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**Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme
“Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities”
for the period 2018-2020**

Multiannual Indicative Programme

for the Thematic Programme

"Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities"

for the period 2018-2020

Executive Summary

The Thematic Programme "Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Local Authorities (LAs)" has for legal basis Regulation No 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing Instrument for Development Cooperation.

The Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) Regulation defines the objective of the Programme as *to strengthen civil society organisations and local authorities in partner countries and, when their actions relate to Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) of European citizens, in the Union and beneficiaries eligible under the IPA Regulation.*

The Mid Term review of the DCI¹ has highlighted the relevance and the coherence of the CSO-LA programme with the new international and EU policy objectives.

The programme reflects the EU's determination to fully implement the **2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development**. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 11, 16, and 17 have the most direct link with its scope. Moreover, most CSOs and LAs are active across all the SDGs, which are closely interlinked, so that the programme contributes to taking the 2030 Agenda further in partner countries as a whole. As a consequence it fully integrates the impetus of the **new European Consensus on Development**² (the 'Consensus') to align EU policies and actions to the objectives of the 2030 Agenda. The programme translates into strategic orientations the robust EU commitments made in the Consensus, in particular regarding the role of CSOs as promoters of democracy, the necessary active involvement of regional and local authorities in the localisation of the SDGs, and the raising of the level of engagement with the citizens³. The programme also plays a key role in promoting CSOs and LAs as actors of governance in their own right in the implementation of the other Sustainable Development Goals, consistent with the Consensus⁴ and in line with country strategies such as the National Indicative Programmes.

For CSOs, in order to consolidate and mainstream their strategic role in development, the main aims will be to:

¹ External evaluation of the Development Co-operation Instrument, Final report, Volume I main report, June 2017, p. 11.

² Council conclusions on the European Consensus on Development, 19 May 2017.

³ Consensus, paragraph 17. See also paragraph 62, 71, 72, 78, 87, 114.

⁴ Consensus, paragraph 86. See also paragraphs 72, 83 and 85.

- Strengthen partnerships through the existing Framework Partnerships Agreements (FPAs), social partners, foundations and other actors in the fields of inclusive aid effectiveness, resilience and national budget.
- Specific initiatives will be launched in the areas of youth and inequalities.
- Actions will be implemented by the EU Delegations in priority areas, including in particular gender equality, youth, climate change and environment, root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement, and resilience.

The promotion of an enabling environment for civil society will be integrated in all objectives and actions.

For LAs, the programme will:

- Strengthen associations of LAs (ALAs) at the regional and global level, through Strategic Partnership Agreements.
- Support Local Authorities in addressing urban challenges, including in particular poverty, climate change, crisis and conflict, and rapid population growth, including through migration and forced displacement, through twinning and decentralised cooperation in targeted countries.

In addition, the programme will foster the Development Education and Awareness Raising approach, focussing mostly on strategic pan-European campaigns, together with specific projects for the rotating EU Presidencies.

Within an overall programme allocation of EUR 1.838 billion for the period 2014-2020, the amount for 2018-2020 is around EUR 865 million.

1. Policy context

In 2012 and 2013⁵, the EU decided to take its longstanding support for civil society organisations and local authorities in EU partner countries a step further by adopting a Commission Communication and subsequent Council conclusions that lay out principles and objectives for its engagement.⁶ These recognise CSOs and LAs as legitimate actors of governance in their own right and as implementers of development policy.

The commitments expressed in the above-mentioned Communications resulted, amongst others, in the establishment of the "Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities"

⁵ Empowering Local Authorities in partner countries for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (COM(2013) 280) final.

⁶ 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). Council Conclusions on The roots of Democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with civil society in external relations, 15 October 2012.

programme⁷ (CSO-LA), a dedicated thematic programme under the Development Cooperation Instrument for the period 2014-2020.

The Development Education and Awareness Raising⁸ component, an integral part of the CSO-LA programme, is implemented in the EU Member States directly by civil society and local authorities.

A first Multiannual Indicative Programme⁹ (MIP) set the strategic objectives of this programme for the period 2014-2017. To date, allocations for 2014, 2015 and 2016 have been almost fully contracted (99%) and payments for those years are in line with the planned forecasts (respectively 60% and 40% for 2014 and 2015).

A report¹⁰ of the first phase of implementation of the CSO component in 2017 emphasised the achievements obtained so far, which were also recognised in Council conclusions.¹¹

While the EU continues to invest in this area given its proven added value, the MIP 2018-2020 proposes a solid evolution of the priorities in order to face a changing international context, to align it with newly adopted policies, and to maintain, and even strengthen, the level of excellence of the programme.

The Programme allocation amounts to EUR 1.838 billion for the period 2014-2020. An envelope of around EUR 865.4 million has been earmarked for the Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2018-2020. While the DCI allocation for the period 2018-2020 remains that planned in the DCI, the yearly allocation for the programme is significantly higher compared to the period 2014-2017.

1.1 Adapting to an evolved policy context

Since 2014, the international arena has witnessed profound changes and new challenges.

Delivering on new key strategies

The MIP 2018-2020 is based on some key policy frameworks at international and EU level.

First of all, consistent with the Consensus¹², it builds on the principles and objectives of EU external action in the Treaty of the European Union¹³ and echoes the new **Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy**¹⁴. It helps to *deepen our partnerships with civil society* as set out in the Global Strategy and contributes to its

⁷ 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.

⁸ Commission Staff Working Document on Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) in Europe, SWD(2012) 457 final.

⁹ Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme "Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities" for the period 2014-2020, C(2014) 4865 final.

¹⁰ Commission staff Working document, Report on EU engagement with Civil Society, SWD(2017) 136/2 final.

¹¹ Council Conclusions on "EU engagement with civils society in external relations", 19 June 2017.

¹² Consensus, paragraphs 8, 9, 11 and 13.

¹³ Treaty of the European Union, article 21(1).

¹⁴ 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 Vice-President of the European Commission, June 2016.

implementation. It also integrates the role that the Global Strategy recognises for the local authorities "*and municipalities– in delivering basic services to citizens*".

It plays a key role in mainstreaming CSO and LA as actors of governance in their own right. It also incorporates the EU's determination to fully implement the **2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development**, recognising the fundamental contribution of the Local and Regional Government to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (*SDGs localisation*) in general and to goals 11, 16, and 17, in particular.

As a consequence, it fully integrates the impetus of the **Consensus** to align EU policies and actions to the objectives of the 2030 Agenda. It intends to translate into strategic orientations the robust EU commitments made in the Consensus, in particular regarding the role of CSOs as promoters of democracy¹⁵, the necessary active involvement of local and regional authorities in the achievement of the SDGs,¹⁶ and the raising of the level of engagement with the citizens.¹⁷

The MIP is also shaped around the priorities deriving from the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda** on financing for development¹⁸, the **New Urban Agenda**¹⁹, the Paris Agreement **on Climate Change**²⁰ the **Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction** and the recent EU **Communications on resilience**²¹ and **forced displacement**²²..

The CSO-LA programme should also support country strategies such as the 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.

Delivering on key principles

The CSO-LA Programme reflects the following key principles:

- It is rooted in **EU gender equality** policy, integrating the objective of reaching sound progress in the implementation of the second EU Gender Action Plan in third countries (GAP II)²³ with the target of mainstreaming gender actions across 85% of all new initiatives by 2020.

¹⁵ Consensus, paragraph 17

¹⁶ Consensus, paragraph 86

¹⁷ Consensus, paragraph 122

¹⁸ Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015.

¹⁹ United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III Quito, October 2016.

²⁰ The Paris Agreement, Decision 1/CP.21 (2015).

²¹ Joint Communication to the European parliament and the Council, "A Strategic Approach to Resilience in the EU's external action", JOIN(2017) 21 final; Communication from the Commission to the Parliament and the Council, "The EU Approach to Resilience: Learning from Food Security Crises", COM(2012) 586 final.

²² Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, "Lives in Dignity: from Aid-dependence to Self-reliance", COM(2016)234 final.

²³ 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.

- It also plays an instrumental role in supporting the implementation of the **Rights-Based Approach (RBA)** to development, encompassing all Human Rights.
- It fosters 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 Democracy in July 2015.²⁴
- It integrates the EU's commitment to respond to the challenges and investment needs related to **climate change and environment**, and will contribute to the EU's commitment to dedicate at least 20% of its spending to mitigation and adaptation actions related to climate and recognises young people as essential contributors to the 2030 Agenda in line with the Consensus.
- In addition, it will also contribute to address the various root causes of irregular **migration** and forced displacement worldwide, based on the European Agenda on Migration²⁵.

1.2 Lessons learnt from the DCI Mid-Term Review

Several studies, reports, assessment schemes, exchanges of best practices, and independent evaluations have allowed lessons to be drawn from the implementation of the programme between 2014 and 2017. They have helped re-define and adapt the guiding principles and the objectives of this Programme, as well as its monitoring and evaluation provisions.²⁶

The Mid Term review of the DCI, along with several rounds of consultation with CSOs and LAs for the Consensus (October 2016), the annual seminar of CSO and LA Focal Points for EU Delegations (January 2017), the Policy Forum for Development (March 2017 and January 2018) and the Partnership Forum (July 2017), have highlighted a few key lessons.

Regarding the general objectives of the programme

The Mid Term review of the DCI²⁷ has highlighted the relevance and the coherence of the CSO-LA programme with EU policy objectives and its complementarity with geographic interventions; it has also stressed the progress made in increasing the involvement of CSOs, particularly in programming and implementation, recognising that further improvements can be made as regards increasing the involvement of local authorities.

The review emphasises the need for a more politically-driven and integrated implementation of the programme, the consolidation and mainstreaming of the strategic role of CSOs and LAs in development; and the simplification and flexibility of EU funding and implementation mechanisms.

Regarding CSOs

²⁴ Council Conclusions on the Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2015 -2019, 20 July 2015.

²⁵ Communication from the Commission to the European parliament, the Council, The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions, "A European Agenda on Migration", COM(2015) 240 final.

²⁶ They are available at www.EU4civilsociety.eu and at wwwEU4localauthorities.eu.

²⁷ External evaluation of the Development Co-operation Instrument, Final report, Volume I main report, June 2017, p. 11.

The programme has allowed strategic achievements, such as the signature of 23 Framework Partnership Agreements with CSOs, and 107 EU Roadmaps for engagement with civil society at country level, as well as some effective answers to situations of fragility and (un)foreseen crises. Nevertheless, **there are still too many dispersed priorities**, involving too many actions without a coherent perspective and impact, often with CSOs 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 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 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 creating 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 countries²⁸ (due to the phasing out of the bilateral development aid) and States affected by fragility, conflict and democratic transition.

Regarding LAs

The Mid Term Review of the Development Cooperation Instrument identified strategic achievements (e.g. Framework Partnership Agreements, and substantial contribution of LAs to the elaboration of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda) which helped boost the role of LAs as development and political actors. The relationship between the EU and LAs shifted from being one of donor-beneficiary to that of a strategic engagement. The Development Cooperation Instrument offered useful channels to attain hard-to-reach groups and to deliver responses adapted to local needs through the components managed by the EU Delegations. It created a stronger leverage of bilateral cooperation through its complementarity with geographic programmes as well as with other EU financing instruments.

To maximise the CSO-LA impact, and in particular the LA component, the Mid Term review encourages to:

- Implement a differentiated approach between middle income and fragile countries.
- Strengthen the strategic approach and increase LAs' involvement in policy dialogue and programming processes as well as in issues such as sustainable urban development.
- Promote an endogenous and sustainable development of LAs as 'actors of governance'.

²⁸ 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.

- Address the LAs' lack of capacities and difficulty to cope with EU procedures through innovative partnerships with civil society, private sector, etc.

Regarding Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR)

- ✓ 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, and fear of the negative impact of globalisation. It is essential that DEAR is adapted to face this negative tendency.
- ✓ 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 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.

2. Role of the CSO-LA Programme

The objective of EU cooperation under the CSO and LA programme is set out in Article 8 and Annex II of the DCI regulation; it is to strengthen CSOs and LAs in partner countries and, where provided for, in the European Union.

This programme shall contribute to:

- a) an inclusive and empowered society in partner countries through strengthened CSOs and LAs, and basic services delivered to populations in need;
- b) an increased level of awareness in Europe regarding development issues and mobilising active public support in the European Union, candidate and potential candidate countries for poverty reduction resilience building, and sustainable development strategies in partner countries;
- c) an increased capacity of European and local civil society in partner countries and local authority networks, platforms, and alliances to ensure a substantive and continued policy dialogue in the field of sustainable development, promote democratic governance and achieve SDGs.

This Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) follows on from the one adopted for 2014-2017²⁹ which, in turn, built on the "Non-State Actors (NSAs) and Local Authorities in Development" Thematic Programme (2007- 2013).³⁰

²⁹ Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme "Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities" for the period 2014-2020, C(2014) 4865 final.

2.1 CSO-LA added value and key features

The programme will focus on four elements of added value:

Its unique actor based nature. The programme focuses on the work of development and governance actors closest to the citizens and therefore better placed to produce concrete results on the ground, including at grassroots level, and in marginalised areas, including in fragile, crisis and conflict affected contexts. It promotes CSO and LA participation in development processes as a voice of citizens, and strengthens their ability to interact, generate synergies, and produce concrete results at local level.

Its comprehensiveness and worldwide coverage. It covers a wider range of types of CSOs and LAs, and supports the mainstreaming of their roles in all components of development and foreign policy. It also supports the interaction between CSOs and LAs, an essential element to localise the SDGs, as well as for supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and Nationally Determined Contribution submitted by countries as under the Paris Agreement. It covers all developing countries and the European Neighbourhood, and adapts its support in graduated/transition countries or fragile countries.

Its complementarity. The CSO-LA programme complements other instruments, such as the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human rights (EIDHR) etc. by launching positive dynamics, contributing to creating a proper enabling environment, and strengthening CSO and LA capacities. In this sense, it helps the mainstreaming of CSOs and LAs in geographic actions to support initiatives, carried out in coordination with national governments. It also helps build the initial capacity of CSO and LA into dynamics which can then be further supported under other programmes. It also complements bilateral assistance programmes that are providing support to CSOs and LAs or to decentralisation processes. In the case of CSOs, the integration of the promotion of an enabling environment for civil society complements the priority on shrinking space defined in the EIDHR Multiannual Indicative Programme and the IcSP support to CSOs in conflict affected contexts. Finally, in the case of LAs, it should be seen together with certain actions supported under the DCI Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) Programme (notably Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy), the Pan African programme or the Intra African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) (Mobilise Your City initiative).

Its contribution to the EU response to crisis. The programme allows interventions supporting independent CSOs and LAs in difficult environments. It plays a key role supporting CSOs and LAs at all crisis phases, from early engagement alongside humanitarian assistance to medium and longer term cooperation, linking relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD), and fostering local community resilience. It should be seen together with principled-based actions supported under the EU's Humanitarian Instrument³⁰, contributing to a reinforced humanitarian-development nexus. It is highly adaptable and can integrate new key policy orientations of the EU or unforeseen issues.

³⁰ Regulation 1905/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020.

³¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid.

The programme will also build on four key features:

*The SDGs are **integrated** in the CSO-LA programme.* Its focus is on participation, partnership and multi-stakeholder dialogues and reflects core values of the Agenda 2030. Though the programme contributes directly to goals 11, 16 and 17, it also supports the achievement of all SDGs. The programme will also support the achievement of the Paris Agreement goals and the implementation of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction.

*Universality is **enshrined** in the CSO-LA programme.* In particular through its Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) component, it has a unique function in the context of the new principle of "sustainability", captured by the SDGs, to support the EU in the transformational challenge of developing our own societies and economies in a more sustainable direction.

*The CSO-LA programme **delivers on ownership**.* It supports the full involvement of people, organisations, and authorities, a key driver for sustainable development. It supports better engagement with CSOs and LAs to make their voices heard and respond to the needs of the citizens they represent. CSOs include small local NGOs, community-based structures, grassroots or disenfranchised organisations, which are closest to citizens and therefore better placed to reach out to the most vulnerable and marginalised members of communities.

*The CSO-LA programme is **driven by results**.* It implements the new EU Results Framework. It is essential to ensure that the effectiveness of the EU's financial support to partners around the globe. It will contribute to measuring development progress in partner countries and to measuring the specific EU contribution to it. It will also support both CSOs' and LAs' own contributions to the aid effectiveness agenda.

2.2 Challenges for CSOs and LAs

Civil Society:

Civil Society has become a major actor in development. While this is a positive sign of citizens' interest and desire to invest in better governance, it has also resulted in a large increase of the number of CSOs, often without structured capacities.

A concern is that the programme cannot itself reach out directly to small organisations in large numbers. It will therefore have to rely on indirect mechanisms and partners. A challenge for the upcoming programming period is to ensure an updated and deeper knowledge of CSOs at country level. It is essential to ensure that the EU will work with the proper actors, as well as to respect financial standards and achieve impact.

The general degradation of the environment in which CSOs operate is one of the most serious concerns for the upcoming programming period. The EU is strongly committed to support an open and enabling space for civil society and maintain or even increase financial flows to CSOs. Therefore, this shrinking space needs to be addressed, including as regards the choice both of adapting actions and financing opportunities. This shrinking space might create disruption of activities and require radical adaptation based on identification of the appropriate means of support to civil society in a given country.

Local Authorities:

A number of obstacles have to be overcome in order to unlock the development potential of LAs. A major limitation in a number of countries is the limited political willingness of central governments to create a conducive environment at local level, through legal and regulatory instruments, allowing LAs to benefit from a sufficient level of autonomy in exercising power and acquire specific capabilities. Moreover, the quality of local governance and development is also related to the way LAs manage and implement public policies and services on the basis of local policy-making processes and the related allocation of available resources. The complexity of the mission of LAs also lays in the need to interact with other public institutions, citizens and the private sector. The realisation of LAs' comparative advantage can be undermined by negative political factors, particularly related to a lack of effective leadership, corruption and maladministration, clientelism, and illegal economy, as well as by institutional weaknesses, such as dysfunctional institutional arrangements, limited financial resources, low levels of administrative capacity, inadequate planning procedures and public finance management. LAs, furthermore, face challenges related to urbanisation, such as the needs of citizens living in unauthorised settlements without adequate services and facilities, impoverished quality of life, criminality and social dysfunction, which make citizens more vulnerable to disasters and the impacts of climate change.

Challenges in delivering DEAR:

The Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) programme is implemented by CSO-LAs in EU Member States. Previous DEAR campaigns benefitted from a demand-driven approach, with CSO- and LA-implemented campaigns very well adapted to local needs but whose impact was limited by lack of coherence. The EU recognises the challenge to develop more strategic and coherent campaigns with a powerful positive impact on citizens.

3. Strategic objectives

In accordance with Article 13 of the DCI Regulation, this Multiannual Indicative Programme sets out the priority areas selected for EU financing between 2018 and 2020, the specific objectives in these areas, the expected results and the performance indicators. It also gives an indicative financial allocation, both overall and per priority area.

The EU strategic response is based on three objectives:

- *Objective 1* - Support Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Development Policy
- *Objective 2* - Foster Development Education & Awareness Raising in Europe (DEAR)
- *Objective 3* - Empowerment of Local Authorities as actors of development, in particular at city level

Objective 1

Support Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Development Policy

Objective 1 will focus on supporting civil society in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, by financing a comprehensive set of complementary actions at country, regional, and global levels.

The environment in which CSOs operate is a rising concern. The Consensus states that "*The EU and its Member States will promote civil society space*".³² The EU has developed a track record of comprehensive tools to tackle shrinking civil society space in developing countries, mainly through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), addressing CSOs' most difficult situations and Human Rights Defenders and through the IcSP support to CSOs in situations of conflict and fragility. While it is important to maintain such endeavours, it is equally essential to integrate the promotion of an enabling environment³³ for civil society in all objectives and actions.

This implies:

- strengthening CSOs as actors of governance, investing in new dynamics;
- supporting their development work in the field, in particular regarding participation, promoting an enabling environment, and building their capacity to act as an actor of governance and an implementer of the 2030 Agenda in new priority areas as detailed in the Consensus.

Sub-objective 1.1 - Strengthen CSOs as actors of governance

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 an adequate 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 representative networks of CSOs. These Framework Partnerships Agreements (FPAs) set joint strategic objectives for long term cooperation between the EU and the signatories and focussing on the reinforcement of the partners' capacities as actors of governance.

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

The EU supports strategic partnerships with the social partners, or platforms with a mandate to implement part of the agreed International Agenda, equally focussing on the strengthening

³² Consensus, paragraph 17, see also paragraph 62.

³³ As the first pillar of our 2012 Communication on "The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with civil society in external relations"

of partners' capacities to contribute. In light of current challenges and needs, the EU will assess, and potentially renew or adapt the financial support to 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 the EU and Member States to "act to reduce inequality of outcomes and promote equal opportunities for all..."³⁴ 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 mainstream the reduction of inequalities in development cooperation and to prevent and to respond to crisis.

The EU has made youth a priority as evidenced by the Consensus which recognises young people as essential contributors to the 2030 Agenda and agents of development and change, including through their ability to innovate. As a follow-up of the 5th European Union – African Union Summit outcomes as regards youth, including possibly the Youth Plug-in initiative³⁵, the programme will support young people through civil society organisations. In addition, the programme will also aim to support the establishment of a CSO platform that will function as a hub for actions to prevent and counter violent extremism (P/CVE). 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.

Expected results:

- Enhanced dialogue and involvement of networks of CSOs in EU policymaking and processes.
- Strengthened capacities of networks of CSOs to influence the interests and practices of regional and international mechanisms.
- Strengthened cooperation with foundations, as messengers and implementers of EU development policy and Agenda 2030.
- Strengthened advocacy and awareness raising role of CSOs in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on SDG 10 and its targets to reduce inequalities.
- Strengthened youth inclusion and empowerment in Africa along with capacity development of CSOs on the thematic issue.

³⁴ Consensus, paragraph 36.

³⁵ The "AU-EU Youth Plug-In Initiative" (YPII), a project initiated by the European Union and the African Union, builds on the Abidjan Youth Declaration from the 4th Africa-Europe Youth Summit. It was set up as an inter-continental initiative to support 36 young people ("Youth Fellows") in elaborating concrete proposals that were presented to state leaders at the 5th AU-EU Summit in Abidjan on 29-30 November 2017. For more information: <http://aueuypii.org/en>

- Strengthened cooperation among CSOs working on preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) worldwide.

Sub-objective 1.2 - Support CSOs' development work in the field

It is essential that EU support to CSOs responds to the needs. Since 2014, around 500 new concrete actions have been deployed on the ground in more than 100 countries, for a cumulative portfolio of 2500 ongoing actions, allowing for support of CSOs as regards locally driven priorities.

Since 2014, the EU has established 107 country roadmaps for EU Engagement with Civil Society with all relevant actors in the field³⁶. 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. They identify EU priorities and concrete steps when engaging with and supporting CSOs in partner countries leading to tangible gains as regards synergies, collective impact and division of labour. Future country actions will be framed by and have to deliver on the priorities identified by these EU roadmaps.

The objective remains to support civil society globally. Therefore EU support to CSOs will continue to ensure the largest geographic coverage. Development assistance focuses on the poorest countries. The CSO-LA thematic programme supports CSOs as actors of governance and watchdogs, of their own national processes, reforms and resources, also in more advanced developing countries, in complementarity with the European Instrument for Democracy and Human rights (EIDHR) and country strategies such as NIPs, in particular when budget support is the main aid modality. Therefore, the EU will ensure solid support to CSOs also in graduated countries, that is, countries where EU bilateral development aid has been phased out.

The CSO-LA thematic programme is not intended to fill gaps and compensate for other instruments but to be complementary to them. The priorities for country support to CSO will have to feed into two threads in the future:

- Actions supporting CSOs as actors of governance (focussing on their participation, or their enabling environment, or their capacity building);
- Actions supporting CSOs as service deliverers on key priorities where CSOs complement other actors.

Expected results:

- Strengthened CSOs as actors of governance and development at country level, in particular by promoting a conducive environment for CSOs; enhancing meaningful and structured participation of CSOs in domestic policies, in particular in the

³⁶ Roadmaps have been conceived with civil society and jointly adopted with EU Member States. Whenever they agreed, host countries and other donors have joined them

promotion of openness, transparency and accountability; increasing local CSOs' capacities to perform their roles.

- Reinforced role of CSOs in: tackling climate change and mitigate its adverse effects, including environmental degradation and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources; reducing gender inequalities and increasing women's participation in civic life and in civil society; increasing the voice of youth in civil society and in society in general; reducing irregular migration and forced displacement; preventing, addressing and mitigating risks and vulnerabilities in fragile and conflict affected countries.

Objective 2:

Foster Development Education & Awareness Raising in Europe (DEAR)

The EU has a long standing experience in the support of development education and awareness raising projects implemented by European civil society organisations and more recently by European local authorities. On the basis of the results of an ambitious and participatory study held in 2010, the Commission published in December 2012 a Staff Working Document taking stock of the DEAR activities supported so far.

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%, the 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.

Acquiring an understanding of development issues, challenges and policies is increasingly complex for citizens. A strong and informed engagement of EU citizens is deemed essential for an ambitious EU development policy and actions in partner countries which are well understood and supported by EU citizens. The DEAR component aims at contributing to the enhancement of citizens' understanding, sense of responsibility, skills and critical engagement regarding sustainable development and its underlying causes.

In light of the above, the European Union's DEAR strategy should particularly focus on:

Forging a new global partnership: as the Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda states, a new universal vision is needed: "offering hope – but also responsibilities – to everyone in the world"³⁷. In consideration of the growing global interconnectedness and increasing awareness across the globe of mutual interdependence, DEAR shall contribute to the "most important transformative shift towards a

³⁷ "A new Global Partnership: Eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development", 2013 Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda <http://www.post2015hlp.org/>

new spirit of solidarity, cooperation and mutual accountability"³⁸, and to the emergence of a new global partnership. The EU DEAR Programme has historically promoted the concept of global solidarity - a stronger and more prominent role for this is needed.

Global perspective of DEAR: The EU, through its DEAR interventions, will continue to encourage exchange, networking and collaboration between DEAR actors in the EU, candidate and potential candidate countries on the one hand, and development actors in partner countries, on the other. The DEAR Programme promotes and supports initiatives that foster a sense of global solidarity between citizens from the EU and from partner countries, and which seek to develop a common sense of global responsibility for development and the promotion of the integration of global perspectives.

Alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the Consensus: DEAR will remain an integral element of development, aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the Consensus. DEAR will strive to critically engage citizens, civil society organisations and local authorities in global debates linked to the new 2030 Agenda. In particular, DEAR's objectives need to be slightly adjusted to these new priorities.

Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) as a pillar of DEAR: The EU seeks to take into account development cooperation objectives in non-development policies. Hence, the EU recognises that some of its policies can have a significant impact outside of the EU and could either contribute to or undermine its development policy and the achievement of SDGs in developing countries.³⁹ Given the central role that they play in development, PCD issues should continue to be addressed in DEAR policies and projects, contributing to greater policy coherence for development.

DEAR overall objectives will therefore aim at developing citizens' awareness and critical understanding of the interdependence of the 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, address needs in fragile and crisis contexts and promote justice, human rights and democracy, social responsibility, environmental protection, gender equality, resilience building, and sustainable development strategies in partner countries.

Civil society organisations 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.

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. 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

³⁸ *ibidem*

³⁹ Consensus, paragraphs 108-112.

and to connect their communities with communities abroad, with whom they share same development concerns and challenges. LAs working for DEAR may result in policy changes at the local level and in a change of attitudes among 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.

The DEAR component of this Programme will be characterised by two strategic objectives:

Sub-objective 2.1 - EU Presidency projects will be strengthened to deliver joint strategic campaigns on specific thematic areas

EU Presidency projects are projects with the platform of the Member State holding the EU Presidency of the Council of the EU. The EU presidencies represent 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.

The EU is seeking to strengthen these presidency projects, transforming them into joint strategic campaigns on specific thematic areas to be identified with the relevant presidencies by supporting them with a stronger framework and making more funding available.

Sub-objective 2.2 - More focussed and strategic pan-European campaigns on targeted priorities bringing EU Development Policy and EU answers to global challenges closer to citizens.

The EU will use an innovative mix of tools focussing on the SDGs, the Consensus and key global challenges (e.g. migration and forced displacement climate change and environmental degradation, gender and youth) to bring EU Development Policy and EU answers to global challenges closer to citizens.

Expected results:

- Increased public awareness of i) global interdependencies between the EU and developing countries; ii) the key global challenges (e.g. migration and forced displacement climate change environmental degradation, gender and youth), iii) the benefits of EU development cooperation, not only for people in the South but also for EU citizens.
- Increased 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.

Objective 3

Empowerment of Local Authorities as actors of development,

in particular at city level

The role of LAs is pivotal in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular for SDG 11 "*Make Cities and Human Settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*". The EU will promote the localisation of the SDGs and in particular progress towards Goals, 1, 6, 8, 13, 16 and 17. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, New Urban Agenda, the Paris Climate Agreement on climate change, and Addis Ababa Action Agenda, all recognise the important role of local and regional actors to fulfil substantial implementation needs. The 2017 OECD-DAC *Report on decentralised development co-operation (DDC)*, showcases how donors are "localising the global commitments" and sets out to better understand how DDC can be strategically channelled via local and regional actors to finance sustainable development, particularly in support of countries most in need. In the context of spatial inequality and lack of territorial and social cohesion, the territorial Approach to Local Development aims at harnessing the potential of territories by leveraging the contribution of actors operating at multiple scales. Legitimate and capable local authorities play a critical role in forging partnerships with other spheres of government, the private sector and civil society on transfer of know-how, networking, mentoring and establishing twinning arrangements between LAs from targeted partner countries and from EU Member States. Empowering cities as actors of open innovation for urban regeneration, circular economy, health and climate resilience offer a unique opportunity to shape an emerging global dialogue and to set up platforms for sharing best practices on cross-cutting issues.

Sub-objective 3.1 - Strengthen associations of LAs (ALAs) at the regional and global levels.

Specific objective: Increase the impact of LAs and Associations of Local Authorities (ALAs) on policy-making processes, good governance and general development outcomes, focusing both on the national level, and on the regional and global levels.⁴⁰

Rationale: Continued support for a more strategic dialogue and a strengthened partnership with LAs and ALAs to allow them to play a legitimate and effective role, also in the policy making process and provide their members with adequate services as well as concretely represent the needs of local communities in institutional dialogues.

Expected results:

- Strengthened structures of Associations of LAs at national, regional and global levels.

⁴⁰ In January 2015, the Commission **signed 5 Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs)** to form strategic partnerships with five Associations of Local Authorities (ALA): United Cities and Local Government (UCLG), International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF), Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-A), and Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)/PLATFORMA. Depending on political decisions to be made new Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs) could be signed with further Associations of Local Authorities if their financial and administrative capacities are positively assessed.

- Enhanced capacity of Associations of LAs to influence the interests and practices of regional and international mechanisms, contributing therefore to regional and global policy-making and policy implementation processes, including at the EU level.
- Significant impact of ALAs on the regional and global policy-making processes.
- Enhanced capacity for LAs members of ALAs at the national level.
- Strengthened involvement of local and regional governments in the definition, implementation and delivery of the SDGs at national and local levels.

Sub-objective 3.2 - Support Local Authorities in making human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Specific Objective: Support LAs, - including branches of government or municipal and district authorities - to address urban governance and the three dimensions of urban sustainability (economic – social and environmental).

The urbanisation challenges play out differently between cities and therefore, effective support to urbanisation requires different modalities and response depending on the specific circumstances. In **metropolitan areas and primary cities**, which typically present the most visible challenges of over-crowding, poor basic services, pollution and inequality, the focus would be on creating potential for underpinning wider, inclusive growth and local job creation by becoming regional hubs and attracting investments. In the case of **secondary cities**, where the challenges relates to spatial inequalities, the focus would be on territorial planning and social-economic interaction with primary cities on one side and with rural and productive areas on the other, reinforcing the primary-secondary and urban-rural linkages, using bottom-up multi-actors approaches (Territorial Approach to Local Development).⁴¹ For both metropolitan areas, primary and secondary cities, the issue of low-carbon and climate resilient urban areas will be considered, as cities are not only major contributors to climate change, generating significant greenhouse gas emissions, but they are also heavily vulnerable to the impacts of climate change – with the most vulnerable segments of society often more impacted.

In this context, LAs will also be supported in joining initiatives such as the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, and enabling their implementation locally.

At all levels, the priority will be to strengthen LAs' capacity in the crucial functions of urban planning and design, including by enabling the transition to low-carbon and climate resilient urban areas, land management, land tenure, public finance management, design and implementation of fiscal policies for municipal finance mechanisms and revenue generation and to create the conditions for investments and job creation.

City-to-city cooperation will notably be promoted through twinning and pairing of EU and partner cities. Particular emphasis will be set on a limited number of partner countries so as to maximise the impact of DCI funding in selected cities. Selection will be based notably on the

⁴¹ with LA, CSO, private sector and driven by citizen

level of commitment, demonstrated by a clear willingness for change and results. Particular attention will be paid to cities with existing or past EU programmes on urban issues as well as to operational partnerships between European and partner country cities as to ensure stronger EU impact. Additional criteria could include: geographical coverage; size of the cities and their potential to become hubs for sustainable development in the territories where they operate. Opportunities for effective partnerships in middle income countries, notably in Latin America and in Asia, will be sought.

Expected results:

- Integrated urban plans and urban designs strengthening good urban governance, sustainability of living conditions and promoting social cohesion and resilience.
- Urban policies developed and implemented by autonomous and strengthened LAs ensuring good land management and land rights, and promoting low-carbon and climate resilient urban models.
- Enhanced capacity of cities and local authorities to effectively deliver services contributing to stronger cohesion including of rural-urban functional territories.
- Enhanced capacity of cities and local authorities to develop and implement climate and energy plans.
- Improved public finance management at local level as well as decentralisation processes.
- Increased allocation of financial resources to LAs, improved LAs capacity to mobilise revenue and established public-private partnerships.
- Enhanced accountability, responsiveness and transparency of LAs towards citizens, private sector actors, as well as other levels of government.
- Enhanced role of women and youth in local decision making and local democracy.

4. Implementation

4.1 Eligibility

CSOs and LAs are the exclusive target of the programme. Moreover, Article 8 of the DCI underlines that the CSO–LA thematic programme is to be primarily carried out by those. The DCI regulation⁴² explains what is meant by CSOs and by LAs.

What is meant by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)

The EU considers CSOs to be non-State, non-profit making actors operating on an independent and accountable basis. They include: nongovernmental organisations, organisations representing indigenous peoples, organisations representing national and/or ethnic minorities, diaspora organisations, migrants' organisations in partner countries, local

⁴² 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.

traders' associations and citizens' groups, cooperatives, employers' associations and trade unions (social partners), organisations representing economic and social interests, organisations fighting corruption and fraud and promoting good governance, civil rights organisations and organisations combating discrimination, local organisations (including networks) involved in decentralised regional cooperation and integration, consumer organisations, women's and youth organisations, environmental, teaching, cultural, research and scientific organisations, universities, churches and religious associations and communities, philosophical and non-confessional organisations, the not-for-profit media and any non-governmental associations and independent foundations, including independent political foundations, likely to contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the DCI Regulation.

While cooperatives are enterprises, and can generate profit, they are people-centred, membership-based and democratically owned enterprises guided by a series of values and principles that enable them to redistribute their benefit to their members, supporting sustainable and inclusive development, benefiting directly local communities. Cooperatives and their associations are fully eligible under this thematic programme and are an integral part of the CSOs recognised by the EU.

What is meant by Local Authorities (LAs)

LAs refer to public institutions with legal personality, part of the State structure, below the level of central government and accountable to citizens. LAs are usually composed of a deliberative or policy-making body (assembly, council, etc.) or and an executive body (President of the region, the Mayor or other executive officer), directly or indirectly elected or selected at local level. LAs encompass a large variety of subnational levels and branches of government, i.e., communities, municipalities districts, counties, provinces, regions etc. The EU also includes in this definition «Associations of Local Authorities» (ALAs) to be understood as umbrella organisations based on membership and representativeness at sub-national, national, sub-continental, continental and international levels. ALAs may be organised as autonomous entities in accordance with the legislation in force in the country of registration. ALAs may be composed of a representative body elected by its LA members and a permanent secretariat.

For both CSOs and LAs, regarding eligibility, the geographical scope of eligible actions is foreseen in Article 1 of DCI. Article 16 of DCI is allowing the extension of eligibility of actions, in exceptional and duly justified circumstances. The eligibility of beneficiaries is foreseen in article 9 of the Common Implementing Rules (CIR)⁴³. Detailed list of both countries and beneficiaries' nationalities will be detailed in the respective Action Documents.

4.2 Aid modalities and delivery mechanisms

The CSOs-LAs Thematic Programme is informed by the experience gained with the implementation of the 2007-2013 NSAs and LAs in development Thematic Programme and

⁴³ Regulation (EU) N; 236/2014 the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 march 2014 laying down Common Implementing Rules for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action

of the Mid Term Review of the CSO-LA programme. The Programme will be implemented through the use of an appropriate mix of funding modalities so as to best respond to the widest possible range of actors, needs and country contexts in a flexible, transparent, cost-effective and result-focused manner – according to the possibilities granted by the Financial Regulation, such as Project co-financing and Programme co-financing.

The Call for Proposals modality will be a privileged award mechanism in the case of CSOs. As foreseen in the Financial Regulation, in exceptional cases funding may be awarded directly, having met the criteria therein specified; direct award will be used namely for the Strategic Partnerships established around objectives and actions of common interest for the EU and strategic partner CSO networks and Associations of Local Authorities. In order to reach the widest possible range of actors, particularly grass-roots organisations and Community Based Organisations (CBOs), financial support to third parties in accordance with the Financial Regulation will also be made available, along with technical assistance, and where relevant, pooling of funds with other donors.

For the CSO component, the Programme is a comprehensive and balanced toolbox. It works at local, regional, EU and global levels, nurturing the potential of CSOs in a variety of development contexts. It deploys a pragmatic combination of calls for proposals, targeted projects, management by both HQ and Delegations (through country allocations that target mainly local CSOs), allowing for comprehensive and coherent implementation. It supports activities promoting the role of CSOs as actors of governance in their own right, as well as actions where they are concrete implementers of development assistance. It mixes long-term strategic actions nursing structural effects with short, reactive deliveries targeting more crisis-related situations. It has a strong focus on concrete actions on the ground as close as possible to citizens. Therefore between 65% and 75% of the actions will be conducted in third countries by EU Delegations; the remaining maximum 35% of actions will be spearheaded by Headquarters and will focus on global and regional actions.

For the LAs component, "twinning" (similar to the tools and mechanisms implemented within World Cities III, URBELAC, Inter-Urban Cooperation, TAIEX, MIEUX, etc.) will be privileged where possible as instrument for institutional cooperation between local administrations of EU Member States and of partner countries facilitated by city networks and/or development agencies. This will facilitate peer-to-peer exchanges aiming at upgrading the administrative capacities of the local public administrations of partner country through on the job training and support to internal processes so that LAs are more efficient and effective in their work. Dialogue between local government and other tiers of government will be promoted to ensure that sound enabling policies and regulatory environments are in place. At the same time, particular emphasis will be set on sustainable economic growth and job creation through appropriate linkages between innovative finance and novel investment opportunities (in particular through the various EU blending facilities and the EIP and its guarantee window for sustainable cities).

This programme will support the following activities:

(a) capacity development of the targeted actors, including complementary to the support granted in the framework of national bilateral programmes;

(b) actions aiming at:

- (i) creating an enabling environment for citizen participation and civil society and LAs actions;
- (ii) building the capacity of civil society organisations and of LAs to participate effectively in policy formulation and in the monitoring of policy implementation processes;
- (iii) facilitating an improved dialogue and better interaction between civil society organisations, local authorities with the central government and other development actors in the context of development;
- (iv) raising public awareness of development issues, empowering people to become active and responsible citizens and promoting formal and informal education for development in the Union, in candidate countries and potential candidate countries, to anchor development policy in society, to mobilise greater public support for action against poverty and for more equitable relations between developed and developing countries, to raise awareness of the issues and difficulties facing developing countries and their peoples, and to promote the right to a process of development in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realised;

(c) coordination, capacity-building and institutional strengthening of civil society and local authority networks, within their organisations and between different types of stakeholders active in the public debate on development and institutional strengthening of Southern networks of civil society organisations and local authorities and umbrella organisations.

The CSO-LA Programme's added value lies in its complementarity. Therefore, great attention is paid to ensuring coherence and synergy with other thematic and geographic actions of the Instrument for Development Cooperation (DCI), the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI), the European Development Fund (EDF), the Partnership Instrument (PI), the instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). Synergies should be also sought with the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation – Horizon 2020, where research and innovation activities can provide the necessary knowledge and evidence base to develop innovative solutions in line with SDG 11 and contribute to enhancing cities' climate-proofing and resilience, improving human health and well-being, reducing inequalities and reducing cities' environmental footprint.

Complementarity and coordination will be ensured throughout the entire project cycle, from the early planning, identification and formulation stages, to the actual implementation and evaluation of the projects, with a view to avoiding duplications and overlaps, exploring synergies and maximising efficiency.

4.3 Financial Allocations 2018-2020

The financial envelope for the implementation of the CSO-LA Programme for the period 2018-2020 is EUR 865 432 004. The estimated envelope for 2018 is EUR 274 606 413. The estimated envelope for 2019 is EUR 292 835 675. The estimated envelope for 2020 is EUR

297 989 917. Annual appropriations will be authorised by the budgetary authority within the limits of the 2014-20 financial framework.

This MIP integrates the EU's commitment to respond to the challenges and investment needs related to climate change by aiming at dedicating 20% of its spending to mitigation and adaptation actions related to climate.

Annex 1 presents the indicative table of priorities and allocations for 2018-20 per CSO-LA Programme objective.

4.4 Results

As foreseen in the Consensus⁴⁴, results of development activities will be reported in an increasingly comparable and consistent manner with that of other international commitments, across the 2030 Agenda. The CSO-LA programme will report more specifically on SDGs 11, 16 and 17.

Sources of data will be evidence collected through the numerous CSO-led monitoring initiatives, LAs' Peer Review Programme, EU internal monitoring tools such as the External Assistance Management Report (EAMR), EU Roadmaps for engagement with Civil Society, EU Human Rights Strategies, along with independent assessments and surveys and, where appropriate, internationally recognised data sources or indices.

4.5 Monitoring and Evaluation

The Programme will track progress as regards its impact by monitoring an indicative set of indicators which will be described in the Multiannual Action Programme (MAAP), corresponding to its three objectives and their respective specific objectives.

In addition, the European Commission adopts CSO-LA support measures each year, allowing for the preparation, follow-up, monitoring, audit and evaluation that are directly necessary to implement the thematic programme. These will be also taken into account to help prepare the post-Multi Financial Framework 2014-2020 period.

⁴⁴ Consensus, paragraphs 117 to 123.

Annex 1 - Indicative table of allocations by objective

The table below sets out the allocation for the different programme priorities.

Objectives	Indicative allocation in million EUR	Allocation in %
Objective 1 Support Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Development Policy Sub-objective 1: Strengthen CSOs as actors of governance Sub-objective 2: Support CSO's development work in the field	572.5 88.3 484.2	66.16%
Objective 2 Foster Development Education & Awareness Raising in Europe (DEAR) Sub-objective 1: Presidency Projects Sub-objective 2: Strategic pan-European Campaigns	90 6 84	10.40%
Objective 3 Empower Local Authorities (LAs) as actors of development, in particular at city level Sub-objective 1: Strengthen association of LAs at the regional and global levels Sub-objective 2: Support LAs in addressing urban challenges	190.8 26.1 164.7	22.05 %
Support measures	12	1.39%