

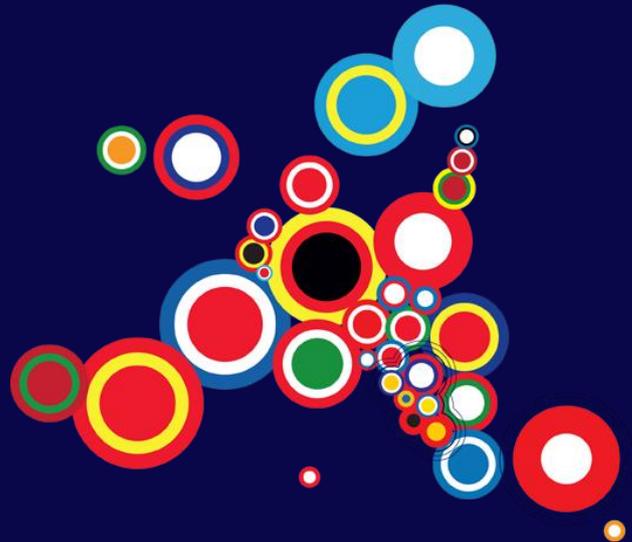


INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) 2014-2020

TURKEY

Civil Society Facility and
Media Programme 2016 -
2017

(Sivil Düşün III including support
to the Resource Center)



Action summary

The Civil Society Facility Turkey ("Sivil Düşün III" including support to the Resource Centre) aims to improve the environment for active citizenship and to strengthen the capacity of organised active citizens. The action will contribute to an improvement in the enjoyment of freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association; to an enhanced capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs) to benefit from public and private funding mechanisms; to a more effective mobilisation of support from citizens and decision-makers by organised citizens; and to more effective civil society networks, information sharing, and collaboration.

The action proposes innovative and flexible tools to answer the needs of civil society in Turkey, going away from the standard project approach. It ensures the EU a very high visibility and shows its repeated commitment to support civil society, including at a grass-root level, in Turkey.

Action Identification	
Action Programme Title	Civil Society Facility and media 2016-2017
Action Title	Civil Society Facility Turkey ("Sivil Düşün III" including support to the Resource Centre)
Action ID	IPA 2016/038-960.08/CSF & Media/Turkey IPA 2017/038-961.08/CSF & Media/Turkey
Sector Information	
IPA II Sector	Democracy and governance – sub-sector civil society
DAC Sector	15150 – Democratic participation and civil society
Budget	
Total cost	2016: EUR 10.0 million 2017: 0
EU contribution	2016: EUR 10.0 million 2017: 0
Budget line(s)	22.020401
Management and Implementation	
Management mode	Direct
<i>Direct management:</i> EU Delegation <i>Indirect management:</i> National authority or other entrusted entity	Delegation of the European Union to Turkey
Implementation responsibilities	N/A
Location	
Zone benefiting from the action	Turkey
Specific implementation area(s)	N/A
Timeline	
Final date for concluding Financing Agreement(s) with IPA II beneficiary	N.A.
Final date for concluding delegation agreements under indirect management	N.A.
Final date for concluding procurement and grant contracts	IPA 2016: 31 December 2017 IPA 2017: N.A.

Final date for operational implementation	IPA 2016: 31 December 2021 IPA 2017: N.A.		
Final date for implementing the Financing Agreement (date by which this programme should be de-committed and closed)	N.A.		
Policy objectives / Markers (DAC form)			
General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Aid to environment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade Development	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
Biological diversity	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Combat desertification	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change mitigation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change adaptation	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. RATIONALE

Strengthening civil society is a core part of the Political Criteria for accession. As such, it also corresponds to essential and closely interlinked elements of the Enlargement Strategy and a crucial area that is regularly monitored in the Progress Report. Indeed, a more dynamic civil society can contribute to the accession process, becoming more than just a technical process between the candidate country and the EU and to sustain public support for accession.

The 'Civil Society Facility' (CSF) was set up in 2008 to financially support the development of civil society. Contributing to anchoring democratic values and structures, human rights, social inclusion and the rule of law, thereby supporting the EU integration process, the CSF is supported since 2014 by the **DG NEAR "Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-2020"**.

The rationale and justification for "Sivil Düşün III" including support to the Resource Centre is therefore based on the EU priority clearly stated in many different strategic and policy documents, to uphold fundamental rights and encourage democratic participation as well as civil society strengthening. The interventions under this IPA II Civil Society Facility (CSF) Turkey window programme (known and branded in Turkey as "Sivil Düşün") will be complementary to those of the IPA national programmes, which are mostly concentrating on capacity building of public authorities in working with civil society, on the cooperation between civil society and public authorities and on the EU-Turkey Civil Society Dialogue; and which are implemented under indirect management by the beneficiary country (IMBC). The EIDHR, on the contrary, is specifically focusing its very limited resources on supporting specialised Human Rights Organisations which are active on the most delicate human rights issues.

In 2010 and 2011, two major consultations of civil society were carried out by the EU Delegation. These consultations were done on-line and through meetings in over 11 cities in Turkey. Overall more than 730 organisations and individuals were involved. The consultations focused on how the EU could improve its support to Civil Society in Turkey. As a result of these processes:

1. A set of **Guiding Principles for EU Support to Civil Society in Turkey** were adopted. These principles identify two priorities for future support to Civil Society in Turkey: a) improvement of the environment for active citizenship; b) strengthening capacity of organised active citizenship. The Guiding Principles encourage a multi-annual approach to support civil society development, in line with the existing strategy and programming documents.
2. The first phase of "Sivil Düşün" was designed under the IPA I Civil Society Facility (CSF) Turkey window programme.

These consultation exercises continued in 2013, 2014 and 2015 under "Sivil Düşün". Indeed the Technical Assistance Team that was contracted – among other tasks - helped the EUD to sustain the kicked-off dialogue with platforms/networks, CSOs and activists from all over Turkey.

The present action design includes therefore civil society comments and inputs as gathered during the comprehensive consultation processes of the last six years.

PROBLEM AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

Effective pluralism implies the respect for human rights, the rule of law and the possibility for political change. Civil society activities - often defined as primarily non-state, non-business and non-private activities - mirror this pluralism. They encourage citizens to organise themselves and to collaborate in their common interest. A thriving civil society contributes to a more open, participatory and consequently a more dynamic democratic society.

Through its advocacy activities, civil society can help ensure that accession negotiations between the candidate country institutions and the EU are not merely technical discussions. Accession will only be successful when it is supported by citizens who understand the necessary institutional, political and economic changes.

There are over 108,000 associations in Turkey, with a total of over 10,034,000 members. The absolute majority, 80,71%, of these are men and only 19,28% are women. Professional organisations, sport clubs, religious organisations and solidarity associations are the most prevalent. In addition, there are over 4,800 foundations; they are mostly asset-based and/or raise funds and new foundations mainly concentrate on education, health and charity.

Despite the uneven geographic distribution, civil society organizations are active in all of Turkey's provinces. There is a marked concentration of CSOs in the urban areas. According to data provided by the Department of Associations, 33,9% of associations are established in Marmara region.

With regard to the legal environment in which CSOs operate, despite improvements in by-laws, many bureaucratic obstacles remain with, in particular, operation, funding and in some cases the legal establishment, for example:

- there continue to be heavy fines or severe punishments for failing to comply with the Law on Associations and its regulations;
- there is still an administrative requirement to notify authorities before receiving financial support from abroad;
- at times inspections of those CSOs receiving financial support from abroad are disproportionate; the legal framework for the collection of donations and tax exemptions for CSOs remains to be improved;
- the procedures to obtain the status of public benefit that allows donors to deduct grants from their taxes remain problematic and hence are granted to few CSOs ; grants by employees - as opposed to institutions - are effectively not tax-deductible.

Participatory governance supportive of active citizenship is another area that remains to be strengthened. Systematic stakeholder consultation would underpin transparency, the ownership by individuals and thus the sustainability of legislative processes including the accession process. Overall, the legal framework on associations is broadly in line with European standards. However, considerable progress needs to be made as regards its implementation as associations still face disproportionate scrutiny of their activities, which in some cases has led to judicial proceedings.

In terms of the financial environment, it is worth noting that the financial resources of CSOs depend largely on philanthropy, and actions funded through philanthropy concentrate on social or educational activities. As mentioned above, fund-raising/aid collection is bound by too heavy bureaucratic requirements. This is also true for donations provided to associations by international donors.

The majority of the rights-based CSOs single out the lack of funding as their biggest problem, which forces them to direct most of their energy and resources to fund-raising . Hence, the dearth of financial resources available emerges as a major challenge. There may be a potential for increased private grants to organisations promoting active citizenship.

With regard to capacities, organised citizens' activities are often limited by institutional management systems, human resources and weak external relations of their organisations as well as their generally weak membership base. The absence of a law on volunteering actually does not encourage CSOs to effectively make the most out of volunteers' work (e.g. risking being fined for undeclared employment).

OUTLINE OF IPA II ASSISTANCE

Sector approach under IPA II assistance in Turkey foresees tackling previously mentioned problems and needs in two indispensable and complementary ways: (1) through actions under the civil society sub-sector under the coordination of the Ministry of EU Affairs and (2) in mainstreaming civil society participation throughout all sectors.

Besides, the possibility to programme and implement IPA II actions under both IMBC and Direct Management allows for a comprehensive approach. The present action document covers only the directly managed part and will therefore complement what is currently programmed under IPA II 2014, 2015 and later on 2016 and 2017.

In that respect, in line with the objectives related to civil society stated in the CSP, the Guidelines for EU support to civil society and the SPD, the present action will contribute to the following results:

- Freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association are enjoyed fully and effectively
- Improved capacity of CSOs to benefit from public and private funding mechanisms.
- Organised citizens are more often supported by citizens and decision-makers and more effectively use this support.
- Organised citizens more effectively network, share information and collaborate.

To do so, the action branded in Turkey as "Sivil Düşün" will be composed of a grant scheme to strengthen networking capacities and sustainable platforms, a tailored networking and visibility support and a direct agreement with the Resource Centre. See details below.

RELEVANCE WITH THE IPA II STRATEGY PAPER AND OTHER KEY REFERENCES

Under IPA II, it has been agreed that Civil Society would be a relevant sector in Turkey to focus the assistance.

As stated in the **Country Strategy Paper (CSP)**, the three Civil Society sector priority areas are: (1) to support the development of civil society through more active democratic participation in policy and decision making processes; (2) promote a culture of fundamental rights and dialogue; (3) enhance civil society dialogue and inter-cultural exchange between civil societies in Turkey and Europe.

The present action specifically answers the first and second priorities of the CSP as it aims to improve the environment for active citizenship and to strengthen the capacity of organised active citizens.

Besides, the **Enlargement Strategy** (COM(2015) 611 final of 10.11.2015) highlighted the fact that "*A stronger role for civil society organisations and a much more supportive and enabling environment to foster their development is needed in the enlargement countries. This is necessary to enhance political accountability and promote deeper understanding of accession related reforms. Public understanding of the benefits that the EU has already brought and can bring to the region is vital to encourage political leaders to pursue the required reforms vigorously. Effective communication on how the enlargement process works its implications for citizens' lives remains essential for ensuring public support. This requires a joint effort of the EU and its Member States as well as of the governments and civil society in the enlargement countries.*"

Specifically on Turkey, the Enlargement Strategy stresses that "*Civil society has remained active, growing in numbers and continuing to be involved in many spheres of public life, but restrictions to freedom of assembly remain a serious concern*".

Also, the **EU 2015 Progress Report** stressed the fact that "[...] *in the absence of structured arrangements for their participation, CSOs have frequently not been able to take an active part in the policy and legislative processes.*

Systemic problems, such as restrictions on registering and the procedures for the authorisation and functioning of associations, need to be addressed. A number of CSOs have also continued to see their regular operations challenged through court closure cases, penalties, restrictions or discriminatory practices by public authorities. Restrictions on freedom of assembly remained a problem for segments of civil society (see freedom of association and freedom of assembly).

In some cases, the activities of human rights defenders were also subject to penalties, investigations and court cases.

Current legislation, including tax rules, is not conducive to stimulating private donations to CSOs. Civil society remains financially vulnerable and dependent on public project grants. At the same time, public funding has not been sufficiently transparent."

DG NEAR "Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-2020" include a set of objectives, results, and indicators for the EU support to civil society which will allow for the measurement of progress at country level as well as among the IPA II beneficiaries. The Guidelines particularly specify that "[s]upport to civil society within the enlargement policy should be focused on enabling and stimulating participatory democracy. This should be reflected in two main goals: achieving an environment that is conducive to civil society activities and building the capacity of CSOs to be effective and accountable independent actors".

Finally, the **10th National Development Plan of Turkey** (2014-2018) points out to the increased role of civil society in solving social problems and supporting development efforts while stressing the substantial regional disparities among regions with respect to the number of CSOs, their membership size and their effectiveness. Therefore, the main objectives in the Plan period are to enhance the democratic participation of CSOs in the decision making processes, to improve the technical and financial capacities of CSOs in order to increase their support to local development initiatives and to promote their project development and implementation capabilities.

LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Civil society development projects culminated with the establishment of the Civil Society Development Centre (Turkish acronym: STGM) in Ankara in 2004. It has been followed by a series of subsequent EU supports (grant schemes and direct agreements) in the area of civil society strengthening and civil society–public authorities' dialogue and cooperation.

The project "*Strengthening Civil Society Development and Civil Society-Public Sector Cooperation in Turkey*" financed under IPA Programming 2011 - Part I, and its follow-up phase programmed under IPA II Programming 2014, will continue to focus on improving the environment and organisational capacity for civil society and strengthening the capacities of organised active citizens. It also aims at fostering more effective civic participation in policy dialogue and processes at all levels, including a better legal framework for establishing, operating and funding civil society organisations. Moreover, support is provided to the sustainable development of grassroots civil society organisations and newly established organisations and networks.

In parallel, Sivil Düşün EU programme ("*Civil Society Facility Turkey Programme 2011-2013*" and "*Civil Society Facility Turkey Programme 2014-2015*") has proven to be an excellent programme satisfying in content – unfortunately not in size- the majority of EU support expectations of activists, CSOs and platforms/networks in Turkey. The programme, aiming at improving the environment for active citizenship and strengthening the capacity of organised active citizens, had in the end three components:

1. A grant scheme to provide support to existing or new national, regional, local or thematic platforms and networks through technical assistance, capacity building training, exchange of information and best practices, including re-granting and/or direct in kind support to smaller CSOs and/or members of the network/platform.
2. Advocacy support for interpretation, translation, travel and ad hoc expertise to allow for a broader participation of active citizens in EU activities and of activists from the EU in civil society events in Turkey.
3. A component to raise the awareness of CSOs about the EU support to civil society but also to offer a scene for better sharing of civil society work, activities, events, etc.

Also, the IPA funded "*Civil Society Facility- Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organisations (TACSO)*" is currently implemented in the Western Balkans and Turkey. Via its office in Ankara, which are located under the same roof as the Resource Centre (in Turkey, STGM), the project implements numerous support activities all over Turkey for CSOs and civil society networks and platforms. Capacity building measures and resources overlap with a very strong focus on policy areas, networking and partnership, dialogue between CSOs and other institutions as well as CSO visibility. Several assessments and evaluations incorporating inputs from the civil society in Turkey have been conducted under this project. Those exercises, such as the February 2014 Needs Assessment, are providing a sound basis and a reliable analysis for developing, implementing and monitoring the "Sivil Düşün" EU programme. TACSO Turkey office will close down after summer 2017 and will operate remotely from the regional office only. The scope of Turkey specific activities will have then to be shared between TACSO regional office and the Resource Centre.

Lessons have been learned and early conclusions drawn. Hence, the present 3rd phase of "Sivil Düşün" incorporates best practices but also fine-tunes activities to be more tailored to the needs of activists, CSOs and platforms/networks in Turkey. In particular, one important lesson learned in Turkey that is to be mentioned - and confirmed by "Sivil Düşün" and TACSO reports - is that full funding is a critical condition to ensure outreach to small/grass roots organisations with maximum visibility of EU support.

2. INTERVENTION LOGIC

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX

OVERALL OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	
To strengthen participatory democracies and the EU integration process in the Western Balkans and Turkey by empowering civil society to actively take part in decision making and by stimulating an enabling legal and financial environment for civil society and pluralistic media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality assessment of existing legislation and policy framework Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for cooperation between CSOs/media and public Institutions 	<p>Independent assessments by I.O. and CSOs</p> <p>Progress reports</p>	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
The specific objective of "Sivil Düşün III" including the support to the Resource Centre is to improve the environment for active citizenship and to strengthen the capacity of organised active citizens.	<p>Law on associations and law on collecting aid are amended and annihilate existing obstacles. (EU Guidelines – indicator 1.1.a; Appendix 1 legislative standards and practice standards)¹</p> <p>Activists and citizens are not convicted while exercising their freedom of expression and assembly. (EU Guidelines – indicator 1.1.a; Appendix 1 legislative standards and practice standards)</p> <p>CSOs institutional management systems, human resources and external relations are improved. (EU Guidelines – objectives 4 and 5 - all indicators)</p> <p>CSOs financial sustainability is improved. (EU Guidelines – objective 2 and 6 - all indicators)</p> <p>A law on volunteerism exists and encourages targeting the whole population. (EU Guidelines – result 1.2 - all indicators; result 5.1 - all indicators)</p>	<p>Consultation exercises feedback</p> <p>Monitoring reports of the TA</p> <p>External evaluations</p> <p>Reports of TACSO, STGM, TÜSEV, and other CSOs, platforms and networks</p> <p>CIVICUS reports or equivalent</p> <p>Data of the Ministry of Interior – department of associations</p> <p>Data of the Directorate for Foundations</p> <p>Data provided by TÜİK</p> <p>Other relevant data provided by line ministries</p>	Turkey is committed to full fledge democratic principles as per Copenhagen political criteria
RESULTS	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
Result 1: Freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association are enjoyed fully and effectively, especially by rights-based CSOs, networks & platforms and activists, in particular those working on what are today more politically sensitive matters	<p>1.1 Quality assessment of existing legislation and policy framework (EU Guidelines – result 1.1)</p> <p>1.2 Laws are amended and implemented in the sense of greater freedom of expression, assembly and association (EU Guidelines – result 1.1)</p>	<p>1.1 Through independent assessment</p> <p>e.g. Consultation exercises feedback; Monitoring reports of the TA; External evaluations; Reports of TACSO, STGM, TÜSEV, and other CSOs, platforms and networks, etc.</p>	<p>Turkey is committed to improve laws and regulations, and also their implementation in the area of Freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association.</p> <p>Both public authorities and CSOs are willing to engage in dialogue and</p>

¹ "Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014 2020" version of June 2015 (final) including appendix 1 on standards

		<p>1.2 Assessment through DG Enlargement's annual Progress Report</p> <p>Other relevant data provided by line ministries</p>	<p>cooperation.</p> <p>Private donors are willing to support civil society beyond "classical" education and social related programmes.</p> <p>Public authorities' funds are granted in a fair, transparent and equal manner.</p> <p>CSOs are willing to collaborate among themselves and also to create networks and platforms.</p> <p>Individuals are willing to volunteer.</p> <p>Media are open to promote all sorts of civil society work</p>
<p>Result 2: Improved capacity of CSOs to benefit from public and private funding mechanisms.</p>	<p>2.1 Number of employees in CSO (permanent and part-time) (EU Guidelines – benchmark 1.2.a, b and c)</p> <p>2.2 Number and kind of donations to CSOs from individual and corporate donors (specified in monetary values) (EU Guidelines – benchmark 2.2.a)</p> <p>2.3 Percentage of CSOs benefiting from tax incentives (EU Guidelines – benchmark 2.2.a; indicator 2.3.a)</p> <p>2.4 Government support to CSOs is available and provided in a transparent, accountable, fair and non-discriminatory manner (EU Guidelines – result 2.4, all indicators)</p>	<p>2.1 National registries/surveys (e.g. Data of the Ministry of Interior – department of associations; Data of the Directorate for Foundations; Data provided by TÜİK; etc.)</p> <p>2.2 Data from Ministry of Finance, Department of Associations, DG for Foundations, other CSO reports.</p> <p>2.3 Central Registries</p> <p>2.4 Survey</p>	
<p>Result 3: Organised citizens are more often supported by citizens and decision-makers and more effectively use this support.</p>	<p>3.1 Public institutions recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance through CSOs' inclusion in decision making processes (EU Guidelines – result 3.1, all indicators)</p> <p>3.2 Number of volunteers both female and male in CSOs per type of CSO / sector (EU Guidelines – in particular benchmark 1.2.b)</p> <p>3.3 Increase in the number of public campaigns organised by organised citizens (EU Guidelines – linked to result 1.1.b – appendix 1 "practice standard")</p>	<p>3.1 national registry and / or information from national government and surveys with CSOs (Department for Cooperation with CSOs and Secretariat for European Integration)</p> <p>3.1 Future IPA programming documents and activities</p> <p>3.2 Surveys/ CIVICUS reports and other CSOs' reports</p>	

		<p>3.2 Ministry of Labour, EU Progress report , State Statistical Office, State registers/research, CSO data</p> <p>3.3 Independent assessments e.g. Reports of TACSO, STGM, TÚSEV, and other CSOs, platforms and networks, CIVICUS reports</p>	
Result 4: Organised citizens more effectively network, share information and collaborate	<p>4.1 Share of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks (EU Guidelines – result 5 in particular benchmark 5.3.a)</p> <p>4.2 Increase in the number of joint public campaigns</p>	<p>4.1 and 4.2. Survey and independent assessments e.g. CIVICUS reports, platforms and networks reports.</p>	

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

In order to address the issues mentioned in the Logframe matrix above, the needs and concerns of civil society in Turkey have been clearly identified during the consultation processes mentioned under part 1 ("Rationale"). The consultation process undertaken with civil society in Turkey is expected to continue on a regular basis (at least annually) in order to review and confirm priorities for action, sequencing and financial allocations throughout the whole implementation period.

From an operational viewpoint, activities will be designed along the below lines:

Activity 1: Sivil Düşün grant scheme to support networking and sustainable platforms (to contribute to Result 4 foremost, but also to Results 1, 2 and 3)

This grant scheme is designed so that organised citizens can effectively network, share information and collaborate. Grants delivered will allow for a financial support to long-term partnerships among the members of the platforms and networks.

This grant scheme will support existing or new national, regional², local or thematic platforms and networks through technical assistance, capacity building training, exchange of information and best practices, including sub-granting and/or direct in kind support to smaller CSOs and/or members of the network/platform.

This grant scheme will respond to the needs expressed by CSOs during consultation processes about longer-term (multi-annual) EU support to networks and platforms, allowing for moving away from a "standard project approach".

The call for proposals will be tentatively launched in 2017 with a view to have tentatively 6 to 10 grants involving platforms and networks of CSOs and/or initiatives. In order to support needs of both national and local/(multi)provincial networks (whether thematic or cross-cutting), the possibility of establishing separate lots should remain open. This could allow for relatively bigger grants to be awarded to national networks and smaller grants to encourage the creation and/or to strengthen existing local/(multi-) provincial networks. Priorities, budgets, possible lots, number grants, etc. will be confirmed through follow-up consultations with civil society.

Yet, this grant scheme is designed to support rights-based activities and rights-based work of networks and platforms. It will give priority to what are considered today by civil society the most "politically sensitive" matters in Turkey (e.g. minority rights, gender, cultural rights, freedom of media and of expression, etc.), therefore covered with difficulties by IMBC IPA funded activities. An effort will be made to encourage a wide geographical coverage, as well as different scope and thematics.

EU co-financing up to 100%: the multi-annual approach calls for moving away from the traditional project co-financing approach. One of the main reasons for this is that coordination of a network/platform requires an organisation/some organisations of the group to take(s) over the secretariat and coordination tasks. This is an additional burden that is not necessarily part of their mandate and included in their individual fund raising activities. That is why, in this context, it/they should be relieved of the financial burden related to these additional tasks that go beyond pure content related activities. Besides, the fact the coordination tasks are financially covered in total by the grants will enhance the possibility for inclusive ways of working (e.g. less likely to limit the numbers of members due to an increasing co-funding, rotating secretariat among members

² In the sense of regions within Turkey

of the platform/network, etc.). Hence, the grants under this Activity will be financed in full as made possible within Art. 192 of the financial regulations.

Activity 2: Sivil Düşün tailored networking support and visibility (to contribute to Result 4 foremost, but also to Results 1, 2 and 3)

In order to respond to the needs expressed by CSOs during the consultation processes, support to the strengthening of advocacy and networking capacity of civil society actors will be delivered through a service contract.

Furthermore, to contribute to fully and effectively enjoyed freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association, this activity is designed in a way that rights-based activities will be supported giving priority to what are considered today by civil society as the most "politically sensitive" matters in Turkey (e.g. minority rights, gender, cultural rights, freedom of media and of expression, etc.) and therefore hardly covered by IMBC IPA funded activities.

This is foreseen in a way so as to tentatively support (1) activists, (2) platforms and networks ad hoc capacity building needs and (3) rights-based CSO led/organised cultural events. This will be implemented by providing operational in-kind support e.g. interpretation, translation, travel and ad hoc expertise (including legal, psychological and medical support), support to CSOs capacities to work with volunteers, researches, surveys and studies carried by CSOs, CSO visibility (e.g. audio, visual and printed materials, websites, events, campaigns, etc.) etc. to allow for a broader participation of active citizens in EU activities and of activists from the EU in civil society events in Turkey.

This activity will respond to the needs expressed by the civil society during the consultation processes and therefore will give priority to rights-based activities and to rights-based CSOs led/organised events. In particular, it is designed considering the lessons learned during "Sivil Düşün I and II" i.e. the need for a much bigger support in terms of amount (due to the very high capacity of absorption in Turkey), as well as the need for separate lots/groups of actors in order to reach properly the set objectives.

Besides the networking support, this activity will also raise awareness of CSOs about the EU support to Civil Society through "Sivil Düşün" and ensure the visibility of its different components. It will create fora and provide a scene for civil society work exchange and visibility (e.g. reports, events, promotion, etc.), allowing for even greater connections and synergies among activists, CSOs and platforms/networks. This will moreover include consultation mechanisms to both steer activities implemented under this action document but also more generally steer EU support to civil society in Turkey.

Activity 3: Support to the Resource Centre (to contribute to Results 1, 2, 3 and 4)

As touched upon under part 1 under "Lessons learned and link to previous financial assistance" above, the EU has supported the Technical Assistance to Civil Society Organisations (TACSO) Project since 2009 under the Civil Society Facility (CSF), in order to achieve a strengthened civil society and to stimulate a civil society-friendly environment and culture in the Western Balkans and Turkey.

TACSO is currently implementing a sustainability strategy/exit strategy at national level via partnership with "Resource Centres". The partnership to deliver TACSO services aims to ensure capacity of local partner CSOs to sustain TACSO functions at national level after the completion of TACSO II, in August 2017.

In Turkey, the Resource Centre is currently run by the Civil Society Development Centre (STGM)³. To-date, STGM is the only organisation capable of effectively operating in the field of activity of the Resource Centre by virtue of consideration of the following facts:

- STGM has specialized exclusively in providing support to civil society organisations and it is still to date the only civil society actor capable of effectively delivering tailor-made and help-desk support to grassroots CSOs all over the country, from a rights-based perspective.
- STGM is also widely recognized as having a leading role regarding capacity building of CSOs at national level. This technical expertise has proven to be crucial, particularly taking into consideration that the current legal framework regulating CSO operations in Turkey is complex, restrictive, and very bureaucratic. Especially regulations regarding state inspections on CSOs are mainly focused on limitations, defining penalties and sanctions that do not seem to meet the principle of proportionality.
- Despite legal limitations related to the creation of networks and platforms in Turkey, STGM is the only organisation that manages to operate as a quasi NGO umbrella organisation, giving it the strategic advantage of covering a wide range of policy sectors (the founding members (and board members) of STGM are prominent representatives of CSOs working on environment, gender, children, culture, human rights, disaster preparedness, education etc.).
- It is important to underline that CSOs in Turkey, particularly those that are rights-based, currently operate in a difficult political context. As underlined in the 2015 Progress Report, there have been growing pressures on freedom of expression, as well as increasing restrictions in the sphere of freedom of association based on security concerns and the need of combating terrorism.

Activities of the Resource Centre shall include:

- Capacity building support to CSOs according to EU Guidelines result areas (including producing information, help desk services, coaching, trainings, thematic, inter sectorial and intra sectorial events, information meetings targeting all levels of actors from civil society).
- Promoting freedom of association in Turkey via information campaigns but also through lobbying activities.
- Monitoring of the EU Guidelines in Turkey and facilitation of dialogue of key stakeholders.
- Facilitation of civil society contribution to EU accession process in cooperation with EU and key stakeholders.

In addition to regional TACSO III interventions, STGM will also complement regional activities (e.g. in covering for participation costs for additional participants to regional events organised by TACSO III,

³ STGM was established in 2004 by a wide group of civil society activists, following the completion of the first long-term EU Technical Assistance Programme for CSOs in Turkey. The mission of STGM, targeting the attainment of a strong and democratic civil society, is to carry out advocacy, campaign, research, training and lobbying activities in its priority target areas in order to ensure the development of participation and democracy; strengthen the organisational capacity and autonomy of civil society and make the voice of civil society heard in decision making processes.

replication of regional trainings in Turkey, mobility of key stakeholders from EU and the IPA region to meet Turkish counterparts and vice-versa, etc.).

EU co-financing up to 100%: STGM will be the direct beneficiary of a grant agreement with full contractual responsibility (both financial and technical). The final beneficiaries will be the supported civil society organisations – STGM's sole mission for the last 10 years. It will take over, as described in TACSO sustainability strategy, the implementation of services to CSOs that were formerly carried out by TACSO. In the current ever challenging context for civil society work, STGM, as the only civil society organisation capable of carrying out Resource Centre activities in an impartial manner in Turkey at all levels and geographical scopes, will be, thanks to a financing in full, preserved from uncertainties and legal environment related risks. That is how and why STGM will be able to implement those specific activities related to its CSOs support role in a flexible and timely way. Art 192 of the financial regulations that allows for financing in full will be therefore applied.

RISKS

The following assumptions can be made:

- Turkey is committed to improve the laws and regulations as well as their implementation in the areas of freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association.
- Both public authorities and CSOs are willing to engage in dialogue and cooperation.
- Private donors are willing to support civil society beyond "classical" education and social related programmes.
- Public funds are granted in a fair, transparent and equal manner.
- CSOs are willing to collaborate among themselves and to create networks and platforms.
- Individuals are willing to volunteer.
- Media are open to promote different sorts of civil society work.
- Media professional organisations and CSOs advocating for media freedoms might not come forward with project proposals fearing the general negative political atmosphere

Risks can be summarised and mitigated as follows:

- The degree of participation/involvement of participants is often difficult to assess beforehand. Everything possible should be made to create the necessary conditions (adequate material, rooms, audio-visual aids, etc.) to allow for such an active participation.
- Political developments in Turkey and in the region may affect the involvement of public organisations and other stakeholders.
- Other risks to consider at a more general level are: relevant qualified staff does not participate in the events; the location of the project activities is no longer available for reasons beyond control; trainers/facilitators/participants do not arrive due to acts of nature, security related issues, strike, etc.

CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

All necessary conditions for the successful implementation of the proposed Action are already in place.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

"Sivil Düşün" Steering Committee (SC):

A Steering Committee (SC) will be established to provide guidance on all aspects of "Sivil Düşün" implementation. It will be composed of the EU, the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) contracted under Activity 2, a TACSO representative if any could join, a STGM representative, and representatives of NGOs with experience on implementing civil society development related programmes (approx. 5 selected through an open call for interest with the aim to have gender balanced representation). Other organisations/institutions may be identified by the Steering Committee in the course of implementation, if deemed necessary.

The Committee will meet every three months to discuss and evaluate the progress of the action. The EU will chair the meetings. The organisation and logistics will be covered by the TAT. The agenda and the minutes of the meetings will be drafted by the TAT based on indications from the EUD and the other SC members.

"Sivil Düşün" Advisory Committee (AC):

The EU will set up an Advisory Committee at the beginning of the project. It will be composed of a gender balanced group of representatives of the CSO community and individuals actively working in civil society. The Ministry for EU Affairs and other relevant Turkish authorities will be invited to participate as observers to these Committee meetings.

The main aim of the Advisory Committee will be to assess the activities of "Sivil Düşün" and give recommendations and suggestions for improvement. It will also have a role in coordinating the various EU support instruments for civil society (Civil Society Facility, support under the national programme for civil society development and civil society dialogue, and EIDHR), with a view to explore synergies and to avoid overlaps and duplications, and to ensure the adequate provision of information.

The Advisory Committee will meet every six months. Approximately 100 CSO representatives will be invited to take part in the working of the Advisory Committee meetings. The organisation and logistics will be covered by the TAT and STGM will be a co-host.

Broader Open Consultations:

The consultation process launched in 2010 and their follow-up will be continued and more closely linked to the implementation of "Sivil Düşün". This forum will be consulted on a yearly basis in conjunction with the milestones of "Sivil Düşün" implementation. The inputs of consulted CSOs, together with that of the Advisory Committee will be recorded, published and used by the SC for confirming and fine-tuning the design of "Sivil Düşün". The organisation and logistics will be covered by the TAT and STGM will be associated to the process.

IMPLEMENTATION METHOD(S) AND TYPE(S) OF FINANCING

A grant scheme and a service contract will be awarded according to EU rules and procedures for external actions.

A direct grant agreement will be signed with STGM as the Resource Centre.

As previously mentioned under part 2 "Description of the activities", both the grants and the direct agreement will be financed in full as per Art 192 of the financial regulations.

Support provided under all activities of this action will be designed to address the capacity building needs of grassroots CSOs. In all activities, specific effort will be made to simplify procedures as much as possible, and to ensure user-friendly mechanisms allowing as fast a response as possible to the applicants. Also, special attention will be paid to the use of Turkish language, whenever possible, in communication and applications to support schemes under the action.

This bottom-up participatory approach is supported by the results of the consultations indicating that rights-based organisations should be given the priority.

CSOs in Turkey will continue to be consulted throughout the whole implementation of "Sivil Düşün".

4. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

METHODOLOGY FOR MONITORING (AND EVALUATION)

The European Commission may carry out a mid-term, a final or an ex-post evaluation for this Action or its components via independent consultants, through a joint mission or via an implementing partner. In case a mid-term or final evaluation is not foreseen, the European Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner. The evaluations will be carried out as prescribed by the DG NEAR guidelines for evaluations. In addition, the Action might be subject to external monitoring in line with the European Commission rules and procedures set in the Financing Agreement.

The activities under this action document will be monitored and evaluated in two ways at least using, **among other tools, the set of indicators provided above in the Lograme matrix:**

1. internal monitoring and evaluation by the TA (i.e. under Activity 2)
2. external monitoring by independent experts, hired by DG Enlargement, in charge of monitoring the implementation of the "Guidelines for EU support to civil society in Enlargement countries, 2014-2020".

INDICATOR MEASUREMENT

Indicator	Description	Baseline (2015)	Last (year)	Milestone 2017	Target 2020	Source of information
<i>CSP indicator(s) – if applicable</i>						
<i>Action outcome indicator1: To improve the environment for active citizenship and to strengthen the capacity of organised active citizens.</i>	<p><i>Law on associations and law on collecting aid are amended and annihilate existing obstacles.</i></p> <p><i>Activists and citizens are not threatened by possible disproportionate use of force while exercising their freedom of expression and assembly.</i></p> <p><i>CSOs institutional management systems, human resources and external relations are improved.</i></p> <p><i>CSOs financial sustainability is improved.</i></p>	<p><i>Current law and its implementation create obstacles</i></p> <p><i>Several cases are reported in PR 2015</i></p> <p><i>See part 2 of below baseline study</i></p> <p><i>0% of CSOs stated that they did not have any donors in the past year, 4% had one</i></p>	<i>N/A</i>	<p><i>Consultations have taken place to change the laws</i></p> <p><i>No case reported in PR 2017</i></p> <p><i>Increase by one point on each percentage of the baseline</i></p> <p><i>Increase by one point on each percentage of the baseline</i></p>	<p><i>The laws are amended</i></p> <p><i>No case reported in PR 2020</i></p> <p><i>Increase by one point on each percentage of the baseline</i></p> <p><i>Increase by 2 points on each percentage of the baseline</i></p>	<p><i>Consultation exercises feedback</i></p> <p><i>Monitoring reports of the TA</i></p> <p><i>External evaluations</i></p> <p><i>Reports of TACSO, STGM, TÜSEV, and other CSOs, platforms and networks</i></p> <p><i>CIVICUS reports or equivalent</i></p> <p><i>Data of the Ministry of Interior – department of associations</i></p> <p><i>Data of the Directorate for Foundations</i></p> <p><i>Data provided by TÜİK</i></p> <p><i>Other relevant data provided by line ministries</i></p>

Indicator	Description	Baseline (2015)	Last (year)	Milestone 2017	Target 2020	Source of information
	<i>A law on volunteerism exists.</i>	<i>donor, 7% had between 2-3 donors, 3% had 4-5 donors, and 24% over 6 donors</i> <i>No law</i>		<i>Consultations are going-on on a draft law</i>	<i>A law is implemented</i>	
<p><i>Action outcome indicator2: Result 1: Freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association are enjoyed fully and effectively</i></p> <p><i>Result 2: Improved capacity of CSOs to benefit from public and private funding mechanisms.</i></p> <p><i>Result 3: Organised citizens are more often supported by citizens and decision-makers and more effectively use this support.</i></p> <p><i>Result 4: Organised citizens</i></p>	<p><i>1.1 Quality assessment of existing legislation and policy framework</i></p> <p><i>1.2 Laws are amended and implemented in the sense of greater freedom of expression, assembly and association</i></p> <p><i>2.1 Number of employees in CSO (permanent and part-time)</i></p> <p><i>2.2 Number and kind of donations to CSOs from individual and corporate donors (specified in monetary values)</i></p>	<p><i>1.1 Reports including PR 2015 critical</i></p> <p><i>1.2. Laws and their implementation are criticised</i></p> <p><i>2.1. No data available for association</i></p> <p><i>2.2. 0% of CSOs stated that they did not have any</i></p>		<p><i>1.1 Less critical reports</i></p> <p><i>1.2. Consultations are taken place on draft laws</i></p> <p><i>2.1. data is available</i></p> <p><i>2.2. Increase by one point on each percentage of the</i></p>	<p><i>1.1 Positive reports</i></p> <p><i>1.2. Laws are amended</i></p> <p><i>2.1. an increase is witnessed</i></p> <p><i>2.2. Increase by two points on each percentage of the</i></p>	<p><i>1.1 Through independent assessment e.g. Consultation exercises feedback; Monitoring reports of the TA; External evaluations; Reports of TACSO, STGM, TÜSEV, and other CSOs, platforms and networks, etc.</i></p> <p><i>1.2 Assessment through DG NEAR's annual Progress Report Other relevant data provided by line ministries</i></p> <p><i>2.1 National registries/surveys (e.g.</i></p>

Indicator	Description	Baseline (2015)	Last (year)	Milestone 2017	Target 2020	Source of information
<i>more effectively network, share information and collaborate</i>		<i>donors in the past year, 4% had one donor, 7% had between 2-3 donors, 3% had 4-5 donors, and 24% over 6 donors</i>		<i>baseline</i>	<i>baseline</i>	<i>Data of the Ministry of Interior – department of associations; Data of the Directorate for Foundations; Data provided by TÜİK; etc.)</i>
	<i>2.3 Percentage of CSOs benefiting from tax incentives</i>	<i>2.3. 400 associations approx.</i>		<i>2.3. The public benefit statute is discussed for reform</i>	<i>2.3. all CSOs working in the benefit of the public are benefiting from tax incentives</i>	<i>2.2 Data from Ministry of Finance, Department of Associations, DG for Foundations, other CSO reports. 2.3 Central Registries</i>
	<i>2.4 CSO's perception of the provision of funds in terms of transparency, fairness and non-discrimination</i>	<i>2.4. Critical reports</i>		<i>2.4. Less critical reports</i>	<i>2.4. Positive reports</i>	<i>2.4 Survey</i>
	<i>3.1 Quality* of structures and mechanisms in place for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public</i>	<i>3.1. No systematic</i>		<i>3.1. A mechanism is under</i>	<i>3.1. There is a systematic</i>	

Indicator	Description	Baseline (2015)	Last (year)	Milestone 2017	Target 2020	Source of information
	<p><i>institutions</i></p> <p><i>* in terms of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>CSO representation in general</i> - <i>representation of smaller/weaker CSOs</i> - <i>its visibility and availability</i> - <i>government perception of quality of structures and mechanisms</i> - <i>CSOs perception of structures and mechanisms</i> <p><i>3.2 Number of volunteers in CSOs per type of CSO / sector</i></p> <p><i>3.3 Increase in the number of public campaigns organised by organised citizens</i></p> <p><i>4.1 Share of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks</i></p>	<p><i>mechanism in place</i></p> <p><i>3.2. data unavailable – even can be fined</i></p> <p><i>3.3 data unavailable</i></p> <p><i>4.1. 0% of CSOs indicated that they do not belong to any international network, 17% stated</i></p>		<p><i>discussion with CSOs at all public administration levels</i></p> <p><i>3.2. gender disaggregated data is available</i></p> <p><i>3.3. data is available</i></p> <p><i>4.1. Increase by one point on each percentage of the baseline</i></p>	<p><i>established structure for dialogue and cooperation</i></p> <p><i>3.2. increased number of volunteers both women and men</i></p> <p><i>3.3. increased number</i></p> <p><i>4.1. Increase by two points on each percentage of the baseline</i></p>	<p><i>3.1 national registry and / or information from national government and surveys with CSOs (Department for Cooperation with CSOs and Secretariat for European Integration)</i></p> <p><i>3.1 Future IPA programming documents and activities</i></p> <p><i>3.2 Surveys/ CIVICUS reports or equivalents and other CSOs' reports</i></p> <p><i>3.2 Ministry of Labour, EU Progress report , State Statistical Office, State registers/research, CSO data</i></p> <p><i>3.3 Independent assessments e.g. Reports of TACSO, STGM, TÜSEV, and other CSOs, platforms and networks, CIVICUS reports</i></p> <p><i>4.1 and 4.2. Survey and independent assessments e.g. CIVICUS reports or equivalent, platforms and networks reports.</i></p>

Indicator	Description	Baseline (2015)	Last (year)	Milestone 2017	Target 2020	Source of information
	<i>4.2 Increase in the number of joint public campaigns</i>	<i>that belong to one international network, 10% stated that they belong to 2 international networks, 15% belong to more than 3 international networks</i> <i>4.2. data unavailable</i>				
<i>Action output indicator 1: Networks/platforms grant scheme</i>	<i>Greater links among CSOs whether thematically, regionally or locally</i> <i>Increased number of joint-actions</i>	<i>Data not yet available</i>		<i>Data not yet available</i>	<i>Data not yet available</i>	<i>tbd at the moment of contracts' signature</i>
<i>Action output indicator 2: TA contract</i>	<i>In-kind support provided to activists, CSOs and platforms/networks</i> <i>Consultation exercises smoothly run</i>	<i>Data not yet available</i>		<i>Data not yet available</i>	<i>Data not yet available</i>	<i>Indicators to be developed at the contracting phase.</i>

Indicator	Description	Baseline (2015)	Last (year)	Milestone 2017	Target 2020	Source of information
	<i>Visibility material produced allowing for better connection among activists, CSOs, platforms and networks</i>					
<i>Action output indicator 3: Direct Agreement</i>	<i>help desk services, coaching, trainings, delivered</i> <i>thematic, inter sectorial and intra sectorial events smoothly organised</i> <i>information meetings targeting all levels of actors from civil society smoothly organised</i> <i>freedom of association promoted</i> <i>EU guidelines monitored</i>					
<i>Process indicator 1: Number of contracts</i>	<i>1 service contract</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>		<i>N/A</i>	<i>EU Delegation monitoring reports</i>
<i>Process indicator 2: Number of contracts</i>	<i>6-10 large grant contracts</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>		<i>N/A</i>	<i>EU Delegation monitoring reports</i>
<i>Process indicator 3: Number of contracts</i>	<i>1 direct agreement</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>		<i>N/A</i>	<i>EU Delegation monitoring reports</i>

(1) This is the related indicator as included in the Indicative Strategy Paper (for reference only)

(2) The agreed baseline year is 2010 (to be inserted in brackets in the top row). If for the chosen indicator, there are no available data for 2010, it is advisable to refer to the following years – 2011, 2012. The year of reference may not be the same either for all indicators selected due to a lack of data availability; in this case, the year should then be inserted in each cell in brackets. The baseline value may be "0" (i.e. no reference values are available as the Action represents a novelty for the beneficiary) but cannot be left empty or include references such as "N/A" or "will be determined later".

(3) The target year CANNOT be modified.

(4) This will be a useful reference to continue measuring the outcome of IPA II support beyond the 2014-2020 multi-annual financial period. If the Action is completed before 2020 (year for the performance reward), this value and that in the 2020 target column must be the same.

5. SECTOR APPROACH ASSESSMENT

The present programme falls under the Sector Planning Documents (SPD) for civil society as drafted by the Ministry for EU Affairs. It is a seven year plan regularly up-dated.

The overall objective of financial assistance in the civil society sector is to contribute to further strengthen democratic structures and processes, fundamental rights and the rule of law, thereby also supporting the EU integration process.

The specific objectives stated in the SPD are to contribute to a more dynamic civil society with capacity to actively participate in policy and decision making processes in all relevant sectors, with a particular focus on fundamental rights and to foster dialogue and inter-cultural exchange between civil societies in Turkey and EU Member States.

Although there are a few examples of donor coordination between related institutions in the civil society sector, from a central government perspective, there is no systematic and holistic approach nor coordination, monitoring and reporting mechanism.

The EU is coordinating with other donors (e.g. Member States, UN agencies, etc.) while programming the instruments for Pre-Accession, including of course civil society related support. Civil Society donor coordination is also intensified at project level e.g. by TACSO, Sivil Düşün TAT, STGM, etc.

Finally, the comprehensive EU support to civil society in Turkey through various tools implemented under different modalities but also their complementarity can be explained as follows:

Based on past experience, the priority under IMBC-implemented projects focuses on the support to Turkish Institutions to mainstream civil society participation and institutional support for activities such as mapping of CSOs, strategies of participatory policy-making according to the ministry/public body, etc. The civil society participation mainstreaming approach should be an important criterion in designing DIS projects.

The EIDHR will continue to have a direct focus on promoting human rights where of course support to civil society also plays an instrumental role. In particular, a clear distinction should be made between the different and complementary approach of the CSF deconcentrated/national window and the EIDHR:

- The Civil Society Facility should focus on empowering CSOs (i.e. civil society development), thus be used as a mean.
- The EIDHR is the policy tool of the EC to promote democracy and human rights in all of its external policies. As such, EIDHR assistance is an instrument serving an objective where supporting CSOs/Human Rights Organisations is rather "democratic capacity-building focused". In addition, past experience shows that, in the Turkish context, the EIDHR is not easily reaching grass-root organisations. Its scope is defined within the limits of human rights and defending human rights defenders.

6. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

The action is designed to promote among other cross-cutting issues gender equality and women and LGBTI participation and to be a model action in that respect.

In the grant selection process, the project will as far as possible ensure gender equality, for example, through measures such as having both women and men as facilitators in workshops, having a gender equality perspective in its actions and a gender mainstreaming approach while preparing posters, brochures and the web site.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Through its focus on fundamental rights and freedoms, the project will promote equal opportunities, gender equality and participation by more marginalised groups/organisations/individuals to the target groups in terms of services provided through the three activities of the present action document - see above "additional description" part.

The project will pay particular attention to the access of people with disabilities to activities and outputs. Under Activity 2, in particular, to ensure higher women participation to events, trainings, meetings, etc., baby-sitting services will be proposed.

Special attention will be paid to ensure that through platform and network grants as well in-kind support, an affirmative action budget will be allocated to the activities for the above mentioned purposes.

MINORITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

Through its focus on fundamental rights and freedoms, the project will promote the inclusion and access of minorities and vulnerable groups to project activities. Throughout the project, the participation of minorities and vulnerable groups will be encouraged. Their representation will be sought along with other groups of civil society in project activities. Whenever required, measures will be taken to increase their participation in project activities.

ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY (AND IF RELEVANT OTHER NON-STATE STAKEHOLDERS)

By definition, this action is aiming to improve the environment for active citizenship and to strengthen the capacity of organised active citizens and has been designed based on inputs provided by activists and CSO representatives during consultation processes.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (AND IF RELEVANT DISASTER RESILIENCE)

During the identification phase environment emerged as one of the thematic areas to be covered. Special attention will be paid to ensure this through platform and network grants as well as in-kind support to environmentally sensitive activities.

Reducing waste and recycling will be promoted under the three activities.

7. SUSTAINABILITY

The specific objective of this action is two-folded: (1) to improve the environment for active citizenship and (2) to strengthen the capacity of organised active citizens.

Contributing to an improved environment (1) for active citizenship infers more possibilities for activists, CSOs and platforms and networks to raise funds and find diversified support to conduct their activities. This includes public funding (from local to national levels) as well as private funding (donations, CSR-like programmes, etc.) and income-generating activities.

A strengthened capacity (2) is also a promise of sustainability in that the work of civil society will be and will be perceived by the public authorities, the media and the general public as more trustworthy. Their performance in raising funds and finding appropriate ways to continue to conduct their activities

will be increased. Besides, new initiatives, organisations, platforms and networks are a means to ensure some institutional sustainability.

8. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

From past experience, the CSF in Turkey (Sivil Düşün in particular) and the EU visibility in the context of this facility are highly recognised. In order to improve even further this positive trend, communication and visibility will be given high importance during the implementation of the Action. The implementation of the communication activities shall be funded from the amounts allocated to the Action.

All necessary measures will be taken to publicise the fact that the Action has received funding from the EU in line with the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Actions. Additional Visibility Guidelines developed by the European Commission (DG NEAR) will have to be followed.

Visibility and communication actions shall demonstrate how the intervention contributes to the agreed programme objectives and the accession process. Actions shall be aimed at strengthening general public awareness and support of interventions financed and the objectives pursued. The actions shall aim at highlighting to the relevant target audiences the added value and impact of the EU's interventions and will promote transparency and accountability on the use of funds.

Activity 2 precisely focuses on communication and visibility. The TAT in particular - as well as STGM - will ensure both EU visibility and promotion of the whole action. The TAT will have to develop and implement a sound communication plan. It will have to include - at least - the ways the action will be explained to the target group of "Sivil Düşün" i.e. activists, CSOs, Networks/platforms of all over Turkey; as well as the ways the project will be promoted in the media and towards the general public.

All key messages will be developed on the basic principles that Turkish and other languages than Turkish spoken in Turkey should be favoured in all communication and visibility plans; jargon-free material should be developed; "Sivil Düşün" should be a model in terms of inclusiveness, environmentally-friendliness, gender mainstreaming and answer to special needs requests.

The TAT will monitor and report on EU visibility for the activity that will be conducted under activity 2, as well as under activities 1 and 3.