



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 5.12.2018
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 5.12.2018

adopting a Civil Society Facility and Media Action Programme for the years 2018-2019

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union¹, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures of the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action² and in particular Article 2(1)(a) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of Civil Society and Media Action Programme it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme for 2018-2019. Article 110 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1046 establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU³.
- (3) Regulation (EU) No 231/2014⁴ lays down the objectives and main principles for pre-accession assistance to beneficiaries listed in Annex I to that Regulation.
- (4) In accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 the assistance should be implemented through annual or multi-annual, country-specific or multi-country programmes. These programmes should be drawn up in accordance with the framework for assistance referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 and the relevant country or multi-country indicative strategy papers referred to in Article 6 of that Regulation.
- (5) In accordance with Article 6(3) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014, the Commission may adopt multi-annual action programmes for a period of up to three years in the case

¹ Regulation (EU) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and amending Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002, Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Decision No 541/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, OJ L 193.

² OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 95.

³ www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

⁴ Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 11).

of recurrent actions. For years other than the initial commitment year, the commitments are indicative and depend on the future annual budgets of the Union.

- (6) The Council established an Accession Partnership or a European Partnership for all beneficiaries listed in Annex I of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014. The Commission adopted an indicative multi-country strategy paper for 2014 – 2020 on 30 June 2014 which provides indicative allocations for the sectors for multi-country pre-accession assistance.⁵
- (7) Considering the proposals for action submitted by the beneficiaries concerned, the Civil Society Facility and Media Programme for 2018-2019 aims at providing assistance for actions in the horizontal support priority of the multi-country indicative strategy paper, and the good governance and democracy, as well as the rule of law and fundamental rights sectors.
- (8) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals, pursuant to Article 195 f) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1046 to European Endowment for Democracy, UNWOMEN and ROMA ACTIVE Albania for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. It is further appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals, pursuant to Article 195 c) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1046, to the National Convention on European Union in Serbia, the Press Council of Serbia and the Association for monitoring of Gender Equality (CEID) being bodies with a de jure or de facto monopoly.
- (9) The Commission should authorise the eligibility of costs as of a date preceding that of submission of a grant application, which is prior to the date of adoption of this Decision, for reasons of extreme urgency in crisis management aid or in other exceptional and duly substantiated emergencies, whereby an early engagement by the Union would be of major importance.
- (10) Pursuant to Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) 236/2014, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
- (11) The Commission should be able to entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities indicated in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a delegation or contribution agreement. In accordance with Article 154(3) and (4) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1046, the authorising officer responsible needs to ensure that these entities guarantee a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages Union funds.
To this end, such entities and persons have been subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4).
- (12) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1046.
- (13) The action programme provided for by this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the IPA Committee set up by Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014.

⁵ C(2014) 4293, 30.06.2014.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The programme

The Civil Society Facility and Media Programme for the years 2018-2019 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) as set out in the Annex, is hereby approved.

Article 2

Union contribution

The maximum amount of the European Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2018 and 2019 is set at EUR 112 600 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

EUR 35 300 000 from the budget line 22.02.04.01 for year 2018

EUR 77 300 000 from the budget line 22.02.04.01 for year 2019

The financial contributions referred to in the first sub-paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2019 as adopted by the budgetary authority.

Article 3

Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annex, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in the Annex.

Article 4

Flexibility clause

The following changes shall not be considered substantial, within the meaning of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1046, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions:

- a) increases⁶ or decreases for not more than 20% of the maximum contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, and not exceeding EUR 10 million, considering each financial year separately;
- b) cumulated reassignments of funds between specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2;
- c) extensions of the implementation and closure period;
- d) within the limits of 20% referred to in points (a) and (b) above, up to 5% of the contribution referred to in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this financing decision may serve

⁶ These changes can come from external assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.

to finance actions which were not foreseeable at the time the present financing decision was adopted, provided that those actions are necessary to implement the objectives and the results set out in the programme.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 5

Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals pursuant to Article 195 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1046 to the bodies referred to in point (3) "Implementation modalities" of the Annex, in accordance with the conditions set out therein.

The eligibility of costs prior to the submission of grant applications and which is prior to the date of the adoption of this Decision shall be authorised as of the date set out in the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 5.12.2018

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission

ANNEX

to the COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION adopting a Civil Society Facility and Media Action Programme for the years 2018-2019

Multi-annual Work Programme
This document constitutes the multi-annual work programme in the sense of
Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU)2018/1046)

1 IDENTIFICATION

Beneficiary	<i>Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as Kosovo*</i> <i>Turkey</i>
Basic act: Total cost EU contribution:	Instrument for Pre-accession assistance (IPA-II) EUR 119 940 000 EUR 112 600 000, of which:
CRIS/ABAC commitment references, EU Contribution and budget line	<i>2018/040-646 for year 2018:</i> EUR 35 300 000 from 22.020401 <i>2019/040-647 for year 2019:</i> EUR 77 300 000 from 22.020401 Estimations for years n+1 are subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial year following the adoption of the relevant annual budget or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.
Method of implementation	Direct management by the European Commission Indirect management with: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) (Action 1); Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) (Action 7)
Final date for contracting including the conclusion of delegation/contribution agreements	For the budgetary commitment of year 2018 at the latest by 31 December 2019 For the budgetary commitment of year 2019 at the latest by 31 December 2020

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Indicative operational implementation period	72 months from the adoption of this Financing Decision
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2 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION PROGRAMME

2.1 PRIORITIES SELECTED UNDER THIS ACTION PROGRAMME

- Rationale for the selection of the specific priorities under this programme:

The Western Balkans and Turkey face a range of challenges in fields such as rule of law, corruption, organised crime, economy and social cohesion. **Civil Society** can contribute to addressing many of these through activities at beneficiary, regional and local level.

EU support to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) aims at building stronger democracies, improving accountability systems and ultimately achieving better policy and economic and social development. It seeks to empower civil society to fulfil the following key roles:

- Creating stronger links to citizens by engaging in public policy processes, reaching out to society as a whole including marginalized groups and grass-root communities and encouraging civic activism across all areas and public participation in policy-making;
- Becoming professional and reliable partners in the policy-making and reform process through evidence-based advocacy across all sectors and close monitoring of reforms;
- Contributing to enhancing responsible and inclusive leadership in the political, economic and social spheres and providing early warning in case of societal change,
- Strengthening economic development and create better links with business by promoting entrepreneurship, social innovation and job creation.

The 2018 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on "*A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans*"¹ (hereafter the Western Balkan Strategy) reconfirms the importance that civil society plays in the enlargement process in the Western Balkans. It underlines in particular the importance of the enabling environment, the need for inclusive structured dialogue between civil society and governments on reform priorities, the empowerment of the civil society, and the inclusion of citizens more broadly.

Similarly, while being a fundamental human right, **freedom of expression and media** is often a precondition for implementation of other rights and freedoms. Deprived of a free media, citizens are denied the right to balanced, factual and reliable information, and exposed to bias and propaganda that undermine democracy and the effectiveness of institutions. Pluralistic content in the media landscape is necessary to communicate and analyse the multifaceted nature of society and to promote dialogue and tolerance. Media

¹ COM(2018) 65 final. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans

scrutiny of the political processes helps guarantee their transparency and ensure that governments adhere to predictable policies – free from the interests of narrow pressure groups. This improves the governance in a given IPA II beneficiary, and in the region helps to create confidence in future Member States.

The Western Balkan Strategy however points to extensive political interference in and control of the media and underlines the need to safeguard the freedom of expression and independence of media as a pillar of democracy.

In the enlargement context, both civil society and the media help ensure that accession negotiations and discussions on the European perspective are not merely technical discussions, but supported by citizens who understand the institutional, political and economic changes necessary for EU membership. Freedom of expression and media are one of the top priorities in the enlargement context.

Furthermore, both civil society and media have important roles to play in promoting confidence building, good neighbourly relations throughout the region, and normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo. These are key priorities of the European Union towards the Western Balkans.

The EU regularly monitors the situation for CSOs in the region, against objectives set out in its *Guidelines for EU Support to civil society in the Western Balkans and Turkey*. This monitoring is conducted at beneficiary level by different actors and offers an in-depth analysis of the needs of the sector in the Western Balkans and Turkey. At regional level the main findings in 2016 and 2017 could be summarised as follows:

- The legal environment ensuring the exercise of the freedom of association, assembly and expression is formally guaranteed by all IPA II beneficiaries in the region but its implementation remains a particular concern in all of them, albeit to different degrees, while many bureaucratic obstacles still persist, i.e. in the registration process. Inadequate by-laws and limited practical implementation often jeopardize the actual exercise of the fundamental freedoms.
- The lack of a conducive financial environment is a major challenge. CSOs are still largely depending on funding by foreign donors. Public funding, which could represent an important alternative support, presents problems of accountability and transparency of the distribution mechanisms. Laws on tax exemptions for enabling volunteerism are lacking. Furthermore, CSOs are not generally experienced in gathering resources from their constituencies. Consequently CSOs struggle with insufficient diversification of funds, which undermines their sustainability and independence.
- Similar problems affect the media. In the Western Balkans few independent media have managed to survive the transition and the most recent economic crisis. Transparent rules and procedures for the use of public funds in media are missing/not implemented, but are required to mitigate the risk of clientelistic support to pro-government media and unfair competition within the media market.
- Participatory governance needs to be improved. Strategic mechanisms for cooperation between government and civil society are part of the legal framework in the region, but CSOs continue to experience difficulties in accessing public information, providing input to draft laws, participating in public consultations and contributing to the monitoring of reforms. A

participatory approach towards public policy involves not only CSOs but citizens at large, and requires principles such as transparency, accountability, responsiveness and inclusiveness to be respected.

- Civil society and media organizations in the Western Balkans and Turkey are still perceived as not completely transparent and accountable to their constituencies. This is partly due to a lack of capacities which undermines the impact of CSOs' activities and their external perception.
- In several beneficiaries of the region, CSOs do not regularly network with other organisations neither at international nor at beneficiary and local level and there is a need for support to CSOs coalition-building across all boundaries in order to increase their impact in campaigning and advocacy.

In its 2018 report on implementation of the Enlargement Strategy², the European Commission notes that **fundamental rights** are largely enshrined in the legislation in the Western Balkans but that serious efforts are needed to ensure they are fully implemented in practice. It is also noted that Turkey has seen a continued strong deterioration in key human rights areas over the reporting period. The report indicates that a particular focus is needed to safeguard freedom of expression and the independence of the media as a pillar of democracy across the region. There has been an important deterioration in this area in some IPA II beneficiaries, including serious backsliding in Turkey. Elsewhere, there has been limited progress at best.

The priorities for support to CSOs and media freedom for the period 2018-2019 are guided by two sets of Guidelines: "*DG Enlargement Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-20*" and "*DG Enlargement Guidelines for EU support to media freedom and media integrity in enlargement countries, 2014-20*"³. The two documents were prepared through wide consultation with governments, civil society, media and International Organisations within the region and beyond. The guidelines translate the political objectives of the Commission as indicated in the Multi-Country Indicative Strategy Paper and in the Enlargement package into a concrete "results' framework" containing the outcomes to be achieved in the financing period as well as the indicators to monitor them.

- Overview of past and on-going EU, other donors' and/or IPA II beneficiary's actions in the relevant sectors:

The EU Civil Society Facility offers a single window of support to civil society and media freedom, bringing together EU support at bilateral and multi-country level. In the period 2014 to 2015 the total programme: was EUR 68 000 000, of which the multi-country part was EUR 30 300 000. In the 2016-2017 period the total programme was EUR 87 000 000, of which the multi-country part was EUR 38 500 000. Currently activities are ongoing in 210 projects across the region, of which 66 are multi-country.

A Mid-Term evaluation of the Civil Society Facility⁴ was conducted in 2017. It found that the CSF effectively contributes to addressing the needs and priorities of civil society

² COM(2018) 450 final. 2018 Communication on EU Enlargement Policy.

³ http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/press_corner/clarg-guidelines-for-media-freedom-and-integrity_210214.pdf and https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/civil_society/doc_guidelines_cs_support.pdf

⁴ Mid-term Evaluation of the Civil Society Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey, Contract N°2016/380154/1

in the region. However, it also indicated that real cooperation between state and civil society remains weak and that the creation of an enabling environment is one of the critical areas which have to be improved. Schemes for support to third parties (commonly referred to as sub-granting) have contributed to strengthening and reaching out small grass-root organisations. A good balance between different types of financing is found to be important. The role of the technical assistance is considered essential.

In terms of efficiency the evaluation shows that a stronger focus is needed on implementation of existing laws and mechanisms, better donor coordination and ensuring that civil society participates across the range of public policy areas. In order to increase effectiveness, it is recommended to enhance coherence between national and regional CSF programmes, to have longer lasting regional networks and look for measures beyond technical capacity building to support civil society. According to the evaluation findings, an increased impact can be achieved through stronger will and capacities by governments as well as increased EU visibility. Sustainability is especially needed for CSO financing through overall diversification of funds. The evaluation also indicated that gender issues needed more strategic attention, including within CSOs.

Responding to these findings, the preparation of the CSF and Media programme for 2018–2019 has been accompanied by thorough coordination between the EU headquarter and EU Delegations in the region. Furthermore, coordination between regional and bilateral level support activities is built into the support itself. Importantly, efforts continue to be taken to complement the financial support to CSO and media actors with direct EU engagement with civil society, through yearly monitoring meetings and consultations at bilateral level, etc. The already established close coordination of the CSF with other EU support, and that of other donors will be continued in the next phase, in order to ensure complementarity and avoid overlapping.

The situation of the CSO and Media sector is monitored and assessed yearly against the civil society and media guidelines mentioned above. A baseline assessment was conducted at the beginning of 2014 for the civil society guidelines and then updated in 2015, 2016 and 2017, while the baseline assessment for the media guidelines was realized in 2015 and 2017. The results of these reports were taken into account in this document. As all monitoring reports were based on opinions of civil society, this enabled wide consultations with organizations from the region and ensured their important role in planning future support.

The CSF and media programme 2018-2019 includes the following actions:

<i>Action number and title</i>	<i>EU contribution 2018 (EUR)</i>	<i>EU contribution 2019 (EUR)</i>
Action 1. CSF and media multi-country 2018-2019	9 350 000	29 500 000
Action 2. CSF and media Albania 2018-2019	1 300 000	4 500 000
Action 3. CSF and media Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2019	2 500 000	5 500 000
Action 4. CSF and media the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2018-2019	3 000 000	3 000 000
Action 5. CSF and media Kosovo 2018-2019	750 000	2 950 000
Action 6. CSF and media Montenegro 2018-2019	1 000 000	4 250 000
Action 7. CSF and media Serbia 2018-2019	5 000 000	5 000 000
Action 8. CSF and media Turkey 2018-2019	12 400 000	22 600 000
TOTAL	35 300 000	77 300 000

2.2 DESCRIPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIONS

The envisaged assistance under the CSF and media programme 2018-2019 is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU⁵.

PRIORITY 1	Title	2018	2019
Action 1	CSF and media - multi-country 2018-2019	EUR 9 350 000	EUR 29 500 000

(1) Description of the action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators

- Description of the action and objectives

The action is composed of multi-country activities focused on increasing capacities of civil society and media in the Western Balkans and Turkey to participate effectively and accountably in the public debate and policy-making processes regarding the sustainable development of their societies.

⁵ https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/8442/consolidated-list-sanctions_en

The action will cover four components: 1) Support to the capacities of CSOs; 2) Support to media freedom and pluralism; 3) Support to cooperation and normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo; and 4) Fighting violence against and discrimination of women and girls; and promoting gender equality. It will cover actions for which there is an added value in a multi-country approach, and all activities will be carried out in synergy and complementarity with those implemented under the bilateral envelopes of the CSF. The main direct beneficiaries of the action are CSOs, journalists, women and girls, and indirectly all citizens. Indirect beneficiaries are public institutions which will get qualitatively and quantitatively better inputs from a stronger civil society, and from the critical monitoring and reporting, and informed citizens, that are resulting by an independent and objective media.

- Expected results and key performance indicators

Result 1: The capacities of CSOs, the enabling environment and the cooperation between Civil Society and the Governments is enhanced.

Result 2: Media freedom and pluralism is enhanced.

Result 3: Cooperation between Serbia and Kosovo citizens and communities is enhanced

Result 4: CSO focus on gender equality and fighting violence against women is enhanced.

Key performance indicators:

- Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions.
- Share of CSOs that monitor and evaluate the implementation of their strategies and make this information publicly available/accessible.
- Share of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks.
- Number of supported journalists/bloggers and media outlets through sub-granting scheme.
- Number of new joint partnerships created involving at least one CSO from Serbia and one CSO from Kosovo.
- Number of CSOs having received training on violence against women, and gender mainstreaming and are applying this in their work.

(2) Assumptions and conditions

The most significant main conditions for implementation of the action are in place. All IPA II beneficiaries have a legal framework ensuring that the exercise of the freedom of association and expression is formally guaranteed, although there are issues of different degrees of seriousness in the implementation of that legal framework.

(3) Implementation modalities:

(3)(a) Indirect management

Delegation Agreement with UNESCO: *Support to Media Information Literacy, Media good governance, and media self-regulation*

A part of this action (the one referring to Result 2 - Media freedom and pluralism is enhanced) may be implemented in indirect management with UNESCO.

The implementation entails:

- supporting the introduction of Media Information Literacy (MIL) in national education and schools in order to help different social groups – and particularly youth – in identifying disinformation. The activities are based on the outcomes of the UNESCO national MIL consultations held with the support of the current programme.
- improving the capacities of independent media committed to improve good governance and professional standards in the context of increasing disinformation/misinformation. The expected outcome would be increased regional efforts to counter disinformation through fact-checking and joint investigations.
- supporting the capacities and the sustainability of media self-regulatory mechanisms present in the region with a particular focus on newly established press councils and their ability to operate in the digital environment.

The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: the specific technical knowledge of the UNESCO, who is the UN agency in charge of freedom of expression. The mandate and programmes of UNESCO cover the promotion of independent media and freedom of the press, and the entity has proven its operational capacity in this area through previous interventions, and the foreseen activities build on previous work carried out by the organisation. Working with a UN Agency such a UNESCO is furthermore expected to provide additional leverage in ensuring full participation of governments in this area.

(3)(b) Direct management (project approach)

Procurement

The procurement will contribute to achieving results 1 and 2 in Section 1, i.e. "The capacities of CSOs, the enabling environment and the cooperation between Civil Society and the Governments is enhanced"; and "Media freedom and pluralism is enhanced". It will channel technical assistance to civil society organisations and technical assistance to Public Service Media.

The **global** budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 3 500 000.

Grants

Grants –Support to regional thematic networks of CSOs

- a) Purpose of the grants: The grants will contribute to reaching result 1 in Section 1: "The capacities of CSOs, the enabling environment and the cooperation between Civil Society and the Governments is enhanced". They will support regional thematic networks of CSOs operating in the Western Balkans and Turkey to improve coalition- and capacity building for an increased impact in reaching their objectives. The call will be addressed to regional thematic networks of CSOs which cover various sectors and contribute to the results included in the EU guidelines for the support to civil society in Western Balkans and Turkey.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicant must:

- be a legal person;
- be non-profit-making;
- be a civil society organisation, or a consortium of civil society organisations;
- be legally established in one of the IPA II beneficiaries; and
- be active in, or group CSOs or media organisations from, at least five of the seven IPA II beneficiaries.

CSOs from EU Member States may be co-applicants of the actions. As an exception to this and depending on the choice of themes for the call, the Authorising Officer may allow CSOs from EU Member States to be the main applicant.

As an exception to the requirement of being non-profit making, and depending on the choice of themes for the call, social economy stakeholders, including social enterprises, may be eligible for certain lots irrespective of their legal status.

Grants –Small scale projects promoting cooperating between communities and citizens in Serbia and Kosovo

a) Purpose of the grant: The grants will contribute to reaching result 3 in Section 1, i.e. Result 3: "Cooperation between Serbia and Kosovo citizens and communities is enhanced". They will provide support to small scale projects promoting cooperating between communities and citizens in Serbia and Kosovo. The activity will finance grass root level actions in the selected region. Financed actions should focus on enhanced collaboration aiming at improving quality of life of citizens through socio-economic activities, cultural initiatives promoting intercultural dialogue and stronger cooperation between local communities.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicant must:

- be a legal person;
- be non-profit-making;
- be a CSO, a consortium of CSOs; a media organisation; or a local authority
- be legally established in either Serbia or Kosovo; and
- must represent a partnership between organisations in Kosovo and Serbia. Any constellation of partnership is accepted as long as it represents both Kosovo and Serbia.

CSOs from EU Member States can be co-applicants of the actions.

Grant - Financial support to grass-root, community based organisations, activists and emerging actors”; and “Financial support to small scale media outlets, bloggers, independent media and emerging actors”

a) Purpose of the grant: The grant will contribute to reaching result 1 and 2 in section 1, i.e: "The capacities of CSOs, the enabling environment and the cooperation between Civil Society and the Governments is enhanced" and "Media freedom and pluralism is enhanced". The grant will channel financial support to:

- grass-root, community based organisations, activists and emerging actors.
- small-scale media outlets, bloggers, independent media and emerging actors.

Specific attention will be given to the situation in Turkey

b) Direct grant award:

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the European Endowment for Democracy (EED). The recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because, in accordance with Article 195 f) of the Regulation (EU) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union⁶ (hereafter referred to as Financial Regulation) the EED is one of the rare actors able to provide financial support to activists in the region who cannot benefit from financial support from the donors community through traditional funding channels due to their size and legal status. The EED offers trustful credibility and reliability thanks to its particular institutional set-up, being steered by representatives of the European Parliament, of the EU Member States, of the European External Action Service and of the civil society of the region.

Grants – Operating support to the EED to accompany the "Financial support to grass-root, community based organisations, activists and emerging actors"; and the "Financial support to small scale media outlets, bloggers, independent media and emerging actors"

a) Purpose of the grant: The grant will contribute to reaching result 1 and 2 in section 1, i.e: "The capacities of CSOs, the enabling environment and the cooperation between Civil Society and the Governments is enhanced" and "Media freedom and pluralism is enhanced".

The grant will cover the EED's operating costs over a period running from January 2019 until December 2021 (i.e. three grants of one year each). The operating grants will be combined with resources drawn from the European Neighbourhood Instrument. The operating costs correspond to the functioning of the foundation and to the implementation of the other activities that the EED performs as part of its mandate: seminars, studies, conferences, publications, networking events, workshops, training and visibility activities, capacity building for beneficiaries etc.

b) Direct grant award:

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the European Endowment for Democracy. The recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified in accordance with Article 195 f) of the Financial Regulation. EED is one of the rare players able to provide financial support to activists in the region who cannot benefit from financial support from the donors community through traditional funding channels due to their size, legal status etc. EED offers credibility and reliability thanks to its particular institutional set-up, being steered by representatives of the European

⁶ Regulation (EU) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and amending Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002, Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Decision No 541/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, OJ L 193

Parliament, of the EU Member States, of the European External Action Service and of the civil society of the region. This unique position, combined with a good track-record despite their short existence, with efficient award procedures (that are compliant with the general principles applicable to the use of public funds) and with a standing good reputation, makes of the EED an adequate vehicle for providing financial support to local beneficiaries at a micro- or mini-scale

Grant - Implementing Norms, Changing Minds - consolidation and extension:

a) Purpose of the grant: The grant will contribute to reaching result 4 in section 1, i.e.: "CSO focus on gender equality and fighting violence against women is enhanced". It will tackle issues of violence and discrimination against women in Turkey and the Western Balkans, anchored in the normative frameworks of the UN Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention), and also alignment with EU accession standards.

b) Direct grant award:

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to UNWOMEN. The recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because in accordance with Article 195 f) of the Financial Regulation to international institutions such as UN Women while building on their respective mandates, strengths and expertise in the area of women rights. The direct award is justified by the specific mandate of UNWOMEN in promoting the gender equality policy agenda, and in its capacity to ensure outreach both to governments and to a large number of civil society organisations, and by the need to consolidate and extend and ongoing action.

Grant: Roma Active Albania: Prizes for local Roma Women / local Roma Women's organisations in the Western Balkans and Turkey

a) Purpose of the grants: The grant will contribute to reaching result 4 in section 1, i.e.: "CSO focus on gender equality and fighting violence against women is enhanced". More specifically, this activity will promote the profile, recognition and activities of local Roma Women and/or Roma Women's Organisations in the Western Balkan and Turkey. To this aim, 14 prizes will be awarded, either to individual Roma Women or Roma Women's Organisations in the Western Balkans and Turkey, having been able to achieve clear improvements in the lives of their families and/or settlements.

b) Direct grant award:

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to Roma Active Albania. The recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified in accordance with Article 195 f) FR. The choice of a direct award is based on Roma Active's experience and its capacity to be in contact with the local settlement level, which is necessary in order to ensure meaningful and representative nominations. It is also based on their proven capacity to and organise the foreseen award scheme (as exemplified for example by last year's successful friendly Roma major award). The network has a special position to target the type of award winners targeted by the award, i.e. local Roma women or local

Roma women's organisations, and is able to cover the whole enlargement region at an appropriate level.

c) Exception to the non-retroactivity of costs:

The Commission authorises that the costs incurred may be recognised as eligible as of 1 November 2018. This is necessary in order to ensure that the prizes can be awarded in time for the Roma Week planned to take place in Brussels in March 2019.

Grant – Support to a regional CSO network for women’s rights and gender equality

a) Purpose of the grant: The grant will contribute to reaching result 1 and 4 in Section 1, i.e.: "The capacities of CSOs, the enabling environment and the cooperation between Civil Society and the Governments is enhanced", and "CSO focus on gender equality and fighting violence against women is enhanced". A network of CSOs will be supported to promote women’s rights and gender equality in the region through for example CSO capacity building on gender analysis and gender mainstreaming; support to gender analyses of specific initiatives; monitoring of gender related commitments; research/analyses to address significant gaps in research and/or gender statistics as they relate to EU accession processes. Its activities will target both CSOs and governments, and will also engage with EU financed activities, as relevant and complementary to other ongoing support. The network will also help improve coalition- and capacity building between the supported CSOs for an increased impact in campaigning and advocacy.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicant must:

- be a legal person;
- be non-profit-making;
- be a civil society organisation, or a consortium of civil society organisations;
- be legally established in one of the IPA II beneficiaries; and
- be active in, or group CSOs from, at least five of the seven IPA II beneficiaries.

CSOs from EU Member States may be co-applicants of the actions.

The **global** budgetary envelope reserved for grants: EUR 33 350 000.

(4) Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply subject to the following provisions.

The Commission’s authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

PRIORITY 1	Title	2018	2019
Action 2	CSF and media action for Albania 2018 - 2019	EUR 1 300 000	EUR 4 500 000

(1) Description of the action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

- Description of the action and objectives

The **CSF and media Programme 2018/19** for Albania is composed of two main components:

The first component foresees additional investments in the media-related activities started under CSF 2016/2017, namely supporting actions related to freedom of media, independent production, improvement of standards and ethics. This is considered key in promoting an enabling environment and increasing capacities of professional journalist associations, media and non-media organisations and establish closer links of various civic actors with media. Application of EU Guidance on gender equality in the audio-visual sector, and of the principles of gender-sensitive communications will be mainstreamed and supported.

The second component will focus on: a) strengthening CSOs capacities, engagement and public participation in evidence-based policy dialogue in reform processes and the EU Integration process; and b) strengthening organisational capacities, independence and accountability of the civil society through supporting the National Resource Centre for CSOs.

It is planned to further accelerate the current scheme for support to third parties, supporting middle-sized CSOs and striking a good balance between support to small and large CSOs. In addition, a new initiative called Active Citizenship for Transparency and Accountability (ACTA) will be introduced and closely linked with the EU Information desks in the 61 municipalities in Albania. This project called "Municipalities for Europe" supports local government enhancing a more active role in the promotion of EU principles at the local level, building a dynamic approach regarding obligations stemming from the implementation of EU *acquis*, standards and best practises, capacity building to local government units to increase their understanding of EU policies, institutions, programmes, funds, as well as help to dispel the myths and misconceptions on the EU accession process, as well as benefit from, and absorb, EU funds contributing to local development.

A specific focus will be placed on supporting the engagement of women's organizations as accountability agents in budgetary, legislative, and policy making processes at all levels, and on the promotion of public debate and education on non-discriminatory gender relations. Another specific focus will be placed on supporting the EU Agenda for children's rights and the implementation of the new law on protection of children's rights in Albania.

The specific objectives of this action are:

1. To build the capacity of media and journalist organisations in Albania to be independent, credible and accountable watchdogs and increase the availability of qualitative and trustworthy investigative journalism to citizens.
2. To improve the environment for active citizenship and enhance capacities of civil society actors in Albania in exercising their role as drivers of change, and watchdogs at local level.
3. To support civil society and public institutions work through a systematic evidence-based dialogue and cooperation for EU integration, based on willingness, trust and mutual acknowledgment around common interests and the rights of women and men and through an enabling political, legal and financial environment.

- Expected results and key performance indicators

Result 1.1: More regular dialogue is established within the media community and Civil Society Organisations on issues of press freedom and integrity, and with authorities on labour standards; trainings on those issues are increased.

Result 1.2: Increased public demand for quality investigative journalism.

Result 2.1: Public institutions at local and national level recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance and gender responsive decision making through a structured mechanism for inclusion of CSOs and women and men citizens in decision making.

Result 2.2: CSOs internal governance structures are transparent, accountable and continuously monitor, use evidence based work, evaluate and communicating results and impact to their constituents and wider public.

Result 3.1: A transparent mechanism for structured and evidence based policy dialogue between CSOs and state bodies (Parliament, Central and Local Government) is set – up and operational (The National Council for Civil Society (NCCS), National Council for EU Integration) NCEUI, Sector Working Groups/ Integrated Policy Management Groups (IPMG)).

Result 3.2: Organized civil society effectively network and collaborate with the government through a structured policy dialogue process for implementation and monitoring of EU Children's Rights Agenda at central and local level.

The key performance indicators are:

- Activity of self-regulatory bodies with broad representation of the media community.
- Number of independent productions on national media.
- CSO's perception of the quality of cooperation with public institutions.
- Share and characteristics of CSOs publishing their governance structure, annual plan, annual report, financial report, monitoring and evaluation reports.
- Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions.
- Share of EU Children's Rights/Protection Agenda effectively consulted with CSOs and implemented.at national and local level.

(2) Assumptions and conditions

An important condition for the proper advancement of the programme is the functioning of the National Council for Civil Society (NCSS) and the National Council for EU

Integration (NCEUI). The NCCS is established and becoming active. The Head of the NCCS is the Minister of Health and Social Protection and the Deputy Head of the NCCS is elected by civil society members of the council. The National Council for European Integration is also becoming active and will play an important role in advising the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs on EU integration matters.

The new Government is discussing the framework on undertaking sector approach and policy dialogue through the model of Integrated Policy Management Groups (IPMGs), which have a mandate to overview and monitor sector reform coordination and policy dialogue with civil society organisations will be implemented and expand its focus.

A binding condition for the release of the share of funding targeting the Albania Government is the satisfactory solution of the problems affecting VAT reimbursement on EU grants to CSOs. The current legal base exists but it is not correctly applied and a specific commitment by the government is needed for the application of the existing rules throughout all public administration bodies both at central and local level. The effective functioning of reimbursement procedure will be closely monitored through a survey administered by the EU Delegation to all its grant beneficiaries.

In order to implement actions in support of media organisations, the process of calls should encourage civil society organisations and media associations, including journalists and media outlets, to overcome fragmentation by organising networks or platform with representatives undertaking operations on behalf of other members.

(3) Implementation modalities

(3)(a) Direct management (project approach)

Procurement.

The procurement will contribute to achieving result 1.1 and 2.1, i.e. "More regular dialogue is established within the media community and Civil Society Organisations on issues of press freedom and integrity, and with authorities on labour standards; trainings on those issues are increased"; and "Public institutions at local and national level recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance and gender responsive decision making through a structured mechanism for inclusion of CSOs and women and men citizens in decision making".

The **global** budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 1 800 000.

Grants

Grant - Support to independent production.

a) **Purpose of the grant:** The grant will contribute to result 1.2, i.e. "Increased public demand for quality investigative journalism". The action will aim at delivering investigative reporting in selected thematic areas usually not covered by national and local Albanian mainstream media. Themes will cover, *inter alia*, rule law, environmental protection, consumer protection, gender equality, education, minorities, health care and European integration. The productions will have a diversity of format, including data-driven investigations, in-depth articles, explanatory stories or features and documentaries. The intention is to set best practices for the production of independent journalism and stimulate the demand for journalism based on critical thinking, analysis and investigation.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicant must:

- be a legal person;
- be a civil society organisation, or private company, established in Albania or in a Member State of the European Union, in an IPA country as recognised by the European Union or in Member State of the European Economic Area; and
- be free of any political affiliations or membership. Providing equal treatment to all future CSOs beneficiaries is a requirement.

Grant: Active Citizenship for Transparency and Accountability.

a) Purpose of the grant: The grant will contribute to result 2.2, i.e; "CSOs internal governance structures are transparent, accountable and continuously monitor, use evidence based work, evaluate and communicating results and impact to their constituents and wider public". It will stimulate and reach out to non-typical civil society actors at local level including support to individuals, networks, city councils, youth groups, schools, informal groups, new civil society organizations and civil initiatives for flexible and participatory approaches in responding to the needs of activists and civil society actors at local level. The initiative will leverage further on the existing initiatives implemented by civil society and funded by the EU Delegation across Albania. The action will focus on stimulating local democracy across Albania by cultivating a locally rooted civil society, which will increase the demand for good governance in local level, through comprehensive decision making, supervision of local governments, transparency, responsibility, accountability and monitoring the quality of public services. The initiative will include a visibility and awareness raising component on EU support to civil society and will be closely linked to the EU Info desks in the 61 municipalities in Albania. Gender equality goals will be explicitly and consistently addressed and incorporated as part of Call for proposal, in line with EU GAP II 2016-2020, Directive 2014/113/ EC (Gender Directive) and Directive 2016/54/EC as well as with the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in local life.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicant must:

- be legal persons;
- be non-profit-making;
- be a civil society organisation, or a consortium of civil society organizations⁷;
- be legally established in Albania, in a Member State of the European Union, in a IPA beneficiary as recognised by the European Union or in Member State of the European Economic Area; and
- be free of any political affiliations or membership. Providing equal treatment to all future CSOs beneficiaries is a requirement.

Grant – Strengthen Policy Dialogue in Reform Processes.

a) Purpose of the grant: The grant will contribute to result 3.1, i.e. "A transparent mechanism for structured and evidence based policy dialogue between CSOs and state bodies (Parliament, Central and Local Government) is set – up and operational (NCCS, NCEI, Sector Working Groups/ IPMG)". It will strengthen efforts towards policy

⁷ In case a consortium is formed one organization shall be appointed as lead organization and assume all rights and responsibilities on behalf of the consortium. A consortium should have a maximum of five members, including the lead organization, and must be based in the beneficiary concerned.

dialogue in reform processes as a key strategic area of engaging civil society actors in Albania. The selected EU Member State Body or international organisation will be in charge of redistribution of funds to support CSOs actors such as, researchers, think tanks, research based organizations and other potential groups, to actively engage and contribute to the policy dialogue, enhanced public consultation and participation and act as oversight and policy implementation of various sector reforms. A mechanism of recurrent call for proposals will be established to secure support to a wide number of civil society activities along the process of strategy definition, implementation and monitoring.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicant must:

- be legal persons;
- be an EU Member State body or an International Organisation; or
- be a civil society organisation think tank type, established in Albania, in a Member State of the European Union, in a IPA beneficiary as recognised by the European Union or in Member State of the European Economic Area.

Grant – Support to the implementation of EU Agenda on Children's Rights.

a) Purpose of the grant: The grant will contribute to result 3.2, i.e. "Organized civil society effectively network and collaborate with the government through a structured policy dialogue process for implementation and monitoring of EU Children's Rights Agenda at central and local level". The support will aim at strengthening the implementation of EU Agenda on Child Rights, implementation of recommendations of the peer review on human rights conducted in 2017 and implementation of new legislation on the protection of children's rights in Albania. The action will focus on building a coherent approach for all policy implementation related to children's rights with a special focus at local level and building concrete actions in areas such as: child protection system, models of prevention of institutionalisation, family strengthening support and inclusive education etc. Results from those actions will serve as models for a more evidence based policy dialogue with local and national level and stepping up efforts in protecting and promoting the rights of children.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicant must:

- be legal persons;
- be non-profit-making; and
- be a civil society organisation, such as non-governmental organisations;, and
- be established in Albania or in a Member State of the European Union, in a IPA country as recognised by the European Union or in Member State of the European Economic Area.

The **global** budgetary envelope reserved for grants: EUR 4 000 000.

(4) Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

PRIORITY 1	Title	2018	2019
Action 3	CSF and media action for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2019	EUR 2 500 000	EUR 5 500 000

(1) Description of the action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

- Description of the action and objectives

The CSF and Media programme of 2018 – 2019 will address the following areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

1. Enhancing the capacity of governments to include CSOs into decision-making. This assistance will address the problem of weak cooperation and dialogue between governments and civil society and extend support to inclusive social dialogue and social partners (employees, employers, governments) including in relation to legislation, collective negotiations, assessing the need for new legislation, drafting the laws and monitoring the implementation of reforms.
2. Support to existing and newly established CSOs networks in various areas (Education, Health, Social inclusion and social entrepreneurship, Environment and climate change, Youth, Culture, Entrepreneurship and local economy, Women, Media freedoms and media integrity, Fight against corruption, and Strengthening political pluralism). In addition, particular attention will be focused on support to CSOs to engage with election monitoring. This assistance will address the problem of weak sector-based cooperation among CSOs and will support CSOs in promoting social development and fighting corruption in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The specific objective is to support civil society' involvement in the EU integration process in Bosnia and Herzegovina including in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of sector strategies for EU financial assistance and in influencing policy, decision-making processes and legislation enacting in the areas critical for EU integration.

- Expected results and key performance indicators

Result 1: The capacity of governments to include CSOs into decision-making is enhanced.

Result 2: Support is provided to existing and newly established CSO networks in various areas.

The key performance indicators are:

- Percentage of laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively consulted with CSOs.
- Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions.
- Number of CSOs' who use adequate argumentation and analysis for achieving advocacy goals.
- Share of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks.

(2) Assumptions and conditions

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

One important condition for the proper advancement of the programme is the functioning of the relevant ministries at all levels of authorities with particular attention to be given towards the state-level Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and entity-level governments. The implementation the 2017 Charter on Cooperation between the Council of Ministers and CSOs and possible expansion of same approach to entity level will add important value to all EU funding directed towards Civil Society in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

General Elections to be held in October 2018 and the speedy implementation of the results are important for the programme.

- Political support and will of the government levels to continue with the democratisation and EU integration process in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the involvement of a strong civil society.
- Support and sufficient level of interest by all government levels to cooperate with CSOs and their networks.
- Political support to election monitoring, media freedom and anti-corruption activities.
- CSOs have interest to cooperate under sectoral networks.

(3) Implementation modalities:

(3)(a) Direct management (project approach)

Procurement

The procurement will contribute to result 1, i.e. "The capacity of governments to include CSOs into decision-making is enhanced".

The **global** budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 1 000 000.

Grants:

Grant - Support to existing and newly established CSOs to engage with election monitoring

- a) Purpose of the grants: The grant will contribute to result 2, i.e. 'Support is provided to existing and newly established CSO networks in various areas'. The

grants will help strengthen the capacity of CSOs to contribute to fair and transparent elections. In particular CSOs are able to communicate the results of their activities to the public; National and/or local authorities have enabling policies and rules for grass-roots organisations and/or civic initiatives; CSOs monitor and evaluate the results and impact of their work; CSOs regularly network within and outside the beneficiary; public institutions recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance; Fund-raising activities are rooted in CSOs' long-term strategic plans and the core mission of the organisation; all individuals and legal entities can express themselves freely, assemble peacefully and establish, join and participate in non-formal and/or registered organisations.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicant must:

- be legal persons;
- be non-profit-making;
- be a civil society organisation or a consortium of CSOs⁸ established in Bosnia and Herzegovina (lead applicant). Co-applicants can be established in a Member State of the European Union or another IPA II beneficiary; countries for which reciprocal access to external assistance is established by the Commission; and
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary.

Grant - Support to existing and newly established CSOs networks in various areas

a) Purpose of the grant: The grant will contribute to result 2, i.e. Support is provided to existing and newly established CSO networks in various areas. The support will strengthen the capacity of CSOs to contribute to social development in particular sectors. In particular CSOs are able to communicate the results of their activities to the public; National and/or local authorities have enabling policies and rules for grass-roots organisations and/or civic initiatives; CSOs monitor and evaluate the results and impact of their work; CSOs regularly network within and outside the beneficiary; Government support to CSOs is available and provided in a transparent, accountable, fair and non-discriminatory manner; public institutions recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance; Fund-raising activities are rooted in CSOs' long-term strategic plans and the core mission of the organisation; all individuals and legal entities can express themselves freely, assemble peacefully and establish, join and participate in non-formal and/or registered organisations.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicant must

- be legal persons;
- be non-profit-making;
- be a civil society organisation;

⁸ In case a consortium is formed one organisation shall be appointed as lead organisation and assume all rights and responsibilities on behalf of the consortium. A consortium should have a maximum of five members, including the lead organisation, and must be based in the beneficiary country concerned.

- be established in Bosnia and Herzegovina (lead applicant). Co-applicants can be established in a Member State of the European Union or another IPA II beneficiary; countries for which reciprocal access to external assistance is established by the Commission; and
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary.

The **global** budgetary envelope reserved for grants: EUR 7 000 000.

(4) Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

PRIORITY 1	Title	2018	2019
Action 4	CSF and media action for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2018-2019	EUR 3 000 000	EUR 3 000 000

(1) Description of the action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

- Description of the action and objectives

This IPA II assistance will be focused on enabling the legal, policy and financial environment for the civil society; and on improving the dialogue, cooperation and partnership between the CSOs and the public institutions. This will be done through:

I. Technical Assistance to Government and Civil Society Initiative for improving the enabling environment for civil society,

II. Operating support to CSOs for implementing agreed work-plans in a number of pre-defined sectors. A structured approach will be applied encouraging CSOs to have harmonised and complementary actions in the overall sectorial/policy interventions with the government institutions and other relevant stakeholders.

III. Support to CSOs' networks/platforms working for enabling environment for civil society in cooperation with public institutions (at national and local level) and the business community.

The specific objectives of the action are:

1. To improve the legal, policy and financial environment for civil society.
2. To improve the dialogue, cooperation and partnership between the CSO and the public institutions (at national and local level).

- Expected results and key performance indicators

Results to Objective 1:

Result 1.1: National and local authorities adopt enabling policies and rules for grass-root organisations.

Result 1.2: Government support to CSO's is provided in a transparent, accountable, fair and non-discriminatory manner.

Result 1.3: CSO activities are guided by strategic long-term organisational planning.

Results to Objective 2:

Result 2.1: Public institutions include CSOs in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies, strategies and operational programs.

Result 2.2: Advocacy CSOs use research and other forms of evidence to underpin their activities.

Result 2.3: CSOs network regularly within and outside country borders and make use of coalition-building for increased impact in campaigning and advocacy.

Result 2.4: CSOs participation with Government is representative and with mechanisms in place to engage/inform constituents and beneficiaries.

Key performance indicators are the following:

- Funding mechanisms for CSO's further strengthened.
- Share of CSOs that are registered in the country that monitor and evaluate the implementation of their strategies and make this information publicly available/accessible.
- % of CSOs that are registered in the country which take part in monitoring policies, EU and other donor funding and negotiation process.
- Percentage of government/CSO structured consultations/working groups where the selection of representatives has been done in an open and transparent way through a structured mechanism for their involvement.

(2) Assumptions and conditions

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

- Political consensus and fully operational structured mechanism / Council for cooperation with civil society.
- Structured National Instrument for Pre-Accession Coordinator (NIPAC) mechanism for CSOs consultation and further inclusion of the CSO in the decision-making process, both at local and central level.
- Political consensus on the need for further and structured inclusion of the CSO in the decision-making process, both at local and central level.
- Government is committed to implement National Strategy for development of civil society sector in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- Resources allocated in government budget to support CSOs.

- Commitment to the Guidelines 2014-2020 produced by Directorate-General for Enlargement.

(3) Implementation modalities:

(3)(a) Direct management (project approach)

Procurement

The procurement will support the CSOs in implementing actions relevant for the enabling environment for civil society involving the business community and public institutions. It will contribute to results 1.1; 1.2; 1.3; 2.1 and 2.4, i.e.: "National and local authorities adopt enabling policies and rules for grass-root organisations"; "Government support to CSO's is provided in a transparent, accountable, fair and non-discriminatory manner"; "CSO activities are guided by strategic long-term organisational planning"; "Public institutions include CSOs in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies, strategies and operational programs"; and CSOs participation with Government is representative and with mechanisms in place to engage/inform constituents and beneficiaries".

The **global** budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 3 000 000.

Grants

Grant: *Operating support for CSOs* 1.3; 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4

a) Purpose of the grant: The grant will contribute to results; 1.3; 2.2; 2.3; and 2.4, i.e. "CSO activities are guided by strategic long-term organisational planning; "Advocacy CSOs use research and other forms of evidence to underpin their activities"; "CSOs regularly network within and outside country borders and make use of coalition-building for increased impact in campaigning and advocacy"; and CSOs participation with Government is representative and with mechanisms in place to engage/inform constituents and beneficiaries". The grant will provide support for the functioning of civil society organisations, in order to enable them to implement their core activities against an agreed work-plan in a number of pre-defined sectors, with a main objective of having a positive impact on the lives of citizens and ensuring their active involvement in the sector reforms.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicant must

- be a legal person;
- be non-profit making;
- be a non-governmental organisation;
- be established in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at least two years before the call is launched; and
- be a body pursuing an aim of general Union interest, that is
 - an entity representing non-profit bodies active in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and promoting principles and policies consistent with the objectives of the Treaties; or a body having an objective forming part of, and supporting, a Union policy.

Grant: Support to CSOs networks/platforms

a) Purpose of the grant: The grant will contribute to results 1.3; 2.1; 2.2; 2.3; and 2.4, i.e. "CSO activities are guided by strategic long-term organisational planning"; "Public institutions include CSOs in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies, strategies and operational programs"; "Advocacy CSOs use research and other forms of evidence to underpin their activities"; "CSOs regularly network within and outside country borders and make use of coalition-building for increased impact in campaigning and advocacy"; and "CSOs participation with Government is representative and with mechanisms in place to engage/inform constituents and beneficiaries". It will support middle-sized CSOs that would contribute to improve the enabling environment for civil society by implementing horizontal actions with a concrete cooperation with public institutions and business community in an inclusive, evidence-based process. These actions should be focused towards having a long-term impact on the life of citizens and improved environment for them in all important society aspects.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicant must

- be a legal person;
- be non-profit making;
- be a non-governmental organisation; and
- be established in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at least two years before the call is launched,

Furthermore, lead applicants that have signed grant contract/s with the European Commission awarded under the below listed Calls will not be eligible to apply:

- Under Civil Society Facility
 - EuropeAid/130660/ID/ACT/MK;
 - EuropeAid/136-992/DD/ACT/MK;
 - EuropeAid/151569/DD/ACT/MK and
 - EuropeAid/155-322/DD/ACT/MK;
- Under the European Instrument for Human Rights
 - EuropeAid/136-518/DD/ACT/MK and
 - EuropeAid/155319/DD/ACT/MK

The **global** budgetary envelope reserved for grants: EUR 3 000 000.

(4) Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the

eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

PRIORITY 1	Title	2018	2019
Action 5	CSF and media action for Kosovo 2018 - 2019	EUR 750 000	EUR 2 950 000

(1) Description of the action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

- Description of the action and objectives

The CSF and Media action 2018/19 will have two components, one on Civil Society, and one on Media:

As regards civil society, a new phase of Civil Society -government cooperation will kick off under the strategy 2018-2022 to be adopted in 2018. Assistance through the CSF action 2018-2019 will facilitate the operationalisation of the strategic priorities, building capacities of both governmental bodies and CSOs to monitor, report and program new result-based interventions. The assistance will contribute to broader participation in public consultations and public policy making. It will also seek to gradually replicate the model of government – CSO cooperation to the municipal level, with a view to increase the outreach and representativeness of CSOs in the strategy governing structure (the Council).

The CSF 2018-19 will also address the need for increased thematic knowledge, technical skills, ethical and professional standards, as well as transparency and accountability to constituencies and citizens. Activities will focus particularly on those sectors/areas which are less represented (e.g. environmental protection, consumer and health protection energy, social entrepreneurship, social policy and employment, economic, industrial and enterprise policies, transport, etc.) in the context of dialogue mechanisms with public authorities (both central and municipal level) and vis-à-vis the EU (e.g. SAA, or ERA).

As regards media, the CSF 2018/2019 will continue to strengthen the sector by targeting needs related to quality of information, content pluralism, transparency of finance as well as internal governance and accountability. This in turn will enhance audience’s confidence, increase the demand for responsibility of Media outlets (owners/editors) for their production; and increase the resilience of media against external pressures.

The CSF 2018-2019 will support media outlets to report on matters linked to the European path such as fighting corruption, organised crime, electoral system reforms, public administration reform, economic reform, and environmental issues in order to promote quality information to citizens in Kosovo. It will seek to advance the legal, regulatory framework for media and integrity and ethical (internal) standards in the media sector.

The specific objectives of the action are:

1. An enabling (legal, policy and financial) environment which supports sustainability of CSOs and Media as capable, transparent and independent actors who are accountable to citizens and their members/constituencies/beneficiaries.

2. Increased resilience of media against external pressures. Growing audience's confidence in them.

- Expected results and key performance indicators.

Result 1: Government Institutions and civil society cooperating for the effective implementation of the 'enabling environment' for CSOs.

Result 2: Strengthened capacities of civil society, promoting the role of competent, transparent, effective and accountable actors.

Result 3: Media is advancing towards a modern level of internal governance, transparency and resilience against external pressure.

Key performance indicators are:

- Percentage of laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively consulted with CSOs.
- Percentage of approved budget for NGOs which was actually disbursed through state funding to CSOs.
- Share of CSOs which have developed code of conduct, strategic plans and evaluate the results and impact of their work.
- Share of media outlets that provide open access to key data about corporate governance and finances (e.g. ownership structure, income received from the Kosovo government, financing sources, balance sheets, market share, etc).

(2) Assumptions and conditions

- The political and policy environment continues to enable civil society engagement in policy making and further development of the civil society sector, including at municipal level. This will be monitored by the European Union in close collaboration with civil society.
- Commitment of public institutions and civil society to engage in dialogue and cooperation is maintained and further enhanced.
- The government, Media and Civil society have a genuine interest to engage in enhanced cooperation and partnership.
- Civil Society and media are responsive to the programme opportunities.
- Kosovo government makes available relevant financial and human resources to develop and improve enabling environment for media freedom and integrity as well as for the effective operation and long term sustainability of civil society organisations.

(3) Implementation modalities:

(3)(a) Direct management (project approach)

Procurement:

The procurement will contribute to Result 1: "Government Institutions and civil society cooperating for the effective implementation of the 'enabling environment' for CSOs." It will provide assistance to the Kosovo government and civil society structures in charge of strategic cooperation;

The **global** budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 700 000.

Grants

Grant – 2nd phase of Resource Centre

a) Purpose of the grant: The grant will contribute to Result 2: "Strengthened capacities of civil society, promoting the role of competent, transparent, effective and accountable actors". It will strengthen the capacities of CSOs and promote their role of competent, transparent, effective actors of participatory democracy and the European path in Kosovo.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicant must:

- be a legal person;
- be non-profit making;
- be a civil society organisation; and
- be established in a Member State of the European Union or in an IPA II beneficiary or established or registered in Kosovo at least two years before the date of publication of the call.

Grant – Framework Partnerships

a) Purpose of the grant: The grant will contribute to Result 2: Strengthened capacities of civil society, promoting the role of competent, transparent, effective actors that are accountable" It will strengthen capacities of civil society organisations, advancing their role of competent, transparent, effective civil society actors that are accountable to citizens, and their members/constituencies/beneficiaries.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicant must:

- be a legal person;
- be non-profit making;
- be a civil society organisation; and
- be established in a Member State of the European Union or in an IPA II beneficiary or established or registered in Kosovo at least two years before the date of publication of the call.

Grant –Sustainability and innovation projects

a) Purpose of the grant: The grant will contribute to Result 2: Strengthened capacities of civil society, promoting the role of competent, transparent, effective actors that are accountable" It will promote innovative and sustainable CSO approaches to address priority areas of strategic importance for the European path and/or enhance inclusion of those groups of citizens, minorities, communities, grassroots CSOs which are not

enough represented in policy dialogue and consultation mechanisms; promoting the role of competent, transparent, effective civil society actors that are accountable to citizens.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicant must:

- be a legal person;
- be non-profit making;
- be a civil society organisation; and
- be established in a Member State of the European Union or in an IPA II beneficiary or established or registered in Kosovo at least two years before the date of publication of the call

Grant –Media resilience, audience confidence and quality of media production:

a) Purpose of the grant: The grant will contribute to Result 3, i.e. Media is advancing towards a modern level of internal governance, transparency and resilience against external pressure": The grant will strengthen participatory democracy and the European path in Kosovo by empowering and stimulating an enabling professional and financial environment for pluralistic media.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicant must:

- be a legal person;
- be established in a Member State of the European Union or in an IPA II beneficiary or established or registered in Kosovo at least two years before the date of publication of the call; and
- be an organisation operating in the media sector (including commercial media outlets, public media broadcasts, public media regulatory bodies as well as NGOs).

The **global** budgetary envelope reserved for grants: EUR 3 000 000.

(4) Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

PRIORITY 1		<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>
Action 6	CSF and media action for Montenegro 2018 - 2019	EUR 1 000 000	EUR 4 250 000

(1) Description of the action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

- Description of the action and objectives

The action will focus on building the capacity of CSOs, media and media regulators to be professional, credible, effective and accountable independent actors; and on contributing to the establishment of an enabling financial environment, supportive of institutional sustainability of CSOs. This will be done through technical assistance to relevant institutional and non-institutional stakeholders and through action grants to CSOs and Montenegrin media.

The action will seek to ensure that Montenegrin policies and standards are better observed and promoted throughout the country. In parallel, initiatives which aim to strengthen the role of civil society at local level will also be supported, in recognition of the added value of community-based associations in developmental processes. The action will be divided into components to address each of the needs developed above. This will ensure that the CSF will support a wide spectrum of Montenegrin civil society in its diversity and therefore better contribute to achieve some of the chapter 23 and guidelines objectives.

On the side of media support, the EU integration process and subjects such as fighting corruption, organised crime, elections, public administration reform, economic reform, and environmental issues will be at the core. The support will aim at raising the level of media professionalism, in turn resulting in a well-informed public on topics highly relevant for the integration process.

Specific objectives:

1. To build the capacity of CSOs, media and media regulators to be professional, credible, effective and accountable independent actors.
2. To contribute to the establishment of an enabling financial environment, supportive of institutional sustainability of CSOs.

Expected results and key performance indicators:

Result 1: CSOs and media are recognised by the government and citizens as reliable partners in improving good governance, rule of law, human rights, environmental affairs policy-making procedures and social service implementation.

Result 2: CSOs strengthened their strategic organisational development; their long-term financial and institutional sustainability; their capacity to participate in decision-making processes, deliver professional transparent and cost-effective service, communicate

effectively their activities to the public, and mobilise citizens to become engaged in their initiatives.

Result 3: Public funding to CSOs is available and provided in a regular, transparent, accountable, fair and non-discriminatory manner. Legal and institutional framework stimulate the promotion of alternative sources of funding (tax, Corporate Social responsibility, social entrepreneurship, volunteering, etc..)

Result 4: Adequate national structure is established to cooperate with civil society.

Result 5: Improved quality and independence of information delivered by traditional and social media. Increased trust and cooperation between national authorities and media; increased level of professionalism for journalists and self-regulatory bodies

Key performance indicators

- External perception of importance and impact of CSO activities.
- Percentage of CSOs that confirm their ability to raise funds in accordance with the strategic planning;
- Assessment of effective implementation of NGO law and by-laws governing public funding;
- Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions.
- Quality of media articles; Cooperation between national authorities and media

(2) Assumptions and conditions

With regards to Government authorities, continued political will and progress on the various related strategies and policies is needed. With regards to civil society organisation, continued will to strengthen capacities in the various sectors of intervention is assumed. Collectively, all stakeholders need to establish, within their own policy fields and sectors, a spirit of cooperation where they recognise the advantages of mutually benefiting relationships. The programme is about achieving this objective and although all envisaged activities will support the process, pro-active efforts from all stakeholders are vital to a successful implementation.

(3) Implementation modalities:

(3)(a) Direct management (project approach)

Procurement:

The procurement will contribute to result 3, i.e.: "Public funding to CSOs is available and provided in a regular, transparent, accountable, fair and non-discriminatory manner.; and the legal and institutional framework stimulate the promotion of alternative sources of funding."

The **global** budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 500 000.

Grants

Grant –Support to CSO activities in various sectors

a) Purpose of the grant: The grant will support results 1 and 2, i.e.: " CSOs and media are recognised by the government and citizens as reliable partners in improving good governance, rule of law, human rights, environmental affairs policy-making procedures and social service implementation"; and "CSOs strengthened their strategic

organisational development; their long-term financial and institutional sustainability; their capacities to participate in decision-making processes, deliver professional transparent and cost-effective service, communicate effectively their activities to the public, and mobilise citizens to become engaged in their initiatives".

The grant will inter alia seek to enhance the impact of civil society through their involvement in designing and monitoring public policies whose implementation require further upgrading of civil dialogue; reinforce CSO contribution to policy and watchdog initiatives; improve CSO effectiveness, transparency and accountability; strengthen the fight against corruption, and promote cooperation between municipalities and CSOs. The projects will foster partnership dialogue between CSOs from the region and their EU counterparts, public authorities and other stakeholders. The specific objectives of the calls may be reviewed following consultations on each specific call, and aligned with the needs identified in the progresses in the Negotiations for accession.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicant must:

- be a Local/International Civil Society Organisation or Local/International Association of CSOs, or International Organizations.

Grants –Support to free and professional media and to self-regulatory bodies

a) Purpose of the grant: The grants will support results 1 and 5, i.e.: "CSOs and media are recognised by the government and citizens as reliable partners in improving good governance, rule of law, human rights, environmental affairs policy-making procedures and social service implementation"; and "Improved quality and independence of information delivered by traditional and social media. Increased trust and cooperation between national authorities and media; increased level of professionalism for journalists and self-regulatory bodies". They will strengthen participatory democracy and the EU integration process in Montenegro by empowering and stimulating an enabling professional and financial environment for pluralistic media. The call for proposals will be divided into two lots. One lot will be targeting local media and related civil society organisations. The second lot in the same Call for proposals will be targeting international organisations to take on a mediating role in the highly polarised media scene of Montenegro and to work on media literacy issues. An international body in particular will be given the role to facilitate coordination and synergies between the self-regulatory bodies of Montenegro.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicant must

- be a legal person; and
- be a media sector organisations including media outlets, media regulators as well as NGOs and universities with a journalism faculty/department.

Grant –Resource Centre:

a) Purpose of the grant: The grant will contribute to results 1 and 2, i.e. "CSOs and media are recognised by the government and citizens as reliable partners in improving good governance, rule of law, human rights, environmental affairs policy-making

procedures and social service implementation"; and "CSOs strengthened their strategic organisational development; their long-term financial and institutional sustainability; their capacities to participate in decision-making processes, deliver professional transparent and cost-effective service, communicate effectively their activities to the public, and mobilise citizens to become engaged in their initiatives. The grant will support the development of civil society by providing capacity building, training, awareness and information to grass root and other CSO in need. It will also address needs related to state and civil society dialogue and cooperation.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicant must:

- be legal persons;
- be non-profit-making;
- be a civil society organisation or a consortium established in Montenegro; and
- be free of any political affiliations or membership. Providing equal treatment to all future CSOs beneficiaries is a requirement.

The **global** budgetary envelope reserved for grants: EUR 4 750 000.

(4) Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

PRIORITY 1	Title	2018	2019
Action 7	CSF and media action for Serbia 2018 - 2019	EUR 5 000 000	EUR 5 000 000

(1) Description of the action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

- Description of the action and objectives

The action aims at supporting civil society and the media sector in Serbia in line with "DG Enlargement guidelines for the EU support to civil society in enlargement

*countries for the period 2014-20" and the "Guidelines to support media freedom and media integrity in enlargement countries"*⁹.

The support to civil society will focus on the development of mechanisms for permanent dialogue with civil society in the area of the EU negotiation process, as well as building the capacities and effectiveness of Serbian CSOs to address reform processes, among others in areas relevant to rule of law, environmental protection, socio-economic development at the local level, etc. Capacity building will be supported through long term grants, including financial support to third parties in order to reach the local grassroots level. In addition, support will be provided for the participation of CSOs in the negotiation process and to facilitate collaboration between state actors and non-state actors related to evidence-based policy dialogue in reform processes.

In the area of media freedom and media integrity, the action aims at strengthening the freedom of expression and investigative reporting. Support in the form of long term grants will be provided for public interest media productions, among others in the area of the area of rule of law, environmental protection, the EU integration process, etc. The policy development and monitoring of media freedoms will also be in focus of the action to increase the safety of journalists and freedom of the media.

The specific objectives of the action are:

- Civil society and public institutions work in partnership through dialogue and cooperation based on trust and mutual acknowledgment of common interests.
- Legal, regulatory and policy environment for freedom of expression and media and media integrity is improved.

- Expected results and key performance indicators

Results to Objective 1:

Result 1.1: Public institutions recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance through CSO inclusion in decision-making processes.

Result 1.2: Increased capacities of the Serbian CSOs to address reform processes and EU integration process.

Results to Objective 2:

Result 2.1: Increased safety standards for journalists and capacities of journalists' and professional associations and media, to exercise full freedom of expression.

Result 2.2: Improved conditions for quality investigative journalism including modern/innovative approaches to increase quality and credibility of investigative journalism and creative production.

Key performance indicators:

- Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions.
- Public perception of importance and impact of CSOs activities.

⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/press_corner/elarg-guidelines-for-media-freedom-and-integrity_210214.pdf

- Actions undertaken by authorities and media aimed at promoting free expression and media pluralism.

(2) Assumptions and conditions

All conditions necessary for successful implementation of the proposed action are in place. In particular:

The National Convention for European Union (NCEU) is an institutionalised consultative mechanism, part of the obligatory procedure on adoption of the Negotiating positions in the Committee for EU integration of the Parliament since 2014. It was recognised as a channel for informing the public on the negotiation process by the Government in August 2015 and is to be consulted in the development of the negotiation positions by Negotiating Team. In addition, Guidelines of the Negotiation team for cooperation with civil society define procedures for NCEU involvement and participation in all phases and regarding all relevant documents and policies in EU negotiation process.

The new Media Strategy, initiated by the Ministry of Culture and Information, will provide analysis of the current state of affairs in the media sector, implementation of the existing legislation and position of media and journalists. The results of these analysis and recommendations of the Working group will be basis for the implementation of the grant with the OSCE.

The National Strategy for an Enabling Environment for Civil Society has been drafted and is pending the adoption by the Government. Once adopted this document will secure consistent inclusion of civil society in decision-making process.

(3) Implementation modalities:

(3)(a) Indirect management

Contribution agreement: Freedom of Expression and Quality Journalism in the Digital Environment in Serbia

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with OSCE / Mission in Serbia. This implementation entails support to enable environment for freedom of expression and increase safety standards and capacities of journalists, professional associations and media

The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: the OSCE has the necessary in-house operational and financial expertise to implement complex projects. With its extensive experience in supporting legislative reform processes and capacity building in Serbia, the OSCE, in a unique manner, combines the capacity to provide political advice and to effectively implement technical support projects.

Furthermore, OSCE has extensive working relations with the envisaged beneficiaries in government, media and civil society. The OSCE Mission has been implementing a number of projects in the media sector and has been a partner of the EU Delegation in Serbia in drafting Media Strategy and relevant media legislation.

(3)(b) Direct management (project approach)

Grants

Grant –Strengthening policy dialogue in reform processes

a) Purpose of the grant: The grant will support in particular result 1.1 i.e. "Public institutions recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance through CSO inclusion in decision-making processes".

The grant will support interaction and inclusive collaboration between state actors, institutional mechanisms and non-state actors (civil society, think tanks, social partners, media, researchers, etc.) related to evidence-based policy dialogue in reform processes and capacity development in areas related to public policy formulation, policy budgeting, implementation and monitoring.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible, applicants must:

- be a legal person; and
- be a specific type of organisation such as: competent Government Department or relevant mandated body of a Government Department or public body authority of a European Union Member State working in the fields related to this action or a think-tank of a European Union Member State or Serbia working in the fields related to this action.

Grant –Support to Civil Society capacities

a) Purpose of the grants: The grants will support results in particular result 1.2, i.e. "Increased capacities of the Serbian CSOs to address reform processes and EU integration process". The programme will increase capacities and effectiveness of the Serbian CSOs to address reform processes, among others in areas relevant to rule of law, environmental protection and socio-economic development at the local level and of the grassroots organisations at the local level with the main purpose of financial support to third parties.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicant must:

- be legal persons;
- non-profit making;
- be a civil society organisation; and
- be established in Serbia.

Grant –Support to Media and Media Productions

a) Purpose of the grants: The grants will support in particular result 2.2, i.e. "Improved conditions for quality investigative journalism including modern/innovative approaches to increase quality and credibility of investigative journalism and creative production". The programme will seek to strengthen the freedom of expression and investigative media production to increase quality of media content of public interest.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicant must:

- be a print/electronic/on-line media, news agencies, media production houses and/or media associations; and
- be established in Serbia.

Grant: Support to National Convention on European Union

a) Purpose of the grant: The grant will support results 1.1 and 1.2, i.e. "Public institutions recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance through CSO inclusion in decision-making processes"; and "Increased capacities of the Serbian CSOs to address reform processes and EU integration process". It will help to advocate and monitor European integration progress, as well as to increase the level of knowledge and awareness among the public in Serbia on accession negotiations. It will cover capacity building, advocacy to increase local CSOs/citizens participation in the process, as well as communication with citizens

b) Direct grant award: Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the National Convention on European Union. In accordance with Article 195 c) FR, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because the National Convention on European Union is the unique institutional mechanism for participation of CSOs in the negotiation process in Serbia.

Grant: Strengthening capacities of the Press Council

a) Purpose of the grant: The grant will contribute to result 2.1, i.e. "Increased safety standards for journalists and capacities of journalists' and professional associations and media, to exercise full freedom of expression". It will strengthen the capacities of the Serbian Press Council to actively promote professional and ethical standards in print and online media and to increase visibility of self-regulation as a mechanism for holding media accountable.

b) Direct grant award: Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Serbian Press Council. In accordance with Article 195 c) FR, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because the Press Council of Serbia is the unique institutional mechanism in Serbia in charge of the promotion of professional and ethical standards in print and online media and is particularly suited to raise awareness of the importance of media self-regulation among media professionals.

The **global** budgetary envelope reserved for grants: EUR 10 000 000

(4) Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as

established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

PRIORITY 1	Title	2018	2019
Action 8	CSF and media action for Turkey 2018 - 2019	EUR 12 400 000	EUR 22 600 000

(1) Description of the action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

- Description of the action and objectives

In line with the Turkey Indicative Strategy Paper for IPA II, the main objective of this action is to contribute to the development of a vibrant civil society through more active democratic participation in policy and decision making processes and by promoting a culture of fundamental rights and dialogue. Its purposes are to empower active citizenship and strengthen civil society for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

This will be achieved through the implementation of activities targeting various stakeholders from (i) *individuals*, active citizens and Human Rights Defenders, to (ii) *civil society organisations* engaged in different sectors and to (iii) *civil society networks and platforms* organised at regional and/ or national levels.

The action will be complementary to activities to be carried out through IPA 2014, 2015 and 2016 in the sense that activities funded under the three first years of IPA II have a strong focus on CSO/public sector relationships and target directly some crucial public administrations in charge of the management and follow-up of civil society organisations.

The specific objective is to empower active citizenship and strengthen civil society for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

- Expected results and key performance indicators

Result 1; Citizens (including Human Rights Defenders) increased their capacity to carry out in rights-based actions.

Result 2: Civil society organisations increased their capacity to carry out right-based actions.

Result 3: Civil society organisations increased their capacity to effectively network and be engaged in joint-actions.

Key performance indicators are:

- Number of active citizens supported, sex disaggregated data, in their right-based activities.
- Number of Human Rights Defenders supported, sex disaggregated data, who improved their capacity to carry out their work.
- Number of rights based short term initiatives supported.
- Number of right-based projects supported.
- Share of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks.

(2) Assumptions and conditions

Support of the objectives of the action from Turkish authorities is essential. This should be reflected by the fact that (i) the bulk of the target groups of the action should be able to operate independently and (ii) the overall social and political context at the time of implementation of activities should not further deteriorate.

Level of freedom of expression and association does not deteriorate further (baseline mid 2017).

- Both relevant public authorities and CSOs are willing to engage in dialogue and cooperation.
- CSOs are willing to collaborate among themselves.
- Grant beneficiaries show willingness to develop effective and sustainable cooperation

(3) Implementation modalities:

(3)(a) Direct management (project approach)

Procurement:

The procurement will support in particular results 1 and 2, i.e. "Citizens (including Human Rights Defenders) increased their capacity to carry out rights-based actions"; and "Civil society organisations increased their capacity to carry out right-based actions"..

The **global** budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 11 000 000.

Grants

Grant - Human Rights Defenders Mechanism

a) Purpose of the grant: The grant will support in particular results 1, i.e. "Citizens (including Human Rights Defenders) increased their capacity to carry out rights-based actions". The primary aim will be to set up a mechanism to support Human Rights Defenders via, among other tools, financial support to third parties. The main objective of this activity is to contribute to the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms by supporting human rights defenders in their efforts to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicants must:

- be legal persons;
- be non-profit-making;
- be civil society organisations; and
- be established in one of the following eligible countries/ territories/beneficiaries: EU Member States, Beneficiaries of the IPA II, European Economic Area.

Grant – Supporting cultural initiatives as a mean to promote freedom of expression, dialogue, tolerance and fight against discrimination

a) **Purpose of the grant:** The grant will support result 2: i.e. "Civil society organisations increased their capacity to carry out right-based actions". It will provide financial support to third parties to support cultural initiatives as a mean to promote freedom of expression, dialogue, tolerance, fight against discrimination and promotion of individual liberties. It will promote confidence-building in Turkey through support to cultural initiatives from civil society organisations and cultural institutes for widening the cultural horizon, the promotion of social cohesion, sustainable peace as well as fight against all forms of violence.

b) **Type of applicants targeted:** In order to be eligible the applicants must:

- be legal persons;
- be non-profit-making;
- be civil society organisations or public and/or private institute of/for culture; and
- be established in one of the following eligible countries/ territories/beneficiaries: EU Member States, Beneficiaries of the IPA II, European Economic Area.

Grant – CSOs Capacity-building Mechanism

a) **Purpose of the grant:** The grant will support results 2 and 3: i.e. "Civil society organisations increased their capacity to carry out right-based actions"; and "Civil society organisations increased their capacity to effectively network and be engaged in joint-actions". The Capacity-Building Mechanism will seek to reinforce the organizational and institutional capacities of the CSOs, to provide legal and regulatory advices, to monitor the legal and political environment in which CSOs operates (including to ensure the monitoring of the EU Guidelines to support civil society in Turkey) and more generally to facilitate civil society contribution to decision-making processes and in particular those linked to the EU accession process.

b) **Type of applicants targeted:** In order to be eligible the applicant must:

- be legal persons;
- be non-profit-making;
- be civil society organisations; and
- be established in one of the following eligible countries/ territories/beneficiaries: EU Member States, Beneficiaries of the IPA II, European Economic Area.

Grant – Supporting CSO networks and Platforms

a) Purpose of the grant: This grant scheme will support results 2 and 3: i.e. "Civil society organisations increased their capacity to carry out right-based actions"; and "Civil society organisations increased their capacity to effectively network and be engaged in joint-actions". It will enable rights based civil society organisations to effectively network and have the capacity to be engaged in joint actions in selected sectors. This grant scheme will support existing or new CSO thematic networks. The call for proposals will include several lots so that to ensure accurate coverage of networking needs in various sectors such as 1) women rights, 2) cultural and religious rights, 3) children rights, 4) refugees rights, 5) environmental rights, 6) users and consumers rights in the transport field, etc.

b) Type of applicants targeted: In order to be eligible the applicants must:

- be legal persons;
- be non-profit-making;
- be civil society organisations; and
- be established in one of the following eligible countries/ territories/beneficiaries: EU Member States, Beneficiaries of the IPA II, European Economic Area.

Grant - Gender equality monitoring through right-based CSOs

a) Purpose of the grant: This grant will support results 2 and 3: i.e. "Civil society organisations increased their capacity to carry out right-based actions"; and "Civil society organisations increased their capacity to effectively network and be engaged in joint-actions". It will seek to empower right-based gender CSOs to achieve greater gender equality and participatory democracy in Turkey. The direct grant will enhance monitoring capacity for right based CSOs that focus on gender, further strengthen local gender equality monitoring platforms, increase the number and collaboration among local gender equality monitoring platforms, increase outreach of both Gender Equality Monitoring Centre and right based gender CSOs and increase public awareness and knowledge about gender equality through monitoring data collection, reporting and dissemination.

b) Direct grant award: The justification for direct award of grant is based on Article 195 c) new FR related to *de facto* monopoly in terms of the expertise on the topic. Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the Association for Monitoring of Gender Equality. The recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because the Association for Monitoring Gender Equality (CEID) is the first and only umbrella organisation legally established in Turkey which aims at ensuring a systematic and comprehensive monitoring of all aspects of gender equality in line with commitment of Turkey to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). As such, CEID is also well respected and accepted by the Turkish institutions, national and local authorities and civil society as the only organisation entirely focused and committed to across-the-board gender monitoring in all areas of public and private life in line with the indicators deriving from the CEDAW.

The **global** budgetary envelope reserved for grants: EUR 24 000 000.

(4) Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

3. INDICATIVE BUDGET TABLE

MULTI-COUNTRY PROGRAMME

		2019					Total Financing Decision	
2018		EU Contribution	IPA beneficiary or other third party co- financing	Total expenditure	EU Contribution	IPA beneficiary or other third party co- financing		
Action 1 CSF and media multi- country 2018-2019		9 350 000	900 000	10 250 000	Action 1 CSF and media multi-country 2018-2019	29 500 000	2 880 000	32 380 000
Action 2 CSF and media Albania 2018-2019		1 300 000		1 300 000	Action 2 CSF and media Albania 2018-2019	4 500 000	100 000	4 600 000
Action 3 CSF and media Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018- 2019		2 500 000	200 000	2 700 000	Action 3 CSF and media Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2019	5 500 000	610 000	6 110 000
Action 4 CSF and media former Yugoslav		3 000 000		3 000 000	Action 4 CSF and media the former Yugoslav Republic of	3 000 000	300 000	3 300 000

4 PERFORMANCE MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

As part of its performance measurement framework, the Commission shall monitor and assess progress towards achievement of the specific objectives set out in the IPA II Regulation on the basis of pre-defined, clear, transparent measurable indicators. The progress reports referred to in Article 4 of the IPA II Regulation shall be taken as a point of reference in the assessment of the results of IPA II assistance.

The Commission will collect performance data (process, output and outcome indicators) from all sources, which will be aggregated and analysed in terms of tracking the progress versus the targets and milestones established for each of the actions of this programme, as well as the Indicative Strategy Paper.

In the specific context of indirect management by IPA II beneficiaries, National IPA Co-ordinators (NIPACs) will collect information on the performance of the actions and programmes (process, output and outcome indicators) and coordinate the collection and production of indicators coming from national sources.

The overall progress will be monitored through the following means: a) Result Orientated Monitoring (ROM) system; b) IPA II Beneficiaries' own monitoring; c) self-monitoring performed by the EU Delegations; d) joint monitoring by the European Commission (DG NEAR) and the IPA II Beneficiaries, whereby the compliance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and coordination in implementation of financial assistance will be regularly monitored by an IPA II Monitoring committee, supported by Sectoral Monitoring committees, which will ensure a monitoring process at sector level.