

EN



ANNEX 4

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Multi-Annual Action Programme 2018-2020 for the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) to be financed from the general budget of the Union

Action Document for Support to local civil society action through Country-Based Support Scheme

Information for Potential Grant Applicants

Work Programme for Grants

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation in the following sections calls for proposals: 5.3.1.; and in the following sections concerning grants awarded directly without a call for proposals: 5.3.2.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Support to local civil society action through Country-Based Support Scheme CRIS number: EIDHR/2018/041-027; EIDHR/2019/041-337; EIDHR/2020/041-342 financed under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Worldwide (in principle, actions take place in the beneficiary country where the grant has been awarded)
3. Programming document	Multiannual Indicative Programme (2018-2020) for the Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights Worldwide - Commission Implementing Decision C(2018)6409
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Human Rights and Democracy
5. Amounts	Total estimated cost: EUR 285,040,000

concerned	<p>Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 270,788,000</p> <p>The contribution is for an amount of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EUR 84,700,000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2018, • EUR 86,274,000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2019, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the relevant budget • EUR 99,814,000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2020, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the relevant budget. 			
6. Aid modalities and implementation modalities	<p>Project Modality</p> <p>Direct management: grants – call for proposals; grants – direct award; procurement of services</p>			
7 a) DAC code(s)	15160 - Human Rights			
b) Main Delivery Channel	Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society - 2000			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Global Public	NA			

Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships	
10. SDGs	<p>While due to its human rights focus the action contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as a whole, the direct contribution is towards:</p> <p>As a main goal, SDG 16: promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p> <p>As secondary goals,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SDG 5: achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls - SDG 10: reduce inequality within and among countries

Summary

The overall objective of the **EIDHR Country-Based Support Scheme (CBSS)** is to support and strengthen civil society organisations, democracy activists and human rights defenders working on critical human rights and democracy issues in third countries.

This action represents an important portion of the EIDHR funding which is to be implemented on the ground by EU delegations, in order to respond to country-specific human rights and democracy challenges, be as close as possible to the needs of the rights holders and boost ownership of local actors. In order to do so, the CBSS offer annual or biennial EIDHR allocations to EU delegations to fund projects implemented by local civil society organisations in support of human rights and democracy.

The grants will be primarily awarded using the standard EU call for proposals process and will aim to implement the objectives 1, 2 and 3 set out in the annex of the EIDHR Regulation 2014-2020¹:

- Objective 1 supports human rights and human rights defenders in situations where they are most at risk.
- Objective 2 supports other EU human rights priorities in line with the set of EU human rights guidelines adopted by the Council of the European Union.
- Objective 3 supports participatory and representative democracy, including promoting and defending fundamental freedoms, in particular freedom of expression.

When calls for proposals are not possible or appropriate to achieve the above objectives, direct awards without calls for proposals may be used.

The actions financed under the CBSS will be in line with the relevant EU guidelines as well as all other relevant policy documents such as the European Consensus. While indirectly contributing and thus relevant for the entire Agenda 2030, the SDGs 16 and 5 are particularly targeted. Last but not least, a Rights Based Approach and the Gender mainstreaming represent two key features of the actions supported by the CBSS.

¹ Regulation (EU) No 235/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for democracy and human rights worldwide

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Thematic area

1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

The European Union is founded on a strong engagement to promote and protect human rights, and democracy worldwide and distinguishes itself as the largest donor in these two areas of support.

This action shall be firmly embedded in the EU policy framework and be in line, specifically, with the new **European Consensus on Development**², in particular the key areas of People and Peace, and the **2015-2019 Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy**³, in particular objective I on "Boosting ownership of local actors" and objective II on "Addressing human rights challenges". Equally, the action will strive to implement all relevant EU human rights guidelines.

The action shall also reflect the analysis and priorities set at the country-level, in the relevant country-specific policy documents: the EU Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategies (adopted by EU Heads of Missions and validated by the Council) and the Country Roadmaps for EU Engagement with Civil Society, where they exist.

Proposals and projects funded under this action will have to be designed and implemented according to the **rights-based approach** methodology, as outlined in the 2014 Tool-box "a Rights-Based Approach, encompassing all human rights, for EU development cooperation"⁴ and the respective Council Conclusions.

This action shall also contribute to the implementation of the **EU Gender Action Plan II**⁵ and include disaggregated data by sex as well as gender sensitive indicators to the extent possible.

On the broadest scale, the action will contribute to the realisation of the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) as a whole, and in particular number 16 by promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. It is expected to further also the SDG 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) and 10 (reduce inequality within and among countries).

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

European Union delegations in third countries are a major stakeholder of the Country-Based Support Scheme (CBSS), as they are responsible to manage the CBSS allocations received from headquarters in line with the EIDHR Regulation No 235/2014, the EIDHR Multiannual Indicative Programme 2018-2020, as well as with their human rights and democracy country strategies (where they exist).

² https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/new-european-consensus-development-our-world-our-dignity-our-future_en

³ Joint Communication "Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2015-2019): Keeping human rights at the heart of the EU agenda" of 28 April 2015 (JOIN(2015)16) adopted by the Council on 20 July 2015 (10897/15)

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/rights-based-approach-development-cooperation_en

⁵ Staff Working Document "EU Action Plan for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development for 2016-2020" (SWD(2015)182 final)

Even though the management of CBSS is decentralized, the **European Commission headquarters** play an important steering role in the CBSS process.

The direct beneficiaries receiving the grants resulting from the action are **civil society organisations**⁶ active in the fields of the human rights and democratic governance. In order to strengthen ownership and long-term empowerment by local actors, focus will preferably be on in-country civil society organisations (with particular attention given to the organisations based at the local level), with particular attention given to under-represented groups and disenfranchised organisations. In justified cases, organisations operating remotely (diaspora organisations) may be considered as 'local'.

Only when appropriate and judged necessary to achieve the objectives of the EIDHR, private-sector non-profit agencies, political foundations, national parliamentary bodies, non-profit making universities and intergovernmental organisations may also be the direct beneficiaries of the action.

In exceptional and duly justified cases, entities without legal personality and natural persons may also be the direct beneficiaries of CBSS grants, as set out in Article 11.2 of the EU Regulation No 236/2014.

Beneficiary organisations may choose to cooperate with other organisations such as international civil society organisations, academic institutions, or national public-sector institutions, including in particular national human rights institutions (NHRIs).

The final beneficiaries of the action are **the citizens and the communities** living in the countries where the CBSS are implemented.

1.1.3 Priority areas for support

Consultations with local civil society organisations organised by the EU delegations as well as the EU local priorities set out in the Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategies will provide guidance for the selection of relevant fields of intervention defined in the EIDHR local calls for proposals. Synergies with activities of the Member States and other donors shall be ensured through dialogue. Headquarters will be consulted early in the process of defining CBSS priority areas in order to contribute to the achievement of Objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the EIDHR Regulation and priorities of the EIDHR Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2018-2020.

More specifically, the following priority areas, reflecting the objectives of the EIDHR MIP 2018-2020, will be addressed:

- **Support to human rights and human rights defenders most at risk** (as put forward in Objective 1 of the EIDHR MIP 2018-2020). EIDHR actions under this area shall support human rights defenders (HRDs) and civil society organisations in activities related to systematic, widespread and gross human rights violations and attacks against fundamental freedoms. A focused attention shall be given to the most marginalised, stigmatised and isolated HRDs, such as LGBTI or indigenous peoples' rights activists, or organisations working on the most sensitive human rights issues in the country of intervention. Moreover, whistle-blowers, victims and witnesses of

⁶ A definition of civil society and the wide range of actors it may imply is provided in the "The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations", Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, (COM(2012) 492).

human rights violations and abuses may be considered as HRDs in certain circumstances. Independent National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI)⁷, women's rights institutions and State protection mechanisms when relevant, with the mandate to broadly promote, protect, monitor and report on the human rights situation in a given country have also been recognized as HRDs. Actions addressing the shrinking civic and political space are also included under this priority area.

- **Support to other EU human rights priorities** in line with the set of EU human rights guidelines adopted by the Council of the European Union and as set out in Objective 2 of the EIDHR MIP 2018-2020. The following issues are covered: fight against death penalty and torture/ill treatment, fight against discrimination in all its forms with a focus on women and the most vulnerable groups (LGBTI, indigenous peoples, children, migrants and other discriminated groups and minorities), promotion of freedom of religion or belief, economic, social and cultural rights (incl. business and human rights), fight against impunity and promotion of accountability, and promotion of international humanitarian law and the responsibility to protect.
- **Support to democracy**, in line with Objective 3 of the EIDHR MIP 2018-2020. Actions will cover *inter alia*: the promotion and protection of fundamental freedoms (in particular freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association); the strengthening of pluralism in political life and the fostering the participation of citizens in decision-making processes; the increase of accountability, oversight and transparency and the fight against corruption. Actions should respond to de facto power structures, and take into account the impact of new technologies on the democratic environment. Support to civil society activities related to elections and follow-up of election observation missions is also included under this priority area.

The above priorities correspond with the mandate accorded to EIDHR. While the focus of each delegation's use of CBSS funds will vary according to local needs, it is expected that the use of the CBSS envelope will reflect the recommendations of the EIDHR mid-term review which stresses in particular the importance of the EIDHR added value in case of most sensitive and most at risk human rights situations and defence of fundamental freedoms, including defence of civic, democratic and civil society space, that is increased focus (as compared to the past) on the EIDHR Objectives number 1 and 3. In terms of financial resources, the global value of the CBSS allocation should be approximately equally shared between the objectives 1,2 and 3 in order to reflect the provisions of the 2018-2020 EIDHR MIP.

This shrinking space – both online and offline - impacts upon the ability of citizens to take meaningful participation in decision making. In the more extreme cases it reinforces a unitary state, where opposition is not only difficult but potentially dangerous. It is thus critical that sufficient attention is paid both to objective 1 – defending individuals, and objective 3 – protecting pluralism. Although this shrinking space is a global phenomenon, the specific

⁷ NHRIs include Human rights commissions, Human rights ombudsman institutions, Hybrid institutions, Consultative and advisory bodies, Institutes and centres and multiple institutions. <https://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/RolesTypesNHRIs.aspx>

threats will vary from country to country, and EU Delegations are best placed to identify them and any mitigating measures possible under the CBSS.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (High/Medium/Low)	Mitigating measures
<p>The lack of focus on complementarity and value-adding nature of the EIDHR by the EU Delegations leads to insufficient support corresponding to Objective 1 of the EIDHR Regulation (human rights and human rights defenders where there are more at risk).</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>DEVCO B1 will give guidance to EU Delegations to ensure that sensitive/critical issues are tackled under the EIDHR CBSS, leaving more mainstream issues to other instruments. HQ will raise awareness on this in exchanges with EIDHR focal points and will monitor the priority areas chosen for local calls for proposals.</p>
<p>Some projects implemented under this Action, take place in extremely difficult, dangerous, deteriorating and volatile contexts. They are confronted with various political and physical risks that must not be underestimated. CSOs can also face additional legal and administrative burdens in the context of the shrinking space for civil society.</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>The most difficult projects can be implemented by the Commission's headquarters in Brussels as restricted projects if needed. Implementation modalities of the EIDHR are flexible and allow intervention in the most difficult situation (for instance modalities such as confidentiality option, specific eligibility criteria). In addition EU delegations shall take measures to mitigate this risk at local level.</p>
<p>Limited operational and financial capacities of local CSOs staff to submit high quality proposals and to manage EU-funded projects.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>EU delegations may organise capacity development trainings in favour of local CSOs in order to improve their ability to respond to calls for proposals, as well as their Project Cycle Management capacities. For this purpose, EU delegations can use 10% of their EIDHR CBSS allocations as support measures for implementation.</p> <p>EUDs are also encouraged to keep reasonable minimum and maximum amounts for the grants in order to allow for local CSOs to participate in the call and to use the option of subcontracting.</p>

<p>There are not a sufficient number of applications submitted by local CSOs under the EIDHR CBSS calls for proposals, resulting in insufficient empowerment and ownership by local actors.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>EU delegations will be encouraged to adjust the requirements of the call guidelines to local civil society scene and to set criteria appropriate to local CSOs.</p> <p>Partnerships with international and European-based NGOs (as co-applicant for example) can be envisaged.</p> <p>EU delegations are encouraged to launch, as much as possible, at least the publication of the call for proposals itself in local languages to ensure that local CSOs can apply.</p>
<p>Assumptions</p>		
<p>EUDs are in a position to publish calls for proposals or channel financing to civil society.</p> <p>Given the sensitivity of the implementation of this action in some countries, EUDs are able to guarantee the security of local partners/applicants,</p>		

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

The CBSS is a long-established element of the European Union’s human rights and democracy support under its external action and has been built on experience with CBSS under the EIDHR Strategies 2014-2017, 2007-2013 and with the micro-project facilities under the previous European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights.

The final report of the 2017 external mid-term evaluation of the EIDHR highlighted that the CBSS constitutes a relevant and complementary source of funding (notably to EIDHR global calls for proposals and human rights defenders schemes and to other geographic and thematic programmes) as delegations are best placed to identify the human rights and democracy challenges in their own countries. It emphasised the importance of EU delegations making full use of the flexibility and unique features of the instrument (such as the possibility to fund non-registered organisations), to address the shrinking space for civil society and support human rights and democracy where they are most at risk. HQ could play a more strategic role in that regard. Attention was also drawn to the need to broaden support to democracy, particularly with regard to political parties and parliaments.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

The issue of complementarity between geographic instruments is of particular importance in the case of CBSS. Indeed, contrary to the geographical instruments that mostly work in close cooperation with partner countries to undertake structural reforms at national level, the EIDHR provides support to civil society without government approval or buy in, in turn allowing support to politically sensitive issues (e.g. LGBTI, freedom of expression, freedom of association, business and human rights). The ability to provide support to unregistered organisations and individuals that would otherwise be precluded from receiving donor funds is equally valuable.

In addition, the worldwide focus of EIDHR not only reflects the universality of human rights, but also complements the increasing narrowing of other EU instruments and other development partners on specific regions and/or the least developed countries. Thus the EIDHR – mainly through the CBSS - is one of very few programmes able to provide support in graduated countries.

Apart from complementarity with relevant geographic interventions, the EU delegations will also ensure synergies of the CBSS with other EU programmes, especially with the Civil Society component of the Development Cooperation Instrument (CSO-LA).⁸ CSO-LA offers good opportunities for concerting effort but also risks of overlap, in particular with regard to the work on enabling environment of civil society actors and local call for proposals.

Complementarity with actions funded under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IsCP)⁹ and in particular Article 4-funded actions aimed at providing support to in-country civil society actors in conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness must also be ensured by EU delegations.

Synergies will also be sought between EIDHR-funded actions and EU humanitarian operations, as refugees and other beneficiaries of humanitarian relief are often also victims of human rights violations.

The Commission services within EU delegations will prepare their interventions and calls for proposals based on consultation with civil society organisations, Member States and other donors, ensuring complementarity and synergies with their actions.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

In line with the 2030 Agenda and the motto of leaving no-one behind, particular attention will be given to traditionally **excluded and discriminated individuals and groups**, e.g. indigenous peoples, representatives of minorities, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, refugees and migrant workers, human rights defenders (including those promoting environmental and labour rights) and LGBTI persons.

The projects funded under this action will contribute to **mainstream gender** and achieve the objectives of **gender equality** and girls' and women's empowerment in line with the EU Gender Action Plan II. This commitment will be reflected in the use of gender sensitive indicators and sex disaggregated data to the extent possible. Gender specific activities may also be funded under this action such as trainings and awareness-building activities on women's and girls' rights and international law standards. The monitoring and evaluation system of projects shall be gender sensitive.

In line with the 2014 Tool-box "a Rights-Based Approach, encompassing all human rights, for EU development cooperation"¹⁰ and the respective Council Conclusions, all actions shall be designed and implemented following **a rights-based approach**¹¹, encompassing all human rights, as detailed in section 1.1.1. of this action document.

⁸ Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020

⁹ Regulation (EU) No 230/2014 of 11 March 2014 establishing an instrument contributing to stability and peace

¹⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/rights-based-approach-development-cooperation_en

¹¹ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/rights-based-approach-development-cooperation_en

In line with the Digital for Development Staff Working Document¹² and the EU Consensus for Development, deployment of digital tools for the protection and promotion of human rights will be encouraged whenever appropriate.

These above crosscutting issues may also be the main target of a given action.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives/results

The **overall objective** of this action is to support and strengthen civil society organisations, democracy activists and human rights defenders working on critical human rights and democracy issues in third countries.

The **specific objective** is to: (as further detailed in section 1.1.3 of this action document):

- Support human rights defenders and civil society in countering **systematic, widespread, and gross human rights violations and attacks against fundamental freedoms**.

A focused attention shall be given to addressing the shrinking civic, democratic and civil society space and most marginalised, stigmatised and isolated human rights defenders, such as LGBTI or indigenous peoples' rights activists, and organisations working on the most sensitive human rights issues in the country of intervention.

- Support civil society in furthering **EU human rights priorities** in third countries

This objective will tackle fight against death penalty and torture/ill treatment, fight against discrimination in all its forms with a focus on women and the most vulnerable groups (LGBTI, indigenous peoples, children, migrants/refugees/IDPs, stateless people and other discriminated groups and minorities), promotion of freedom of religion or belief, economic, social and cultural rights (including the responsibility of business), fight against impunity and promotion of accountability, and upholding of international humanitarian law and the responsibility to protect.

- Support civil society in strengthening **democracy** in third countries

This objective will include promotion and protection of fundamental freedoms (in particular freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association), actions aiming at strengthening pluralism in political life and fostering the participation of citizens in decision-making, actions tending to increase accountability, oversight and transparency, and civil society activities related to elections and follow-up to election observation missions.

The action will aim at achieving the following **results**:

- An estimated number of 850 projects targeting the three priority areas detailed above will be supported worldwide over the period 2018-2020;

¹² Commission Staff Working Document: Digital4Development: mainstreaming digital technologies and services into EU Development Policy; SWD(2017) 157 of 2.5.2017; https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/swd-digital4development_part1_v3.pdf

- Capacities of local civil society organisations active in the human rights and democratic governance areas will be strengthened
- Country-specific human rights and democracy related issues will be addressed at the local level, with a focus on the most sensitive aspects by making full use of the EIDHR added value in complementarity to other instruments
- The civic and political space in partner countries will become more resilient

All actions will be in line with the objectives 1, 2 and 3 of the EIDHR Regulation 2014-2020 and the EIDHR Multiannual Indicative Programme 2018-2020, with the local priorities set under the Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategies, with the EU human rights guidelines, and in respect of the rights-based approach encompassing all human rights.

This programme is relevant for Agenda 2030. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG 16: promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, but also promotes progress towards SDG 5: achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

4.2 Main activities

- EU delegations will launch and process approximately 300 EIDHR CBSS calls for proposals, using to the extent possible the existing flexibilities of the EIDHR, such as pooling of funds to reduce transactions costs;
- In situations where calls for proposals are impossible or difficult to organise given the local context, EU delegations will directly award contracts in support of the objectives of this action in line with EU rules and procedures.

While the type of activities in support to the above priority areas are to be proposed by local civil society, the following non-exhaustive list of examples can be given:

- Advocacy, lobbying and development of strategies by civil society organisations to push for legal reform, to influence policy-making, or to counter restrictions imposed by States on CSOs and other non-state actors;
- Provision of psychosocial, medical, legal assistance and any other type of support ;
- Facilitating dialogue processes and mediation activities (such as inter-community, inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogues);
- Documenting and reporting on cases of human rights violations;
- Promoting the signature, ratification and the effective implementation of the relevant international and regional human rights instruments, including fundamental ILO Conventions;
- Monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the international human rights instruments that the country has ratified;
- Supporting the collection of appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable governments to formulate and implement policies
- Capacity-building through trainings of civil society organisations active in the human rights/democracy field and of human rights defenders;
- Awareness-raising and communication campaigns to inform on specific democracy/human rights issues;
- Ensuring access to remedy for victims, accountability and prosecution of perpetrators;

- Promoting inclusive and strategic partnerships, networking and cooperation with CSOs and other relevant stakeholders or among CSOs;
- Promoting accountability through CSO's activities to monitor and reform the electoral process, including implementation of electoral observers recommendations;
- Supporting CSOs and media in promoting accountability and transparency at national and local level;
- Promoting greater contact and cooperation between civic and political actors, including fostering of structured dialogue mechanisms
- Promoting the inclusion of women, youth, and other marginalised groups into formal and informal decision making structures, including the political party system
- Capacity building of civic and political actors to develop responsive policy platforms, adequately representing citizen's interests
- Sub-granting to local registered and non-registered civil society organisations.

Activities will be designed and implemented following a gender sensitive approach and the data collected during the implementation of each project will be sex-disaggregated (refer to section 3.3. of this action document).

Projects implemented by CSOs located in another country may also be funded under this action. In this case, the EU delegation concerned will have to justify why this approach is relevant and Headquarters' endorsement is to be sought on a case-by-case basis.

4.3. Intervention logic

The intervention logic for this action is to allow the implementation of the EIDHR to be as close as possible to the local human rights and democracy issues and challenges faced on the field and to respond to them in the most effective, efficient and complementary manner. This is why the decision was made to decentralise a substantial part of EIDHR funding to the level of EU Delegations.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.1 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 90 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

5.3 Implementation modalities

Both in indirect and direct management, the Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review

procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures affecting the respective countries of operation¹³.

5.3.1. Grants: call for proposals (direct management)

The grants foreseen under this action shall be awarded using the standard EU call for proposals process.

(a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities and expected results

The objectives of the grants should be in line with the objective indicated in this action document in section 4.1.

The detailed specific objectives, fields of intervention, priorities and expected results will be defined in the Guidelines for grant applicants drafted for each individual country's call for proposals.

CBSS implementation should be carried out using to the extent possible the existing flexibility provisions of the EIDHR, such as financial support to third parties (to smaller local CSOs), eligibility of non-registered CSOs and natural persons, confidentiality of projects, pooling of funds, direct grants in exceptional and duly justified cases.

EU Delegations can launch calls for proposals by pooling annual allocations. Pooling of funds is authorised subject to the availability of the 2019 and 2020 budget allocations under the condition that a suspensive clause is included in the Guidelines for grant applicants of the call for proposals. In such case, no prior authorisation from headquarters is required.

(b) Eligibility conditions

The eligibility criteria for applicants are defined in the Article 11.2 of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action (CIR)¹⁴.

The applicants will be primarily civil society organisations (as defined in the Art. 11.2 of CIR) with no geographical requirements set a priori. Given the nature of the objectives, however, the actions' focus will preferably be on in-country civil society organisations.

In addition, public-sector non-profit agencies, institutions and organisations (including in particular National Human Rights Institutions), international inter-governmental organisation and national parliamentary bodies will be judged eligible when this is necessary to achieve the objectives of the EIDHR.

Natural persons and entities without legal personality are eligible for funding under the CBSS in exceptional and duly justified cases, when this is necessary to achieve the objectives of the instrument.

The indicative maximum duration of grants (its implementation period) will be 36 months.

Grants awarded under the CBSS scheme are not expected to fall below EUR 60 000, except in duly justified cases.

¹³ https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/restrictive_measures-2017-04-26-clean.pdf

¹⁴ Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014, OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 95

(c) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under this action is 95%.

If full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100 %. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative timing to launch the calls.

The timing of each call for proposals is to be decided by the EU delegation concerned. Attention should be paid to the deadline for contracting the EIDHR CBSS funds (N+1).

5.3.2 Grant: direct award (direct management)

a) Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities and expected results

See in sections 4.1 and 5.3.1. above.

b) Justification of a direct award

Under the responsibility of the authorising officer by delegation, the recourse to a direct award without a call for proposals may be justified:

- (a) for the purposes of humanitarian aid and civil protection operations or for crisis management aid¹⁵
- (b) in other exceptional and duly substantiated emergencies;
- (c) to bodies with a de jure or de facto monopoly, duly substantiated in the award decision;
- (d) to bodies identified by the basic act on which this decision is based, and on condition that the project does not fall under the scope of a call for proposals;
- (e) for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals.

c) Eligibility conditions

The eligibility criteria for applicants are defined in the Article 11.2 of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action (CIR)¹⁶.

¹⁵ Crisis situations in third countries shall be understood as situations of immediate or imminent danger threatening to escalate into armed conflict or to destabilise the country. Crisis situations shall also be understood as situations caused by natural disasters, manmade crisis such as wars and other conflicts or extraordinary circumstances having comparable effects related inter alia to climate change, environmental degradation, privation of access to energy and natural resources or extreme poverty

¹⁶ Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014, OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 95

The applicants will be primarily civil society organisations (as defined in the Art. 11.2 of CIR) with no geographical requirements set a priori. Given the nature of the objectives, however, the actions' focus will preferably be on in-country civil society organisations.

In addition, public-sector non-profit agencies, institutions and organisations (including the National Human Rights Institutions), international inter-governmental organisation and national parliamentary bodies will be judged eligible when this is necessary to achieve the objectives of the EIDHR.

Natural persons and entities without legal personality are eligible for funding under the CBSS in exceptional and duly justified cases, when this is necessary to achieve the objectives of the instrument.

The indicative maximum duration of grants (its implementation period) will be 36 months.

Grants awarded under the CBSS scheme are not expected to fall below EUR 60 000, except in duly justified cases.

d) Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The essential award criteria are the relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the EIDHR; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

e) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under this action is 95%.

If full funding is essential for the action to be carried out, the maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100 %. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management

f) Indicative trimester to contact the potential direct grant beneficiary

Attention should be paid to the deadline for contracting (N+1).

5.3.3 Procurement (direct management) – Support Measures

The Commission, through the EU delegations, will be able to spend up to 10 % of the respective annual operational country allocation on support measures accompanying the implementation of EIDHR country-based support schemes to cover, *inter alia*, information sessions on calls for proposals, meetings with CSOs active in human rights, mapping of CSOs, outreach and awareness raising activities, studies, seminars, trainings (including on Right-Based Approach to Development), evaluations, audits, publications, visibility of projects, exchanges of best practices, actions to ensure the sustainability of projects and other administrative and technical assistance expenditure to contribute to the sound management of the programme, the achievement of its objectives and expected results and to the measurement, analysis and reporting on its impact. This 10% can also be used to support the advocacy by Human Rights activists or defenders including their capacity to attend and provide input to meetings out of the country as well as to support non-EIDHR human right related activities.

The EU delegations could also use part of the Support Measures allocation to support the beneficiaries of the local calls for proposals or to increase visibility of the instrument.

Attention should be paid to the deadline for contracting (N+1).

5.4 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 shall apply.

5.5 Indicative budget

Module	Amount in EUR thousands	Indicative third party contribution, in EUR
4.3.1. – Grants	243,710,000	tbd
4.3.2. – Procurement	27,078,000	
Total	270,788,000	tbd

The indicative list of countries and allocations per country for the period 2018-2020 are in the Annex of this Action Document. This list can be adapted pending the results of calls of proposals or the evolution of country situations. Any remaining balance from one country allocation may be reallocated to another country, preferably within the same region.

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

The CBSS is managed at country level by the European Commission through EU delegations. Each EU delegation is responsible to manage the EIDHR allocations received for the relevant country, identify the most appropriate objectives and priority issues for its use, in line with this action document, the EIDHR regulation, EIDHR multiannual indicative programme 2018-2020, and as far as possible, with its Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy. It shall draft the guidelines for grant applicants, manage EIDHR CBSS calls for proposals, contract and monitor the selected projects.

Even though the management of CBSS is decentralised, the Headquarters play an important role in the process, being responsible for the overall management of the EIDHR. The Headquarters ensures that the implementation of the CBSS is in line with the strategy and the objectives of the EIDHR and this action document. To this end, EU delegations shall consult the EC Headquarters:

- on the CBSS annual priorities
- draft guidelines for applicants before their publication
- intended direct awards of grants as further detailed in section 5.3.2.
- decision to fund regional projects

The Headquarters also provides other ad hoc assistance to the EU Delegations as needed.

DG DEVCO holds the responsibility for the reallocation of unused funds at the end of each budget year.

Exceptionally, and after the agreement/at the request of the relevant EU Delegation, some CBSS calls for proposals may be launched and managed by the Headquarters.

5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of the projects resulting from the calls for proposals or direct awards will be a continuous process and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) or the list of result indicators (for budget support). It should also reflect how the action contributed to gender equality. The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

5.8 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, an evaluation will not be carried out for this action as a whole.

However, the individual action components, i.e. projects implemented under CBSS by EU delegations, will undergo evaluations via independent consultants as deemed necessary by the EU delegations in charge (be it evaluations by the implementing partner or contracted by the EU delegation).

In case a mid-term evaluation is foreseen: It will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to finalisation of the project.

In case a final or ex-post evaluation is foreseen: It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the future calls for proposals under the CBSS action.

In case an evaluation is not foreseen, the Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

5.9 Audit

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the audits shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

5.10 Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation and supported with the budget indicated in section 5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

The visibility requirements of some of the projects financed under this Action Document will be removed or limited due to the total or partial confidentiality of the Action, and the beneficiaries may not be requested to submit a communication plan. The beneficiaries will comply with the rules on visibility to the best possible extent.

APPENDIX:**Indicative EIDHR country allocations 2018, 2019, 2020**

Country	Proposed allocation 2018	Proposed allocation 2019	Proposed allocation 2020	Total 2018-2020
Albania	600,000	600,000	600,000	1,800,000
Bosnia Herzegovina	800,000	900,000	1,100,000	2,800,000
FYROM	500,000	500,000	700,000	1,700,000
Kosovo*	500,000	500,000	700,000	1,700,000
Montenegro	600,000	500,000	700,000	1,800,000
Serbia	900,000	900,000	1,000,000	2,800,000
Turkey	3,100,000	3,200,000	3,300,000	9,600,000
Regional Total	7,000,000	7,100,000	8,100,000	22,200,000
				8%
Armenia	800,000	800,000	1,100,000	2,700,000
Azerbaijan	1,000,000	900,000	1,100,000	3,000,000
Belarus	1,000,000	900,000	1,100,000	3,000,000
Ukraine	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,400,000	3,600,000
Moldova	800,000	700,000	900,000	2,400,000
Georgia	800,000	700,000	900,000	2,400,000
Russia	3,000,000	3,100,000	3,200,000	9,300,000
Egypt	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	3,000,000
Jordan	1,000,000	500,000	500,000	2,000,000
Lebanon	500,000	600,000	700,000	1,800,000
Libya	600,000	700,000	800,000	2,100,000
Morocco	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	3,000,000
Syria	1,500,000	1,600,000	1,700,000	4,800,000
Tunisia	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	3,000,000
Algeria	500,000	300,000	400,000	1,200,000
Israel	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,400,000	3,800,000
West Bank & Gaza	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,500,000	4,100,000
Regional Total	18,100,000	17,400,000	19,700,000	55,200,000
				20%
Argentina	825,000	800,000	850,000	2,475,000
Brazil	1,350,000	1,350,000	1,350,000	4,050,000
Bolivia	650,000	650,000	700,000	2,000,000
Costa Rica		300,000	400,000	700,000
Colombia	1,425,000	1,200,000	1,275,000	3,900,000

Chile	300,000	300,000	300,000	900,000
Ecuador	400,000	400,000	550,000	1,350,000
Salvador	800,000	800,000	950,000	2,550,000
Guatemala	850,000	850,000	850,000	2,550,000
Honduras	800,000	700,000	1,200,000	2,700,000
Mexico	1,700,000	1,500,000	2,200,000	5,400,000
Nicaragua	900,000	900,000	900,000	2,700,000
Panama		300,000	400,000	700,000
Paraguay	500,000	500,000	500,000	1,500,000
Peru	850,000	800,000	900,000	2,550,000
Uruguay		400,000	400,000	800,000
Venezuela	500,000	500,000	500,000	1,500,000
Regional Total	11,850,000	12,250,000	14,225,000	38,325,000
				14%
Barbados	400,000	400,000	400,000	1,200,000
Belize		330,000		330,000
Cuba	375,000	375,000	375,000	1,125,000
Dominican Republic	700,000	700,000	700,000	2,100,000
Guyana	350,000	350,000	350,000	1,050,000
Haiti	800,000	800,000	800,000	2,400,000
Jamaica	450,000	450,000	450,000	1,350,000
Surinam		300,000		300,000
Trinidad and Tobago		360,000		360,000
Regional Total	3,075,000	4,065,000	3,075,000	10,215,000
				4%
Afghanistan	1,200,000	600,000	1,800,000	3,600,000
Bangladesh	800,000	800,000	800,000	2,400,000
Burma/ Myanmar	1,200,000	800,000	1,000,000	3,000,000
Cambodia	1,400,000	1,000,000	2,100,000	4,500,000
China	950,000	950,000	950,000	2,850,000
India	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	3,000,000
Indonesia	900,000	850,000	850,000	2,600,000
Laos	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	3,000,000
Malaysia	300,000	300,000	300,000	900,000
Mongolia	300,000	250,000	200,000	750,000
Nepal	700,000	700,000	600,000	2,000,000
Pakistan	800,000	800,000	800,000	2,400,000
Philippines	1,500,000	1,000,000	2,000,000	4,500,000
Sri Lanka and Maldives	1,200,000	1,000,000	1,400,000	3,600,000
Thailand	500,000	500,000	500,000	1,500,000
Vietnam	1,000,000	800,000	1,200,000	3,000,000
Fiji	500,000		500,000	1,000,000
Papua New Guinea	350,000		650,000	1,000,000
Solomon	600,000		600,000	1,200,000
Timor Leste	600,000	600,000	600,000	1,800,000
Regional Total	16,800,000	12,950,000	18,850,000	48,600,000
				18%
Kazakhstan	600,000		500,000	1,100,000
Kyrgyzstan	900,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,900,000
Tajikistan	800,000		800,000	1,600,000

Turkmenistan		100,000		100,000
Uzbekistan	800,000	800,000	800,000	2,400,000
Regional Total	3,100,000	1,900,000	3,100,000	8,100,000
				3%
Iraq	400,000	400,000	400,000	1,200,000
Yemen	1,100,000	1,000,000	1,200,000	3,300,000
Regional Total	1,500,000	1,400,000	1,600,000	4,500,000
				2%
Angola	900,000	900,000	900,000	2,700,000
Benin	800,000		800,000	1,600,000
Botswana	300,000	300,000	300,000	900,000
Burkina Faso		750,000	750,000	1,500,000
Burundi	800,000	800,000	800,000	2,400,000
Cameroun	900,000	900,000	900,000	2,700,000
Cap Verde		225,000		225,000
Chad	900,000	900,000	900,000	2,700,000
Comoros	300,000		300,000	600,000
Congo Brazzaville	430,000	1,040,000	1,080,000	2,550,000
Cote d'Ivoire	900,000	900,000	900,000	2,700,000
Djibouti	300,000	300,000	300,000	900,000
DRC	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	5,100,000
Eritrea	350,000	350,000	400,000	1,100,000
Ethiopia	200,000	800,000	1,000,000	2,000,000
Gabon	300,000	150,000	0	450,000
Gambia		200,000		200,000
Ghana	1,000,000		1,000,000	2,000,000
Guinea	300,000	300,000	300,000	900,000
Guinea-Bissau	300,000	300,000	300,000	900,000
Equatorial Guinea	350,000	350,000	350,000	1,050,000
Kenya	900,000	900,000	900,000	2,700,000
Lesotho			800,000	800,000
Liberia	750,000	750,000	750,000	2,250,000
Madagascar		600,000	600,000	1,200,000
Malawi	350,000	350,000	350,000	1,050,000
Mali	1,000,000	500,000	1,500,000	3,000,000
Mauritania	600,000	600,000	600,000	1,800,000
Mauritius	50,000	224,000		274,000
Mozambique		1,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000
Namibia		600,000		600,000
Niger	600,000	300,000	300,000	1,200,000
Nigeria	600,000			600,000
Central African Rep.	700,000	700,000	700,000	2,100,000
Rwanda	620,000	620,000	620,000	1,860,000
Sao Tome-et-Principe	120,000	0	120,000	240,000
Senegal	300,000	300,000	300,000	900,000
Seychelles		200,000		200,000
Sierra Leone	500,000	600,000	500,000	1,600,000
Somalia		1,500,000	1,500,000	3,000,000
South Africa	800,000	800,000	800,000	2,400,000
South Sudan	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	3,000,000

Sudan	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	3,000,000
Swaziland	480,000	450,000	444,000	1,374,000
Tanzania	900,000	900,000	900,000	2,700,000
Togo		500,000	500,000	1,000,000
Uganda	975,000	950,000	900,000	2,825,000
Zambia		1,200,000	600,000	1,800,000
Zimbabwe		1,500,000	1,500,000	3,000,000
Regional Total	23,275,000	29,209,000	31,164,000	83,648,000
				31%
TOTALS	84,700,000	86,274,000	99,814,000	270,788,000

* 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.