Standard Summary Project Fiche

Project number: TR 0301.03

1. Basic Information
   1.1 Title: Improving co-operation between the NGOs and the public sector and Strengthening the NGOs’ democratic participation level.
   1.2 Sector: Civil Society
   1.3 Location: Turkey

2. Objectives

   2.1 Overall Objective:

   Strengthening the NGOs democratic participation level and the ties between the public sector and the civil society within the framework of EU alignment process.

   2.2 Project purpose:

   To prepare and implement an Action Plan on the “Public Sector – Civil Society Cooperation” with an emphasis on the promotion of such relations within a structured dialogue.

   2.3 Accession Partnership (AP) and NPAA priority:

   Accession Partnership Document (2001):
   Development of the Civil Society is one of the priorities and intermediate objectives pointed out within the Political Criteria section of the AP:

   - “Strengthen legal and constitutional guarantees of the right to freedom of association and peaceful assembly and encourage development of civil society.”¹

   The Accession Partnership setting out the principles, priorities, intermediate objectives and conditions revised for Turkey in 2003 underlines the requirement to: “Pursue and implement reforms concerning freedom of association and peaceful assembly. Lift legal restrictions in line with the European Convention on Human Rights including for trade unions, (Articles 11, 17 and 18). Encourage the development of civil society.”²

   NPAA (2001):
   Further development of the Civil Society is one of the priorities of the NPAA within the Political Criteria. Under the heading of “Freedom of Association and Peaceful Assembly, and the Civil Society”, this priority has been underlined as:

   - “Encouraging the further development of the civil society is a priority for the Turkish Government. Strengthening the civil society will contribute to the development of democracy in Turkey. Enhancement of freedom of association and peaceful assembly is expected to encourage individuals to become more actively involved in social issues.”³

³ National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis Communautaire dated 19 March 2001.
2.4 Contribution to National Development Plan

Turkey has now begun preparation of its first National Development Plan. This is likely to be ready by the end of 2003.

2.5 Cross Border Impact

N/A

3. Description

3.1 Background and justification:

A well-developed and functioning civil society is an essential element of a democratic system and efficient NGOs have a key role to play in expressing the demands of citizens by encouraging their active participation as well as raising their awareness. Furthermore, many elements of the *acquis communautaire* are based on the existence of operational NGOs operating within the related policy area. Therefore, it is a necessity to promote a working “Civil Society- Public Sector” relation within the context of the pre-accession efforts undertaken.

The programming exercise in Turkey is being carried out taking into account to a great extent the multi-annual priority areas that were jointly determined by the Turkish and the EU sides during 2001. In this context, Civil Society Dialogue was one of the key priority areas. During the 2002 programming, there were 2 project ideas, one from the Ministry of Interior, and the other from the Union of Chamber and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey. In the programming phase, these two project ideas were left out due to their content and maturity level.

Consequently, this priority area, namely “Civil Society Dialogue” has been included within the framework of 2003 programming.

These meetings have revealed that Turkish NGOs are ready and willing to take part and support such a project aiming at the cooperation between the NGOs and public sector.

“Improving co-operation between the NGOs and the Public Sector and Strengthening the NGOs’ democratic participation level” project has been envisaged as an umbrella project as it relates to not only a certain public institution but to many of them at the same time. Therefore, the Secretariat General for European Union Affairs (EUSG), being responsible for the general coordination of the EU issues as well as the alignment to the EU acquis, has taken the initiative of preparing the project fiche in this area.

The 8th Five Year Development Plan foresees as basic objectives "the development of the democracy and effective participation of all the sectors of the society in the economic, social and cultural development."  

The foundations set up by the public sector have a continuous fund-flow and have the possibility to use and invest it independently. As a result, often, such foundations share funds and resources with other independent civil society organizations.

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In the GAP region, those project implemented in the areas of environment, development and agriculture are carried out by civil society organizations such as NGOs, foundations, cooperatives and unions. One example is the Resettlement Feasibility project for the Ilisu Dam implemented by the Social Sciences Association and the Biodiversity Project implemented by Doğal Hayatı Koruma Derneği (Association for the Protection of Nature). Another example of NGO-public sector cooperation is the Airports Flight Security Project being delegated by the Ministry of Environment to the Bird Research Association for a period of two years. Furthermore, SHÇEK, tied to the Prime Ministry cooperates closely on the local level with civil society organizations in the implementation of various projects.

3.2 Linked activities:

The ongoing “Civil Society Development Programme” jointly established by the EU Commission and the Turkish Government as part of the EU-MEDA AFP 1999, aims at reinforcing Civil Society in Turkey while developing capacity for citizens’ initiatives and dialogue domestically and abroad helping to establish a more balanced relationship between citizens and the state, contributing to the maturing of democratic practice.

The above-mentioned Programme mainly focuses on the capacity building to the NGOs rather than cooperation between the NGOs and the public sector services which is the core aim of the proposed project, although it may occasionally be subject to grant support at local level under the local civic initiatives component of the Programme.

Other international donor organizations, such as the British Council and the UNDP provide capacity building support to civil society organizations.

Agenda 21, endorsed by the 1992 Rio Conference, constitutes an action plan to pave the way for “sustainable development”, aimed at interlocking environment and development. In Chapter 28 of Agenda 21 local authorities in each country are called upon to undertake a consultative process with their populations and achieve a consensus on a Local Agenda 21 for their communities. The project entitled the “Promotion and Development of Local Agenda 21s in Turkey”, was developed as a response to this global mandate. The purpose of the Project is to have local authorities, via their commitment to Local Agenda 21, foster a participatory, multi-sectoral process to achieve the goals of Agenda 21 at the local level through the preparation and implementation of long-term, strategic action plans that address priority local sustainable development concerns.

Donor organizations also support civil society-public sector cooperation. The World Bank provides credits of 136 Million dollars to the government under the management of the State Ministry named “Social Support and Development Fund” where the aim is to support local initiatives in cooperation with state institutions. One of the main criteria for those benefiting from the fund is cooperation with state institutions and local authorities. The fund is directly managed by the relevant departments within the governorate or sub-governorate or the localities. Some NGOs have benefitted from this fund through large scale projects following a tendering process.

3.3 Results:

The outputs to be delivered and the guaranteed results to be achieved by this project are:
• Feasibility study on potential matches between NGOs and public institutions realized in order to determine the priority areas and activities.
• Establishment of an Action Plan consisting of exhaustive description of actions to be taken (Regulatory changes, identification of good practices, Code of Conduct establishing the cooperation between the NGOs and the public sector, capacity building for all stakeholders, including confidence building measures etc.).
• Dissemination of the strategy, increased overall awareness of the necessity for cooperation between the NGO and the public sector and improved consciousness amongst the NGO’s. This includes establishment of a permanent web site for this purpose.
• Implementation of a grant facility supporting pilot projects selected by using the method of “call for proposals” in order to realize public sector-NGO cooperation in the context of jointly prepared and proposed pilot projects.

3.4 Activities/Inputs:

In the light of the project purpose above as well as the indicated results in section 3.3, the project activities will be undertaken in 4 main areas each matching one result.

A technical assistance team (TAT) will be established in order to carry out the technical aspects of the project, after a service tender procedure.

3.4.1 Clustering and other studies in order to identify the potential matches between the NGOs and the public sector as well as the priority areas in which future activities will be carried out by TAT.

• Clustering of NGOs in order to identify possible areas of intervention by using current researches including the Civil Society Development Programme’s related activities to be further used during the matching of the NGOs and the public institutions by TAT.
• Clustering of public sector by a field study to be further used during the matching the NGOs and the public institutions by TAT.
• Feasibility studies will be undertaken based on the findings of the clustering studies in order to verify the viability of the potential links and matches between NGOs and the public institutions.
• Definition of interest for each NGO type and public institution and also definition of common interests.
• Benefiting from other countries experiences through seminars and workshops and preparation of a best practice report. The TA Team will organize ad hoc Advisory Focus Groups in order to discuss specific issues with stakeholders. In limited cases, this may involve study visits to other countries.
• Analysis studies in order to determine the current state of play will be undertaken by the TAT.
• Formation of a network in between various NGOs and/or public sector representatives, including by providing a pool of experts by the TAT facilitating networking and communication in the two sectors.
• Facilitate the investigation of possible dialogue based on the earlier matching study regarding the possible links by the Technical Assistance Team (TAT)

3.4.2 An Action Plan will be prepared consisting of exhaustive description of the actions to be taken.

• Preparation of an action plan by making use of the relevant studies undertaken in the context of identified matches and viable links determined before.
• Prioritization of dialogue areas envisaged to be undertaken in the framework of the Action Plan.
• Determination of the concrete implementation mechanisms to be employed during the implementation of this Action Plan in terms of human resources, regulatory, administrative arrangements, best practices and capacity building training and capacity building to support the pilot grant scheme such as training on project management, communication and cooperation as well as support in the call for proposals.
• Preparation by the TAT of a Code of Conduct, establishing cooperation principles for relations between public sector and NGOs, based on international best practices and previous studies undertaken by the TAT.
• Promotion of the Code of Conduct Manual to the NGOs and public institutions.

3.4.3. Increased overall awareness of the possible methods and benefits of the necessity for cooperation between the NGOs and the public institutions and formation of a website.

• Design and building of a website by the technical assistance team
• The updating and revising of the content of the website on a regular basis
• Establishment of a web forum facilitating the exchange of information between the public sector and NGOs.
• Dissemination of relevant information necessary for the sustainability of NGO/Public Sector Dialogue by organizing training, information and awareness-raising activities, including the promotion of the various principles and implementation mechanisms of the action plan.
• Preparation of necessary documents within the context of NGO/Public Sector Dialogue.

3.4.4 Preparation and implementation of a grant facility through call for proposals targeting public sector-NGO cooperation in the context of jointly prepared and proposed pilot projects.

• In the light of the Action Plan, the priority areas and activities for the proposals will be determined and the procedures governing the call for proposals methodology will be identified by the technical assistance team with the approval of the beneficiary.
• Preparing call for proposals
• Provide technical assistance to potential beneficiaries of call for proposals throughout the application procedures.
• Selection of the relevant proposals after an evaluation process with the support of assessors to be provided by TAT.
• Implementation and monitoring of pilot partnership projects.

3.5 Lessons learned:

The development of pluralistic democracies is closely connected with the existence of an open civil society with horizontal ties between citizens and where citizen groups emerge spontaneously and are active in various fields. The development of a democratic society is intrinsically linked to the development of an open civil society and the so-called third sector which complements the activities of the state and market economies.

Pre-accession assistance for all candidate countries should continue and expand assistance to the development of civil society; ensuring that the legislative and fiscal environment exists to allow the NGO sector to operate; and, in particular from a pre-accession point of view, ensuring that the NGO sector acquires the necessary management and implementation skills in advance of the establishment of structural funds, so they can play an important role in their management; also establishing a framework for Programme and project monitoring and evaluation. In the medium term, the challenge will be to have substantive NGO participation in sectoral and regional planning and in building a sustainable social economy. Initial impressions from the operation of the linked activities listed above indicates that the management capacity of many NGOs in Turkey is weak.

This is the first time such activity has been financed by the EC in Turkey under the pre-accession financial cooperation perspective and no Turkey-specific lessons can therefore be drawn from previous annual programmes. Nevertheless, analysis of the experience gained in the Phare countries (Report S/ZZ/CIV/01004) shows that the absence of clear indicators in civil society programme design has not only made programme assessment less effective, but has also meant that implementation could not be optimised through guidance of programme managers who could not monitor real achievement at local level; that some achievements of the civil society programmes could not be attributed to them; that vast amounts of useful management information has been absent during the programme planning stages; and therefore little account has been taken of the progress made in the sector and priorities have not been altered to keep pace with those changes. This has been addressed.

4. Institutional Framework

The project beneficiary (EUSG) will coordinate and manage the project. However, most of the project activities will be undertaken with the support from the Technical Assistance Team which will be selected through a service tender procedure.

The EUSG is mainly responsible for, in conformity with plans and programs, channeling and shouldering the internal coordination of the preparations and the harmonization work to be carried out by the Turkish public organizations and agencies within the framework of efforts to prepare Turkey for full membership to the EU. Furthermore, the following functions are within the responsibility area of the EUSG:

a) Coordinating, in conformity with plans and programs, internal efforts of harmonization to be carried out by the Turkish public organizations and agencies,

b) Providing secretarial services to the boards and committees which shall be established
with a view to preparing Turkey for membership to the EU, and guiding the implementation of the decisions of the said boards and committees,

c) Conducting required research and studies in line with the decisions of the Government and the boards and committees to be established,

d) Awarding, by contract and in areas of its competence, to natural and legal persons both within Turkey and abroad the tasks of making studies, research and translations,

e) Issuing, through the Prime Ministry, regulations, communications, circulars and other similar regulatory instruments concerning the services that it is responsible to render.

EUSG, as is mentioned before, will manage and coordinate the implementation of the project with the technical support of the TAT. Most of the day-to-day management work of the project will be undertaken by the TAT. The key role which the EUSG will assume during the lifetime of the project will be ensuring coordination and participation of the public institutions as well as facilitation and monitoring of project activities.

5. **Detailed Budget**

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* In cases of co-financing only

6. **Implementation Arrangements**

6.1 **Implementing Agency**

PAO: Ercan TORTOP
Director of CFCU
Tel: (+90 312) 285 20 02
e-mail: ercan.tortop@cfcu.gov.tr
6.2 Twinning:
N/A

6.3 Non-standard aspects
The PRAG will be followed.

6.4 Contracts
There will be a service contract for the establishment of TAT and a grant facility for selected projects that will lead to several individual grant contacts.

**Contract 1(service):** 1,500,000 €
Formation of a technical assistance team (TAT) in order to carry on the technical aspects of the project through a service tender procedure (Contract 1).

**Contract 2(grant):** 500,000 €.
There will be a grant facility leading to several grants implemented after a selection process.

7. Implementation Schedule

7.1 Start of tendering/call for proposals
After the financing memorandum is signed, the service contract will be tendered (First Quarter of 2004),
Call for proposal (second Quarter of 2005)

7.2 Start of project activity
(2nd quarter of 2004)

7.3 Project completion
Contracting period expires 2005 and disbursement period expires 2006.

8. Equal Opportunity
There will be no gender discrimination in the participation to project related activities and a gender balance will be sought.

9. Environment
The project has no environmental impact.

10. Rates of return
N/A

11. Investment criteria
N/A

12. Conditionality and sequencing
No contract will be signed until EUSG allocates staff necessary for implementation of the project.
ANNEXES TO PROJECT FICHE

1. Logical framework matrix in standard format
2. Detailed implementation chart
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule by quarter for full duration of programme (including disbursement period)
4. Types of activities that might be funded under the grant facility