term impact of the political events as well as, more specifically, on the need to be more explicit in streamlining gender concerns in the NIP document itself, on the importance and shape of the decentralisation, judicial and media reforms, or on the substance of the targets to be given to the "environment" activities of the programme.

Finally, after the Concept note was released for comments on 21 September, a number of written recommendations were received from CSOs, including this time EU-based CSOs with an interest in Moldova. The concept note remained open for comments until 19 October. Comments were received from, among others, the World Wildlife Fund, the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, the Gender Centre NGO, Reporters without Borders, the International Lesbian and Gay Association, the Moldovan Institute for Development and Social Initiatives "Viitorul", and the European Partnership for Democracy. Comments were generally very concrete and useful, regarding for instance, the need to strengthen the focus on democracy, rule of law and good governance; to consider issues of fiscal decentralisation; to pay attention to the reform of the media sector; or to consider the link between decentralisation and social protection and education. It should be noted that all the concerns expressed have been accommodated, either explicitly or within the framework of the proposed priorities, while finalising the NIP 2011-2013.

SYRIA – NIP 2011-13

During the process of preparing this NIP 2011-2013, a number of Brussels and Damascus-based CSOs were consulted. In order to stimulate discussion on the process, the Commission drafted a concept note outlining the main assumptions for programming EC assistance in the period 2001-2013. The concept note was posted on the EC Delegation's website in March 2009 for comments. Six entities, Syrian CSOs and International Organisations based in Syria provided contributions. Their main recommendations stressed the need to provide for the following:

- Support to existing NGOs through capacity building and revision of the Association Law;
- Establish representative bodies for dialogue between the CSOs and the authorities;
- Support to strengthen decentralisation;
- Support the social and political sides of the reforms in Syria;
- Wider participation of young people and women in development;
- Implement cultural projects generating incomes;
- Support for research to support development;
- Include the environment as across-cutting issue.

The draft NIP foresees a programme to enhance the role of civil society organisations. It will aim at building the capacity of CSOs with a view to improve their participation in the development process of Syria. The programme will address issues of improving the organisational and operational capacity of CSOs and stimulating their interaction with the authorities.

The draft NIP pays due attention to supporting young people and women, be it through support to young and women entrepreneurship, the programmes on education and CSOs, or within the programme to support the sustainable development of targeted rural areas which will seek *inter alia* to improve access of vulnerable people to education, health and social services.

The protection of the environment is considered a cross-cutting theme in the NIP. Specific attention will be paid to addressing climate change challenges, developing renewable energies and the efficient use of energy as well as the introduction of efficient water management methods in poor rural areas.

TUNISIA – NIP 2011-13

In line with its international commitments, the Commission has taken care to consult stakeholders in the process of preparation of the National Indicative Programme, in particular civil society organisations.

The process of consultation started in March 2009, when the Commission published on the internet site of the Commission Delegation in Tunisia a concept note of the National Indicative programme which presented the main elements of the country's situation as well as proposals regarding the main priorities for EC support. A month later the actual draft of the 2011-2013 National Indicative Programme document was also published on the same site. The document was also presented to the main external donors, UN agencies, International Financial Institutions, private organisations and local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

The Commission also informed the Brussels-based Civil Society Organisations interested in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) region that they could provide comments on the concept note and on the draft of the complete document.

Despite these efforts, the Commission did not receive any specific comments related to Tunisia either from CSOs members in Tunis or from the Brussels-based networks of CSOs.

UKRAINE – NIP 2011-13

The mid-term review process of the 2007-2013 Country Strategy Paper for Ukraine was carried out in Ukraine and Brussels between October 2008 and May 2009. Preliminary discussions had already taken place in Brussels in autumn 2008 with the participation of Brussels based Civil Society Organisations. During the process of preparing the new National Indicative Programme for Ukraine 2011-2013, both Brussels and Kyiv-based Civil Society Organisations (CSO) were consulted.

Consultations with the CSO started on a discussion on the initial Concept Note during the first Programming mission to Ukraine in March 23-25, 2009 when the main priorities and sub-priorities of the Indicative Programme were discussed during a roundtable discussion with the representatives of Civil Society. Around 25 representatives participated in the discussion on the suggested priorities of the EC assistance to Ukraine for the period of 2011-13. Overall, the CSO recommended a stronger involvement of the CSO in the monitoring and implementation of the EC assistance programmes, recommended that the new programming document uses more measurable indicators and that it also supports capacity-building of the CSOs.

The Commission subsequently drafted a concept note outlining the envisaged priorities for EC assistance in the period 2011-2013. The concept note was posted on the website of the DG RELEX of the European Commission and on the website of the EC Delegation in Ukraine with an invitation to comment on 21st April. The concept note was open for comment for a period of one month (until 25 May). Several written contributions were received⁴, which were taken into account during the drafting process of the NIP where possible. The contributions received could be summarised in the following manner:

- Human capital development: enhancing policy expertise;
- Measures: training and mentoring programme / good practice exchange / visitors programmes;
- Networking: linking CSO and the public, linking EU and UA CSO;
- Establishing synergies: e.g. linking energy security and environment needs.

⁴ In addition to the Ukrainian authorities, formal written responses were received from: the Association of Marketing, the British Council, the Centre for E-Government, the Council of Europe, Counterpart Creative Centre, the EBRD, the Embassy of Poland, Inter-Aktsiya, the International Renaissance Foundation, IOM, Mama 86, Pauci, Phoenix, SIDA, the Swiss Cooperation Office, the World Bank, UNDP, and UNICEF.

In May 25-27 2009, a second round of consultations with the representatives of the civil society⁵ took place in Ukraine on the draft programming document. The Commission explained the status of the drafting process and took note of the comments expressed by the participants, representative of the nine strongest NGOs who actively participated in consultations. Following this mission a draft National Indicative Programme was prepared which was shared, in a pre-finalised version, with the involved stakeholders.

REGIONAL EAST PROGRAMME – RSP&RIP 2010-13

The Mid Term Review of the Regional East Programme was carried out between December 2008 and October 2009. Owing to significant changes and developments in the regional policy framework - such as the launch of the Eastern Partnership in May 2009, as well as the increasing importance of horizontal issues such as climate change - the Commission Services concluded that the Strategy Paper for the Regional East Programme had to undergo an in-depth revision. In addition to this, it was decided that, in view of the need to re-orient existing activities towards the objectives of the Eastern Partnership, the programming period for new RSP/RIP would be brought forward to also cover 2010.

For the ENPI Regional East Programme the consultation of stakeholders was organised in three ways: 1) via a web-based consultation, during which contributions from stakeholders could be sent to a special MTR email inbox; 2) via preliminary discussion during programming missions to a number of Eastern partner countries, as well as during Eastern Partnership 'Road shows'; and 3) via exchange of views with partner countries during the meetings of the Eastern Partnership Platforms. In addition to these consultation methods, important elements of the Regional East Programme (notably those related to the Eastern Partnership) were also discussed during the meetings which were held with the Brussels-based platforms (e.g. Aprovev, Eurostep, TRIALOG / CONCORD, WWF).

For the Regional East Programme a limited number of contributions were received from EU Member States (Poland and the UK) and a few Civil Society Organisations relating to the proposed priorities and thematic issues such as climate change and environment protection (WWF), the importance of conflict prevention, peace building, confidence building measures and human security (EPL0), culture (European Cultural Foundation), support for civil society participation, etc.

These comments have been taken into account to the extent possible. Under the Regional East Programme 2010-13 quite a few actions are foreseen to support the mitigation of and adaptation to Climate Change under a separate priority which will cover: Climate change, Energy, Environmental Governance, and Environment Protection and natural resources.

Assistance is also foreseen for cultural policy reform through capacity building and professionalization of cultural operators at both governmental and non-governmental levels.

⁵ Consultations were held with: the Ukrainian authorities (Ministries of Agriculture, Economy, Education, Environment, Finance, Housing, the Interior, Justice, Regional Development), the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers and with the Supreme Court, the IFIs, donors and development agencies, civil society the European Business Association and with representatives of EU Member States locally.

Specific support will be provided for the participation of CSOs at the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and for CSOs active in the Culture and Youth Sectors. These will complement actions financed at a national level aimed at supporting, where needs exist, CSOs capacity building.

The suggestions made by EPLO regarding conflict prevention, peace building, confidence building measures and human security, were harder to accommodate. Although fully recognising the relevance of these issues for the region, it is difficult to address them directly through specific co-operation measures. Nonetheless structural and sustainable assistance will be provided indirectly via the multi-lateral track of the Eastern Partnership (dialogue between the EU and the six Eastern Partners on “Democracy Good Governance and Stability” in the context of the first of the four Eastern partnership Platform, Civil Society Forum), which aims to advance stability and multilateral confidence-building, as well as good neighbourly relations. Cross border programmes to be established at the borders among partner countries will also contribute to confidence building. Last but not least, the continued support for EUBAM⁶ and the Integrated Border Management Flagship Initiative are set out to contribute significantly to the promotion of stability in the region. It should also be noted that a special dedicated instrument exists to address stability issues in crisis situation, i.e. the Instrument for Stability.

⁶ EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine