WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS
of The Delegation of the European Union to Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the Dutch Overseas Countries and Territories

Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities (CSO LA)

1. Basic act and/or Financing source

The European Union (EU) has a long-standing relationship and cooperation with non-governmental and other civil society organisations as well as with local and decentralised authorities in the field of development. The EU’s commitment to fighting poverty and promoting the rule of law and adherence to fundamental freedoms is set out in Article 177 (former Article 130u) of the European Community Treaty.

The thematic programme 'Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development' introduced in 2007 is a development policy instrument of the European Consensus on Development. It took the place of NGO co-financing and decentralised cooperation budget lines and has its legal basis in Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1905/2006 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation (DCI).

2. Objectives of the programme, priorities for 2015 and expected results

The overarching objective shall be the strengthening of civil society in Guyana and Suriname and the enhancement of the participation of Local Authorities as a pre-condition for a more equitable, open and democratic society.

The programme therefore supports actions aimed at promoting an inclusive and empowered society in partner countries.

The specific objective of this Call for Proposals is to strengthen the capacities of vulnerable communities in Guyana and Suriname (including the Amerindian and Maroon communities) so as to enable them to be more productive and self-sufficient.

In keeping with the foregoing, under this Call for Proposals, priority will be given to proposals that facilitate capacity building of the Non State Actors (NSA) and Local Authorities (LA) in vulnerable communities which would enable them to function more efficiently and effectively in order to fulfil their mandate.

Such proposals should include activities which would facilitate strengthened administrative and operational skills of community groups and village councils in vulnerable communities in the following priority areas:

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1 Regulation No 1905/of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation (DCI)
• Institutional strengthening of civil society organisations primarily those in depressed communities.
• Strengthen the relationships between vulnerable communities and regional and national authorities.
• Strengthen the participation of vulnerable communities in the governmental consultation processes on key national issues.
• Strengthen the capacity of village councils and communities to address the delivery of public services such as: health, education and environmental issues affecting the community.

Specific outcomes could cover a very wide range of topics, such as (non-exhaustive list):
• Institutional strengthening of civil society organisations primarily those in depressed communities.
• Strengthening the relationships between vulnerable communities and regional and national authorities
• Strengthening the participation of vulnerable communities in the stakeholder consultation process
• Strengthening the capacity of village councils and communities to address the delivery of public services such as: health, education and environmental issues affecting the community.

3. Eligibility conditions

The actors will be primarily civil society organisations. Given the nature of the objectives, however, it is expected that the actions’ focus will be on in-country civil society organisations, which may wish to cooperate with regional, European or other organisations and national public-sector institutions\(^2\).

Projects will preferably be based on partnerships of civil society organisations or, where justified, may require the close involvement of a range of in-country organisations and stakeholders. Independent political foundations and national parliamentary bodies will likewise be judged eligible to achieve the objectives of the EIDHR.

4. Selection and award criteria

The evaluation will be carried out in accordance with the procedures set out in the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EU external actions.

\(^2\) National public-sector institutions include National Human Rights Institutions.
5. Maximum rate of European Union financing

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

6. Indicative time-schedule of calls for proposals

Publication: April 2015

Contract Signature: October 2015

Calls for proposals will be published on the EuropeAid central website, local print media and also the webpage of the Delegation of the European Union to Guyana, Trinidad, Suriname and the Dutch OCTs.

7. Indicative amount of calls for proposals

The overall indicative amount made available under this CSO LA Call for Proposals is €1,500,000. The Contracting Authority reserves the right not to award all available funds.