

## NEWS SUMMARY

### **New Development Education and Awareness Raising programme launched**

Brussels, 18 March 2016 - EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, will today announce the launch of the Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) programme call for proposals at the Civil Society Forum taking place on March 17-18, in Brussels. The event will bring together 700 representatives of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from all continents. Following wide consultations with civil society organisations across Europe, the European Commission has updated the criteria for this new call, to be able to also reach out to small and grassroots organisations.

Ahead of the event, Commissioner Mimica said: *"The DEAR programme is very relevant to me, as it supports the active engagement of the European public on issues of global interest. From the eradication of poverty to the promotion of justice, from human rights and democracy to social responsibility, gender equality and sustainable development in partner countries – it is essential that EU citizens are aware of the importance of development work worldwide"*.

DEAR supports projects designed and led by Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities (LAs), on topics such as climate change, migration or gender equality, workers' rights, and sustainable consumption. The programme will also raise awareness about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are a universally agreed framework adopted by the United Nations in 2015 that involve all countries and people in order to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change.

Some of the achievements of previous editions of the DEAR programme include increased public recognition of Fair Trade, or the introduction of global development subjects in school programmes. The programme is composed of formal and informal education activities and awareness raising campaigns.

The 2016 DEAR call for proposals will provide a total of around €90 million to European Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities in order to achieve the above mentioned objectives.

The European Union is the world's leading donor to CSOs with over €2 billion granted to them each year. The EU is also the first world donor in helping CSOs in partner country that try to tackle roots causes of poverty, human rights violations, gender inequalities and migration.

## 2016 CSO Forum

Gathering for the first time CSOs from the development and human rights constituencies, the Forum reflects the Rights-Based Approach to Development that the EU adopted in 2014, which integrates the fulfilment of rights as an essential condition and a key leverage to achieve development and eradicate poverty, in line with Agenda 2030's "Leave no one behind" motto. The CSO Forum therefore highlighted the comprehensive set of concrete EU operational responses to foster an enabling environment for Civil Society worldwide, including at grass-roots level.

During the event, the Commissioner also signed 21 Framework Partnership Agreements with global and regional networks of CSOs. Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs) illustrate in concrete terms the European Union's commitment to support Civil Society Organisations, not only as providers of aid but also as pivotal actors of governance and key contributors to policy-making. Laying out long-term cooperation between the EU and civil society umbrella organisations, FPAs give them the means to play this role. They cover Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Latin America and Europe, and a wide-array of fields of intervention: anti-corruption, gender, accountability, human rights, social inclusion and economic empowerment.

The call for proposals will be published at the following link:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome>

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