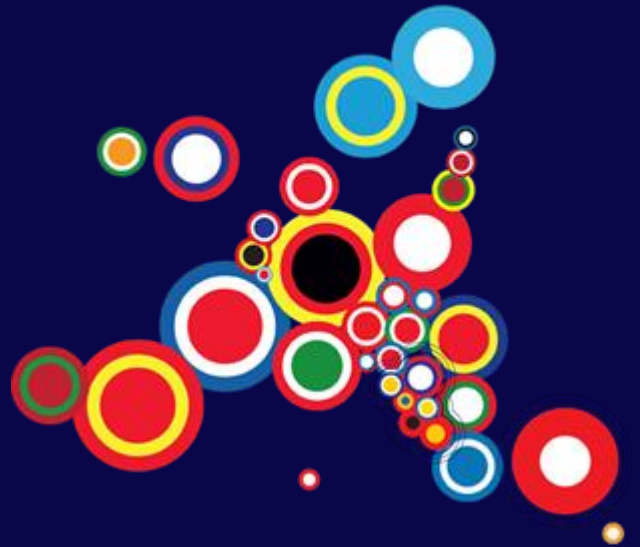




INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) 2014-2020

Kosovo*

Civil Society Facility and Media Programme 2016- 2017



Action summary

The Action will promote an enabling environment for civic engagement by strengthening capacities of civil society and media for their active participation in Kosovo's reforms. Through broadening and deepening the basis for civic engagement, these reforms can be better understood and supported by society as a whole. Ongoing efforts strengthening capacities for policy dialogue and cooperation between government and civil society will be expanded to the grassroots to involve also municipalities and local authorities.

A more participatory democracy in Kosovo will be achieved by strengthening strategic and operational capacities of grassroots organisations and media to play their role as watch dogs for enhancing accountability in the political process. A particular focus is given to representative organisations promoting empowerment and inclusion of specific vulnerable or disadvantaged groups with gender equality and environmental protection as cross-cutting priority themes.

* 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

Action Identification	
Action Programme Title	Civil Society Facility & Media Programme for Western Balkans and Turkey 2016-2017
Action Title	Civil Society Facility action for Kosovo 2016- 2017
Action ID	IPA 2016/038-960.05/CSF & Media/Kosovo IPA 2017/038-961.05/CSF & Media/Kosovo
Sector Information	
IPA II Sector	<i>Democracy and Governance; sub-sector civil society</i>
DAC Sector	<i>15150 – Democratic participation and civil society</i>
Budget	
Total cost	2016: EUR 3,67 million 2017: EUR 5,6 million
EU contribution	2016: EUR 3,36 million 2017: EUR 5,16 million
Budget line(s)	22.020401
Management and Implementation	
Management mode	Direct management
<i>Direct management:</i> EU Delegation <i>Indirect management:</i> National authority or other entrusted entity	EU Office in Kosovo
Implementation responsibilities	N/A
Location	
Zone benefiting from the action	Kosovo
Specific implementation area(s)	N/A
Timeline	
Final date for concluding Financing Agreement(s) with IPA II beneficiary	N/A
Final date for concluding delegation agreements under indirect management	N/A
Final date for concluding procurement and grant contracts	IPA 2016: 31 December 2017 IPA 2017: 31 December 2018
Final date for operational implementation	IPA 2016: 31 December 2021 IPA 2017: 31 December 2022

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

1. RATIONALE

PROBLEM AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

Empowering and activating civil society participation for supporting the European perspective of beneficiaries under the IPA II programme continues to be an important priority in Kosovo. We find a situation, where the policy and legal framework has been and still is being strengthened in all areas relevant for EU accession. At the same time implementation of the new laws and policies is lagging behind and capacities and awareness about the reforms need to be further consolidated not only within the government institutions but also in society as a whole.

Civil society's contribution to building a democratic environment in Kosovo presents yet a mixed picture and there is a need to support the sector by broadening and deepening the base for civic engagement beyond traditional actors in the centres and continue building capacity for civil society and governmental cooperation also at municipal and grass-roots level. The capacities of CSOs as independent and accountable actors that can fully realise their potential as watchdogs of policy formulation and execution need to be developed further. Especially disadvantaged and vulnerable groups remain under risk of being excluded from shaping the policy agenda as they still face difficulties making their voices heard effectively.

According to official data, there are more than 8,000 civil society organisations (CSOs) in Kosovo, but only about 10 – 15 % are reported to be active. A recent assessment of the civil society sector¹ found that overall a good basis for civic engagement at all levels of government has been developed. Lagging behind is the actual utilisation of the new policies and laws, although first good practices are being established. The landscape of civil society organisations consists of rather small organisations, which are often dependent on short-term funding from a single donor. CSOs are mainly ethnically exclusive and there is very little cooperation between ethnically divided NGOs in Kosovo. The administrative, financial, and managerial capacities of civil society organisations are very uneven, with few, very well established and active organisations in Pristina, but much weaker capacities at municipal level. Also cooperation between the authorities and civil society organisation remains uneven.

More particularly the Civil society needs assessment in January 2014 identified as key challenges which need to be addressed CSOs' internal governance, profiling (building expertise) and networking, and constituency building and visibility. Many NGOs remain undetermined in the expertise in order to be able to cover a wide spectrum, usually to meet different priorities of different donors. Concerning the constituency building and visibility, relations between CSOs and their constituencies are often unclear or inexistent, as civil society agendas do not necessarily reflect the needs of society or their constituencies.

Grass-root organisations are much closer to the community, but far from donors' financial range and lacking the capacity to design and manage projects in line with donors' requirements, which puts them in an unfavourable position as far as financial sustainability is concerned. In terms of visibility, civil society presence in media is rather low, while communication and understanding between the two sectors is vague and needs to be enhanced.

Over the past years the cultural sector at municipal level has been growing with support of EU and other partners and provided new important initiatives for citizen's expression of views and participating in public life, fostering thereby a public discourse on many issues at the heart of the European agenda. Kosovo has however not been included in the Creative Europe programme for 2014 to 2020.

Over the past three years, Kosovo institutions have taken a number of important steps to systematically improve dialogue and cooperation with civil society: The Government has adopted the Strategy for cooperation with civil society 2013 - 2017, which aims at establishing structured cooperation mechanisms between the Government of Kosovo and civil society. The Office of the Prime Minister/Office for Good Governance (OGG) and CiviKos, a civil society organisations' platform, are mandated to jointly coordinate

¹ Kosovo Needs Assessment Report, January 2014: http://www.tacso.org/doc/nar_ko2014april.pdf , referred to as CSO needs assessment

the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan. Also the Assembly has adopted the Strategy for Information and Public Relations 2012-2014, which serves as a basis for further improvement and institutionalization of the CSOs inclusion in the work of the Assembly. The Assembly has also approved the partnership declaration with civil society which should lead to an increased involvement of CSOs in law-making and in monitoring the Government. According to the 2014 CSO needs assessment, local governments have yet to develop strategies for structured engagement with CSOs, but even the current basic legislation, which provides for opportunities for civic engagement, is not really being utilised by the actors at the municipal and grass-roots level.

Thus, whereas the Government has expressed commitment in advancing cooperation with Civil Society through the Strategy, the actual implementation is still in a very early phase. A lack of institutionalized cooperation mechanisms which would regulate the inclusion of civil society in decision-making processes and the frameworks for public financing of civil society were identified as priority issues to be developed at central level. Under the Civil Society Facility for 2014/2015 a comprehensive programme to improve the environment for civic engagement by strengthening government and civil society capacities for a structured cooperation as well as strengthening the capacity of CSOs as identified by the needs assessment has been initiated through a set of actions.

There are several donors supporting civil society sector in Kosovo (USAID, SIDA, SWISS Cooperation, KFOS, etc.) in addition to the European Commission: their support is more targeted in terms of Sector (Rule of Law, European integration, support to RAE communities, etc). The European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights, another EU instrument to support civil society actors, will continue to cover a broad range of issues linked to democracy and human rights, allowing relevant stakeholder to complement independently IPA assistance under the first strategic area supporting reforms in preparation for EU approximation. Bilateral assistance under IPA remains to be the instrument that is be more focused on areas which remain specific challenges for Kosovo institutions, but the 2016/2017 civil society facility will complement AAP 2016 programmes under IPA in support of Fundamental Rights through bottom up initiatives and capacity support for representative organisations that are most under risk of being affected by discrimination.

Kosovo's media landscape features independent dailies and several broadcasters. Sustainable funding is an issue for the public broadcaster which leaves it vulnerable to political influence, especially at local level. Freedom of media and expression is guaranteed in the Constitution, but effective implementation remains a challenge due the fragmented and ineffective legislative and institutional framework. Thus the overall environment is not fully conducive to the full exercising of freedom of expression, there are cases of hate speech, libelling, defamation and impacts on the privacy of individuals.

In line with both the EU and Kosovo's strategic priorities the Civil Society & Media programme for 2014 and 2015 foster also cooperation between CSOs and government by working with the Office of Good Governance within the Prime Minister's Office; provides long-term support to promote strategic partnerships and aims at increasing advocacy capacities and profilisation; it reaches out to grass-root organisations through increased sub-granting and capacity building of grass-roots organisations but also local authorities to engage in policy dialogue and enhance social accountability on local level.

The 2016/2017 programme will build especially on this approach to broaden and deepening the basis and extend the structured cooperation support to the municipalities and grass-roots level along two strategic priorities: Civil society and public institutions work in partnership for development and execution of public policies, including specifically grass-roots organisations and local authorities / municipalities.

At the same time civil society and media are able to monitor public institution independently and fulfil their roles as independent watchdogs and secondly continue strengthening institutional capacities to promote a civic sector that is competent, transparent, effective and accountable to its constituencies and open to engagement of new initiatives and actors.

OUTLINE OF IPA II ASSISTANCE

The Action design is based on the **DG Enlargement Guidelines for EU support to civil society 2014-2020** and the **Civil society needs assessment** conducted by TACSO, Kosovo Office, in January 2014. It also takes account of the **Indicative Strategy Paper for Kosovo 2014-2020**, the most recent **Report for Kosovo**, the

Government's Strategy for cooperation with civil society 2013-2017, and the government capacity needs assessment conducted by TACSO. All documents identify the need for strengthening the structured cooperation between public institutions and civil society in Kosovo and building capacities for engagement of civil society in policy reform at central but also municipal level and the grass-roots².

As the Strategy Paper for Kosovo highlights, "an empowered civil society can play an important role in ensuring that the principles of human dignity, freedom, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities are upheld in practice. It is also a crucial component of any democracy. The involvement of civil society contributes to a deepening of citizens' understanding of the reforms that need to be completed in order for Kosovo to move forward on its European path. This can help ensure that it is not just a government-driven exercise and stimulate a balanced public debate, which is crucial to achieving further progress." However, as is also recognised in the Strategy and follow up implementation reports, "to date, the involvement of civil society in policy formulation and monitoring in Kosovo remains limited".

The DG Enlargement "Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-2020" directly address the need for continued political and financial engagement with civil society in the EU agenda for enlargement. The guidelines specify: "Support to civil society within the enlargement policy should be focused on enabling and stimulating participatory democracy. This should be reflected in two main goals: achieving an environment that is conducive to civil society activities and building the capacity of CSOs to be effective and accountable independent actors."

Also the 2015 European Commission Report on Kosovo finds a mixed picture: "Some progress was made in improving cooperation between the government and civil society. However, input from civil society needs to be systematically sought and followed up. The government's strategy for cooperation with civil society needs to be fully implemented and monitored effectively. Additional measures should be taken to ensure that civil society organisations are properly included in public consultations. Public funding for civil society organisations has to be provided in a transparent way using clearly defined criteria."

On central level the main pillar of cooperation between the Government and Civil Society in the future is the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society that was adopted by the Government in July 2013, and sets the following strategic objectives:

- 1) Ensure strong participation of Civil Society in drafting and implementation of policies and legislation,
- 2) Building a system to contracting public services to Civil Society organizations,
- 3) Building a system and defined criteria to support CSOs financially,
- 4) Promoting an integrated approach to volunteering development.

With financial support by the EU and other partners, the Office of Good Governance and CiviKos Platform jointly prepared the regulation that sets the rules and procedures, organization, scope of work and functions of the Council, as well as the selection process – The Mandate of the Joint Advisory Council, which was approved by Government in late January 2014. Under AAP 2014/2015 a designated Technical Assistance is foreseen to support to the government in drafting policy documents and further consolidating mechanisms necessary for operationalisation and implementation of the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society and to build an effective system for public financial support to Civil Society Organisations.

Under the AAP 2016/2017 cooperation between government and civil society will be further expanded to the grassroots, promoting a structured cooperation at municipal and local level. In order to ensure coherent implementation of the Strategy the second priority of the CSO facility 2016/2017 support is to strategically build capacities of civil society organisations, especially at the grass-roots, to foster social cohesion by supporting those organisations representing disadvantaged and vulnerable groups like the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, but also organisations working for the rights of people with disabilities; strengthening representation of groups under risk of exclusion or under-representation like persons of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex community (LGBTI) and empowerment of women's rights groups and also promote dialogue among Serb and Albanian communities. A number of special grant schemes will be tailored to the needs of these specific beneficiaries.

² http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/documents/creative-europe-flyer_web_en.pdf

Some activities proposed for the AAP 2016 / 2017 are directly linked to the AAP 2014 / 2015, for example continuing the operational support to organisation and invest in overall capacity development by continued support of the sector through resources centres, which will take on activities that previously were funded under TACSO. This continued support will be based on a robust process of performance assessments.

This longer term approach linking the two programming periods reflects also the commitment of the MIP 2014 to 2020 for Kosovo which provides that the EU "will use an appropriate mix of funding instruments to respond to different types of CSOs needs and contexts", recognising that only a longer term strategic and comprehensive approach that is tailored to the specific needs of the beneficiary can lead to sustainable strengthening of the involvement of civil society in the democratic reforms in Kosovo to move forward on its European path.

RELEVANCE WITH THE IPA II STRATEGY PAPER AND OTHER KEY REFERENCES

DG Enlargement "Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-2020" provides necessary basis for continued political and financial engagement with civil society under the EU agenda. Further to this, the Government's Strategy for cooperation with civil society also sets the grounds for a comprehensive strategic approach to supporting civil society in Kosovo.

Freedom of expression is a key indicator of an IPA beneficiary's readiness to become part of the EU. It implies a commitment to democracy, good governance and political accountability. The DG Enlargement "Guidelines for EU support to media freedom and media integrity in enlargement countries, 2014-2020" provide a results framework and indicators for addressing this complex policy challenge.

LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

It is too early to draw lessons from the CSO Facility 2014/2015. In the course of implementation of previous 2011-2013 CSF programme, a number of lessons have been learned:

- Mandatory partnerships with CSOs, preferably grass-root organisations from other municipalities/communities, proved to be useful in reaching out to smaller organisations with less experience in implementing EU funded actions, but understandably to a limited extent only.
- Sub-granting proved to be the most efficient model for reaching out to local grass-root organisations, where continuous guidance and presence in the field of the main grantee is essential in order to ensure proper implementation of the sub-grants, and where English is not required to be the main contractual language.
- The absorption capacities of the CSOs in Kosovo are generally limited. Lower size grants would address the issue, but would likely impede the efficiency on the side of the EU Office due to its limited human resources capacities. Instead, and in line with the DG Enlargement "Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-2020", sub-granting on a larger scale, where bigger size grants are awarded for the redistribution through small grants, could be a way to tackle the issue.
- The duration of actions between 18 and 24 months proved to be insufficient in some cases, as some types of actions require longer implementation period to achieve sustainable results. This could be addressed by increasing the duration to the limits applicable under the respective legal decisions, or introducing the 2 plus 2 years model with second 2 years renewable through 2015 allocation, conditional on the outcome of a mandatory review process.

2. INTERVENTION LOGIC

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX

OVERALL OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	
To strengthen participatory democracy and the EU integration process in the Western Balkans and Turkey by empowering civil society to actively take part in decision making and by stimulating an enabling legal and financial environment for civil society and pluralistic media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality assessment of existing legislation and policy framework Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for cooperation between CSOs/media and public Institutions 	Independent assessments by IO and CSOs Progress reports	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
To stimulate a participatory democracy in Kosovo by promoting partnership and dialogue between civil society and public institutions and by building the capacities for increasing accountability and transparency in political decision making processes.	Progress with the implementation of the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society and other strategies in the area of non-discrimination and inclusion of vulnerable groups.	European Commission report on Kosovo 3.1.a. and 3.1.b BCSDN TACSO reports	Commitment of public institutions and civil society to enhancing cooperation is maintained
RESULTS	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<p>Result 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More and stronger partnerships between civil society and public institutions, especially at the grass-roots, for development and execution of public policies; and civil society and media monitoring of performance of public institutions, fulfilling their roles as independent watchdogs. <p>Result 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened capacities of civil society, promoting a competent, transparent, effective sector that is accountable; and activating new initiatives and actors for broader civic engagement, volunteerism and self-organisation on social, environment or governance related issues, especially at municipal level and at the grassroots. 	<p>Percentage of laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively consulted with CSOs.</p> <p>"Effective consultation" implies qualitative aspects such as an established monitoring and reporting mechanism, the provision of feedback, etc.</p> <p>Public perception of importance and impact of CSOs activities</p> <p>Share of CSOs which have developed strategic plans and evaluate the results and impact of their work</p>	<p>3.1.a. and 3.1.b BCSDN</p> <p>TACSO assessment</p> <p>1.1.a. and 1.1.b. BCSDN</p> <p>1.2.a., 1.2.b. and 1.2.c. BCSDN</p> <p>1.3.a. BCSDN</p>	<p>Commitment of public institutions and civil society to engage in dialogue and cooperation is maintained and further enhanced.</p> <p>The government has a genuine interest to engage in enhanced consultation with Civil Society and to consider input received.</p> <p>Government makes available relevant financial and human resources for implementations of Strategies the related directly or involve indirectly civil society in policy reform.</p> <p>Consolidation of democratic institutions and processes continues and violent conflict is avoided.</p>

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

This Action foresees achievement of 2 results:

Result 1: Partnership and policy dialogue

Funding for 4 strategic NGO coalitions focusing on: 1) CSO inclusion in decision-making processes related to 2 priority areas of the Indicative Strategy Paper for Kosovo; 2) support advocacy efforts for gender equality and promote political participation of women (notably from vulnerable groups); 3) support to social service decentralisation and promotion of cooperation between municipalities and CSOs..

In an effort to increase access to funding particularly for grass-roots organisations, one grant scheme will focus on sub-granting to grassroots CSOs and media initiatives in their efforts to feed into decision-making.

Result 2: Capacities

In order to continue enhancing capacities, transparency, accountability and effectiveness notably of grass-roots CSOs in Kosovo a resource centre (RC) will be supported starting in mid-2017. The RC will at national and local level provide services to the civil society in Kosovo including provision of relevant information, awareness raising, capacity, advocacy, trainings for local and national CSO and support to structured policy dialogue with donors and government on issues of shared interest.

Continued support to the Operating Grants that were identified under the CSF AP 2015 through transparent call for proposals is foreseen, conditional however on independent performance assessments supporting such continuation of core funding.

In an effort to diversify the base for civic engagement further, capacity building of cultural initiatives of cultural operators will be funded through a call for proposals.

RISKS

A risk (low level) is that due to changes in the political environment independent working of civil society becomes more difficult, in which case the absorption of the allocation might be under pressure. This risk can be mitigated by close monitoring of contracting.

A risk is that capacity of civil society sector is not strong enough to absorb this substantial two year programme, but mitigating measures have been including in the programme through overall technical assistance to the civil society sector and specific technical assistance to the organisations that are receiving operating grants. In the latter case independent reviews will support the EU Office to identify if capacity of the grantees is sufficient to deal with this relatively innovative approach (core funding) to CSO funding.

Operating grants and sub granting schemes are relatively new modalities in the EU Grant programmes and should be carefully monitored to ensure that proper implementation and understanding of grantees of the applicable rules. The EU office should actively engage with civil society to understand how this implementation is experience from the beneficiary perspective, a specific assessment on this issue could be funded under the Support Measures.

CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Conditions for implementation include that 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.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Stakeholders involved in the action:

The main institutional stakeholders involved in the management and implementation process of this Action are as follows:

Civil Society Organisations

CSOs will be the main beneficiaries of the financial assistance provided through this Action. In addition to financial assistance, the EU Office in Kosovo maintains regular contact with CSOs throughout the year through (1) their contribution to the Progress Report and the sectoral Stabilisation and Association Process Dialogue meetings; and (2) in cooperation with TACSO and later the RC through their participation in the Local Advisory Group (LAG). Moreover, regular information sessions on open Calls for Proposals are organised, and close monitoring of the projects ensures the regular link to grant beneficiary organisations is maintained throughout Kosovo and their needs are known.

TACSO/ Resources Centre

The project Capacity Building of Civil Society Organisations in the Western Balkans and Turkey (TACSO) commenced operations in August 2009. The second phase of the project, which started in September 2013, offers technical assistance to civil society in seven beneficiaries, i.e. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. This phase has the duration of four years. TACSO's general objective is to strengthen the overall capacity and accountability of CSOs within IPA beneficiaries and to guarantee the quality of services of CSOs and a sustainable role of CSOs in the democratic process. The main purposes of the project are to increase and improve the capacity and actions of CSOs as well as to strengthen the role of CSOs in a participatory democracy.

Local Advisory Group

TACSO (and in future the resource centre) provides the secretariat for the Local Advisory Group (LAG), which provides a basic platform for general discussions on and consultation of the EU support to civil society, IPA Programming and the definition of priorities for civil society. LAG in Kosovo is composed of a mixed structure of civil society (including media and private sector), government and representatives of the donor community.

Office of Good Governance/Prime Minister's Office

The Government of Kosovo has approved its first Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society together with its action plan in July 2013. The main government body responsible for implementation of this strategy is the OGG, technical assistance for the implementation of the strategy is included under the CSF AAP 2015.

EU Office in Kosovo

All contracts awarded under this action will be managed by the EU Office in Kosovo as Contracting Authority.

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

The list below outlines the indicative number of grants and procedures to be launched for implementation of the programme in direct management mode.

- 1) Continued support (year 2 and 3) through 5 operating grants for 5 NGOs that have been selected through a call for proposals managed by the EU Office in 2015. They are representing or focussing on supporting specific vulnerable groups: (LGBTI, RAE, PWD, Communities (Serb/Albanian Dialogue), Environment). Technical quality support and monitoring will be provided through designated technical assistance that was identified and contracted already under AP 2015. (Operating Grants for 5 NGOs, work-programmes 2017 and 2018)
- 2) One call for proposals for action grants will be launched to support capacity building for cultural operators and directly finance their cultural activities.
- 3) One call for proposals with 2 lots will be launched to identify 2 action grants with the main purpose of sub-granting to support a) CSO and b) media initiatives at the grass-root, to promote efforts of these local organisations to feed into decision-making processes, and thereby enhance their capacities related to internal governance, strategic planning, communication, financial management, results monitoring and impact

evaluation, networking and coalition-building, and advocacy. (in total 2 action grants with main purpose of sub granting)

4) Call for Proposals with 4 lots to award 4 action grants to Strategic CSO Coalitions for: 1) + 2) Two Strategic CSO coalitions will receive grants for proposals to enhance their inclusion in decision making processes related to priority areas of the Indicative Strategy Paper for Kosovo, 3) one grant will be awarded for a proposal to support advocacy efforts for gender equality and promote political participation of women (notably from vulnerable groups), a sub-granting of approximately 60% of funds to CSOs working this area should be foreseen; and 4) one grant will be awarded to support social service decentralisation and promote cooperation between municipalities and CSOs, sub-granting of approximately 60% of funds to CSOs working this area should be foreseen (in total 4 action grants).

5) One grant contract will be awarded through an open call for proposal to provide support services for a period of 2 years as CSO Resource Centre from late 2017 onwards after TACSO operations have phased out in order to ensure continued support to civil society organisations and also to continue support for structured cooperation between civil society and the donor community, especially EU.

6) An allocation for support measures (external evaluations, assessors for evaluation of calls for proposals, information and dissemination and communication activities) is retained and can be contracted through service contracts through appropriate tender procedure as per procurement rules of the EU.

4. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

METHODOLOGY FOR MONITORING (AND EVALUATION)

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

In line with the DG Enlargement "Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-2020", the European Commission is developing a set of objectives, results and indicators for EU support to civil society which will allow for the measurement of progress at beneficiary level as well as across the enlargement region, including also from a gender perspective to monitor inter alia the involvement of both women and men. The monitoring and evaluation system includes a yearly regional meeting with the involvement of CSOs to analyse the state of play and advancement towards targets.

The implementation of support to civil society should include monitoring and evaluation systems at different levels:

Activity level: The EU Office in Kosovo will be responsible for monitoring and evaluation throughout the implementation phase. Projects under all three Measures will be monitored by respective task managers. TACSO may assist these efforts with guidance and capacity building. Additionally, external contractors will be mobilised as necessary.

National/Programme level: CSOs will be involved for the yearly monitoring of indicators and results with the support of TACSO. Yearly national and regional meetings will analyse the development of the CSOs in all beneficiaries and the advancement towards the targets.

Regional/Programme level: A mid-term evaluation of the Enlargement support to CSOs in the IPA beneficiaries is foreseen to be carried out mid-way through the period (2017) to assess progress towards objectives and results as well as the continued viability of the strategy. A final evaluation of the Civil Society Facility will be commissioned at the end of the period (2020) to provide the necessary inputs for further support after the end of the current financial framework.

INDICATOR MEASUREMENT

Indicator	Description	Baseline (2013) ³	Milestone 2017	Target 2020	Source of information
<i>CSP indicator(s) – if applicable</i>					
<i>Action outcome indicator1 (Result 1 and 2)</i>	Percentage of laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively consulted with CSOs. "Effective consultation" implies qualitative aspects such as an established monitoring and reporting mechanism, the provision of feedback, etc.	N/A	More than 60% of laws/bylaws, strategies and action plans consulted with CSOs	More than 80% of laws/bylaws, strategies and action plans, and 20% of policy documents consulted with CSOs	OGG reports, monitoring mechanism (to be established) CIVIKOS reports Monitoring Matrix on Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development (BCSDN) Civil Society Facility Mid-term Evaluation
<i>Action outcome indicator2 (Result 2)</i>	Public perception of importance and impact of CSOs activities	46.5% of the general population believes that NGOs' support dealing with problems in the beneficiary	50% of the general population believes that NGOs' support dealing with problems in the beneficiary	55% of the general population believes that NGOs' support dealing with problems in the beneficiary	Progress Report Monitoring Matrix on Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development (BCSDN) Civil Society Facility Mid-term Evaluation
<i>Action outcome indicator3 (Result 2)</i>	Share of CSOs which have developed strategic plans and evaluate the results and impact of their work	66% of CSOs have developed strategic plans, 69% of CSOs evaluate projects with the purpose of establishing efficiency and drawing a lesson for further projects	70% of CSOs have developed strategic plans, 75% of CSOs evaluate projects with the purpose of establishing efficiency and drawing a lesson for further projects	73% of CSOs have developed strategic plans, 80% of CSOs evaluate projects with the purpose of establishing efficiency and drawing a lesson for further projects	Progress Report Monitoring Matrix on Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development (BCSDN) Civil Society Facility Mid-term Evaluation

³ This baseline is based on the summary baseline report provided by TACSO, with input collected from the BCSDN Monitoring Matrix and a survey provided by Ipsos; it may be subject to further revision in consultation with DG ELARG, TACSO and members of the Local Advisory Groups.

5. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (AND IF RELEVANT DISASTER RESILIENCE)

The actions to be implemented by civil society are expected to increase the awareness of the general population on the environment related issues. Action activities should be environment friendly and sensitive to specific challenges that particular community faces in terms of environment protection.

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

The design of the Action has been consulted through the Local Advisory Group of TACSO, which is composed of relevant stakeholders such as representatives of civil society, government, media and donor community, as well as with the wider civil society. Further consultations will take place during the implementation of the different components.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING

The design and implementation of the Action will ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed in the design of Measures to be undertaken, i.e. in Calls for proposals and Technical Assistance designs. Equal participation of women and men in the consultative processes and in decision making will be ensured. In this regard, equal participation of women and men will be reflected in the composition of the Local Advisory Group of TACSO, Evaluation Committees and in the teams of experts in service contracts. The different needs of women, men, girls and boys will be considered and a reasonable distribution of resources will be sought accordingly. The control of the resources should be in the hands of both women and men. The design of Measures will also take account of the Kosovo Gender Profile which was published in May 2014.

MINORITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

The constitutional framework provides for protection of linguistic rights and the action will, wherever necessary, make use of different community languages. Specific attention will be given to project proposals that target the most disadvantaged groups, including women, children, elderly people, persons with mental and/or physical disabilities, LGBT, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities and minorities. Tailored measures/positive actions will be considered to counteract the high level of discrimination these communities are exposed to.

6. SUSTAINABILITY

In order to achieve sustainability beyond the implementation period, the design of the Action will take account of the following:

- Financial assistance will be delivered in an appropriate mix of funding instruments to respond to different types of CSOs and needs in a flexible, transparent, cost-effective and results focused manner which also considers the administration burden for the EU Office. This will include: aiming for longer term contracts, recognising that capacity building and advocacy work requires time and resources; moving away from action based support to a more flexible approach that fosters partnership and coalition building; and doing more to reach out to grass-root organisations, in particular through re-granting and flexible support mechanisms to respond to their immediate needs.
- Design corresponding to needs/demands shared amongst the key beneficiaries, i.e. key stakeholders such as civil society and public institutions are consulted in the design process through the Local Advisory Group as well as through public consultation of key policy documents;
- Activities/outputs are maintained, i.e. existing and newly established mechanisms for cooperation between public institutions and civil society are used;

- Engaging key beneficiaries through different conditionalities to ensure sense of ownership and motivation, i.e. assistance to the government is conditional upon a prior strengthening of the respective human and financial resources by the government;

7. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Communication and visibility will be given high importance during the implementation of the Action.

Approximately 7 new grants are expected to be awarded. Two launch events are foreseen to take place, one per Measure, with the aim to inform public about the new actions, but also to promote the importance of supporting participatory democracy in Kosovo.

For each activity efforts must be made to ensure the visibility of the action and the EU funding. Beneficiaries will have to comply with the objectives and priorities and guarantee the visibility of the EU financing according to the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU external actions.

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

It is the responsibility of the beneficiary to keep the EU Office fully informed of the planning and implementation of the specific visibility and communication activities.