



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 7.8.2018
C (2018) 5446 final

**Multiannual Action Programme for the Thematic Programme
“Civil Society Organisations”
for the period 2018-2020**

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Brussels, 7.8.2018
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 7.8.2018

on the Multi-Annual Action Programme for years 2018, 2019, and 2020 “Civil Society Organisations” to be financed from the general budget of the European Union

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action¹, and in particular Article 6(3) and Article 3 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002², and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

After consulting the DCI Committee,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the Thematic Programme “Civil Society and Local Authorities”³ for the period 2018-2020 establishing three objectives: 1) supporting civil society organisations (CSOs) in development policy 2) fostering Development Education & Awareness Raising in Europe (DEAR) 3) empowerment of Local Authorities (LAs) as actors of development, in particular at city level.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Multi-Annual Action Programme for years 2018, 2019 and 2020 “Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities” to be financed under the Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020⁴ are (i) to support civil society at global, regional and country level in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development; (ii) contribute to the enhancement of citizens' understanding, sense of responsibility, skills and critical engagement regarding sustainable development and its underlying causes.
- (3) The Actions constituting the Multi-Annual Action Programme are:

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ The COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION on the Multi-Annual Action Programme for years 2018, 2019 and 2020 “Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities” to be financed from the general budget of the European Union will only be adopted when the Commission adopts the COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION on the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme “Civil Society and Local Authorities” for the period 2018-2020.

⁴ OJ L 77/44, 15.3.2014

- (a) **Global level:** Annex 1 “Strengthen Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as actors of governance and development – Strengthen Partnership with CSOs” delivers on the EU commitment to engage with CSOs as actors of global governance and to promote an enabling environment. This priority is managed by Commission Headquarters.
 - (b) **Country level:** Annex 2 “Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as actors of governance and development work in the field” rolls out the EU support to country-level CSO initiatives aimed at implementing priorities reflected in the new Consensus on development which allows for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Those priorities are: climate change; gender equality; youth; root causes of irregular migration; and crisis and fragility. Delegations will implement them whenever applicable, and will have to select at least one of these priorities for this Action.
 - (c) **Support Development Education & Awareness Raising in Europe initiatives:** Annex 3 “Development Education and Awareness Raising in Europe (DEAR)” aims at developing European citizens’ awareness and critical understanding of the interdependent world, of roles and responsibilities in relation to development issues in a globalised society; and to support their active engagement with global attempts to eradicate poverty and promote justice, human rights and democracy, social responsibility, gender equality and sustainable development strategies in partner countries
 - (d) **Support Measures:** Annex 4 “Support Measures” frames the use of support measures, aimed at supporting the implementation of the programme and the achievement of its objectives and might be implemented in the framework of any of the three objectives of the Thematic Programme.
- (4) It is necessary to adopt a financing decision the detailed rules on which are set out in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union⁵.
 - (5) It is necessary to adopt a work programme for grants the detailed rules on which are set out in Article 128(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and in Article 188(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. The work programme is constituted by the Annex 1, sections 5.3.2.1, 5.3.3.1, 5.3.4.1, 5.3.5.1, 5.3.2.2, 5.3.6.1, Annex 2, sections 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 5.3.3, Annex 3, sections 5.3.1, 5.3.2-4.
 - (6) Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the responsible authorising officer who ensures that the conditions for an exception to a call for proposals in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are fulfilled. The reasons for and, in the cases specified in Article 190(1)(c), (d) or (f) Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, potential beneficiaries of such award should be identified in this Decision for reasons of transparency. Direct grants can be awarded instead of a call for proposals foreseen in this decision at any time when the conditions of Article 190 Delegated

⁵ OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are fulfilled even if the direct award was not announced in this decision, provided that the internal Directorate- General for International Cooperation and Development approval procedure is followed. The framework for the call established in this decision must be respected.

- (7) The Commission should acknowledge and accept the contribution from other donors pursuant to Article 21(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, subject to the signature of the relevant agreement, and should decide on the use of such contribution. Where such contribution is not denominated in euro, a reasonable estimate of conversion should be made.
- (8) It is necessary to allow the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 92 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Article 111(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (9) Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, the Commission should define changes to this Decision which are not substantial in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible.
- (10) The envisaged assistance to Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros (Union of), Congo (Republic of the), Congo (Democratic Republic of), Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius and Seychelles, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Islands, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, China, Korea (DPRK – North), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Maldives, Thailand, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Fiji, Papouasie Nouvelle Guinée, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Russia, Tunisia, Ukraine is deemed to strictly follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures concerning the said countries.
- (11) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Development Cooperation Instrument Committee set up under Article 19 of the Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020⁶.

⁶ See reference in Recital 2, and footnote 4.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Multi-Annual Action Programme 2018-2020 “Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities”, as set out in the Annexes, is approved.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- Annex 1: “Strengthen Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as actors of governance and development – Strengthen Partnership with CSOs”
- Annex 2: “Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as actors of governance and development - work in the field”
- Annex 3: “Development Education and Awareness Raising in Europe (DEAR)”
- Annex 4: “Support Measures”

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the general budget of the Union for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 675 334 499 and shall be financed from:

– budget line 21 02 08 01 of the general budget of the European Union for 2018, for the amount of EUR 206 715 305 (including EUR 760 495 from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)), and 2019 for the amount of EUR 219 626 756 and 2020 for an amount of EUR 223 492 438;

– budget line 21 02 08 02 of the general budget of the European Union for 2018 for the amount of EUR 6 800 000 and 2019 for the amount of EUR 9 300 000 and 2020 for an amount of EUR 9 400 000.

The amount referred to in the first paragraph includes contributions from other donors to the general budget of the European Union as assigned revenue as provided for in the Action “*Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as actors of governance and development work in the field*”.

The financial contribution provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations following the adoption of the general budgets of the European Union for 2019 and for 2020 or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

Article 3

Implementation modalities

The section “Implementation” of the Annexes referred to in the second paragraph of Article 1 sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the responsible authorising officer in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. The reasons for this and, where known at the moment of the adoption of this Decision, the potential beneficiaries shall be set out in the Annexes.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 not exceeding 20 % of the contribution referred to in the first paragraph of Article 2, considering each financial year separately, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20 % of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The responsible authorising officer may adopt the non-substantial changes referred to in the first paragraph in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission
Neven Mimica
Member of the Commission



ANNEX 1

of the Commission implementing decision on the Multi-Annual Action Programme for years 2018, 2019, and 2020
“Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities” to be financed from the general budget of the Union.

ACTION DOCUMENT 1
STRENGTHEN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs) AS ACTORS OF
GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT
STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS WITH CSOs

Information for Potential Grant Applicants - Work Programme for Grants

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012) in the following sections, concerning calls for proposals: 5.3.2.1, 5.3.3.1, 5.3.4.1 and 5.3.5.1 respectively.; concerning grants awarded directly without a call for proposals: 5.3.2.2 and 5.3.6.1.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Strengthen Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as actors of governance and development – Strengthen Partnership with CSOs CRIS number: 2018/040-920 Financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument	
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Worldwide	
3. Programming document	Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme “Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities” for the period 2018-2020 ⁷	
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Democratic participation and civil society	ODA
5. Amounts concerned	Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 88 301 229 from the general budget of the European Union for an amount of EUR 41 501 228 for 2018, for an amount of EUR 26 400 001 or 2019,	

⁷ Commission Implementing Decision of 18.07.2018, C(2018) 4569 final.

	for an amount of EUR 20 400 000 or 2020, subject to the adoption of the relevant budget and appropriations.			
6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	Project Modality. Direct management: grants – call for proposals and call for expression of interest; grants – direct awards; procurement of services.			
7 a) DAC code(s)	15150 - Democratic participation and civil society			
b) Main Delivery Channel	20000 – Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. SDGs	SDG 10, 11, 16 and 17.			

SUMMARY

The European Union is committed to supporting civil society organisations (CSOs) as actors of governance and reinforcing their participation and their capacity as key actors of development. EU support for CSOs will reinforce and further adapt its support to facilitating an enabling environment for CSOs. The promotion of an enabling environment for civil society will be integrated in all objectives and actions.

This Action Document unrolls the EU support to CSOs through three axes.

- ✓ It consolidates multi-stakeholder dialogue with CSOs and local authorities through the **Policy Forum on Development (PFD)**, allowing constructive exchanges on key milestones and consultations on EU Development policy and the implementation of the new European Consensus on Development.
- ✓ It reinforces EU partnerships with CSO networks through **Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs)** towards common strategic objectives, covering **all types of actors, including foundations**, in a wide array of fields, including gender, youth, diaspora, peace

and state building, anti-corruption, transparency, accountability, participation, human rights, political and social inclusion, economic empowerment, aid effectiveness, and climate change.

- ✓ It pro-actively invests in new areas, in particular addressing the promotion of youth employment and empowerment and rising concerns about inequalities.

This Action Document mainly concerns actions at the global level. It focuses on fostering the added value of the civil society component of the thematic programme and its complementarity with other instruments.

CONTEXT

Thematic area

The EU has given an unprecedented role to civil society in its external policy, by recognising and consolidating its role as an independent actor in foreign affairs, international cooperation and development.

EU Policy Framework

In 2012⁸, the EU decided to take its long-standing support for civil society organisations (CSOs) in EU partner countries a step further through the adoption of a Communication that sets the principles and objectives for the EU's engagement with those actors in external actions. CSOs are considered legitimate actors of governance in their own right and implementers of development policy.

The commitments expressed in the above-mentioned Communication resulted, amongst others, in the establishment of the “Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities” programme (CSOLA)⁹, a dedicated thematic programme under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) for the period 2014-2020.

A first Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP)¹⁰ set the aims of this programme for the period 2014-2017.

A report¹¹ of the first phase of implementation of the CSO component emphasised the achievements obtained so far which were recognised in Council conclusions¹².

While the EU continues to invest in this area given its proven added value, the new MIP 2018-2020 proposes a solid evolution of the priorities in order to respond to a changing international

⁸ The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, (COM(2012) 492).

⁹ Regulation 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020.

¹⁰ Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme "Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities" for the period 2014-2020, C(2014) 4865 final

¹¹ Commission staff Working document, Report on EU engagement with Civil Society, SWD(2017) 136/2 final.

¹² Council Conclusions on "EU engagement with civils society in external relations", 19 June 2017.

context, to align it with newly adopted policies, and to maintain, and even strengthen, the level of excellence of the programme.

This Action delivers on the commitments to engage with CSOs as actors of global governance enshrined in the new European Consensus on Development¹³ (the 'Consensus').

Stakeholder analysis

The main **stakeholders** of this action are regional and global representative, actor-based and membership-based umbrella organisations of CSOs.

With the above mentioned 2012 communication, the European Union made a policy shift by considering Civil Society Organisations not only as implementers of development aid but also as actors of governance in their own right.¹⁴

Therefore, it was logical for the EU to test the possibility and impact of moving from a project to a programme approach, to ensure long-term dialogue and capacity building, and to base this approach on partnerships with commonly agreed objectives.

As a consequence and as a concrete step towards the implementation of this policy shift, the European Commission signed in March 2016 key Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs) with CSOs.

Framework Partnership Agreements illustrate the commitment of the European Commission to support CSOs not only as providers of aid but also as pivotal actors of governance: Through these FPAs, civil society organisations are encouraged to be key contributors to policy-making at regional and global levels, especially in the development and monitoring of policies and agreements related to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. FPAs clearly define the respective roles and responsibilities of the European Commission and its partners, highlighting mutual interest and common shared objectives in the implementation of the European Union's policy on development.

FPAs cover Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Latin America and Europe, and a wide array of fields of intervention: anti-corruption, gender, accountability, human rights, political and social inclusion or economic empowerment, and sustainable development. They also cover various different types of CSOs, such as Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs), private sector organisations, trade unions, farmers' organisations, cooperatives, community and faith-based organisations.

Foundations play an important role promoting development: they act as catalysts, funding innovative research; service providers; funders; advocates and promoters of democracy and civic education, often connecting other civil society movements and organisations with political decision-makers. They vary greatly in size, thematic and geographic focus and structure. Within the EU, various models have emerged: political foundations, cultural foundations, grant-making foundations etc.

¹³ Council conclusions on the European Consensus on Development, 19 May 2017.

¹⁴ The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, (COM(2012) 492).

CONCORD is the European NGO confederation for Relief and Development, made up of 28 national associations, 21 international networks and 3 associate members that represent over 2,600 European NGOs.

CONCORD's objectives for 2016-2022 are the following:

- To ensure that European policy promotes sustainable economic, social and human development, addressing the causes of poverty and inequality, and is based on human rights, gender equality, justice and democracy.
- To ensure that the rights and responsibilities of citizens and organised civil society to influence those representing them in governments and EU institutions are promoted and respected.

The expected results of its work for the same period are:

- To consolidate and strengthen its position as an essential interlocutor of the EU institutions, contributing to shaping the global agenda.
- To contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which live up to the values of putting people and planet first, as well as of human rights, greater equality and justice in the world.
- To continue pushing the EU to make and follow through on credible and ambitious financing proposals.
- To play a role in promoting throughout the EU, across the diverse membership of the organisation, a refreshed and reinvigorated CSO sector, which has succeeded in regenerating citizens' engagement in global solidarity and in promoting an outward-looking Europe that effectively confronts global challenges.

The **International Organisation of Employers (IOE)** has the following objectives:

- To promote the economic, employment and social policy environments necessary to sustain and develop free enterprise and the market economy.
- To provide an international forum to bring together, represent and promote the interests of national employers' organisations and their members throughout the world in all labour and socio-economic policy issues.
- To assist, advise, represent and provide relevant services and information to members, to establish and maintain permanent contact among them and to coordinate the interests of employers at the international level.
- To promote and support the advancement and strengthening of independent and autonomous employers' organisations and to enhance their capabilities and services to members.
- To inform public opinion and promote understanding of employers' points of view.
- To facilitate and promote the exchange and transfer of information, experience and good practice amongst members.

The expected results of their work for the same period are:

- **IOE** Member federations will be equipped with the capacity and expertise necessary to be effective interlocutors on policy priorities.

- The IOE's contribution to maintaining open trade and the market economy, and to building a conducive environment for competitive and sustainable enterprises and job creation, will be more widely communicated and effective.
- The private sector and its representative organisations will be acknowledged as key contributors to policy making at all levels, as well as creators of economic and social development and employment.
- A strong and unified global voice of business will be achieved through partnerships and alliances with like-minded organisations.

The **CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE)** is the unique platform established by the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) to address issues related to CSOs and development effectiveness.

The CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE), operating in the context of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) and the Busan agreements, envisions a world committed to human rights, social justice, gender equality, and sustainable development. In its engagement with the GPEDC, CPDE welcomes the positive development in the GPEDC's initiative of socialising to the ideally more equitable and formal processes of the UN. Currently, the GPEDC is on the cusp of expanding to engage with the new sustainable development goals (SDGs), highlighting the importance of the multi-stakeholder platform in reviewing the efforts of the global partnership for sustainable development.

The **Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS¹⁵)** is the South-North non-government coalition of peacebuilding organisations that coordinates and supports civil society participation in the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS). CSPPS supports civil society engagement in G7+ countries, to contribute to enhancing and solidifying state-citizen relations in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

The aim of CSPPS is to strengthen the voice and capacity of civil society to effectively engage in and influence peacebuilding and statebuilding as a critical contribution to crisis prevention and sustainable peace and development for all. For this the CSPPS, as a civil society constituency, strives to infuse the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, the 2030 Agenda and humanitarian processes with peacebuilding values, globally.

The Consensus, the EU Global Strategy, and the recently adopted EU Resilience Communication all provide evidence of the enhanced attention of the EU and its institutions to strengthening and supporting state and societal resilience, peacebuilding and statebuilding, investing in conflict prevention and sustaining peace, investing in combating root causes of migration, and offering opportunities for youth and women, as a precondition to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Civil society organizations play an important role in public budgeting. They can help improve budget policies by providing information on public needs and priorities through their connections with citizens, communities, and sectors. CSOs (along with legislators, auditors, the media, and the broader public) can also play an important role in holding the executive accountable for its use of public resources. When CSOs and others lack access to budget information or opportunities to engage in budget processes, it opens the door for the executive to choose

¹⁵ CSPPS is hosted and coordinated by the Dutch based NGO Cordaid

unpopular or inappropriate programmes, waste money, and allow or engage in corruption. Budget support remains a preferred financing mechanism for EU development assistance.

The **International Budget Partnership (IBP)** is a unique CSO platform offering training to local CSOs on how to read and monitor national budgets. The EU refers significantly to the "Open Budget Survey" and in particular the Open Budget Index (OIB) elaborated by IBP. Indeed, it is indicated in the European Commission Budget Support guidelines that the index is a key source of information for assessing budget support eligibility criteria on transparency. In addition, it is used in the development of the Risk Management framework, and the budget support annual report highlights it as a key reference.

Moreover, the Staff Working Document "Collect More Spend Better – Achieving Development in an Inclusive and Sustainable way" foresees it as a key element of the "Improving transparency, accountability and oversight in domestic finance: support international and regional initiatives strengthening the capacities of civil society organisations in their work on domestic revenues, expenditures and illicit financial flows" agenda.

The final **beneficiaries** are the citizens of the different partner countries. They will benefit from CSO work on advocacy for better reforms and development, monitoring of governance in line with the Consensus and direct implementation of aid by CSOs. They will also benefit from better information about policies, including on the 2030 Agenda, on topics related to regional processes of integration, and will be better represented and have a greater say in its definition and implementation.

Priority areas for support/problem analysis

The European Union is committed to supporting CSOs as actors of governance and to reinforcing their participation, their capacity and an enabling operating environment. CSOs are key actors for the implementation of 2030 Agenda and the Consensus, in particular as regards essential challenges related to youth, gender and inequalities.

The constrained environment in which CSOs operate is a rising concern. It is essential to integrate the promotion of an enabling environment ^[2] for civil society in all objectives and actions.

The EU is committed to a structured dialogue with CSOs on EU Policies. As a consequence, in 2013 following the positive experience of the first structured dialogues, the EU set up a formal space for regular policy dialogue with CSOs, the Policy Forum on Development (PFD).

Since then, the PFD has developed into a well-established multi-stakeholder process gathering a wide spectrum of civil society and associations of local authorities. It ensures a space for continuous and open dialogue and participation in EU policy design and implementation.

Moreover, the EU has established formal strategic partnerships with 23 global and regional networks of CSOs. These Framework partnerships agreements (FPAs) set joint strategic objectives for long-term cooperation between the EU and the signatories, focussing on the reinforcement of the partners' capacity as actors of governance.

Foundations are recognised as active stakeholders in development. The EU intends to develop its relations with such actors in a more strategic manner. This cooperation will be implemented via a structured dialogue, ad-hoc partnerships with networks of foundations and possibly, targeted funding.

The EU supports strategic partners recognised in the EU Treaties and Regulations such as the social partners or platforms with a mandate to implement part of the agreed International Agenda, equally focussing on the strengthening of partners' capacity as actors of governance. The EU will assess, and potentially renew or adapt the financial support for the implementation of these partnerships for 2018-2020.

Due to new dynamics, there are areas where there is a need to invest further.

Inequalities are now, more than ever, a global social, political and economic problem for all countries and economies to address. The reduction of inequality explicitly appears in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in SDG 10 "Reduce inequality within and among countries". The Consensus also calls on the EU and Member States to “act to reduce inequality of outcomes and promote equal opportunities for all...”¹⁶ Today, supporting civil society in their advocacy role for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, at country and global levels, is crucial to complement the EU's efforts to reduce inequalities in partner countries.

The Consensus recognises young people as essential contributors to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. They are considered agents of development and change, including through their ability to innovate. As a follow-up of the 5th European Union – African Union Summit outcomes on youth, including possibly the Youth Plug-in initiative, the programme will support young people through civil society organisations. In addition, the programme also aims to support the establishment of a CSO platform that will function as a hub for actions to combat and prevent radicalisation. Depending on identified needs, the platform will focus on a variety of themes and stakeholders, including among others youth, women, diaspora, prison and probation officers, law enforcement agencies, religious and community leaders.

The added value of the CSO-LA thematic programme lies very much in its complementarity. Therefore, a thorough complementarity with the European Instrument for Democracy and Human rights (EIDHR) and other instruments is necessary.

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Component 1: POLICY FORUM ON DEVELOPMENT (PFD)		
Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Inadequate and unbalanced participation in the PFD among its members.	L	If and when it happens, the European Commission will actively address it and, if required, replace non-active members by others more motivated.
Inadequate and unbalanced	L	The European Commission will closely

¹⁶ Consensus, paragraph 36.

participation in the PFD among members of EU institutions and Member States.		follow up with all members from the institutions and Member States in order to guarantee a fair representation.
Inadequate communication around PFD meetings and products.	M	The existing communication structure will be reinforced and new tools and products introduced.
Assumptions		
The PFD continues to have full support amongst its members and EU institutions with a consistent level of commitment.		
Component 2: FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIPS AGREEMENTS (FPAs) and SPECIFIC PARTNERSHIPS		
Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
The diversity of the members of CSO umbrella organisations might lead to differences in views and approaches, rendering more difficult the coordination of their inputs in view of presenting effective common contributions to policy making processes and in the follow-up of policies and implementation of agreements.	L	Both risks can be mitigated at the evaluation phase and during the analysis of the solidity of partnerships within future beneficiary CSO umbrella organisations.
There might be an unequal participation of the various members of the regional and global umbrella organisations, according to their capacity or willingness to contribute to the programmes effectively.	L	
Assumptions		
The future beneficiaries will perform effectively in the implementation of their actions, in order to achieve the general and specific objectives set up in section 4.1 below.		
Component 3: INITIATIVE ON FOUNDATIONS		
Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
There are few networks of foundations, and they may not be aware of and interested in responding to the call for proposals.	M	The European Commission has carried out a mapping of networks of foundations to identify global and regional networks and has invited them to a strategic meeting in Brussels in March 2018. The Commission will continue to engage with these stakeholders in advance of the call for proposals, keeping them informed of developments and the possibility to apply.
Foundations have other reporting and impact assessment methods from those used by the European	L	Reporting and impact assessment methods are jointly agreed in advance.

Commission		
Assumptions		
Networks involve cooperation between foundations to fund joint initiatives (joint programming).		
Component 4: YOUTH INITIATIVE AND P/CVE COMPONENT		
Risks	Risk level	Mitigating measures
The implementation by CSOs involving youth could prove challenging	L	The risks will be followed by the Contracting Authority when launching and implementing the Calls for Proposals
The area of combating and preventing violent extremism is still new and growing.	M	Initiate dialogues to encourage FPAs to seek further expertise.
Assumptions		
The beneficiaries will be able to manage the grants efficiently and effectively involving youth in their actions. The preventing and countering violent extremism platform will be an effective organisation that has the required expertise and is able to perform its role throughout the world.		
Component 5: INITIATIVE ON INEQUALITIES		
Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
The diversity of the members of CSO umbrella organisations may lead to differences in views and approaches, rendering more difficult the coordination of their inputs in view of presenting effective common contributions.	L	This can be mitigated at the evaluation of the proposals phase and during the analysis of the solidity of partnerships within future beneficiary CSO umbrella organisations.
Low capacity of identified organisation/platform	L	A consortium approach could reinforce the capacity or the assistance.
Awareness raising campaigns or advocacy is not able to reach target audience.	L	This can be mitigated at the evaluation phase.
Assumptions		
The future beneficiaries will perform effectively in the implementation of their actions, in order to achieve the general and specific objectives set up in section 4.1 below.		
Component 6: AD HOC PLATFORMS (Aid Effectiveness, Resilience and National Budgets)		
Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE): The international agenda on aid-effectiveness receives decreasing	L	Ongoing relationship. The EU will continue advocating for civil society participation in the aid-effectiveness agenda, in particular

acting more as traditional implementers of aid rather than as actors of governance. While it is important to keep a field- and demand-driven approach, it is equally important that the programme focuses **more on clearer priorities** and added value, and ensures complementarity with other instruments.

Since 2014, the **space for civil society** has shrunk, civic freedoms are under threat in more than 100 countries, and CSOs are regularly the subject of violent crackdowns or physical attacks. It is therefore essential that EU support for CSOs takes into account this increasing challenge and the constraints it entails, and continues to reinforce and further adapt its support to promoting an enabling environment for CSOs.

An important lesson learnt is that the **strong focus of the programme on supporting CSOs as actors of governance**, instead of service deliverers, calls for reinforcement in graduated countries¹⁸ (due to the phasing out of the bilateral development aid) and states affected by fragility, conflict and democratic transition.

Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

The CSO-LA Programme's added value lies in its complementarity. Therefore, great attention is paid towards ensuring coherence and synergy with geographic instruments, in particular the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), the European Development Fund (EDF), and other thematic instruments under the Development Co-operation Instrument (DCI).

Specific enhanced operational coordination is essential in relation to the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), in particular regarding its activities and potential synergies in the areas of promoting an enabling environment for civil society, the mapping study of CSO organisations, local calls for proposals and CSO roadmaps.

In addition, enhanced operational coordination is also needed with the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) which strengthens and promotes the role of civil society actors in reforms and democratic changes. Therefore, specific complementarity also needs to be found in relation to the support to civil society under the ENI bilateral and regional cooperation programmes, and the ENI Civil Society Facility and the Pan-African Programme under the DCI.

Furthermore, the proposed initiative on increasing CSO capacities in analysing national budgets is an opportunity to enhance the complementarity with geographical programmes, notably in the field of budget support.

Finally, the CSO-LA Programme can offer a specialised and timely contribution to the EU response to crisis and fragility. In this regard, its coordination and synergies with the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) are essential.

¹⁸ Countries graduated from EU bilateral development aid are currently: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Thailand, Uruguay, Venezuela. Other countries are in the process of phasing out. For Chile and Uruguay according to article 16 of DCI, in exceptional and duly justified circumstances, the extension of eligibility of actions may be envisaged.

Cross-cutting issues

In line with the support of the European Union to civil society organisations in the fields of human rights, democracy and good governance, the objective of the CSO-LA thematic programme is mainly focussed on strengthening civil society organisations and local authorities in partner countries as actors of governance in their own right and to promote an enabling environment for them. It also supports these actors in their implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals, with an emphasis on SDG 10, 16 and 17.

The Programme and the proposed action document integrate the following crosscutting key principles:

- They are rooted in the **EU gender equality** policy, integrating the objective of reaching sound progress in the implementation of the second EU Gender Action Plan in third countries¹⁹ (GAP II) with the target of mainstreaming gender across 85% of all new initiatives by 2020.
- They also play an instrumental role in supporting the implementation of the Rights-Based Approach (RBA) to development, encompassing all Human Rights.
- They foster the implementation of the EU's emphasis on strengthening ownership by local institutions, mechanisms and civil society actors which was endorsed by the EU Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy²⁰ in July 2015.
- They integrate the EU's commitment to respond to challenges and investment needs related to climate change, biodiversity and the environment, notably through the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC, Paris Agreement) and Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and will contribute to the EU's commitment to dedicate at least 20% of its spending to mitigation and adaptation **actions related to climate**.
- They recognise young people as essential contributors to the 2030 Agenda in line with the Consensus.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

A set of actions will be launched that reinforce CSOs globally as actors of governance. They deliver on the EU commitments contained in the Consensus and the Council Conclusions of 2017 on the EU's engagement with CSOs.

The Overall objective is to contribute to the development of participatory, open and inclusive democracy, through Specific objective 1: To strengthen the effectiveness of civil society advocacy and their participation in or contribution to development policies and debates.

Output 1 is Policy debate on main EU policies and initiatives in the development field promoted (component 1).

Output 2 is Partnerships between civil society organisations / foundations and the Commission and/or other international organisations established or strengthened (components 2, 3 and 6)

¹⁹ Council Conclusions on the Gender Action Plan 2016-2020, 26 October 2015

²⁰ Council Conclusions on the Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2015 -2019, 20 July 2015.

Output 3 is Cooperation between the EU and civil society on youth and P/CVE issues enhanced (component 4)

Output 4 is Raised awareness on inequalities in target countries (component 5).

List of all detailed components

4.1 Policy Forum on Development (PFD)

4.2 Framework partnerships Agreements (FPAs) and specific partnerships

4.3 Foundations

4.4 Youth and radicalisation initiative

4.5 Inequalities initiative

4.6 Ad-hoc platforms

The following sections present the content and activities of each component in more detail.

4.1 Policy Forum on Development (PFD)

The Policy Forum on Development aims to continue promoting dialogue and debate amongst representatives of civil society organisations and associations of local authorities, and between them and EU institutions on EU development matters and the 2030 Agenda. In this way, inputs from PFD members in key EU development debates are factored into policy making.

Main activities:

- Three annual PFD meetings successfully organised.
- Three regional PFD meetings covering Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, and Africa successfully carried out.
- At least two multi stakeholder meetings successfully organised.
- Research initiatives at country level on the 2030 Agenda and the Consensus successfully implemented.

4.2 Framework Partnerships Agreements (FPAs) and specific partnerships

4.2.1 Framework Partnerships Agreements

To date, the European Commission has signed 23 FPAs with major international and regional networks of civil society covering the full duration of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020. Twelve of them were selected for funding (Call for Proposals EuropeAid/150-053/C/ACT/Multi) through grants between 2015 and 2016 under the CSO/LA Multiannual Action Programme (MAAP) 2015-2017. This Action supports the reinforcement of the capacities of the 10 FPA signatories on the reserve list of the above mentioned Call for Proposals (valid

until 31 December 2018) that, due to limited availability of funds in 2014-2017, have not yet benefitted from financing.

A Specific Grant Agreement defining the operational terms of the strategic partnership, instrumental to achieve the common political priorities and objectives for the period 2018-2020, will then be awarded to successful applicants (maximum of 10) as a legally binding contract containing clear objectives, activities, results, indicators and time-bound targets to measure the performance of the action, and sustainability.

4.2.2 Specific partnerships

The EU has developed ad hoc partnerships linked to specific EU or international processes and mandates.

4.2.2.1 European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD)

This Action supports CONCORD annually as a key interlocutor of the EU institutions on development issues.

The main activities will be:

- Further develop the common action platform.
- Develop new dialogues at EU level on the priority work areas chosen by CONCORD.
- Further develop strategic alliances with other sectors of European and Southern civil society.

4.2.2.2 Social Partners

The role of **Social Partners**, both employers' organisations and trade unions, is enshrined in the TFEU Treaty (Art.152-154).

This Action supports the signature of two FPAs between the EU and the **International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the International Organisation of Employers (IOE)**, respectively, supporting their members' capacity to conduct social dialogue in third countries on social and labour policy and the promotion of decent jobs and inclusive growth in development.

ITUC is already benefiting from a support programme for its worldwide network until 2020. IOE is benefiting from a similar support but only until June 2019. Therefore, the new action will support the consolidation of the EU support to IOE, in particular to support the capacity of its African members bringing it to the same level as ITUC, thereby safeguarding the principle of equity between social partners.

Main activities:

- Enhance the institutional and the operational capacity of the IOE to engage in policy debates through global exchange.
- Contribute to improved governance structures and social dialogue, as well as advocacy work through strengthened exchange of knowledge and experience between national employers' organisations at a regional and global level.
- Strengthen the capacity of employers' organisations who are members of the IOE
- Improve dialogue with the EU on development issues and the 2030 Agenda.

4.3 Foundations

The European Commission is exploring working more closely with foundations in the area of development cooperation.

Main activities:

The European Commission will carry out the following activities:

- Establish a structured dialogue with foundations;
- Develop ad hoc partnerships with networks of foundations in the EU working in the area of development;
- Provide targeted financial support.

On the basis of commonly defined priority areas resulting from this dialogue, partnerships will be developed with global and regional networks of foundations, to allow for more impactful and coordinated efforts to promote development and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

4.4 Youth initiative and preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) component

The DEVCO's Youth Initiative and P/CVE component will consist of two separate components, a first targeted towards youth in Africa, and a second focused on preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE). The aims of the two components are, respectively, to provide support to young people in Africa, and create a worldwide P/CVE platform. The first component will be accomplished by actions implemented through calls for proposals launched by the EU Delegation to the African Union for civil society organisations. The second component will be implemented by European Commission Framework Partnership Agreement signatories.

The EU is placing ever greater importance on the topic of youth in its policies. The 5th European Union – African Union Summit, from the 29-30 November 2017, focused on youth, and the EU will continue to discuss the issue with its partners. Ahead of the Summit, a Youth Plug-In initiative was created in order to strengthen the direct participation of youth on both continents in the political process, that affects their livelihoods and future prospects. The Youth Plug-In worked on six themes, which are education, peace and security, climate and environment, business and job creation, political inclusion, and culture. The group includes youth from Africa and Europe, including African Diaspora in Europe.

The results of this group were presented to Heads of State at the 5th AU-EU Summit and will help define possible areas of focus for the Commission's Youth Initiative.

The EU external engagement in P/CVE is growing in political importance, geographic scope and financial terms. The fundamental purpose of the EU's efforts in preventing and countering violent extremism is for individuals and communities to become resilient towards radicalisation and violent extremism. Despite the progress achieved in the area, there is a need to pool the experience and expertise of civil society in order to maximise the effectiveness and the impact of EU actions in third countries.

Moreover, the EU attaches particular importance to the crucial role that youth can play as powerful agents of change in preventing and countering violent extremism. Youth inclusion, youth empowerment, and the youth diaspora should be parts of component 2. Others such as, women, prison and probation officers, law enforcement agencies, and religious and community leaders may also be included.

The components of these initiatives are:

1. To strengthen EU support to young people in Africa, and especially their inclusion and empowerment. The results of the 5th AU-EU Summit and the Youth Plug-In will help define possible areas of focus. The initiative will be managed directly by the European Commission through the EU Delegation to the African Union, who will launch and manage any and all calls for proposals based on the priorities and guidelines for Civil Society Organisations defined in the European Commission 2012 Communication "The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations". Moreover, youth is also one of the dedicated priorities of EU support to CSO initiatives. These aim to implement some of the priorities reflected in the EU Consensus for development, adopted in June 2017. The Consensus addresses the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. To prevent and counter violent extremism by establishing a CSO platform that would serve as an EU partner in the P/CVE area. In addition, the platform will provide a space where P/CVE actors from civil society can interact in a more systematic and strategic manner with each other, share best practices and exchange lessons learned. The actions are to be defined and agreed jointly between the European Commission and its strategic partners, on the basis of the mutual interests and common general objectives.

Main activities:

The European Commission will carry out the following activities:

- Activities targeted at youth implemented by Civil Society Organisations;
- The establishment of a CSO platform to work on P/CVE issues

4.5 Inequalities initiative

Rising inequalities, disparities in income and wealth, as well as unequal opportunities both between both individuals and societal groups, including the urban rural gap are a major threat to political stability and the inclusiveness of societies. They also increase the risks of poverty, altogether harmful for long-term economic development. Inequalities are now, more than ever, a global social, political, and economic problem for all countries and economies to address. The reduction of inequality explicitly appears in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in SDG 10 - Reduce inequality within and among countries. The SDGs also highlight the interlinkages between inequality and other dimensions throughout other goals and targets. The Consensus recognises the importance of addressing inequalities, calling the EU and Member States to "act to reduce inequality of outcomes and promote equal opportunities for all, [and to] strengthen their tools and approaches to make them more effective in addressing inequality". Supporting civil society in their advocacy role for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is a crucial component of EU efforts to support more inclusive development. This is why it is important to include inequalities as a highlighted topic for the agendas of dedicated meetings and events with Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) signatories.

Main activities:

The initiative will be implemented through two components, a global and a country level component, via the existing Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) signatories, whose work specifically targets SDG 10, "reduce inequalities within and between countries":

Global component

- Assistance in the implementation of SDG 10 notably by supporting advocacy campaigns.
- Support in research and investigation to analyse the impact of policies on inequalities both within and between countries, in particular in illicit financial flows.
- Specific focus on SDG target 10.5 " *Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations*" by fighting tax avoidance, tax evasion and illicit financial flows, fraud and tax evasion through the work done by FPA signatories.
- Support in organising events.

Country-level component

- Awareness raising and advocacy activities related to policies and measures with the potential to reduce inequalities and promote more inclusive development (e.g. fiscal, social, education, health, trade) in a selected group of countries with high inequality levels (mostly, but not limited to middle income countries).
- Specific research activities to measure and analyse inequalities at country level with a specific focus on middle income countries, in particular which public policies can achieve more inclusive development and reduce inequalities in these countries and by what means (complementing the current research facility on inequalities).
- Support in organising events.

4.6 Ad-hoc platforms

4.6.1 CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE)

Main activities:

This Action *Further Enhancing Civil Society Role in Development Partnerships Post 2015* aims to ensure significant CSO contributions in global and regional development policy arenas, particularly through the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) and other relevant processes, with a focus on the implementation of the SDGs.

This Action supports CPDE work in 2018-2019 and 2020, in particular its contribution to the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development of follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness.

4.6.2 Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS)

Main activities:

Support to the CSPPS falls well within the aims of the EU CSO Communication on support to Civil Society. In the context of the direct support agreement between the EU and CSPPS the Platform will channel this support to make progress in the following areas:

Coordination of concerted Civil Society Action on International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) and related policy:

- Provide advice and support to selected country level efforts to effectively participate in and influence peacebuilding and statebuilding efforts.
- Pro-active efforts are initiated to broaden and deepen CSPPS membership in G7+ countries [with a particular focus on enhancing women and youth organizations' participation].
- Outreach to Civil Society in countries where CSPPS is as of yet not present to catalyze, initiate and support coalition-building trajectories.
- Identify and operationalize opportunities for collaboration with EU delegation Civil Society experts [to seek and optimize synergies with European Commission Country Roadmaps for strengthening national civil society groups].
- Consolidate lessons learned and record best practices for dissemination.

Capacity building to amplify the voice of Civil Society:

- Conduct CSPPS country team needs assessment and analysis.
- Plan and implement capacity building modules for priority action.
- Develop and disseminate policy briefs, research papers and country assessments to share Civil Society perspectives.

Policy influencing to consolidate Civil Society inclusion in dialogues at all levels:

- Mobilization of Civil Society actors to engage in national dialogue processes.
- Development and dissemination of CSPPS country papers on key priorities for policy outreach.

4.6.3 International Budget Partnership (IBP)

Main activities:

In line with the three priorities of the 2012 Communication on Civil Society in external relations (enabling environment, participation and capacity building), the action aims at strengthening civil society's ability to analyze budgets, through three components:

- advocacy: supporting CSO actions towards better norms, the global civil society movement for budget transparency, accountability and participation; and therefore enhancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and financing for development.
- Budget work in country: budget analysis is highly dependent on country context. This component aims at supporting civil society to do budget work and in directly advocating for more transparent, accountable, and participatory budgets. The target of actions would focus on countries where the EU provides budget support, allowing high standards of transparency and accountability as regards EU support.
- Capacity building: this component aims at strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations so that they develop the skills they need to conduct budget analysis, monitoring,

and advocacy work that have a measurable and positive impact on the lives of people in their countries and communities, particularly the poor and vulnerable.

IMPLEMENTATION

Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, a financing agreement with the partner country, referred to in Article 184(2) (b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, is not foreseen.

Indicative implementation period

The indicative implementation period of this Action, during which the activities described in section 4.1 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 96 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the European Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

Implementation modalities

Both in indirect and direct management, the European Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictions affecting the respective countries of operation²¹.

To recap, the six components for this Action Document are the following:

- Component 1: Policy Forum on Development (PFD)
- Component 2: Framework Partnerships Agreements (FPAs) and specific partnerships
- Component 3: Foundations
- Component 4: Youth initiative and P/CVE component
- Component 5: Initiative on Inequalities
- Component 6: Ad-hoc Platforms (Aid Effectiveness, Resilience and National Budgets Monitoring)

They will be implemented through the following aid modalities:

- Call for proposals
- Direct award
- Procurement

The envisaged assistance to Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros (Union of), Congo (Republic of the),

²¹ https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/restrictive_measures-2017-04-26-clean.pdf

Congo (Democratic Republic of), Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius and Seychelles, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Islands, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, China, Korea (DPRK – North), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Maldives, Thailand, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Fiji, Papouasie Nouvelle Guinée, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Russia, Tunisia, Ukraine is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU²².

Component 1: Policy Forum on Development (PFD) (EUR 3 000 000)

Procurement

The Action supports permanent exchange and dialogue between the EU and the PFD members, the facilitation of multi stakeholder meetings and research initiatives at country level on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the European Consensus on Development and topics on the international development agenda.

Subject in generic terms, if possible	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Component 1: Technical and logistical support for the implementation of the PFD	Service	1	1 st Q 2020

Component 2: Framework partnerships Agreements (FPAs) and specific partnerships (EUR 42 801 229)

Grants: Call for Proposals (direct management)

Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

This Action supports the reinforcement of the capacities of the FPA signatories on the reserve list of the above mentioned Call for Proposals that, due to limited availability of funds in 2014-2017, did not benefit from financial support from the European Commission for capacity building.

²² https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/8442/consolidated-list-sanctions_en

A Specific Grant Agreement defining the operational terms of the strategic partnership, instrumental to achieve the common political priorities and objectives for the period 2018-2020, will then be signed by successful applicants (maximum of 10), as a legally binding contract containing clear objectives, activities, results, indicators and time-bound targets to measure the performance of the grantee and the sustainability of the action.

Eligibility conditions

As applicant: Applicants must be in the reserve list from call for proposals EuropeAid/150-053/C/ACT/Multi valid until the 31 December 2018.

Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant. The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

Maximum rate of co-financing

Subject to information published in the call for proposals EuropeAid/150-053/C/ACT/Multi, the indicative amounts of the EU contributions per grant will be those initially requested by the organisations on the reserve list.

Under the Call for Proposals EuropeAid/150-053/C/ACT/Multi, the maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for each grant to be funded is 90% of the total eligible costs depending on the lots. The grants to be awarded under the reserve list should be subject to information published in the Guidelines of this call for proposals.

Indicative trimester to award the contracts

Third quarter of 2018.

Grant: Direct awards (direct management)

European Confederation of Relief and Development NGOs (CONCORD) (EUR 2 700 000)

Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities and expected results

Operating grant to support CONCORD annually as a key interlocutor of the EU institutions on development policy (See above 4.1.2.2.1) through three successive annual action grants.

Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the European Commission's responsible authorising officer, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to CONCORD.

CONCORD, which comprises national NGO platforms from 28 EU Member States, 18 major NGO networks and 2 associate members, including 1800 NGOs from all sectors that represent millions of citizens across Europe, has a de facto monopoly, in compliance with Article 190(1)

(c) of the Rules of application²³ as the key interlocutor to the European Commission and other EU institutions on development policy. This de facto monopoly is based on the very wide geographical and sectorial coverage of CONCORD. CONCORD is a multi-thematic umbrella organisation which, through its working structures and groups specialized in different sectors (such as, inter alia, climate change, migrations, aid effectiveness, gender and election) covers a wide range of areas of development. It has reinforced its institutional legitimacy vis-à-vis the EU institutions. Its role is recognised and valued by its peers, by other civil society sectors, and increasingly among sections of the general public and media. Through its actions, working methods and its participatory approach, CONCORD proves its usefulness and added value to the debate on development in Europe.

Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the work programme to the objectives of the EU.

Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 90%.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100 %. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the European Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreements

Quarter 4 of 2018

Quarter 4 of 2019

Quarter 4 of 2020

Duration of the grant: Operating grants will be of 12 months' duration.

International Organisation of Employers (IOE) (EUR 1 500 001)

To better translate the EU commitments made in the Consensus with the social partners²⁴ into strategic orientations, a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) will be signed with the International Organisation of Employers.

Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

²³ European Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012:
<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:362:FULL:EN:PDF#page=3>

²⁴ European Consensus on Development, paragraph 54 (add hyperlink)

The aim of this Action is to enhance the institutional and the operational capacity of the IOE to engage in policy debates through global exchange, to contribute to improved governance structures, as well as advocacy work through strengthened exchange of knowledge and experience between national employers' organisations at a regional and global level. It also aims to strengthen the capacity of employers' organisations who are members of the IOE and to improve dialogue with the EU on development issues and the 2030 Agenda.

Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the European Commission's responsible authorising officer, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to IOE.

IOE is in a situation of de facto monopoly in compliance with Article 190(1) (c) of the Rules of Application²⁵.

IOE being the global voice of business for labour and social policy matters at the international level has become an essential partner of the European Commission. IOE is a unique international structure of 150 national representatives of employers' organisations in 143 countries. The organisation is present at the Council of Europe, where the IOE is a partner due to its presence in the Council of Europe's Governmental Committee of the Social Charter.

Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the Action.

Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 90%.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100 %. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the European Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

Quarter 2 of 2019 for a duration of maximum 36 months.

²⁵ European Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012:
<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:362:FULL:EN:PDF#page=3>

Component 3: Foundations (EUR 9 500 000)

Grants: Call for proposals (direct management) (EUR 9 000 000)

Objective of the grants, field of intervention, priorities and expected results

This Action will address the promotion of dialogue between EU institutions and foundations; the exchange of experiences and good practices; the building of partnerships between foundations and the EU and other key stakeholders in development cooperation.

This Action will provide support in the form of grants for networks of foundations working in development with the aims of:

1. Exploring and defining specific thematic priority areas for cooperation between the EU and networks of foundations working in development;
2. Strengthening the capacity of networks of foundations, including community-based foundations in developing countries;
3. Fostering partnerships between foundations and other key players in the development field;
4. Engaging European citizens on EU development policy;
5. Reinforcing the capacity of foundations to help in implementing and monitoring the 2030 Agenda and the European Consensus on Development.

Eligibility conditions

The initiatives to be financed shall be initiated and directly implemented by networks of foundations. According to article 8 of DCI Regulation, in limited cases and where appropriate, in order to ensure their effectiveness, initiatives may be carried out by other actors for the benefit of the civil society organisations concerned.

As applicant: non-profit making foundations and their associations from the following countries shall be eligible for funding under the CSO-LA Programme:

- I. the EU partner country or region where the action takes place;
- II. other EU partner countries, as follows:
 - (a) countries eligible for Union funding under the European Neighbourhood Instrument established by Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (the ‘European Neighbourhood Instrument’) including the Russian Federation;
 - (b) developing countries and territories, as included in the list of Official Development Assistance recipients published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) (‘list of ODA

recipients'), and overseas countries and territories covered by Council Decision 2001/822/EC;

(c) countries eligible for the European Development Fund;

III. Member States, beneficiaries listed in Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 231/2014, and contracting parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area;

Co-applicant and affiliated entities: the eligibility of Co-applicant and affiliated entities is restricted to all types of non-profit making foundations and CSOs and/or their associations and International Organisations originating from the countries described above under applicant.

The grants may be awarded to sole beneficiaries and to consortia of beneficiaries (coordinator and co-beneficiaries).

In order to ensure the access to funds of all types and levels of foundations, the use of sub-granting is encouraged.

The indicative duration of the grant (its implementation period) may not be lower than 24 months nor exceed 36 months. In duly justified cases, actions of less than 24 months with a minimum of 12 months can be financed.

Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant. The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants is 80%. The rate may be lower if the auto-financing capacity of the targeted beneficiaries is good.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100 %. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the European Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

Indicative timing to launch the call

Second quarter 2019

1.1.1.1 Procurement (EUR 500 000)

Subject in generic terms, if possible	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
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Component 3: Studies, events or other activities that contribute to developing the European Commission's work on foundations in the area of development cooperation	Service	Tbd	4 th Q 2019
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Component 4: Youth initiative and prevent and counter violent extremism (P/CVE)
(EUR 13 000 000)

Grants: Call for Proposals (direct management)

Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The initiative intends to support the following **aims through its two separate components**:

1. To strengthen EU's support to young people in Africa, and especially their inclusion and empowerment. The results of the 5th AU-EU Summit and the Youth Plug-In could help define possible areas of focus. The actions are to be defined and agreed jointly between the European Commission and its strategic partners, on the basis of the mutual interests and common general objectives. The initiative will be managed directly by the European Commission through the EU Delegation to the African Union, who will launch and manage any and all calls for proposals based on the priorities and guidelines for Civil Society Organisations defined in the European Commission 2012 Communication "The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations". Moreover, youth is also one of the dedicated priorities of EU support to CSO initiatives.
2. To prevent and counter violent extremism (P/CVE) by establishing a CSO platform that would serve as an EU partner in this field. In addition, the platform will provide a space where P/CVE actors from civil society can interact in a more systematic and strategic manner with each other, share best practices and exchange lessons learned. The actions are to be defined and agreed jointly between the European Commission and its strategic partners, on the basis of the mutual interests and common general objectives.

Eligibility conditions

For component 1 (EUR 10 000 000):

The initiatives to be financed shall be initiated and directly implemented by Civil Society Organisations (as defined in Annex II.B of the DCI Regulation). In limited cases and where appropriate, in order to ensure their effectiveness, initiatives may be carried out by other actors for the benefit of the civil society organisations concerned.

Priority will be given to supporting CSOs from partner countries in order to strengthen their capacity, in line with the overall objectives of the action. Should it be considered more effective, the EU Delegation could envisage broadening the eligibility to applicants from other eligible countries (mentioned below). In those cases, projects proposals should be based on local

initiatives and genuine involvement of CSOs from partner countries should be ensured at all stages.

As applicant: non-profit making CSOs and their associations from the following countries shall be eligible for funding under the CSO-LA Programme:

I. the EU partner country where the action takes place;

If considered relevant for the effectiveness of the action, eligibility can be extended to:

II. other EU partner countries, as follows:

(a) countries eligible for Union funding under the European Neighbourhood Instrument established by Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (the ‘European Neighbourhood Instrument’) including the Russian Federation;

(b) developing countries and territories, as included in the list of ODA recipients published by the OECD-DAC (‘list of ODA recipients’), and overseas countries and territories covered by Council Decision 2001/822/EC;

(c) countries eligible for the European Development Fund;

III. Member States, beneficiaries listed in Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 231/2014, and contracting parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area;

Co-applicant and affiliated entities: the eligibility of Co-applicant and affiliated entities is restricted to all types of non-profit making CSOs and/or their associations and/or LAs and/or their associations originating from the countries described above under applicant.

The EU Delegation may define specific eligibility criteria according to the regional context and in order to respond to regional needs in terms of actors (type and origin), priorities, themes, sectors, and geographical areas. This will allow the EU Delegation to ensure complementarity and subsidiarity with other programmes implemented in the region, as well as to better respond to local circumstances.

The grants may be awarded to sole beneficiaries and to consortia of beneficiaries (coordinator and co-beneficiaries).

In order to ensure the access to funds of all types and levels of CSOs, financial support to third parties is encouraged in accordance with Articles 137 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

Subject to information to be published in the call for proposals, the **minimum amount of the EU contribution per grant** is EUR 300.000. In exceptional and duly justified cases, grants of less than EUR 300 000 may be accepted.

The indicative duration of the grant (its implementation period) may not be lower than 24 months nor exceed 48 months. Under their respective calls for proposals each EU Delegation may determine the minimum and maximum durations, provided these stay within the above-

mentioned limits. In duly justified cases, the EU Delegation can finance actions of less than 24 months with a minimum of 12 months.

5.3.4.1.3 Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

5.3.4.1.4 Maximum rate of co-financing

As a general rule, the maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for each grant to be funded is 90% of the total eligible costs. The rate may be lower if the self-financing capacity of the targeted beneficiaries is good.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100 %. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's responsible authorising officer in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

5.3.4.1.5 Indicative timing to launch the call

First quarter 2019

5.3.4.1.6 Eligibility conditions

For component 2 (EUR 3 000 000):

As applicant: the eligibility of applicants is restricted to representative regional and global umbrella organisations of CSOs⁸⁸ already selected by the call for proposals EuropeAid/150-053/C/ACT/Multi or social partners referred to in point 4 and signatories of a Framework Partnership Agreement.

Co-applicant and affiliated entities: the eligibility of Co-applicants and affiliated entities is restricted to non-profit making CSOs and their associations originating from the following countries:

I. the EU partner country where the action takes place;

If considered relevant for the effectiveness of the action, eligibility can be extended to:

II. other EU partner countries, as follows:

(a) countries eligible for Union funding under the European Neighbourhood Instrument established by Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (the 'European Neighbourhood Instrument') including the Russian Federation;

(b) developing countries and territories, as included in the list of ODA recipients published by the OECD-DAC ('list of ODA recipients'), and overseas countries and territories covered by Council Decision 2001/822/EC;

(c) countries eligible for the European Development Fund;

III. Member States, beneficiaries listed in Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 231/2014, and contracting parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area;

The indicative duration of the grant (its implementation period) may not be lower than 36 months nor exceed 48 months.

5.3.4.1.7 Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

5.3.4.1.8. Maximum rate of co-financing

As a general rule, the maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for each grant to be funded under an FPA is 90% of the total eligible costs.

The maximum possible rate of co-financing may be up to 100 % in accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the responsible authorising officer in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

5.3.4.1.9 Indicative trimester to launch the call

First quarter 2019.

Component 5: Inequalities initiative (EUR 11 000 000)

Grants: Call for Proposals (direct management)

Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities and expected results

This Action will provide support to civil society in their advocacy role for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the new European Consensus on Development and is a crucial component of EU efforts to support more inclusive development.

It will be implemented through two components, via the existing Framework Partnership Agreement signatories (FPAs) whose work specifically targets SDG 10, "reduce inequalities within and between countries". The first component will focus on global inequalities (covering also inequalities between countries). The second component will concentrate mostly on how to

reduce inequalities within countries, in particular in middle-income countries, and the activities will take place at country-level.

Eligibility conditions

As applicant: the eligibility of applicants is restricted to representative regional and global umbrella organisations of CSO already selected by the call for proposals EuropeAid/150-053/C/ACT/Multi or social partners referred to in point 4 and signatories of a Framework Partnership Agreement

Co-applicant and affiliated entities: the eligibility of Co-applicants and affiliated entities is restricted to non-profit making CSOs and their associations originating from the following countries:

I. the EU partner country where the action takes place;

If considered relevant for the effectiveness of the action, eligibility can be extended to:

II. other EU partner countries, as follows:

(a) countries eligible for Union funding under the European Neighbourhood Instrument established by Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (the ‘European Neighbourhood Instrument’) including the Russian Federation;

(b) developing countries and territories, as included in the list of ODA recipients published by the OECD-DAC (‘list of ODA recipients’), and overseas countries and territories covered by Council Decision 2001/822/EC;

(c) countries eligible for the European Development Fund;

III. Member States, beneficiaries listed in Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 231/2014, and contracting parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area;

Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

Maximum rate of co-financing

As a general rule, the maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for each grant to be funded under an FPA is 90% of the total eligible costs.

The maximum possible rate of co-financing may be up to 100 % in accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the responsible authorising officer in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

Indicative trimester to launch the call

First quarter 2019.

Component 6: Ad-hoc platforms (EUR 9 000 000)

Grant: Direct award (direct management)

CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) (EUR 4 000 000)

Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

This Action supports CPDE work in 2018-2019 and 2020, in particular its contribution to the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, the High-level Political Forum of follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the Istanbul Principles for CSO Development Effectiveness.

Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the European Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to CPDE.

Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (CPDE) is in a situation of de facto monopoly in compliance with Article 190(1) (c) of the Rules of Application²⁶ as key interlocutor within the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC)²⁷ on aid and development effectiveness. CPDE is the only platform representing regional, sub-regional, and national CSO coordination bodies active in the development effectiveness arena, operating within the GPEDC. It sits in its Steering Committee representing CSOs. IBON International, having legal personality as a not-for-profit Foundation registered in the Philippines will act as main applicant on behalf of the network while network members will be co-applicants. The role of IBON International is stipulated in CPDE's bylaws.

Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the Action.

Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 90%.

²⁶ European Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012:
<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:362:FULL:EN:PDF#page=3>

²⁷ The GPEDC was created at the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea in 2011 as an inclusive political forum bringing together governments, bilateral and multilateral organisations, civil society and representatives from parliaments and the private sector, committed to strengthening the effectiveness of development co-operation to produce maximum impact for development.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100 %. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the European Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

First quarter of 2019 for a duration of 36 months.

Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and State-building (CSPPS) (2 000 000 EUR)

Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

This operating grant will be provided to support Cordaid for 2018, 2019 and 2020, in hosting the secretariat of the CSPPS platform, in line with the objectives of the recent EU Communication on Resilience, for its contribution to the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS), and to progress with regard to the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSG).

Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the European Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to Cordaid.

The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) is a unique platform, established by the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States endorsed by the EU. It brings together CSOs and experts on issues of peacebuilding, state-building, conflict and fragility at regional and global levels. The above conditions justify the fact that CSPPS is in a situation of de facto monopoly in compliance with Article 190(1)(c) of the Rules of Application.

Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the Action.

Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 90%.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100 %. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the European Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

Quarter 3 of 2018 for a duration of 36 months

International Budget Partnership (IBP) (3 000 000 EUR)

Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

This Action supports IBP for its interventions in strengthening civil society's ability to analyze budgets, particularly in countries where the EU provides budget support, fostering high standards of transparency and accountability.

Justification of direct grant

Under the responsibility of the European Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to IBP.

International Budget Partnership (IBP) is a unique CSO platform offering training to local CSOs on how to read and monitor national budgets. The EU refers significantly to the "Open Budget Survey" and in particular the Open Budget Index (OIB) elaborated by IBP. Indeed, the index is indicated in European Commission Budget Support guidelines as a key source of information for assessing budget support eligibility criteria on transparency. In addition, it is used in the development of the Risk management framework and the budget support annual report highlights it as a key reference. Moreover, the Staff Working Document "Collect More Spend Better – Achieving Development in an Inclusive and Sustainable way"²⁸ foresees it as a key element of the "Improving transparency, accountability and oversight in domestic finance: support international and regional initiatives strengthening the capacities of civil society organisations in their work on domestic revenues, expenditures and illicit financial flows" agenda. The above conditions justify the fact that IBP is in a situation of de facto monopoly in compliance with Article 190(1)(c) of the Rules of Application.

Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the Action.

Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 90%.
In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100 %. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the European

²⁸ Commission Working Staff Document, Collect More Spend Better – Achieving Development in an Inclusive and Sustainable way SWD(2015) 198 final.

Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

Quarter 3 of 2019 for a duration of 36 months

Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

The European Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the achievement of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Call for proposals (direct management)	
- Foundations	9 000 000
- Framework Partnership Agreements (reserve list)	38 601 228
- Youth Initiative and P/CVE component	13 000 000
- Inequalities	11 000 000
Direct grant (direct management)	
- CONCORD	2 700 000
- IOE	1 500 001
- CPDE	4 000 000
- CSPPS	2 000 000
- IBP	3 000 000
Procurement (direct management)	
- Technical support to the Policy Forum on Development	3 000 000
- Studies, events or other activities that contribute to develop the European Commission's work on foundations	500 000
Totals	88 301 229

Organisational set-up and responsibilities

The activities will be managed by European Commission Headquarters and the Delegation of the EU to the African Union.

Performance monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of these actions resulting from calls for proposals and direct awards will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and draft regular progress reports (no less than annually) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of the implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as a reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) or the list of result indicators (for budget support). The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details of the action. The final reports, both narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the implementation of the action.

The European Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both by its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the European Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the European Commission for implementing such reviews).

Evaluation

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision. In line with the key requirements of accountability and learning, evaluation provisions for the whole CSO-LA Programme, including the grants awarded under this Action, are envisaged under the Action Document 6 – Support Measures.

Audit

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the European Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of these audits shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision (see Action documents 6 – Support measures).

Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU's contribution is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan, to be developed at the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 0 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the European Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or

entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX

	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines (2018)	Targets (2020)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	To contribute to the development of participatory, open and inclusive democracy	Number of countries that maintained or improved their CIVICUS Monitor Rating	CIVICUS Monitor Ratings	30 countries that maintained or improved their rating	CIVICUS Monitor	
Specific objective 1: Outcome(s)	To strengthen the effectiveness of civil society advocacy and their participation in or contribution to development policies and debates and SDG implementation	Number of FPAs and platforms supported by the Programme providing inputs to the High Level Political Forum	7 providing inputs during the period 2016-2018	At least 10 providing inputs during the period 2018-2020	UN website: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/inputs/	Security and political situation in each country allows civil society to provide inputs for development policies and debates, including on SDG implementation National governments take civil society inputs into consideration when developing new policies

Output 1	Policy debate on main EU policies and initiatives in the development field promoted	Percentage of participants in PFD meetings rating the event as useful or very useful	On average, participants rated the Global and Regional PFD 2017 meetings as very useful or useful in 75% of the cases	85% of the participants are satisfied with the events and promote its key messages	Six month interim reports End of event evaluations Regular feedback from PFD members through structured questionnaires	PFD maintains level of engagement from majority of members
Output 2	Partnerships between civil society organisations / foundations and the Commission and/or other international organisations established or strengthened	Number of existing Framework Partnership Agreement signatories that are awarded a grant Status of priority areas for cooperation with foundations Number of CSO platforms working on Aid Effectiveness, Resilience and National Budgets that receive a grant	12 FPA signatories receiving a grant No priorities areas defined 1 existing grant to be renewed	23 grants awarded (11 more) Priorities areas defined in a working document 3 grants awarded, including the one to be renewed	Grant agreements Commission working document Grant agreements	
Output 3	Cooperation between the EU and civil society on youth and P/CVE issues enhanced	Number of target groups (young people, women, diaspora) reached by CSOs Number of activities on P/CVE defined by CSOs themselves and funded through this Programme	0 0	TBD as part of each grant	Progress reports from grantees, including information about beneficiaries reached	

Output 4	Raised awareness on inequalities in target countries	Number of actions and awareness-raising campaigns organised	0	Not available, dependent on call for proposals	Grant agreements and project progress reports	
		Number of research reports	0	Not available, dependent on call for proposals	Research reports	



EN

ANNEX 2

of the Commission implementing decision on the Multi-Annual Action Programme for years 2018-2020 “Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities” to be financed from the general budget of the European Union

**ACTION DOCUMENT 2
CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs) AS ACTORS OF GOVERNANCE
DEVELOPMENT
WORK IN THE FIELD³⁰**

Information for Potential Grant Applicants - Work Programme for Grants

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 125 of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012) in the following sections, calls for proposals: 5.3.1.; concerning grants awarded directly without a call for proposals and EU Trust Funds in the section 5.3.3.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Support CSOs development work in the field CRIS number: 2018/040-919 Financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument	
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin-America and Caribbean Neighbourhood countries	
3. Programming document	Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme “Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities” for the period 2018-2020 ³¹	
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Democratic participation and civil society	ODA
5. Amounts concerned	Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 485.033.270 from the general budget of the European Union, including EUR 76.000.000 from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency as a contributing donor. for an amount of EUR 155.484.077 for 2018,	

³⁰ In complementarity with the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

³¹ Commission Implementing Decision of 18.07.2018, C(2018) 4569 final.

	for an amount of EUR 160.828.175 for 2019, for an amount of EUR 168.721.018 for 2020, subject to the adoption of the relevant budget and appropriations.			
6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	Project Modality. Direct management: grants – call for proposals; grants – direct award; procurement of services. Direct management: EU trust funds			
7 a) DAC code(s)	15150 - Democratic participation and civil society			
b) Main Delivery Channel	20000 – Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. SDGs	Relevance of the programme to goals 11, 16 and 17. This Action also supports the meaningful participation of CSOs in the achievement of all SDGs.			

SUMMARY

The 2012 EU Communication on Civil Society in external relations set three objectives for EU support, which are fully relevant at country level for the 2018/2020 period:

- *"To enhance efforts to promote a conducive environment for CSOs in partner countries;*
- *To promote a meaningful and structured participation of CSOs in domestic policies of partner countries (...)*
- *To increase local CSOs' capacity to perform their roles as independent development actors more effectively."*

Building on this Communication, the Overall Objective for this Action is to enable Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to engage as actors of governance and development at country level.

The Action rolls out the EU support to country-level CSO initiatives aimed at implementing priorities reflected in the new European Consensus on Development which allows for the

implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Those priorities are: climate change; gender equality; youth; root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement; and crisis and fragility. Delegations will implement them whenever applicable, and will have to select at least one of these priorities for this Action.

In particular, the second EU Gender Action Plan seeks to achieve sound progress in third countries. This implies concretely that 85% of the projects under this Action need to include a gender component or approach.

Likewise, the EU commitment to respond to the challenges and investment needs related to climate change requires dedicating at least 20% of the EU budget to climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. The support is also expected to help CSOs play their role in contributing to the goals of the Paris Agreement and the implementation of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction.

This Action document foresees support to all of Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and Caribbean, and Neighbourhood countries. This worldwide coverage allows for the adaptation of the programme to the specific needs of each country. For instance, it also supports CSOs as actors of governance in countries that have graduated from traditional development assistance, and in fragile countries.

This Action Document reflects the added value of the CSO-LA thematic programme at country level, in complementarity with the EIDHR and other instruments, in particular the bilateral programmes that include support to civil society.

1 CONTEXT

1. Thematic area

Activities conceived and implemented by CSOs from EU partner countries will be given priority, in order to empower them, invest in capacity development and facilitate their access to funding.

The initiatives foreseen under this Action Document will be managed mainly by European Union Delegations, and European Commission Headquarters when appropriate.

The Action will be implemented in the 114 EU partner countries listed under section 5.4.

Attention will be paid to the following aspects:

- Supporting genuine and equitable partnerships between European and partner countries actors, where opportune;
- Supporting multi-stakeholder approaches and testing of innovative partnerships that facilitate optimal synergies and best use of different stakeholders' experiences and capacities;
- Promoting innovative forms of interactions between CSOs and Local Authorities in local public policy-making, aiming at good governance and development outcomes through joint efforts.

2. EU Policy Framework

Policy orientations adopted in 2012^[1] proposed an enhanced and more strategic EU engagement with CSOs in partner countries, with a particular focus on local civil society organisations. The Communication outlined a new approach to supporting CSOs with regards to the promotion of inclusive and sustainable growth, as well as in social service delivery. And it also called for a more strategic joint approach of the EU and Member States at country level through the development of EU country roadmaps for engagement with CSOs, in order to improve the impact, predictability and coherence of EU support.

These policy provisions^[2] are implemented by the thematic programme “Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities 2014-2020” operationalised by the 2014 Annual Action Programme 2015-2017 and 2018-2020 Multi-Annual Action Programme (MAAP).

The objective of this programme is notably to strengthen civil society organisations in EU partner countries. This objective is reinforced by the evolving international context of the 2030 Agenda and the newly adopted policies such as the Global Strategy for the EU’s Foreign and Security Policy³² (2016) and the new European Consensus on Development³³ (‘the Consensus’) (June 2017). The Consensus values the participation of CSOs in development, promotes civil society space and recognises the need for support for building the capacity of CSOs. In addition, the programme takes into account the EU Gender Action Plan, “Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020”.³⁴

3. Stakeholder analysis

1.1.2.1 At global level

As part of the public consultation on the draft evaluation reports of the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)^[35], DEVCO, EEAS, FPI and NEAR organised a technical

^[1] The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe’s engagement with Civil Society in external relations: Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee of the Regions, (COM(2012) 492)

^[2] Framed by the overarching goals of the Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation (DCI) for the period 2014-2020, Regulation 233/2014 of 11th March 2014: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2014:077:0044:0076:EN:PDF>

³² Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe, A Global Strategy for the European Union’s Foreign and Security Policy, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, June 2016.

³³ Council Conclusions on the European Consensus on Development, 19 May 2017.

³⁴ Commission Staff Working document, Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020, SWD(2015) 182 final.

^[3] See the complete external evaluation consultation results, p. 213 to 225: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/draft-evaluation-report-external-financing-instruments-development-cooperation-instrument-dci_en

workshop with over 180 participants from the European Parliament and EU Member States on 27-28 March 2017.

In addition, the draft evaluation report was presented at a meeting with the Working Party on Development Cooperation (CODEV) of the Council of the European Union on 23 February 2017, and at the Policy Forum on Development Meeting on 23 March 2017. The meeting brought together Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Local Authorities (LAs) from the European Union and partner countries.

Confirmed during the open public consultation, the majority of contributions provided a mainly positive assessment on the CSO part of the DCI, and in particular when enabling the EU to project its principles and values is concerned: *"Some contributions explicitly mentioned the crucial role of the CSO-LA component to work in this area. (...) But, "while progress has been noted (especially in relation to the CSO-LA programme), several factors, mainly at EUD level and in relation to CSO involvement have been identified that have hindered progress" as the "need to improve sectoral dialogue in partner countries and strengthen partnerships" or the "limited use of its civil society and democracy roadmaps to support this objective." (...)*

Additional written comments noted that due to the strong involvement of civil society in DCI, the EU succeeds in relaying its principles and values (...) By contributing to the capacity building of non-state actors, the instrument promotes the participation of the population in the economic and social development of beneficiary countries (...)

In the area of democratic governance and human rights, the link between the geographical DCI, particularly where the modality of budget support is chosen, the CSO-LA programme, and the EIDHR, deserves to be improved in a number of cases. The political leverage effect of funding in this area should therefore be further strengthened."

The staff working document on the DCI^[36], based on this mid-term external evaluation states more globally that *[partner countries sometimes gave less weight to certain EU/global values such as the participation of CSO-LAs in domestic policy/cooperation processes.]* In response, the staff working document confirms that *[the EU should make more effort to develop multi-actor partnerships (including with CSO-LAs) and further dialogue with partner countries to increase commitment to these values.]*

1.1.2.2 At country level

The direct beneficiaries are, at country level, the civil society organisations and their networks and/or platforms. In principle, all activities should be based upon an initiative of local Civil Society Organisations; their active involvement during all stages of implementation should be ensured.

The final beneficiaries are all citizens (women and men, boys and girls) of the different partner countries. They will benefit from CSO work on advocacy for better reforms and development, monitoring of governance in line with the Consensus and direct implementation of aid by CSOs.

^[36] Evaluation of the Development Cooperation Instrument, accompanying the report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the Mid-term review of the External Financing Instruments, SWD (2017) 600 final.

This Action Document will be mainly implemented by EU Delegations. Specific priorities should be chosen through dialogue and in consultation with local Civil Society, where deemed necessary also in consultation and coordination with central and local authorities.

4. Priority areas for support/problem analysis

Despite the increasing recognition of CSOs as partners in development, they still face significant constraints, hampering their capacity to effectively contribute to governance, development, and ultimately poverty reduction.

1.1.3.1 Overarching objectives

The priorities set in the 2012 Communication³⁷ on civil society in partner countries are as follows:

- *"To enhance efforts to promote a conducive environment for CSOs in partner countries;*
- *To promote a meaningful and structured participation of CSOs in domestic policies of partner countries (...)*
- *To increase local CSOs' capacity to perform their roles as independent development actors more effectively."*

Conducive environment

CSOs' ability to contribute to development depends first and foremost on the **environment** they operate in. They need a set of guarantees that ensure rights and opportunities to operate, act and perform. It entails a conducive legal and policy environment and/or institutional and capacity development. The absence of enabling conditions often constrains CSOs' ability to address and respond to development challenges.

Meaningful and structured participation of CSOs in domestic policies

Inclusive and **participatory** policy-making is a complex and often delicate exercise, new to many EU partner countries. It requires political will and leadership, adequately structured mechanisms, space for interaction and operating rules, specific skills and analytical capacities and competences, both on the side of public authorities and on that of citizens. In the absence of the above, the impact of CSOs' participation in policy dialogue is very limited.

Local CSOs' capacity to perform their roles

CSOs are often unable to significantly influence policies and budgets as well as to define their own development plans, in ways that respond to local communities' demands (planning, project management, financial management, service delivery). Information is not always available and when it is, local stakeholders may lack the **capacity** to analyse it, to provide evidence-based input and to negotiate. CSOs face challenges in relation to their own governance and accountability, which can substantially hamper their credibility and effectiveness.

³⁷ The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations: Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee of the Regions, (COM(2012) 492) final.

Overall, capacity constraints can be considered a major cross-cutting challenge faced by CSOs, affecting their efforts to operate effectively in their various areas of work. This is particularly true in the realm of governance and accountability processes (notably in policy dialogue) and responsiveness to citizen's needs (planning, project management, financial management, service delivery).

These priorities need to be addressed in the country roadmaps. There are currently 107 roadmaps on civil society in partner countries.

The Roadmaps are currently being implemented and cover the period 2014-2017. The updated or revised country roadmaps for 2018/2020 will continue to provide the important strategic framework to guide the EU Delegations in their engagement with civil society, and notably for the implementation of the CSO-LA thematic programme.

1.1.3.2 Dedicated priorities

The Action rolls out the EU support to country-level CSO initiatives aimed at implementing some of the priorities reflected in the EU Consensus for development adopted in June 2017, which addresses the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction. Those priorities are: climate change; gender equality; youth; root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement; and crisis and fragility. Delegations will implement them whenever applicable, and will have to select at least one of these priorities for this Action, although the full allocation does not have to be spent on one or more of these priorities. Delegations can address also this through mainstreaming or using these priorities as thematic areas amongst others, in line with the priorities identified in their country Roadmap. Women and girls are specifically negatively affected in each of the other priority areas listed here below, and gender specific approaches to these issues should also be considered in actions addressing them. Climate change or environmental management issues should be integrated in other priority areas.

Climate change

The EU has a long-term commitment to international efforts to tackle climate change and supporting partners in implementing their Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement. Environment and climate policies and strategies are areas where CSOs are major players in EU international cooperation as advocates of ambitious measures, providers of expertise and support to local action, contributors to dialogue mechanisms and monitors of progress on the ground. The CSO-LA programme will contribute to the EU's commitment to dedicate at least 20% of the total expenditure to climate change mitigation and adaptation actions.

Gender equality

Despite progress, women's rights remain unfulfilled and are not respected throughout the world. Gender inequalities are a major barrier for human development. All too often, women and girls are discriminated against in health, education, political representation and the labour market, and suffer brutal forms of violence. This limits their freedom of choice and their ability to achieve their full potential and contribute to their societies and local communities. CSOs play a critical role in reinforcing women's roles as actors of change. Women's organisations and CSOs working on gender equality issues face specific challenges and barriers to their operation. It is essential that efforts are made to ensure they have

opportunities to participate in policymaking and mainstream gender across policies in partner countries. The CSO-LA programme in partner countries will contribute to the EU's commitment of having 85% of the projects including a gender component or approach.

Youth

Creating sufficient good quality jobs for young people remains a key challenge. CSOs promote young people’s rights, facilitate their engagement in social, civic, political and economic life, and ensure their contribution to inclusive growth and sustainable development. Young people should also participate in democratic processes and assume leadership roles.

Root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement

As part of the EU's overall response to migration, addressing the root causes of irregular and unsafe migration and of forced displacement is crucial. Civil society organisations have an important role to play in this context. Through this component, the EU strives to strengthen CSOs' capacities and support CSO initiatives in contributing to address the root causes of irregular migration, in order to strengthen the positive synergies between migration and development while mitigating any negative impacts. CSO initiatives may include strengthening local governance and conflict prevention; contribute to broad-based inclusive growth, supporting participatory and inclusive approaches through intra- and intercommunity dialogue and trust building mechanisms.

Crises and fragility

Countries in situations of fragility or affected by conflict deserve a specific approach. The EU recognises an essential role for CSOs in the peace and security agenda, particularly in conflict prevention, peace-building and state-building, as well as in strengthening resilience.

5. RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Environment not conducive for CSOs to operate independently with the EU funding	M or H (depending on the country)	EU Delegations take measures to mitigate this risk and allow CSOs to participate in local Calls for Proposals and to benefit from EU related funding. Among others, measures could include policy dialogue with relevant public authorities facilitated by the EU Delegations.
Weak CSOs’ capacity to engage in dialogue with public authorities	M or H (depending on the country)	EU Delegations to provide CSOs with specific training and assistance on this matter as well as to create structured dialogue spaces to enhance trust and competencies.

Limited operational and financial capacities of CSO staff to manage EU-funded projects	M	EU Delegations to organise demand-driven capacity development training in favour of CSOs in order to improve their project cycle management capacities.
CSOs could be confronted with fragile, crisis and risk-prone situations	M or H (depending on the country)	EU Delegations to tailor assistance in a way that allows CSOs to contribute to the resolution of problem.
Environment not conducive for CSOs working on gender equality and human rights issues; Weak capacity of women's organisations and restricted possibility to engage in dialogue on human rights and gender equality with public authorities; limited financial capacities of women's organisations.	M or H (depending on the country)	Awareness raising on gender equality and human rights issues and the importance of supporting women's organisations and CSOs working on gender equality and human rights; Priority given to a certain number of women's organisations and CSOs working on gender equality.
Assumptions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existence of enabling conditions to allow Civil Society Organisations (to register and perform). - Existence of transparent and accountable Civil Society Organisations in the partner country where the action shall take place. 		

6. LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

7. Lessons learnt

Several studies and reports, assessments, exchanges of best practices and independent evaluations have allowed lessons to be drawn from the implementation during the 2014-2017 period. They have been determining in re-defining and adapting the guiding principles and the objectives of this Programme as well as its monitoring and evaluation provisions³⁸.

In particular, the Mid Term review of the DCI, several rounds of consultation with CSOs and LAs on the New Consensus for Development (October 2016), during the annual seminar of CSO and LA Focal Points in EU Delegations (January 2017) or the Policy Forum for Development (March 2017), have highlighted a few key lessons.

³⁸ There are available at www.EU4civilsociety.eu

The programme has allowed strategic achievements such as the establishment of 107 EU Roadmaps for engagement with Civil Society at country level, and also such as tactical answers to situations of fragility and (un)foreseen crises. Roadmaps have been designed with civil society and jointly adopted with EU Member States. Whenever they agreed, host countries and other donors have also joined the process.

These roadmaps present a comprehensive, coherent and shared EU analysis of the civil society landscape, its enabling environment and the obstacles, constraints and opportunities faced by CSOs. By identifying long term and strategic objectives for EU cooperation with CSOs, these Roadmaps translate the ambition to support CSOs into concrete strategic steps in each country.

Nevertheless, there are still in the CSO-LA programme too many dispersed priorities involving too many actions without a unified approach and impact, often with CSOs acting more as traditional implementers of aid rather than as actors of development policy. While it is important to keep a field- and demand-driven approach, it is equally important that the programme focusses more on clearer priorities and added value.

Since 2014, the space for civil society has shrunk. Civic freedoms are reportedly under threat in more than 100 countries and CSOs are regularly the subject of violent crackdowns or physical attacks. It is therefore essential that the EU support for CSOs integrates this increasing challenge and the constraints it entails, and continues to reinforce and further adapt its support to creating and maintaining an enabling operating environment for CSOs.

One important lesson is that the strong focus of the programme on supporting CSOs as actors of governance instead of providers of assistance needs to be reinforced in graduated countries, and also in states affected by fragility, where crucially dialogue needs to be further strengthened.

8. Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

The Action will be carried out in complementarity with other Programmes and Instruments benefitting Civil Society and/or Local Authorities, namely the European Instruments for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the Thematic Programme on Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) and notably its components dedicated to the Action focus areas such as Human Development and Climate Change, the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), the Partnership Instrument, the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), the Pan-African Programme, and projects supported by bilateral or regional cooperation, including the European Development Fund (EDF). In fragile, crisis and risk-prone situations, synergies will be explored with CSOs operating in the fields of emergency and humanitarian aid.

The CSO-LA programme should support country strategies such as the National Indicative Programme (NIP) in a comprehensive manner to achieve coherence with EU priorities in each country. Particular attention will be paid to involving Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities in the delivery of Budget Support programmes. To ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of assistance, funds will not be used to top up or duplicate activities funded under those Programmes.

EU Delegations will continue to coordinate the implementation of the Action with Member States and other Development Partners in the framework of the Roadmaps for EU engagement

with Civil Society, as considered in the Communication ‘The roots of Democracy’ above referred and in subsequent Council Conclusions and European Parliament Resolution³⁹.

In 107 Delegations, the EU and the Member States have developed and are implementing country roadmaps which improve the impact, predictability and visibility of EU actions, and ensure consistency and synergies throughout the various sectors covered by EU external relations. These roadmaps lead to concrete gains on synergies, collective impact and division of labour. EU Delegations will update and revise the Roadmaps to ensure they are valid until 2020, and will continue to coordinate the process locally.

9. Cross-cutting issues

This Action includes crucial cross-cutting issues such as governance, rule of law, human rights, gender equality, environment and climate change. All actions under each objective should be **gender sensitive and rights-based**.

The action will contribute greatly to governance, democracy and the rule of law through support to CSO initiatives contributing to the accountability of public authorities and the participation of all citizens, notably young people and women, in development policy dialogue.

Human rights will be fully considered, in complementarity with EIDHR, since the initiatives supported will have to integrate the Rights based approach.

Gender equality will be one of the main focuses in the Action so as to support the critical role of CSOs in reinforcing women’s role as actors of change.

Climate change mitigation and adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change are also areas of focus. CSOs will be supported as advocates, providers of expertise, contributors to dialogue mechanisms and monitors of progress on the ground.

More globally, environment protection and sustainable management of natural resources will have to be particularly taken into account in the implementation of supported initiatives.

At local level, a specific focus has to be given to the Territorial Approach to Local Development (TALD.) The TALD is a dynamic bottom-up and long-term process based on a multi-actor and multi-sector approach, in which different local institutions and actors work together to define priorities, as well as to plan and implement specific strategies to generate incomes and promote well-being, and to increase the resilience of populations living in a given territory. The territory is indeed defined as a localised set of community, social, natural and private resources and capacities.

The Action will aim at piloting multi-actors processes for achieving inclusive, sustainable economic development in specific territories. It will support the mobilisation of different local actors for joint efforts for inclusive and sustainable growth. In particular, Civil Society Organisations will be encouraged to establish local multi-actor partnerships (Local Authorities, enterprises, cooperatives, fair trade organisations) in support to low carbon and

³⁹ European Parliament resolution on local authorities and civil society: Europe’s engagement in support of sustainable development, .2012/2288(INI).

climate resilient development or green economy initiatives.

Including capacity development and community mobilisation in supported initiatives is strongly encouraged, in order to enable the targeted population to acquire an increased understanding and ability to address the challenges they face in improving their livelihoods.

10. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

11. Objectives/results

The overall objective of the action is to enable Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to engage as actors of governance and development at country level. It corresponds to the objectives identified in the 2012 EU Communication on Civil Society in external relations:

- "To enhance efforts to promote a conducive environment for CSOs in partner countries;
- To promote a meaningful and structured participation of CSOs in domestic policies of partner countries (...)
- To increase local CSOs' capacity to perform their roles as independent development actors more effectively."

Those objectives will have to be reflected in the revised Country Roadmaps for EU engagement with Civil Society for 2018/2020.

This programme is further relevant for the 2030 Agenda. Its focus on participation, partnership and multi-stakeholder dialogues reflects core values of the 2030 Agenda. Though the relevance of the programme to goals 11, 16 and 17 is particularly obvious, it also supports the meaningful participation of CSOs in the achievement of all SDGs. This does not imply a commitment by the countries benefiting from this programme.

While supporting the actions detailed below, particular attention should be devoted to ensuring that initiatives funded by this Programme add value and complement support provided within bilateral, regional, and other thematic actions in the same areas or sectors.

In that framework, the five priorities identified above (selected among those of the new consensus) have been translated into specific objectives: climate change; gender equality; youth; root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement; and crisis and fragility. Delegations will implement them whenever applicable, and will have to include at least one of these priorities in their calls for proposals.

The expected Specific Objectives and outputs are:

- *Specific objective 1: Increase the participation of CSOs in tackling climate change and mitigating its adverse effects*
Output 1: Strengthened CSOs' capacities and engagement on climate change mitigation and adaptation
- *Specific objective 2: Women's participation in decision-making increased*
Output 2: Strengthened women's CSOs capacities and engagement for participation in decision making
- *Specific Objective 3: The voice of youth in society is increased*
Output 3: Strengthened CSOs' capacities and engagement on youth inclusion
- *Specific objective 4: Increase the participation of CSOs in addressing irregular migration and forced displacement*

Output 4: Strengthened CSOs' capacities and engagement on addressing irregular migration and forced displacement

- *Specific objective 5: Increase the participation of CSOs in preventing, addressing and/or mitigating risks and vulnerabilities in fragile and conflict affected countries*

Output 5: Strengthened CSOs' capacities and engagement on addressing Resilience

Outputs will be monitored through a **combination of indicators** (see the logframe p. 29 of this Action Document).

All actions supported by this programme should not give rise to a profit.

12. Main activities

The main types of activities will include:

Specific objective 1: Increase the participation of CSOs in tackling climate change and mitigating its adverse effects

The CSO-LA programme will contribute to the EU's commitment to dedicate at least 20% of the total expenditure to climate change mitigation and adaptation actions, notably through CSO activities contributing to:

- promoting the design and implementation of climate-related strategies in key sectors, such as agriculture, energy, urban development, within the framework of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement through multi-stakeholders approaches;
- promoting the involvement of local stakeholders in climate action ("think global, act local"), including in the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy;
- enabling the transition to a climate-resilient, low-emissions, circular economy through i.a. resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production, including the sustainable management of chemicals and waste;
- decoupling economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions and environmental degradation;
- helping to build capacity to mainstream climate change, disaster risk reduction and environmental sustainability and the pursuit of green growth into national and local development strategies;
- making better use of science, technology and innovation to promote climate action and environmental sustainability;
- promoting ecosystem or nature-based approaches with a view to offering sustainable solutions to cope with climate change mitigation and adaptation challenges, using ecosystem services to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to conserve and expand carbon sinks, as well as to enhance resilience to the impacts of climate change;
- promoting the use by partner countries of the comprehensive data and information available through research programmes and institutions, and technological centres, including European and international Earth observation programmes, to support evidence-based decisions that take into account the state of the climate and the environment.

Specific objective 2: Women's participation in decision-making increased

The CSO-LA programme in partner countries will have to contribute to the EU's commitment of including a gender component or approach in 85% of projects, notably supporting CSO actions aimed at promoting gender equality such as:

- strengthening policy dialogue on gender equality, human and women's rights to empower women and girls;
- promoting women and girls' role as agents of development and change, for instance:
 - promoting their economic and social rights and empowerment;
 - strengthening their voice and participation in social, economic, political and civic life;
 - ensuring their physical and psychological integrity;
 - promoting women's equal access to - and control over – resources, productive employment, decent work, equal pay and financial services;
- increasing targeted action towards gender equality;
- involving men and boys' associations, women's organisations, faith based organisations, youth organisations, and media in the transformative process of engendering social change, in particular by challenging stereotypes;
- deepening multi-stakeholder partnerships, i.e. including "non-usual" stakeholders (who have been less involved until now) in processes: trade unions, media, financial actors etc.;
- including the gender perspective in all "other" relevant debates, policies and initiatives: environmental protection, resilience, economic development, urban planning, migration, youth empowerment...
- strengthening the capacity of CSOs to carry out gender-responsive budgeting and planning;
- capacity building and training for women's organisations and CSOs working on gender equality (on financial and administrative issues, improved access to procurement and calls for proposals etc.);
- Support CSOs working on gender equality and women's empowerment in engaging in policy dialogue in order to advocate for gender sensitive policy making, alignment and respect of international frameworks on human rights and gender equality; and
- ensuring the active participation of women and women's organisations in decision-making processes at all levels.

*Specific objective 3: **The voice of youth in society is increased.***

The Programme will support CSO actions to meet the specific needs and aspirations of youth according to their age, particularly young women and girls, such as:

- support to monitor, advocate and pilot more effective and inclusive youth employment strategies and decent work opportunities;
- support to monitor, advocate and pilot reforms, making it easier for youth to become self-employed or start a business;
- support to monitor, advocate and pilot more relevant education, vocational training and skills development strategies offering youth better chances for (self-)employment;
- strengthen the rights of young people and their empowerment and involvement in public affairs, including by promoting their participation in local economies, societies and decision-making, notably through youth organisations;
- protect young people including vulnerable adolescents, from abuse, sexual, labour and other forms of exploitation, and hazardous and indecent working conditions;

- support the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights⁴⁰;
- support social protection measures such as maternity and disability benefits, employment injury protection and unemployment support.

Specific objective 4: Increase the participation of CSOs in addressing irregular migration and forced displacement

The Programme will support CSO actions to address the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement, in particular in emigration-prone regions, such as, inter alia:

- promoting investment, trade and innovation in partner countries to boost growth and employment opportunities for potential migrants;
- stimulating policy innovation and improving responsiveness of economic policies to populations' needs;
- improving participation in multi-actor partnerships with the private sector and public authorities;
- supporting socio-economic initiatives aimed at wealth and job creation, targeting populations with limited opportunities for economic empowerment;
- reinforcing service provision for productive activities and access to productive resources (e.g. business support, market access, opportunities for integration of the informal economy, micro credit), to populations with limited access to such means;
- supporting, inclusive social and education systems
- supporting good governance, including through strengthened local governance, conflict prevention and participatory and inclusive approaches.

Specific objective 5: Increase the participation of CSOs in preventing, addressing and/or mitigating risks and vulnerabilities in fragile and conflict affected countries

The Programme will support CSO actions aimed at preventing, addressing and mitigating risks and vulnerabilities in fragile and conflict affected countries, such as actions to:

- strengthen resilience, particularly of the most vulnerable populations, for example in the face of environmental and economic shocks, natural and man-made disasters, conflicts and threats to health;
- ensure that individuals, communities, institutions and countries can better prepare for, withstand, adapt to, and quickly recover from stresses and shocks without compromising long-term development prospects;
- develop complementary actions between development and humanitarian actors, building on a shared analysis of risks and vulnerabilities;
- promote the participation of individuals and communities to take an active role in managing and resolving conflicts at all levels to contribute to achieving peaceful and inclusive societies.

Particular attention will be paid to ensuring that support to CSOs is conflict-sensitive and that it will not contribute to incitement to violence, hatred, racism or xenophobia⁴¹.

⁴⁰ in accordance with ICPD and Beijing PoA.

⁴¹ as defined in Article 1 of the EU framework Decision 2008/913/JHA on combating certain forms and expression of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law

5. IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner countries, referred to in Budget Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 will be carried out, is 114 months from the adoption of this Action Document, subject to modifications to be agreed by the responsible authorising officer in the relevant agreements.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modalities

The envisaged assistance to Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros (Union of), Congo (Republic of the), Congo (Democratic Republic of), Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius and Seychelles, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Islands, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, China, Korea (DPRK – North), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Maldives, Thailand, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Fiji, Papouasie Nouvelle Guinée, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Russia, Tunisia, Ukraine is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU⁴².

5.3.1. Grants: call for proposals (direct management)

(a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The overarching objective shall be the enhancement of Civil Society Organisations' participation in partner countries' public policies and programmes as a pre-condition for a more equitable, open and democratic society focussing on five priorities identified above and among those of the new consensus: climate change; gender equality; youth; the root causes of migration; and crisis and fragility.

⁴² https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/8442/consolidated-list-sanctions_en

(b) Eligibility conditions

The initiatives to be financed shall be initiated and directly implemented by Civil Society Organisations (as defined in Annex II.B of the DCI Regulation). In limited cases and where appropriate, in order to ensure their effectiveness, initiatives may be carried out by other actors for the benefit of the civil society organisations concerned.

Priority will be given to supporting CSOs from partner countries in order to strengthen their capacity, in line with the overall objectives of the action. Should it be considered more effective, EU Delegations could envisage broadening the eligibility to applicants from other eligible countries (mentioned below). In those cases, projects proposals should be based on local initiatives and genuine involvement of CSOs from partner countries should be ensured at all stages.

As applicant: non-profit making CSOs and their associations from the following countries shall be eligible for funding under the CSO-LA Programme:

I. the EU partner country where the action takes place;

If considered relevant for the effectiveness of the action, eligibility can be extended to:

II. other EU partner countries, as follows:

(a) countries eligible for Union funding under the European Neighbourhood Instrument established by Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (the ‘European Neighbourhood Instrument’) including the Russian Federation;

(b) developing countries and territories, as included in the list of ODA recipients published by the OECD-DAC (‘list of ODA recipients’), and overseas countries and territories covered by Council Decision 2013/755/EU;

(c) countries eligible for the European Development Fund;

III. Member States, beneficiaries listed in Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 231/2014, and contracting parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area;

Co-applicant and affiliated entities: the eligibility of Co-applicant and affiliated entities is restricted to all types of non-profit making CSOs and/or their associations and LAs and/or their associations originating from the countries described above under applicant.

EU Delegations may define specific eligibility criteria according to the country context and in order to respond to local needs in terms of actors (type and origin), priorities, themes, sectors, and geographical areas. This will allow EU Delegations to ensure complementarity and subsidiarity with other programmes implemented in the country, as well as to better respond to local circumstances.

The grants may be awarded to sole beneficiaries and to consortia of beneficiaries (coordinator and co-beneficiaries).

In order to ensure the access to funds of all types and levels of CSOs, financial support to third parties is encouraged in accordance with Articles 137 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

Subject to information to be published in the call for proposals, the **minimum amount of the EU contribution per grant** is EUR 300.000. In exceptional and duly justified cases, grants of less than EUR 300.000 may be accepted.

The indicative duration of grants (their implementation period) may not be lower than 24 months nor exceed 60 months. Under their respective calls for proposals each EU Delegation may determine the minimum and maximum durations, provided these stay within the above-mentioned limits. In duly justified cases, EU Delegations can finance grants of less than 24 months with a minimum of 12 months.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

As a general rule, the maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for each grant to be funded is 90% of the total eligible costs. The rate may be lower if the self-financing capacity of the targeted beneficiaries is good.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100 %. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's responsible authorising officer in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative timing to launch the call

Local Calls for Proposals are expected to be published as from the adoption of this Commission Decision, foreseen in the second quarter of 2018.

In exceptional circumstances outside the Commission's control, and to ensure an efficient and effective implementation of the programme and achievement of its objectives, in duly justified cases linked to the national and local events, EU Delegations may launch calls for proposals in 2018 before the adoption of the financing decision, with a suspension clause, upon prior approval by the responsible Authorising Officer.

Furthermore, in cases where local calls for proposals launched in 2018 are highly successful and the quality of the proposals in the reserve list allows for it, the allocation for 2019 may be used to contract reserve lists of 2018 calls for proposals instead of launching new calls which

would serve the same objective and target the same beneficiaries. The same logic can be applied to subsequent calls launched under 2019 funds.

5.3.2 *Grant: direct award (direct management)*

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The overarching objective shall be the enhancement of Civil Society Organisations' participation in partner countries' public policies and programmes as a pre-condition for a more equitable, open and democratic society.

In some cases, where relevant, contributions from other donors can be added to the allocation foreseen in this Action Document for a given country.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's responsible authorising officer, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because beneficiaries are in one of the circumstances listed in Article 190 (1) (c), (d) and (f) of the Rules of Application (RAP) . EU Delegations may award direct grants if justified by the local context and in line with the achievement of the objective of this action.

In these cases, **priority will be given to representative national platforms of Civil Society Organisations originating from the EU partner country where the action takes place**, in order to strengthen their institutional and operational capacity, in line with the overall objectives of the "CSO-LA" Thematic Programme.

(c) Eligibility conditions

As applicant: non-profit making CSOs and/or their associations and/or national platforms from the following countries shall be eligible for funding under the CSO-LA Programme:

I. the EU partner country where the action takes place;

If considered relevant for the effectiveness of the action, eligibility can be extended to

II. other EU partner countries, as follows:

(a) countries eligible for Union funding under the European Neighbourhood Instrument established by Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (the 'European Neighbourhood Instrument') including the Russian Federation;

(b) developing countries and territories, as included in the list of ODA recipients published by the OECD-DAC ('list of ODA recipients'), and overseas countries and territories covered by Council Decision 2013/755/EU;

(c) countries eligible for the European Development Fund;

III. Member States, beneficiaries listed in Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 231/2014, and contracting parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area;

Co-applicant and affiliated entities: the eligibility of Co-applicant and affiliated entities is restricted to all types of non-profit making CSOs and/or their associations and LAs and/or their associations originating from the countries described above under applicant.

EU Delegations may define specific eligibility criteria according to the country context and in order to respond to local needs in terms of actors (type and origin), priorities, themes, sectors, and geographical areas. This will allow EU Delegations to ensure complementarity and subsidiarity with other programmes implemented in the country, as well as to better respond to local circumstances.

The initiatives to be financed shall be initiated and directly implemented by representative and/or national platforms of Civil Society Organisations (as defined in Annex II.B of the DCI Regulation). In limited cases and where appropriate, in order to ensure their effectiveness, initiatives may be carried out by other actors for the benefit of the national CSO platform concerned.

All actions should include an element of capacity development of partner countries CSO platforms. Partnerships among CSOs and other stakeholders are encouraged in order for the action to achieve stronger ownership and impact.

Grants may be awarded to sole beneficiaries and to consortia of beneficiaries (coordinator and co-beneficiaries).

The maximum duration of grants (their implementation period) may not be lower than 24 months nor exceed 60 months. In duly justified cases, EU Delegations can finance grants of less than 24 months with a minimum of 12 months.

(d) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(e) Maximum rate of co-financing

As a general rule, the maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for each grant directly awarded is 90% of the total eligible costs. The rate may be lower if the self-financing capacity of the targeted beneficiaries is good.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100 %. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(f) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

As from the adoption of this Commission Decision, foreseen in the second quarter of 2018.

5.3.3 Direct management EU Bêkou Trust Fund in the Central African Republic

An amount of EUR 5,661,000 is to be managed in direct management by the Delegation to the Central African Republic. Moreover, the unspent allocations by the Delegations will constitute the CSO contribution to the EU Bêkou Trust Fund, the establishment of which was decided by the Commission in July 2014⁴³ for a duration of 60 months following the signature of the Constitutive Agreement.

The overall objective of the Fund is to support all aspects of the Central African Republic's exit from crisis and reconstruction and to support the neighbouring countries affected by the crisis, in coordination with national frameworks and the instruments of other development partners.

The EU Bêkou Trust Fund pools funds from the EU, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy and Switzerland⁴⁴.

Rules and procedures applying to the management and governance of the Trust Fund is detailed in the Constitutive Agreement signed with the donors in July 2014.

In accordance with Article 187 (4) of the Financial Regulation, the Board of the Trust Fund decides upon the use of the Funds which shall nevertheless be used to the benefit of CSOs to the proportion of the size of the EU Contribution stemming from the CSO budget line.

5.3.4 Procurement (direct management)

For in-country interventions, EU Delegations will be able to spend up to 5% of the respective annual operational country allocation for support measures accompanying the implementation of this priority of the thematic programme. Those accompanying support measures must cover activities of direct benefit to the organisations/partners targeted by the country programme, such as consultation sessions, information sessions on Calls for Proposals, local mapping studies, training seminars and workshops related to the programme, capitalisation studies, programme evaluations at country level and/or other activities focusing on the strengthening of actors.

Taking into consideration that support measures are initiated at country level by EU Delegations on the basis of local needs assessments, the number and type of contracts as well as the amounts allocated may vary significantly and is difficult to estimate. However, based on past years experiences, 60 to 70 contracts implemented in direct management are expected.

The type of tenders and contracts will be determined in each case by the European Union's standard procedures for the implementation of external actions.

Support measures do not cover activities or expenditure aimed at helping EU Delegations to manage the programme, such as technical assistance for the evaluation of proposals, projects' audits or follow-up of the programme.

⁴³ C (2014)5019

⁴⁴ At 30/11/2017: certified contributions from the EU (EUR 123 032 543), France (EUR 15 000 000), Germany (EUR 30 000 000), the Netherlands (EUR 3 000 000), Italy (EUR 1 000 000) and Switzerland (EUR 925 326).

5.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

In principle, actions must take place in the partner country where the grant has been awarded.

The list of 114 targeted countries and respective budget allocations for CSOs foreseen for years 2018, 2019, 2020 is provided here below.

African countries

	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL 2018-2020
Angola*	830.500	1.000.000	1.000.000	2.830.500
Benin*	830.500	1.000.000	1.000.000	2.830.500
Botswana	1.698.300			1.698.300
Burkina Faso*	2.217.500		2.500.000	4.717.500
Burundi*	2.339.085	4.000.000	3.000.000	9.339.085
Cape Verde		2.431.000		2.431.000
Cameroon	1.774.000	1.000.000	1.000.000	3.774.000
Central African Republic (Trust Fund Bêkou)*	2.661.000	3.000.000		5.661.000
Chad*	1.698.300			1.698.300
Comoros (Union of) *	887.000		1.000.000	1.887.000
Congo (Republic of the)	1.677.070	3.000.000	4.000.000	8.677.070
Congo (Democratic Republic of)*	1.435.000	4.000.000	4.000.000	9.435.000
Djibouti*			1.415.250	1.415.250
Ethiopia *		1.000.000	1.830.500	2.830.500
Gabon; Sao Tomé and Principe*		981.350	1.000.000	1.981.350
Gambia*	887.000	1.000.000		1.887.000
Ghana		2.217.500	2.500.000	4.717.500
Guinea-Bissau*	2.000.000	2.000.000	2.604.500	6.604.500

Guinea-Conakry*	3.548.000		4.000.000	7.548.000
Ivory Coast	1.400.000	2.500.000	1.006.200	4.906.200
Kenya	1.830.500	1.000.000		2.830.500
Lesotho*		754.800		754.800
Liberia*		1.887.000		1.887.000
Madagascar*	774.000	1.000.000	2.000.000	3.774.000
Malawi*	1.415.250			1.415.250
Mali*	1.358.750		1.000.000	2.358.750
Mauritania*		2.217.500	2.500.000	4.717.500
Mauritius and Seychelles		1.241.800	1.400.000	2.641.800
Mozambique*		3.991.500	4.500.000	8.491.500
Namibia	798.300	900.000		1.698.300
Nigeria		990.675		990.675
Rwanda*		2.217.500	2.500.000	4.717.500
Senegal *	3.604.500		3.000.000	6.604.500
Sierra Leone*	2.217.500	2.500.000		4.717.500
Somalia*	887.000	1.000.000		1.887.000
South Sudan*		1.604.500	5.000.000	6.604.500
Sudan ⁴⁵	5.195.495	5.000.000		10.195.495
Swaziland	943.500			943.500
Tanzania*	1.330.500	1.500.000		2.830.500
Uganda*	2.500.000	2.217.500		4.717.500
Zambia*		3.302.250	3.302.250	6.604.500
Zimbabwe	2.677.070	3.000.000	3.000.000	8.677.070

⁴⁵ This amount includes the balance of EUR 760,495 from a transfer agreement from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) as contributing donor (with a total amount of 30 000 000 SEK), in addition to the funds available from the EU Budget.

South Africa		2.604.500	4.000.000	6.604.500
TOTAL AFRICA	51.415.620	68.059.375	64.058.700	183.533.695

Latin American countries

	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL 2018-2020
Argentina		2.222.500	2.500.000	4.722.500
Bolivia	1.556.000	2.000.000	4.000.000	7.556.000
Brazil	4.445.000		5.000.000	9.445.000
Chile **		1.778.000	2.000.000	3.778.000
Colombia	4.445.000	5.000.000		9.445.000
Costa Rica	566.700			566.700
Ecuador		2.667.000	3.000.000	5.667.000
El Salvador	833.500	1.000.000	1.000.000	2.833.500
Guatemala	1.889.000			1.889.000
Honduras	1.778.000	2.000.000		3.778.000
Mexico		1.778.000	2.000.000	3.778.000
Nicaragua	1.416.750			1.416.750
Panama	566.700			566.700
Paraguay		889.000	1.000.000	1.889.000
Peru	2.222.500	2.500.000		4.722.500
Uruguay **	889.000		1.000.000	1.889.000
Venezuela	2.722.500		2.000.000	4.722.500
TOTAL AMERICA LATIN	23.330.650	21.834.500	23.500.000	68.665.150

Caribbean countries

	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL 2018-2020
Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Islands ⁴⁶		850.050		850.050
Belize		188.900		188.900
Cuba	2.722.500		2.000.000	4.722.500
Dominican Republic	1.778.000	2.000.000		3.778.000
Guyana		1.416.750		1.416.750
Haiti*	3.000.000	3.000.000	3.445.000	9.445.000
Jamaica	1.416.750			1.416.750
Suriname			1.416.750	1.416.750
Trinidad & Tobago		283.350		283.350
TOTAL CARIBBEAN	8.917.250	7.739.050	6.861.750	23.518.050

Asian countries

	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL 2018-2020
Afghanistan*	2.000.000	1.778.000		3.778.000
Bangladesh*		4.722.500		4.722.500
Burma / Myanmar*	3.000.000	3.000.000	3.445.000	9.445.000
Cambodia*	3.445.000	3.000.000	3.000.000	9.445.000
China	1.833.500		1.000.000	2.833.500
Korea (DPRK – North)	889.000	1.000.000		1.889.000
India	3.445.000	3.000.000	3.000.000	9.445.000
Indonesia	3.445.000	3.000.000	3.000.000	9.445.000

⁴⁶ Antigua and Barbuda; Dominica; Grenada; St. Kitts - Nevis; St. Lucia; St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Laos*		3.000.000	3.611.500	6.611.500
Malaysia	889.000	1.000.000		1.889.000
Mongolia	833.500	1.000.000	1.000.000	2.833.500
Nepal*	3.445.000	3.000.000	3.000.000	9.445.000
Pakistan	3.556.000	2.000.000	2.000.000	7.556.000
Philippines	1.667.000	2.000.000	2.000.000	5.667.000
Sri Lanka and Maldives		944.500		944.500
Thailand	5.565.307		3.879.693	9.445.000
Vietnam	1.500.000	1.500.000	1.722.500	4.722.500
TOTAL ASIA	35.513.307	33.945.000	30.658.693	100.117.000

Central Asian countries

	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL 2018-2020
Kazakhstan	1.416.750			1.416.750
Kyrgyzstan		2.125.125	2.125.125	4.250.250
Tajikistan		1.416.750	1.416.750	2.833.500
Uzbekistan	944.500			944.500
TOTAL CENTRAL ASIA	2.361.250	3.541.875	3.541.875	9.445.000

Pacific countries

	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL 2018-2020
Fiji	1.778.000		2.000.000	3.778.000
Papouasie Nouvelle Guinée	1.667.000	2.000.000	2.000.000	5.667.000
Solomon Islands*		708.375		708.375
Timor Leste*	833.500	1.000.000	1.000.000	2.833.500

TOTAL PACIFIC	4.278.500	3.708.375	5.000.000	12.986.875
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Middle Eastern countries

	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL 2018-2020
Iraq	1.833.580	1.000.000		2.833.580
Iran	1.666.960	2.000.000	2.000.000	5.666.960
Yemen*	1.666.960	2.000.000	2.000.000	5.666.960
TOTAL MIDDLE EAST	5.167.500	5.000.000	4.000.000	14.167.500

Neighbourhood countries

	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL 2018-2020
Algeria	2.000.000		1.500.000	3.500.000
Armenia		3.000.000		3.000.000
Azerbaijan			3.000.000	3.000.000
Belarus		2.000.000	3.000.000	5.000.000
Egypt	4.000.000			4.000.000
Georgia		3.000.000	2.000.000	5.000.000
Jordan	2.500.000			2.500.000
Israel		3.000.000		3.000.000
Lebanon	1.000.000			1.000.000
Libya	1.000.000	1.000.000	1.000.000	3.000.000
Moldova			3.000.000	3.000.000
Morocco		1.200.000	1.100.000	2.300.000
Palestine		2.000.000	4.500.000	6.500.000
Syria	2.500.000		1.500.000	4.000.000

Russia	8.000.000		7.000.000	15.000.000
Tunisia		1.800.000		1.800.000
Ukraine	3.500.000		3.500.000	7.000.000
TOTAL NEIGHBOURHOOD	24.500.000	17.000.000	31.100.000	72.600.000

* **Least Developed Countries (OECD DAC list of ODA Recipients)⁴⁷.**

**** Countries not in the DAC list (graduated countries) as per instance Chile and Uruguay, according to article 16 of the DCI are eligible for thematic programme CSO-LA with the limitation of 95% overall ODA, in order to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of Union financing or to foster regional or trans-regional cooperation.**

Countries eligible in accordance with Art 1.1.b of the DCI Regulation, other than the above-listed, remain eligible under and could profit from future Actions under the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme of the Thematic Programme “Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities 2014-2020”.

Countries and territories falling within the scope of Council Decision 2013/755/EU on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Union (‘Overseas Association Decision’) and countries beneficiaries of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) (listed in Annex I) are in principle not eligible locations of the action.

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

The Commission’s authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realization of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5 Indicative budget

The total amount of EU budget contribution is EUR 484.272.775 under budget line 21 02 08 01 "Civil Society Organisations", plus EUR 760,495 from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) as contributing donor,

The contribution is for an amount of EUR 154.723.582 from the general budget of the European Union for 2018, plus EUR 760,495 from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) as contributing donor, and

for an amount of EUR 160.828.175 from the general budget of the European Union for 2019, and

⁴⁷ List effective for reporting on 2012 and 2013 flows, available at:

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/documentupload/DAC%20List%20used%20for%202012%20and%202013%20flows.pdf>

for an amount of EUR 168.721.018 from the general budget of the European Union for 2020, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the draft budget and the budget.

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

Local calls for proposals will be launched and managed by EU Delegations. Exceptionally, some calls for proposals might be launched and managed by European Commission Headquarters.

5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of projects resulting from a call for proposals launched by the EU Delegations will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) or the list of result indicators (for budget support). The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

5.8 Evaluation

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision. In line with the key requirements of accountability and learning, evaluation provisions for the whole CSO-LA Programme, including the grants awarded under this Action, are envisaged under the Action Document 4 – Support Measures.

Grants awarded under this Action are managed by the EU Delegations. The evaluation reports of the evaluations implemented at project level by the EU Delegations shall be shared with the Commission and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the EU Delegations shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

5.9 Audit

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

Grants awarded under this Action are managed by the EU Delegations. The audits implemented at project level by the EU Delegations will be part of the Audit Plan centrally managed by the Commission and supported by external consultants.

The financing of these audits shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision (see Action documents 4 – Support measures).

5.10 Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

PPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY) ⁴⁷

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the financing decision. When it is not possible to determine the outputs of an action at formulation stage, intermediary outcomes should be presented and the outputs defined during inception of the overall programme and its components. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for including the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) for the output and outcome indicators whenever it is relevant for monitoring and reporting purposes. Note also that indicators should be disaggregated by sex whenever relevant.

	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines 2017	Targets 2020	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	Enable Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to engage as actors of governance and development at country level.	Country score according to CIVICUS Enabling environment index (EEI.)	2017 scores for individual countries.	2020 scores for individual countries.	Annual data on the CIVICUS EEI website (http://www.civicus.org/eei/)	
Specific objective 1: Outcome(s)	Increase the participation of CSOs in tackling climate change and mitigating its adverse effects	Number of countries with climate change strategies (a) developed and/or (b) implemented with Civil Society Organisations with EU support (**EURF 2-23) Number of local authorities supported in the context of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy with EU support	To be determined in inception phase.	To be determined in inception phase.	EU projects and programme monitoring systems (see methodological note of **EURF 2-23) Global and Regional Covenant of Mayors Secretariats/Offices	- Existence of enabling conditions to allow Civil Society Organisations to register and perform in this specific field.
Specific objective 2:	Women's participation in decision making increased	Number of countries which have adopted/developed strategies aiming at gender equality with EU support	To be determined in inception phase.	To be determined in inception phase.	UN women reports.	

⁴⁷ Mark indicators aligned with the relevant programming document mark with '*' and indicators aligned to the EU Results Framework with '**'.

Specific objective 3:	The voice of youth in society is increased.	Number of countries that adopted a Youth strategy or established a National Youth Council	To be determined in inception phase.	To be determined in inception phase.	UN agencies reports (UNICEF, UNESCO...)	
Specific objective 4:	Increase the participation of CSOs in addressing irregular migration and forced displacement	To be determined in inception phase (taking into account the future EC-UN work on SDG's indicators.).	To be determined in inception phase.	To be determined in inception phase.	To be determined in inception phase.	
Specific objective 5:	Increase the participation of CSOs in preventing, addressing and/or mitigating risks and vulnerabilities in fragile and conflict affected countries	To be determined in inception phase.	To be determined in inception phase.	To be determined in inception phase.	To be determined in inception phase.	
	SO1 / output 1 – Strengthened CSOs' capacities and engagement on climate change mitigation and adaptation	% of the total expenditure of this Action Document is dedicated to support CSOs in climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. Number of CSOs, networks and national platforms working on climate change mitigation and prevention by this Action	As the programme has not started, the baseline is 0.	In 2018, 2019 and 2020, at least 20% of the total expenditure of this Action Document is dedicated to support CSOs in climate change	DEVCO Dashboard. Monitoring and evaluation of projects' progress reports.	Existence of transparent and accountable Civil Society Organisations in the partner country where the action shall take place.

		<p>Number of members of CSOs working on climate change trained by this Action in management/human resources/leadership skills (disaggregated by sex)</p> <p>Number of members of CSOs working on climate change trained by this Action in analytical/advocacy/negotiation skills (disaggregated by sex)</p> <p>Number of members of CSOs working on climate change trained by this Action in internal governance standards, transparency and accountability towards intended beneficiaries, constituencies, and social bases (disaggregated by sex)</p>		<p>mitigation and adaptation actions.</p> <p>For the other indicators: tbd in inception phase by the Delegations.</p>	<p>Monitoring and evaluation of projects' progress reports.</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation of projects' progress reports.</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation of projects' progress reports.</p>	
	SO2 / output 2 – Strengthened women's CSOs capacities for and engagement in participation in decision making	<p>%age of projects including/supporting women organisations under this Action.</p> <p>The disaggregated number of women's organisations, networks and national platforms supported/strengthened by</p>	As the programme has not started, the baseline is 0.	<p>In 2018, 2019 and 2020, 85% of the projects supported include a gender component.</p> <p>For the other</p>	<p>DAC code reports</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation of projects' progress reports.</p>	<p>Existence of transparent and accountable Civil Society Organisations in the partner country where the action shall take place.</p>

		<p>this Action.</p> <p>Number of CSOs trained by this Action on gender equality and women's and girl's rights.</p> <p>Number of members of CSOs working on gender trained by this Action in management/human resources/leadership skills (disaggregated by sex)</p> <p>Number of members of CSOs working on gender trained by this Action in analytical/ advocacy/negotiation skills (disaggregated by sex)</p> <p>Number of members of CSOs working on gender trained by this Action in internal governance standards, transparency and accountability towards intended beneficiaries, constituencies, and social bases (disaggregated by sex)</p>		<p>indicators: tbd in inception phase by the Delegations.</p>	<p>Monitoring and evaluation of projects' progress reports.</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation of projects' progress reports.</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation of projects' progress reports.</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation of projects' progress reports.</p>	
	<p>SO3 / output 3 – Strengthened CSOs' capacities and engagement on youth inclusion</p>	<p>Number of young people's organisations, networks and national platforms supported/strengthened by this Action.</p>	<p>As the programme has not started, the baseline is 0.</p>	<p>Tbd in inception phase by the Delegations.</p>	<p>Monitoring and evaluation of projects' progress reports.</p>	<p>Existence of transparent and accountable Civil Society Organisations in the partner</p>

		<p>Number of members of CSOs working on youth trained by this Action in management/human resources/leadership skills (disaggregated by sex)</p> <p>Number of members of CSOs working on youth trained by this Action in analytical/ advocacy/negotiation skills (disaggregated by sex)</p> <p>Number of members of CSOs working on youth trained by this Action in internal governance standards, transparency and accountability towards intended beneficiaries, constituencies, and social bases (disaggregated by sex)</p>			<p>Monitoring and evaluation of projects' progress reports.</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation of projects' progress reports.</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation of projects' progress reports.</p>	country where the action shall take place.
	SO4 / output 4 – Strengthened CSOs' capacities and engagement on addressing irregular migration and forced displacement output	<p>Number of CSOs, networks and national platforms addressing the root causes of irregular migration supported /strengthened by this Action</p> <p>Number of members of CSOs working on root causes of migration trained by this Action in management/human</p>	As the programme has not started, the baseline is 0.	Tbd in inception phase by the Delegations.	<p>Monitoring and evaluation of projects' progress reports.</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation of projects' progress reports.</p>	Existence of transparent and accountable Civil Society Organisations in the partner country where the action shall take place.

		<p>resources/leadership skills (disaggregated by sex)</p> <p>Number of members of CSOs working on root causes of migration trained by this Action in analytical/ advocacy/negotiation skills (disaggregated by sex)</p> <p>Number of members of CSOs working on root causes of migration trained by this Action in internal governance standards, transparency and accountability towards intended beneficiaries, constituencies, and social bases (disaggregated by sex)</p>			<p>Monitoring and evaluation of projects' progress reports.</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation of projects' progress reports.</p>	
	SO5 / output 5 – Strengthened CSOs' capacities and engagement on addressing Resilience	<p>Number of supported /strengthened (by this Action) CSOs, networks and national platforms preventing, addressing and/or mitigating risks and vulnerabilities in fragile and conflict affected countries</p> <p>Number of members of CSOs working on resilience trained by this Action in</p>	As the programme has not started, the baseline is 0.	Tbd in inception phase by the Delegations.	<p>Monitoring and evaluation of projects' progress reports.</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation of projects' progress reports.</p>	Existence of transparent and accountable Civil Society Organisations in the partner country where the action shall take place.

		<p>management/human resources/leadership skills (disaggregated by sex)</p> <p>Number of members of CSOs working on resilience trained by this Action in analytical/advocacy/negotiation skills (disaggregated by sex)</p> <p>Number of members of CSOs working on resilience trained by this Action in internal governance standards, transparency and accountability towards intended beneficiaries, constituencies, and social bases (disaggregated by sex)</p>			<p>Monitoring and evaluation of projects' progress reports.</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation of projects' progress reports.</p>	
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ANNEX 3

of the Commission implementing decision on the Multi-Annual Action Programme for years 2018, 2019, and 2020 “Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities” to be financed from the general budget of the Union

ACTION DOCUMENT 3
REINFORCE DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING IN EUROPE
(DEAR)

Information for Potential Grant Applicants - Work Programme for Grants

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012) in the following sections, concerning calls for proposals: 5.3.1.; concerning grants awarded directly without a call for proposals: 5.3.2-4.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Development Education and Awareness Raising in Europe (DEAR) CRIS number: 2018/040-932 and 2018/040-933	
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	In principle, actions must take place in EU Member States but a minor portion of the action may be carried out in candidate and potential candidate countries, as well as in EU partner countries.	
3. Programming document	Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme “Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities” for the period 2014-2020 ⁴⁸	
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Promotion of development awareness	ODA
5. Amounts concerned	Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 90 Million from the general budget of the European Union for an amount of EUR 10,6 Million for 2018, for an amount of EUR 39,7 Million for 2019, for an amount of EUR 39,7 Million for 2020, subject to the adoption of the relevant budget and appropriations.	
6. Aid modality(ies) and	Project Modality Direct management: Grants – Call for proposals; Grants – Direct Award;	

⁴⁸ Commission Implementing Decision of 18.07.2018, C(2018) 4569 final.

implementation modality(ies)				
7 DAC code(s)	99820 –Promotion of development awareness			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	9. SDGs	SDG 4, 11, 16 and 17.		

Summary

Development issues have been evolving rapidly and steadily over the past years: climate change, migration, and gender, among others, have become a priority for many nations and peoples. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have ended and lead to the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, the SDGs offer a more inclusive approach to development issues. Many European Union citizens are however unfamiliar with the SDGs, and look for information when addressing all these issues.

The Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) programme supports the active engagement of the European public, through initiatives designed and led by CSOs and LAs, in global attempts to eradicate poverty, promote justice, human rights and democracy, social responsibility, gender equality and sustainable development strategies in partner countries. It contributes to the enhancement of the public's critical understanding of the interdependent world, and of their roles and responsibilities in a globalised society. It can offer a timely support on sensitive global issues such as migration, climate change, gender and youth.

The EU has long standing experience in the support of DEAR implemented by European Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Local Authorities (LAs); 2016 marked forty years of DEAR funded initiatives by the European Institutions. In 2016, the European Commission also launched a DEAR Call for Proposals, for a total of EUR 93 million. While it continued the pan-European vision for projects, it also provided the possibility for new and grassroots organizations to receive funding.

The EU DEAR Action will contribute to the Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) by educating and engaging the public on development issues and raising awareness on how EU Member States and EU policies can have an impact on development outcomes in partner

countries. It supports pan-European initiatives and encourages cooperation and the exchange of best practices.

DEAR represents also an opportunity to re-affirm the fundamental European values such as human rights, democracy, solidarity, peace and tolerance.

1 CONTEXT

13. Sector/Country/Regional context/Thematic

The Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) Action aims to anchor awareness and understanding of global sustainable development in our societies, highlighting the responsibilities and roles of all individuals, civil society organisations, local authorities, governments and other development actors in the North and South, to contribute to development.

More than half of all Official Development Aid is provided by the EU and its Member States (EUR 75,5 billion in 2016). The latest Eurobarometer 455 indicates on the one hand that nearly nine in ten respondents (89%, highest level recorded) think that it is important to help people in developing countries and more than half of respondents believe that they can play a role in development (54%). On the other hand however, 49% are not involved in helping developing countries, only 27% give money to organisations involved in development, only 22% make ethical choices when shopping and only 8% do voluntary work.

European CSOs are well placed to highlight development challenges as well as the impact of policies and behaviours in Europe on development elsewhere. CSOs often have a vast experience in fostering the European public's understanding and recognition of the significance of development decisions and actions for people globally, and have usually established strong relations with relevant actors as well as citizens. Many also work directly on development issues in partner countries. These actors have historically been at the origin of DEAR activities in EU Member States, and remain important contributors to the evolution of DEAR policy and practice in Europe.

Local Authorities (LAs) are also essential actors in DEAR. As the closest public institution to citizens, LAs can promote citizens' mobilisation and engagement in public life at local level. Moreover, according to the constitutional framework operating in Member States, LAs have specific competences in policy-making, service delivery often related to education and environmental protection. Educational, learning or promotional activities carried out in a local context, by LAs and in cooperation with other local actors, may enable citizens to reconnect with their communities and to connect their communities with communities abroad, with whom they share the same development concerns and challenges. LA's working for DEAR may result in policy changes at the local level and in a change in the attitude of citizens, which could in turn influence national policies. The explicit attention and the resources which LAs can allocate to DEAR depend not only on their political engagement, but also on their capability to mobilise local financial resources to fund development cooperation or DEAR activities.

14. Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

The EU has a long-standing experience in the support of DEAR implemented by European Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Local Authorities (LAs). DEAR calls for proposals can be considered a recurrent action.

Since 2005, the EU has launched a total of 8 Development Education and Awareness Raising calls open to CSOs and LAs.

On the basis of the 2012 DEAR Staff Working Document (SWD)⁴⁹, a more strategic promotion of European partnerships and perspectives involving civil society and local authorities across the EU has been developed.

This approach was reflected in the DEAR Call for Proposals (EuropeAid/151103/C/ACT/Multi) launched in 2016, which supported ambitious large-scale pan-European projects.

With the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, and the new European Consensus on Development (the 'Consensus')⁵⁰ adopted, the aid architecture has fundamentally changed. With the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, and the new European Consensus on Development adopted, the aid architecture has fundamentally changed.

The present MAAP is fully in line with the MIP 2018-2020 for the CSO-LA programme as well as with the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020⁵¹.

15. Stakeholder analysis

The ultimate beneficiaries of the actions identified through this Action Document are the European citizens. Indeed the Action aims to develop ordinary citizens' **awareness and critical understanding** of global sustainable development challenges as well as support their active engagement to fight poverty and inequalities, promote human rights and democracy, in a context of sustainable development.

There is a diverse array of actors active in DEAR and working very closely with citizens as to increase their understanding and mobilise their active engagement. Civil society organisations are very often at the origin of DEAR activities. NGOs and academic institutions are most frequently involved in DEAR and traditionally, faith organisations and a number of trade unions have also given attention to global development issues as well as women's rights and youth organisations. There are CSO national DEAR platforms at Member State and European levels and local authorities are increasingly important actors in DEAR. Hence, key stakeholders and direct beneficiaries in this intervention include CSOs and associations of CSOs, Local authorities and Associations of Local Authorities, from EU Member States, as well as from partner countries and beyond, Member States' Ministries and Agencies.

⁴⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/working-document-development-education-awareness-raising-programme-swd2012457-20121220_en.pdf

⁵⁰ European Consensus on Development 19 May 2017. Council Document Ref. 9459/17

⁵¹ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/joint-staff-working-document-gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment-transforming-lives-girls-and_en

Dialogue with these different stakeholders takes place in various forms from continuous informal engagement to existing coordination arrangements at project level and more structured mechanisms of multi-stakeholder dialogue. Some of the projects funded under this Action Document will also contribute directly to this dialogue.

16. Priority areas for support/problem analysis

With women's empowerment, migration, climate change and inequality being pushed to the top of the agenda, while we face at the same moment a proliferation of disinformation and fake news, as well as the possibilities and limitations of new social media, reliable, correct, impartial and accessible information regarding "development" is more important than ever. Citizens should understand, what the real challenges our society is facing actually are, and how they can and should be addressed, and how every citizen can play an active role in this endeavour.

The EU DEAR Action forms one of the pillars of the Policy Coherence for Development (PCD)⁵² by educating and engaging the public on sustainable development issues, as well as raising awareness on how EU Member State and EU policies can have an impact on development outcomes in partner countries.

EU DEAR projects aim to contribute to greater policy coherence for development by addressing PCD issues and supporting citizens' active engagement with global efforts for sustainable development in partner countries, while also contributing to the enhancement of citizens' understanding of the interdependent world, and of their roles and responsibilities towards development issues in a globalised society.

By supporting pan-European development education and awareness raising initiatives, as well as encouraging cooperation and the exchange of best practices across the EU, EU-funded DEAR programmes and projects provide added value to the work of EU Member States' national authorities that are responsible, at the national level, for funding, coordination and policy-making in the field of development and development education.

This action will support activities conceived to **develop European citizens' awareness and critical understanding** of the interdependent world and of their role, responsibility and lifestyles in relation to a globalised society. It will also aim at supporting their active engagement in global attempts to eradicate poverty, and promote justice, human rights, gender equality and sustainable ways of living, through actions led by the CSOs, associations of CSOs and other DEAR actors.

17. RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Shrinking space for CSO voicing their sometimes controversial views	M	European Commission's support to civil society is not conditional upon beneficiaries' support for EU policies. This said, continued dialogue can help to deal

⁵² https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/policies/policy-coherence-development_en

		with political sensitivities arising from specific projects.
Economic crisis in Europe and its potential financial repercussions on the EU funded projects.	L	The main risk is considered low. The fact that some of the organisations or institutions co-financing projects may reduce their contribution or withdraw from the project during the course of the action should not have a significant impact on project activities as projects are now going to be managed by bigger partnerships which can ensure financial adjustments.
EU geographical coverage not ensured	L	De-facto the DEAR programme promotes a pan-European approach, which tries to address this issue at its root.
EU DEAR programme will duplicate activities implemented by EU Member States	L	Greater focus of programs on Pan-European actions in line with the principle of subsidiarity. Strengthened coordination with EU Member States through regular consultations and enhanced dialogue.
Assumptions		
For all components of this programme, the main assumption is that both, CSO & LA partners, and Member States and/or their Agencies continue to implement their actions to ensure continuity and reinforce their effectiveness and impact.		

18. LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

19. Lessons learnt

This Action incorporates lessons learnt and best practices from the evaluation of the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) for the period 2014-2016⁵³ as well as conclusions drawn from exchanges with stakeholders, such as meetings of the Multi Stakeholder Group or participation in the GENE (Global Education Network Europe) roundtables.

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- While recent Eurobarometer studies show strong support among EU citizens for Development policy as a whole, there is a rise in Europe of extremism, populism, growing intolerance and fear of the negative impact of globalisation. It is essential that DEAR is adapted to face this challenge.
-
- One lesson from DEAR projects regards the fact that their design has been built through a bottom-up approach. While this has allowed a participatory approach and real ownership by CSOs and LAs in campaigns adapted to local needs, which are key elements for dynamic campaigns, it has also impeded progress to address the most pressing and strategic European

⁵³ http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/draft-evaluation-report-external-financing-instruments-development-cooperation-instrument-dci_en

and global issues. The recent move towards more Pan-European actions is going in the right direction but needs to be further strengthened.

-
- Another lesson is that citizen's views are more and more linked to ongoing agendas and events. It is therefore important to have more strategically focussed campaigns, while allowing for constant adaptation to the rapid evolution of ongoing concerns.

20. Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

The 2012 Staff Working Document on DEAR in Europe drew the conclusion that “*the added value of EU support to DEAR initiatives is strongest where the Commission made greatest use of its European perspective, its link to all EU Member States, and where it can build upon its experience and competences in Development Cooperation.*”

There is a diverse array of stakeholders active in DEAR in Europe. The EU will ensure its DEAR interventions provide clear added value to the work already carried out by other actors by i) concentrating on interventions on a pan-European level seeking to produce results on a European scale, ii) through interventions involving coordination and coherence with relevant EU Member States, and, iii) where possible, by seeking synergies with country-level actions in EU Member States.

The efficiency of diverse DEAR stakeholders across Europe is often dependant on an enabling institutional environment which is within the EU Member States’ national responsibility. The EU will continue to target its interventions across the broad spectrum of CSO & LA DEAR actors at different levels, while also focus on supporting an enhanced working relationship with EU Member States’ Ministries and Agencies dealing with DEAR to allow for better coordination, exchange of experiences and best practices, contributing to an increased effectiveness of the EU DEAR activities.

The present Action document complements the other components of the CSO/LA MIP 2018-2020.

21. Cross-cutting issues

Throughout the programme, cross-cutting issues as defined by the Consensus shall be mainstreamed, as envisaged in the DCI Regulation Article 3.3. Actions must respect principles of non-discrimination, human rights, the rule of law, good governance and women’s empowerment and gender equality, as well as include cross cutting issues such as rights of minorities, of children and older people, rights of persons with disabilities and life-threatening diseases and rights of other vulnerable groups, core labour rights and social inclusion, environment and climate change and fight against HIV/AIDS and overall adopt a Right Based Approach. In addition, conflict prevention, promotion of dialogue, participation and reconciliation, as well as institution building shall be mainstreamed, where relevant. These crosscutting issues may also be the main target of a given action.

The guidelines for calls for proposals will include the following specific requirements to assure that gender equality and climate change are addressed in each project:

With regard to gender equality, projects will be expected to include gender sensitive objectives and reporting.

With regard to climate change, projects will be expected to privilege recycled material for its publications, limiting the use of dissemination material that use whitening chemicals, ensuring that outputs are implemented using low emitting activities (e.g. by limiting travelling by plane or private car, etc.).

22. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

23. Objectives/results

The overall objective of this action will be to ensure the commitment of EU citizens to development and contribute to sustainable lifestyle patterns of EU citizens.

The specific objective of this action will be to:

- 1) develop European citizens' understanding of the interdependent world, of roles and responsibilities in relation to development issues in a globalised society;
- 2) support European citizens' active engagement with global attempts to eradicate poverty and promote justice, human rights and democracy, social responsibility, climate change action, gender equality and sustainable development strategies in partner countries, based on initiatives designed and led by CSOs and LAs.

This action will aim to deliver **more focussed and strategic pan-European campaigns** on targeted priorities bringing EU Development Policy and EU answers to global challenges closer to citizens and re-affirm the fundamental European values such as human rights, democracy, solidarity, peace and tolerance.

This action will also aim to deliver **joint strategic campaigns on specific thematic areas in the 7 EU Member States, which will hold the Presidency of the Council of the EU** between 2018 (2nd half) and 2021.

This action will also seek to **increase the quality and provision of Development Education in a growing number of EU Member States**, through multilateral networking for enhanced policy learning between an increasing number of relevant Ministries and Agencies across Europe.

The expected results for this specific objective area are:

- increased public awareness of i) global interdependencies between the EU and developing countries; ii) the key global challenges (e.g. migration, climate change, gender and youth), iii) the benefits of EU development cooperation, not only for people in the South but also for EU citizens,
- increased opportunities for active engagement of European citizens in attempts to eradicate global poverty, promote justice, human rights and democracy, social responsibility, gender equality, and sustainable ways of living;
- increased coordination, cohesion and coherence of development education and awareness raising on the EU Member State level as well as coherence between the Member States and the European level.

This programme is relevant for the whole 2030 Agenda. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG Goal(s) 4 (Quality Education), but also promotes progress towards Goal(s) 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 16 (Peace, Justice and strong institutions) and 17 (Partnership for the Goals).

24. Main activities

Main activities include, among others, awareness raising and communication campaigns, global learning actions within and outside of the formal education system, support to networking, capitalisation, capacity-building, exchange of best practices, trainings, workshops, and conferences aimed at raising awareness and critical understanding among citizens regarding global sustainable development issues. Activities will amongst other include the 2030 Agenda, the Consensus as well as new innovative implementing tools.

25. Intervention logic

The DEAR programme is defined by the following main components:

Given that the DEAR programme is part of the CSO – LA programme, it is by nature actor driven / demand driven, hence the biggest part of the DEAR programme is implemented via a Call for Proposals, where CSOs and LAs can make proposals to implement projects within the set objectives of the Call for Proposals.

Apart from the Call for Proposals, the DEAR programme features the following specific projects:

1. DEAR Support Team (DST): The DST project implements capitalisation, capacity building and networking for DEAR Stakeholders, and DEAR projects in particular. Hence, to ensure that DEAR projects do not have to "re-invent the wheel" for each project, this dedicated project is implemented to ensure capitalisation from existing/past projects, capacity building of new/ongoing projects and networking of existing/potential/future projects and stakeholders in general.

2. Global Education Network Europe (GENE): GENE is an existing structure that ensures networking and policy development in the field of Global Education (which is fairly similar to DEAR) between European states / European governments. The EU funds a targeted project / action grant implemented by GENE to fulfil this task and participates actively in the activities of the project.

3. North-South Centre (NSC) iLegend project is a targeted project implemented by the NSC (part of the Council of Europe) to strengthen global/development education in EU Member States, particularly where it is least established.

4. Presidency Projects: Each EU presidency opens a "window of opportunity" for the respective CSO platform to draw attention of the public and decision makers to development issues. In order to use this "window of opportunity", the EU implements a dedicated project that i) supports CSO platforms of the countries holding the EU presidencies to deliver joint strategic campaigns on specific thematic areas, plus ii) a supporting structure to implement the overall project as well as to support the sub-projects by the CSO platforms.

26. IMPLEMENTATION

27. Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

28. Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.1 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements

implemented, is 84 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

29. Implementation modalities

30. Grants: call for proposals "*Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities in Development: Raising public awareness of development issues and promoting development education in the European Union*" (direct management)

(a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The objective of this Action is to support Development Education and Awareness Raising initiatives fostering citizens' awareness of – and mobilisation for – development issues implemented by European Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities.

Interventions supported under this Action will follow one of these two main approaches:

(i) **Campaigns/Awareness/Communication:** support to the informed citizen engagement and advocacy in relation to development issues in a globalised society and to active engagement with global attempts to eradicate poverty and promote justice, human rights and democracy, social responsibility, gender equality, climate change action and sustainable development policies in partner countries. Activities will amongst others include the 2030 Agenda, the Consensus as well as new innovative implementing tools.

For this type of actions priority will be given to initiatives which seek to produce results at a European level, involve coordinated action and a coherent approach across the EU and support partnerships with national/grassroots CSOs and LAs, including through sub-grants.

(ii) **Global Learning:** contributing to enhancing the competences of target groups, such as educators, youth and adults, through participatory, innovative and learner empowerment approaches to address issues in global development, either within or outside the formal education system.

For this approach, priority will be given to complementarity with Member States' efforts in development education (for initiatives within the formal education system) and to existing development education efforts (for initiatives outside of the formal education system), empowerment of representatives of target groups to become development education actors and multipliers, as well as to supporting partnerships with national/grassroots CSOs and LAs, including through sub-grants.

Expected results are:

(i) Rolling out of focused and strategic pan-European campaigns with a high visibility and impact, benefitting from a clear focus on EU Development Policy and EU answers

to global challenges, and in terms of target group, prioritising actions that target citizens more directly.

(ii) increased public awareness of the SDGs and the Consensus as well as increased awareness of / commitment to this revised aid architecture,

(iii) in the EU, increased awareness of a) the reasons, why development work in South is more justified than ever, b) the benefits of development work in the South for citizens/ countries of the North, and c) the tangible results obtained through development work in the South;

(iv) increased active engagement of European citizens in attempts to eradicate global poverty, promote justice, human rights, climate action and sustainable ways of living;

(v) empowerment of educators, youth and adults to critically examine global interdependencies between the EU and developing nations, of the role of EU development cooperation in an increasingly interdependent world;

(vi) better integration of development issues into formal and non-formal education systems in Member States;

(vii) higher engagement to promote policy coherence for development;

(b) Eligibility conditions

As **applicant**: the eligibility of applicants is restricted to all types of Civil Society Organisations (as defined in Annex II.B of the DCI Regulation) and their associations or to all types of LA⁵⁴ or ALA⁵⁵, originating from EU Member States.

As **co-applicant and affiliated entities**: the eligibility of co-applicant and affiliated entities is restricted to all types of CSOs and/or their associations and LAs and/or their associations originating from:

i) EU Member States

ii) partner countries that are included in the list of recipients of ODA established by the OECD/DAC

In addition, to have access to funding under this component of the thematic programme, all CSOs or LAs/ALAs must be officially registered as such, according to the legislation in force in their respective country.

Grants may be awarded to sole beneficiaries and to consortia of beneficiaries (coordinator and co-beneficiaries).

The indicative maximum duration of the grant (its implementation period) is 48 months.

⁵⁴ The term "local authority" (LA) encompasses many different actors at different levels, including authorities at local level such as municipalities, intermediary level organisations such as districts, counties, and regional bodies, in principle elected [Reference: COM(2008) 626 final, 8.10.2008].

⁵⁵ Associations of Local Authorities (ALA) are to be understood as existing associations based on membership and representative at regional, continental and international level, with a permanent body established as an autonomous in accordance with the legislation in force in the country of registration. ALA must comply with all the eligibility criteria, and must be able to assume full contractual responsibility, on the basis of a mandate given by members.

Subject to information to be published in the call for proposals, the indicative amount of the EU contribution per grant is EUR 1,000,000 to 15,000,000 and the grants may be awarded to sole beneficiaries and to consortia of beneficiaries (coordinator and co-beneficiaries).

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under this call is

- 90% of the eligible costs from applicants from the EU Member States.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100 %. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative timing to launch the call

This call for proposals will be published in 2018, combining funds from budget years 2018, 2019 and 2020 with the application of a suspensive clause linked to the availability of funding in 2019 and 2020.

31. Grant: direct award (direct management): Global Education Network Europe

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The overall objective of the project is to increase the quality and provision of development education in a growing number of EU Member States, through multilateral networking for enhanced policy learning between an increasing number of relevant Ministries and Agencies. This will result in increased coordination, cohesion and coherence of development education on the European level and at national levels.

EU actions under the Global Education Network Europe project fully respect the responsibility of Member States for the content of teaching and the organisation of education systems. Support actions taking place within formal education systems will require approval of the action from relevant educational authorities.

This project will be a follow-up of an ongoing Action decided in 2015, and will be subject to a positive evaluation of the results of the previous Action. The proposed grant is for the period 2022-2024.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the authorising officer, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to Global Education Network Europe (GENE).

Under the responsibility of the authorising officer, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because GENE has a de facto monopoly as the only network in Europe regrouping Ministries and Agencies responsible for DEAR in Europe, and ensuring policy exchange, cooperation and development of DEAR policy at the national level, in compliance with Article 190(1)(c) of the Rules of Application .

(c) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum EU contribution will be EUR 3 million.

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 75%.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 applicable by virtue of Article 37 of (EU) regulation n° 323/2015 if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100 %. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(d) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

First trimester 2021.

32. *Direct award (direct management): European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre of the Council of Europe)*

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The overall objective of the action is to strengthen global/development education in Member States, particularly where it is least established - including in EU13 Member States⁵⁶ - by promoting dialogue, networking strategies, capacity building and exchange of good education practices in the field of global/development education, including through the use of sub-granting mechanisms.

The Action will also raise public awareness and understanding of global/development education issues and will disseminate best practices and expertise.

This project will be a follow-up of an ongoing project (July 2016 - July 2019), and will be subject to a positive evaluation of the results of the current project. The proposed grant is for the period July 2019 – July 2022.

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the authorising officer, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Council of Europe (CoE). The grant will be signed with the CoE while the implementation will be undertaken by the European Centre for Global Interdependence and

⁵⁶ Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, or Slovenia

Solidarity (North-South Centre (NSC) of the Council of Europe) taking into consideration that the NSC was established on the basis of a Partial Agreement of the CoE (Resolution (89)14.

Under the responsibility of the authorising officer, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe has a de facto monopoly as the only organisation working directly with the Ministries of Education of all Council of Europe Member States, in compliance with Article 190(1)(c) of the Rules of Application⁵⁷

(c) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum EU contribution will be EUR 1,000,000

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 75%.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 applicable by virtue of Article 37 of (EU) regulation n° 323/2015 if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100 %. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(d) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

First trimester 2019

33. EU Presidency Project

The proposed EU Presidency project(s) is/are a project with and for the CSO platforms of the Member States holding the EU Presidencies of the Council of the EU from 2019 to 2021 given that each EU Presidency represents a window of opportunity for CSOs in the country to highlight the importance of development and to lobby EU and Member States' policy makers in the context of development.

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The EU aims to transform the presidency projects into joint strategic campaigns on specific thematic areas to be identified with the relevant CSO platforms by supporting them with a stronger framework and making more funding available.

The proposed project shall contain a "central support facility" and a sub-project for each national CSO platforms (a sub-grant).

The central support facility shall ensure i) central steering, management and implementation of project, ii) better planning for the entire project and all its sub-projects, iii) capitalisation from and capacity building for national presidency sub-projects (through e.g. harvesting of lessons learned from past sub-projects, personnel exchange between past/present/future sub-projects, delegating staff to support weaker national platforms in implementing its sub-

⁵⁷ Ibid 14

project...), iv) overall management for the proposed project, v) liaison to the EU services, vi) steering the process of identifying thematic areas for each national sub-project in consultation with the EU.

The sub-projects for each national CSO platforms shall ensure i) coordination & management & implementation of sub-project, ii) ownership of sub-project from national CSO platform, iii) providing knowledge regarding the particular situation in the country and its network of contacts

The sub-projects for each national CSO platforms are designed to take advantage of the momentum created by the EU Presidency in EU Member States. Implemented by national CSO platform members of CONCORD (European NGO confederation for relief and development) these projects aim at:

- i) rolling out joint strategic campaigns on specific thematic areas,
- ii) increasing the understanding of EU Member States’ citizens regarding global issues and ODA, with focus on active global citizenship.
- iii) proactively contributing to national and EU development policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation with a special focus on quality Official Development Assistance (ODA) delivery and effective EU development cooperation;

The proposed project covers the following six EU Presidencies:

Romania	January-June	2019
Finland	July-December	2019
Croatia	January-June	2020
Germany	July-December	2020
Portugal	January-June	2021
Slovenia	July-December	2021

(b) Justification of a direct grant

One contract will be awarded to the Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU, KEHYS, in partnership with the Romanian and Croatian CSO platforms (for Romanian, Finnish and Croatian presidencies) in cooperation with Concord and a second contract with the umbrella

organisation of development NGOs in Germany, VENRO, in partnership with the Portuguese and Slovenian CSO platforms (for the German, Portuguese and Slovenian presidencies) in cooperation with Concord.

Under the responsibility of the Commission’s authorising officer responsible, the recourse to award of grants without a call for proposals is justified because the national CSO platforms (Kehys and Venro) in cooperation with some other national CSO platforms as well as Concord have a de facto monopoly, in compliance with Article 190(1)(c) of the Rules of Application as the key interlocutor to the Commission and other EU institutions on development policy. This de facto monopoly is based on the representativeness on a national level of the national CSO platforms as well as the very wide geographical and sectorial coverage of CONCORD: indeed, CONCORD is a multi-thematic umbrella organisation which, through its working structures and groups specialized in different sectors (such as, inter alia, climate change, migrations, aid effectiveness, gender, elections...) and which covers a wide range of areas of development. CONCORD has reinforced its institutional legitimacy vis-à-vis the EU institutions, and its role is recognised and valued by its peers, by other civil society sectors, and increasingly among sections of the general public and media. Through its actions, working methods and its participatory approach, CONCORD proves its usefulness and added value through its contributions to the debate on development in Europe.

Should however, for reasons outside the Commission's control, these direct grants to national CSO platforms in cooperation with Concord not materialise, the Commission will have to revert to direct grants to the national CSO platforms of the EU Member States holding the EU presidency plus support measures implemented through the DEAR Support Team.

(c) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum EU contribution will be EUR 4,000,000.

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 95% given the nature of this support requested by the EU.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 applicable by virtue of Article 37 of (EU) regulation n° 323/2015 if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100 %. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission’s authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(d) Indicative trimester to conclude the grant agreement

Last semester 2018

34. Procurement (direct management)

Subject in generic terms, if possible	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure

DEAR Support Team ensuring capitalisation from, capacity building for and networking of DEAR projects plus communication and visibility for DEAR programme.	service	1	Last trimester 2019

35. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

36. Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified
5.3.1 – Call for "Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities in Development: Raising public awareness of development issues and promoting development education in the European Union" (direct management)	EUR 77 Million	n.a.
5.3.2 Direct grant Global Education Network Europe (direct management).	EUR 3,0 Million	EUR 1,0 Million
5.3.3 Direct award (direct management): European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity (North-South Centre of the Council of Europe).	EUR 1,0 Million	EUR 0,33 Million
5.3.4 EU Presidency Project.	EUR 4,0 Million	n.a.
5.3.5 Procurement (direct management).	EUR 4,5 Million	n.a.
5.10 Communication and visibility.	EUR 0,5 Million	n.a.
Total : the present amounts will be financed 75% by the CSO Budget line (BL 21 02 08 01) and 25% by the LA Budget line (BL 21 02 08 02)	EUR 90 Million	EUR 1,33 Million

The budget allocation per year is planned as follows:

Budgetary Year	BL 21 02 08 01 (CSO)	BL 21 02 08 02 (LA)	Sum per year
2018	6,3	4,3	10,6
2019	30,6	9,1	39,7
2020	30,6	9,1	39,7
TOTAL	67,5	22,5	90,0

37. Organisational set-up and responsibilities

The Action will be managed directly for the Commission's Headquarters by the Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development and, and will be implemented primarily through grants, selected through a combination of modalities, including a call for proposals open to CSOs and LAs, direct grants awards as well as service contracts.

38. Performance monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action as well as the projects resulting from a call for proposals will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) or the list of result indicators (for budget support). The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

39. Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a final evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants as part of the evaluation of the CSO – LA programme.

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision).

The evaluation reports shall be shared with other key stakeholders. The Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the programme.

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by the CSO-LA programme constituting a financing decision.

40. Audit

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by the CSO-LA programme constituting a financing decision.

41. Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

PPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the financing decision. When it is not possible to determine the outputs of an action at formulation stage, intermediary outcomes should be presented and the outputs defined during inception of the overall programme and its components. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for including the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) for the output and outcome indicators whenever it is relevant for monitoring and reporting purposes. Note also that indicators should be disaggregated by sex whenever relevant.

	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	To ensure the commitment of EU citizens to development and contribute to sustainable lifestyle patterns of EU citizens.	Special (development) Eurobarometer 455: QC1: In your opinion, is it very important, fairly important, not very important or not at all important to help people in developing countries?	large majority of respondents say it is important to help people in developing countries (89%), (2017)	91% (2020)	Special (development) Eurobarometer	
Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	1) to develop European citizens' understanding of the interdependent world, of roles and responsibilities in relation to development issues in a globalised society;	Special (development) Eurobarometer 455 ⁵⁸ : QA4.1. As an individual, you can play a role in tackling poverty in developing countries.	Totally agree and tend to agree (16%+38%) in total 54% (2017)	Totally agree and tend to agree in total 56% (2020)	Special (development) Eurobarometer	- CSO & LA partners, Member States and/or their Agencies continue to implement their DEAR programmes and actions to ensure continuity and
	2) to support European citizens' active engagement with global attempts to eradicate poverty	Special (development) Eurobarometer 455: QC5: Are you personally	46% state that they are personally	48% (2020)	Special (development) Eurobarometer	

⁵⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/special-eurobarometer-report-eu-citizens-views-development-cooperation-and-aid_en

	and promote justice, human rights and democracy, social responsibility, gender equality and sustainable development strategies in partner countries, based on initiatives designed and led by CSOs and LAs.	involved in helping developing countries in any of the following ways	involved (2017)			reinforce their effectiveness and impact. - the attitude of EU citizens towards development cooperation does not change dramatically
Outputs	SO1/Output1: increased public awareness of i) global interdependencies between the EU and developing countries; ii) the key global challenges (e.g. migration, climate change, gender and youth), iii) the benefits of EU development cooperation, not only for people in the South but also for EU citizens,	No of pupils reached by awareness raising actions (disaggregated by sex). No of consumers reached by awareness raising actions (disaggregated by sex)	0 (new indicator)	Pupils: 12.000.000 (50% boys, 50% girls) consumers: 5.000.000 (50% men, 50% women)	Statistics to be compiled by DEAR Support Team.	the space for CSOs to voice their sometimes controversial views, is not shrinking further. The funding for EU and MSs DEAR programme continues to be made available without major cuts
	SO2/Output2: increased opportunities for active engagement of European citizens in attempts to eradicate global poverty, promote justice, human rights and democracy, social responsibility, gender equality, and sustainable ways of living;	Number of civil society or local authority organizations that implement programmes or organize activities with the support of this Action to promote citizen engagement in development	0 (new indicator)	250 CSO/LA organisations	Statistics to be compiled by DEAR Support Team.	MSs remain committed to engage in DEAR
	SO2/Output 3: increased coordination, cohesion and coherence of development education and awareness raising on the EU Member State level as well as	Number of Member States involved in GENE (Global Education Network Europe):	25 EU Member States (2017)	26 EU Member States (2020)	Information on GENE website ⁵⁹ under Networking Ministries and	

⁵⁹ <http://gene.eu/>

	coherence between the Member States and the European level.				Agencies	
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This action is funded by the European Union

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ANNEX 4

of the Commission implementing decision on the Multi-Annual Action Programme for years 2018, 2019, and 2020 “Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities” to be financed from the general budget of the Union.

**ACTION DOCUMENT 4
SUPPORT MEASURES**

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Support measures CRIS number: 2018/041-195 and 2018/041-499	
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	In principle, actions must take place in the EU partner country where the support has been awarded	
3. Programming document	Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme “Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities” for the period 2014-2020 ⁶⁰	
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities	ODA
5. Amounts concerned	Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 12 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for an amount of EUR 5 930 000 for 2018, for an amount of EUR 1 998 580 for 2019, for an amount of EUR 4 071 420 for 2020, subject to the adoption of the relevant budget and appropriations.	
6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	Project Modality. Direct management: procurement of services.	
7 a) DAC code(s)	15150 - Strengthening of civil society 15112 - Decentralisation and support to subnational government	

⁶⁰ Commission Implementing Decision of 18.07.2018, C(2018) 4569 final.

	99820 - Promotion of development awareness			
b) Main Delivery Channel	52 000 Others			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. SDGs	SDG 10, 11, 16 and 17.			

Summary

This Action Document provides the necessary support for the sound management of the "Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities" (CSO-LA) Thematic Programme as foreseen under Article 10 of the DCI Regulation and Article 3 of the Common Implementation Rules.

Support measures are designed to cover expenditures associated with the preparation, follow-up, monitoring, evaluation and audit activities related to the implementation of the programme and to the achievement of expected results and objectives and the measurement, analysis and reporting on its impact.

This Action will support the basics of EU support to civil society and local authorities as highlighted by the EU Global Strategy for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy and the new European Consensus on Development [1] (the 'Consensus').

42. CONTEXT

43. Thematic area

Actions under shall:

- Respect and shall be implemented in accordance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
- Respect and shall be implemented in accordance with the Council Conclusion "The roots of Democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations"⁶¹ and the Council Conclusions "Local Authorities in Development"⁶².

⁶¹ Council Conclusions of 15 October 2012 – 14535/12

⁶² Council Conclusions of 22 July 2013 – 12459/13

44. Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

The European Commission is committed to enhancing and deepening its engagement with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Local Authorities (LAs) in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Consultation of CSOs and LAs has become an integral element in the Commission's policy formulation in the field of development. Coordination between CSO-LA beneficiaries under specific priority areas of the DCI is necessary in order to ensure coherence and avoid overlaps in implementation.

Moreover, the Actions will contribute to the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 and the thematic priorities and objectives, namely:

- Thematic priority A: Institutional Culture Shift – Objective 6 "Partnerships fostered between EU and stakeholders to build national capacity for gender equality".
- Thematic Priority D on Political and civil rights - Voice and Participation - Objective 18 "Women's organisations and other CSOs and Human Rights Defenders working for gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment and rights freely able to work and protected by law".

45. Priority areas for support/problem analysis

Strengthening the role of CSOs and LAs both as actors of governance and implementers of development cooperation is an essential element of the CSO-LA thematic programme.

European Union Delegations are able to spend up to 5 % of their respective annual operational country allocation on Support Measures accompanying the implementation of country-based support schemes (activities in the field of communication and visibility, capacity building, consultation and meetings with local civil society organisations, etc.).

All the support measures activities have to be gender sensitive and following the rights-based approach.

This Action Document provides for a budgetary allocation to the Commission headquarters allowing the necessary complementary support and synergies including audits of individual projects of the CSO-LA Programme.

46. RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
An imperfect cooperation between the different partners in the projects resulting in delays and information retention leading to non-achievement of certain end results. Unexpected developments or delays that would make the results obtained with these projects eventually irrelevant	L	These risks will be mitigated by close monitoring of the projects
Assumptions		

Sufficient human resources devoted to the action.

47. LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

48. Lessons learnt

Under the previous programme for CSOs and LAs, the support measures allowed programme and project preparation to proceed in an effective manner. Furthermore, they made it possible to reinforce efficiency, performance and impact of all activities related to the implementation of the programme. In particular, funding for small-scale support measures has facilitated the partnership and consultation processes with CSOs, LAs and Associations of Local Authorities.

49. Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

The support measures will contribute to promoting EU joint actions at local level through strengthened coordination with EU Member States and other strategic partners (i.e. Country roadmaps for EU engagement with civil society). Through thematic expertise, joint analysis and responses will be supported where necessary. Also, the results of project or programme monitoring and evaluation will be shared with EU Member States and vice versa so that further complementarities and synergies can be secured

50. Cross-cutting issues

The objective of the CSO-LA thematic programme is mainly focused on strengthening civil society organisations and local authorities in partner countries as actors of governance in their own rights and to promote their enabling environment. It also supports these actors in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Special attention will be given to achieving the widest possible participation by local, national and international actors in the third country or regional organisation concerned.

The Action will seek to support and mainstream other key enablers for sustainable development and cross-cutting issues that are particularly relevant for the CSO-LA programme. These include:

- Inclusion of youth that will be promoted by removing barriers to their integration and strengthening their involvement in development processes.
- The mainstreaming of gender equality and women's empowerment, in line with the EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020⁶³ that adopted a broader, transformative agenda on gender.
- The rights based approach in order to leave no one behind, with a special focus on women, children, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups.
- Environment and climate change.
- Digitalization for Development (D4D)⁶⁴.

51. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

52. Objectives/results

The objectives of this Action consist in allowing preparation, follow-up, monitoring, communication and visibility, audit and evaluation activities directly necessary for the implementation of the Thematic Programme "CSO-LA" of the Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 establishing a European Instrument for Development Cooperation (DCI), and the achievement of its objectives, through studies, meetings, information, audits, evaluations, awareness-

⁶³ Council Conclusions on the Gender Action Plan 2016-2020, 26 October 2015

⁶⁴ Commission Working Staff Document, Digital4Development: mainstreaming digital technologies and services into EU Development Policy, SWD(2017) 157.

raising, training and publication activities, including training and educational measures for partners from civil society.

Support measures described in this Action might be implemented in the framework of any of the three objectives of the programme.

The present Action Document foresees the following components:

1. CSO component

Measures aiming at sustaining the qualitative support of the CSO component of the Programme, in particular through actions to support country Roadmaps, the efficiency of the CSO Framework Partnership Agreements and to bring additional qualitative support in case of emergent crisis and/or to develop the exchange of good practices. Measures aiming at raising EU visibility and information initiatives.

2. LA component

Measures aiming at sustaining the qualitative support of the LA component of the Programme, in particular through actions targeted to accompany the new approach in relation to cities (with twinning as modality); to reinforce the implementation of the Territorial Approach for Local Development; to strengthen the efficiency of the LA Framework Partnership Agreements; to bring additional qualitative support and/or to develop the exchange of good practices and to raise EU visibility.

3. Development Education Awareness Raising (DEAR) component:

Measures aiming at sustaining the qualitative support of DEAR Programme and technical assistance for its implementation and visibility.

4. Other common support:

Measures aiming at further improving the quality and the efficiency of the implementation of the CSO-LA thematic programme, in particular audit of individual CSO, LA and DEAR projects and evaluation of the CSO-LA Programme for the period 2014-2020.

These measures are for the benefit of beneficiaries and partners of the CSO-LA programme or for the common benefit of the beneficiaries / partners and the EU.

53. Main activities

54. CSO Component – EUR 4 700 000

- To assist the European Union Delegations in the implementation of the country roadmaps of the CSO-LA thematic programme in partner countries. – To finance the extension of the service contract– EUR 2.200.000
- Evaluation and assessment of the impact of the CSO Framework Partnership Agreements using the defined Key Performance Indicators and gender sensitive indicators (including sex disaggregated data) – EUR 1 000 000
- To perform studies and/or technical assistance (including assessments) for the whole CSO component of the Programme. – EUR 500 000
Information and visibility – EUR 1 000.000
- Activities raising EU visibility and information initiatives in the following areas: Audio-visual and multimedia, publications, information on the EU and the partnership relations, promotion of dialogue;

- Publication programmes, website and database management, in-country information activities, media relations and media monitoring, the production of audio-visual material and information support to events and conferences;
- Organisation and financing of meetings, seminars and conferences, including all related seminar costs and travel, accommodation relating to the programming and operation of the CSO-LA thematic programme.

55. LA Component – EUR 3 000 000

- To accompany the design and implementation of the new DCI LA approach in relation to Cities with a focus on twinning through studies and/or technical assistance (including assessments). - EUR 600 000
- To promote the Territorial Approach to Local Development. - EUR 2 200 000
- To raise EU visibility through communication related activities. - EUR 200 000

56. DEAR Component – EUR 1 200 000

- Activities aiming to support the implementation of DEAR Programme through the technical assistance, the DEAR support team. It will contribute to ensuring the capitalisation and capacity building of DEAR projects as well as networking of DEAR stakeholders.
- Besides the initiatives above-described, other contracts will be established to perform evaluations of DEAR Calls for Proposals.
- Communication and visibility of the DEAR Programme
- Consultations with Civil Society as needed

57. OTHER (Common support) – EUR 3 100 000

Evaluation of the CSO-LA Programme – EUR 500 000

A final evaluation of the CSO-LA Thematic Programme for the period 2014-2020 will be launched in order i) to evaluate the longer-term outcomes and impacts and the sustainability of effects and ii) to contribute to the next financial period as foreseen on Article 17 of the Common Implementing Rules⁶⁵.

- Audit – EUR 2 600 000

This programme component shall cover the direct fees, costs and reimbursable expenses incurred by experts contracted by the Commission to undertake audits on CSO, LAs and DEAR projects worldwide.

58. IMPLEMENTATION

59. Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with a partner country, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

⁶⁵ Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11/03/2014: http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/financial_assistance/ipa/2014/236-2014_cir.pdf

60. Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.1 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 114 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

61. Implementation modalities

Subject in generic terms, if possible	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
CSO Component	Services	5	4/2018, 2/2019, 1/2020
LA Component	Services	4	4/2018, 1/2020
DEAR Component	Services	2	4/2018, 4/2019
OTHER (common support) - Evaluation CSO-LA Programme - Audits	Services Services	1 125	4/2019, 4/2018, 1/2019 and 1/2020

The envisaged assistance to Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros (Union of), Congo (Republic of the), Congo (Democratic Republic of), Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius and Seychelles, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Barbados and Eastern Caribbean Islands, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, China, Korea (DPRK – North), India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Maldives, Thailand, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Fiji, Papouasie Nouvelle Guinée, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Russia,

Tunisia, Ukraine is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU⁶⁶.

62. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

63. Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified
Procurement (direct management) – Budget line 21 02 08 01	9.000.000	N/A
Procurement (direct management) – Budget line 21 02 08 02	3.000.000	N/A
Totals	12.000.000	N/A

The budget allocation per year per component is planned as follows:

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Civil Society Organisations (BL 21 02 08 01)			
Extension Roadmaps Facility contract	2.200.000		
Evaluation CSO FPA		10.000	990.000
CSO studies and Technical Assistance			500.000
Information and Visibility			1.000.000
Common support (BL 21 02 08 01)			
Evaluation CSO-LA Programme		500.000	
Audits	830.000	888.580	881.420
Local Authorities (BL 21 02 08 02)			
LA studies and Technical Assistance	300.000		300.000

⁶⁶ https://ccas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/8442/consolidated-list-sanctions_en

Promote the Territorial Approach to Local Development Information and Visibility	2.200.000	200.000	
Development Awareness (DEAR) (BL 21 02 08 01)	400.000	400.000	400.000
Capitalisation and capacity building	400.000		
Evaluation of DEAR Call for proposals		400.000	
Consultation with Civil Society as needed			400.000
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	5.930.000	1.998.580	
4.071.420			

The total amount of EU budget contribution is EUR 9.000.000 under budget line 21 02 08 01 "Civil Society Organisations" and EUR 3 000.000 under budget line 21 02 08 02.

The contribution is for an amount of EUR 5.930.000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2018, and

for an amount of EUR 1 998 580 from the general budget of the European Union for 2019, and

for an amount of EUR 4.071 420 from the general budget of the European Union for 2020, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the draft budget and the budget.

64. Organisational set-up and responsibilities

The activities will be managed by European Commission Headquarters except the audits for the EU Delegations managed by them.

65. Performance monitoring and reporting

The service contracts financed under this Action will be subject to the contractual provisions applicable in terms of reporting and performance assessments. Upon finalisation of each service, the performance assessments shall be carried out and communicated to the consultants as relevant. Since they do not constitute activities of the Programme "per se" they will not be subject to the monitoring and reporting mechanisms applicable to the Programme's operations.

66. Evaluation

Since they do not constitute activities of the Programme "per se", the service contracts funded under this Action will not be subject to the evaluation mechanisms applicable to the Programme's operations.

67. Audit

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

68. Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures for the CSO-LA Programme which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be supported with the budget indicated in section 5.5. above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.