



This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 3

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2016 – Part 1 in favour of the ENI South countries

Action Document

'Empowerment of young women and men in the Neighbourhood South'

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GRANT APPLICANTS

WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012) in section 5.3.1 concerning calls for proposals and in section 5.3.2 concerning grants awarded directly without a call for proposals.

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Empowerment of young women and men in the Neighbourhood South CRIS number: ENI/2016/039-475 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	The action shall be carried out at the following location: Algeria, Egypt, Israel ¹ , Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine ² , Tunisia and Syria. and in countries neighbouring the Neighbourhood region: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mauritania, Montenegro and Turkey.
3. Programming document	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020. Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)

¹ See Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards on http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG

² This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Regional South - Objective 3: Building a Partnership with the People			
5. Amounts concerned	<p>Total estimated cost: EUR 13,000,000</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 11,290,000</p> <p>This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 1,710,000</p> <p>Budget line: 22.04.01.01</p>			
6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	<p>Project Modality</p> <p>Direct management:</p> <p>Grants – calls for proposals</p> <p>Grants – direct award</p>			
7. DAC code(s)	15150 – Democratic participation and civil society			
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 Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships				

SUMMARY

The main objective of the programme '*Empowerment of young women and men in the Neighbourhood South*' is to promote the engagement of citizens in public affairs and political participation, targeting in particular young women and men, empowering them to assume a central and visible role in addressing social challenges in partnership with peers to the north and south of the Mediterranean.

Three complementary actions will be supported with the following specific objectives:

- strengthen and structure the dialogue on regional agendas between civil society, EU institutions, regional entities and national/local authorities;
- empower young women and men in their ability to participate in public affairs through dialogue and debate;
- promoting co-operation between local media and youth in order to increase the role and visibility of youth in pluralistic media (public and private broadcasters as well as online media)

The *Empowerment of young women and men in the Neighbourhood South* will be implemented in three components:

C.1 Civil Society Facility 2016 – support for setting up a 'Regional Dialogue Hub' (a technical secretariat) promoting regional structured regional dialogue in the Neighbourhood South (EUR 3 million).

C.2 Young Mediterranean Voices 2.0 (EUR 3.29 million)

C.3 Participation and visibility of young women and men in pluralistic media (EUR 5 million)

1. CONTEXT

1.1. Regional context

Approximately 20 % of the population, in the Neighbourhood South are between 15-24 years old. This share keeps growing as never before in the region's history. Given this trend and as stated in the new European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) it is of utmost importance to give due importance to young people's rights and aspirations, and imply those in our partnership with the region. Promoting their role and empowering young women and men to participate in public and private spheres of life contributes to buttress political stability, social inclusion and economic growth.

There is a shared sense of frustration among citizens in the Southern Neighbourhood in general of feeling excluded from political processes, which is particularly strong for young people. To ensure their participation in public affairs, including decision-making processes, young people search for credible avenues of participation. They try to equip themselves with skills enabling them to further develop their ideas and aspirations, to be able to discuss them and advocate for them with authorities.

A wide diversity of new civil society actors has emerged since 2011 in several countries of the region. Nevertheless many new initiatives, especially those launched by young people, are hindered by both internal constraints such as the lack of

experience and skills or limited financial and administrative capacities as well as external ones emanating from a repressive environment, the lack of funding opportunities and isolation.

Similar to the sense of exclusion from the political process, young people in the Arab world perceive a lack of credible media platforms for voicing out their opinion and hence having limited options to take active part in the developments in their societies. Public and private broadcasters, in particular TV, which still holds the widest reach and popularity in the region among traditional media, have historically devoted little programming to young people taking into account their needs and concerns. Consequently, young people have turned to the internet as the main source of news and entertainment. The concerns are that whilst the internet provides a wealth of information and views, it has no editorial gatekeepers and encourages users to seek out echo chambers where they engage exclusively with like-minded peers. In extreme cases this can contribute to facilitating youth radicalisation as vulnerable individuals are exposed to highly partisan and indoctrinating narratives.

In addition, despite the multiplicity of venues for dialogue that encourage exchange and debate within the civil society³ fabric across the region, there is no mechanism or entity to mobilise structured regional dialogue in an inclusive, continuous, sustainable manner which is articulated around priority themes and contributes to policy making while connecting civil society, EU institutions and other regional entities around issues of concern and interest in the regional agenda. Civil society organisations (CSOs) have long been seeking for the establishment of a mechanism (a technical secretariat) to catalyse regional dialogue, governed by civil society, able to set priorities, using web-based platform for wide outreach and organising periodic events for exchange and network (such as the Neighbourhood South Civil Society Forum).

1.1.1. EU Policy Framework

The proposed action is in line with the new ENP, placing special emphasis on supporting civil society and promoting citizen participation and engagement, focusing especially on young women and men. More specifically, the *Empowerment of young women and men in the Neighbourhood South* aligns with the new ENP in:

- providing support to civil society, both through direct means (developing the capacities of civil society organisations, professionals and leadership) and indirectly by facilitating participation of civil society at local, national and regional levels, deploying tools for a deeper engagement with civil society and social partners;
- promoting inclusive dialogue on good governance, human rights and democracy issues, and main issues of concern at national and regional levels;
- placing emphasis on the prospects for youth, stepping up partnerships with young people, promoting people-to-people contacts and providing young people with new venues and tools for exchange, debate and network;
- promoting gender equality and women's rights; empowerment of women and girls; their access to justice, education, health care and other social services;

■ ³ Definition of Civil Society as set in the Communication “The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations” (COM (2012) 492).

strengthening their voice; fighting stereotypes; shifting institutional culture to be 'gender friendly';

- supporting citizens' ability to hold governments accountable; improve the pluralism, independence, and professionalism of the local media; helping it to act as a forum for public debate and as the catalyst for change in partner countries; promoting open and free internet.

The proposed action is also in line with the Human Rights and Democracy Action Plan: chapter I.b ("invigorating civil society") that includes empowerment objectives for young women and men. It also reflects the three priorities of the 2012 EU Communication on "**The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations**": enhancing enabling environment; promoting a meaningful and structured participation of CSOs; increasing local CSO's capacity to perform their roles as independent development actors.

1.1.2. Stakeholder analysis

The programme involves a wide variety of actors active in the Mediterranean Region: a) civil society and citizens in general with particular focus on young women and men; ii) national authorities; iii) EU institutions; iv) regional institutions and entities.

As defined in the 2012 EU Communication on "**The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations**", the EU considers CSOs to include all non-State, not-for-profit structures, non-partisan and non-violent, through which people organise to pursue shared objectives and ideals, whether political, cultural, social or economic. Operating from the local to the national, regional and international levels, they comprise urban and rural, formal and informal organisations. They include membership-based, cause-based and service-oriented CSOs. Among them, community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, faith-based organisations, foundations, research institutions, Gender and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) organisations, cooperatives, professional and business associations, and the not-for-profit media. Trade unions and employers' organisations, the so-called social partners, constitute a specific category of CSOs.

Civil society has been facing key challenges: emerging CSOs in the region, especially for women and youth organisations have to define their role and complementarity: in particular, on issues such as specialisation, professionalisation and mobilisation of the general public, isolation vs. regional networking and dialogue, young vs. older/institutionalised CSOs.

The action focuses on young women and men from diverse social-economic and geographical backgrounds. These young people, who represent a large part of the population, have limited access to quality education and job opportunities. They lack venues for citizen's engagement, they do not find that politicians or mainstream media adequately reflect their interests and concerns, and in addition, they have little means of influencing this.

Other important stakeholders are local and national media in particular new media/online media, which are developing fast, but often lack journalistic professionalism and a sustainable business approach. While the consumption of online media and social media by young Arabs is on the rise, they still get in 2016,

63% of their news from TV as compared to 45% online news sources and 32% from social media⁴. Because of this wide reach and their public service mandate, public broadcasters and those with a public service mandate will also be targeted.

If relevant, partner countries other than ENI countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mauritania, Montenegro and Turkey) shall be associated to the activities foreseen by this action, in accordance with Article 16(1) of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014.

1.1.3. Priority areas for support / problem analysis

In a restrictive environment and with less funding from donors, civil society is being confined to compensate the deficiencies of the state as a service provider in the social domain including in education, access to justice or health services. This does not allow civil society to grow into its role of watchdog of democracy and thus to contribute to stabilisation in the region.

By definition civil society is strongest when close to its grass root base finding answers to challenges in its wider vicinity, monitoring the evolution of needs, official responses and the application of rule of law. However if the space to play this role is shrinking, opening up platforms at regional level will allow civil society organisations to share experience and build knowledge on how to evolve in a restrictive environment, develop alternative networks and define new channels in order to hold their governments accountable and participate in the political debate.

Nevertheless, participation with a regional dimension is challenging for civil society organisations. The diverse nature of civil society, mobility constraints, limited number of and weak networks as well as the rapid evolving nature of the Civil Society (CS) actors including religious civil society are all factors that hinder dialogue on regional agendas among CSOs and national/international stakeholders. However considering that often enough at local and national level space for CSOs is shrinking, the regional arena offers a breathing space allowing for the exchange on new and creative approaches. Online platforms allow for a potentially wide outreach. They promote networks and allow building trust among relevant players, and creating channels of coordination among CS actors, EU institutions and other regional entities. Through these online platforms and face-to-face meetings the EU will support consultations of CSOs at several levels (local, national, regional, international).

In this perspective, the EU will continue and widen its support to developing the capacity of young people to enable them to play their full part in the public and political life of their country. Developing in particular their debate, analytical and evidence-based advocacy skills and opening new venues for dialogue and public consultation will enable young people to challenge societal developments in their countries and throughout the region. It will help them to be more vocal about their aspirations and expectations, contributing in this way to building societies which are aware of the needs of young people and increasingly capable of offering answers. The more societies take responsibility for their young generation and the more young people are empowered to shape their future, the less likely they are to turn towards radical, uncompromising ideas and visions of the world.

⁴ Arab Youth Survey 2016, Asda'a Burson-Marsteller, <http://www.arabyouthsurvey.com/en/findings>.

Independent media can act as a forum for public debate. However very few of the national broadcasters or online media take up the role of public service media in informing, educating and entertaining the younger segments of their audience. As a consequence young people in the Neighbourhood South feel that their aspirations and concerns are not reflected by the media, print, online or broadcasters. Indeed, very few media carry out audience research and develop programming based on audience interests and needs. There are hardly any programmes targeting young audiences beyond cartoons, sports and music programmes.

The credibility and role of media as watchdog of democracy and catalyst for change in support of the wider civil society will be improved if media (public and private broadcasters, new/online media) reflect the needs and concerns of their audiences in particularly young audiences. By facilitating the interaction between civil society and media, ideas for new programmes and platforms can be developed with the participation of young women and men so that they meet their needs of information, education and entertainment and allow them to engage.

2. RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Risks of political instability in the region and possible changes of government or regimes. Support given to political actors, leaders of political movements and emerging leaders is a highly sensitive issue.	H	<p>Monitoring of the situation and supporting democratic structures and principles. This goes directly to the core of the Civil Society Facility, which sets out to promote a more participatory approach to decision-making processes by broader inclusion of CSOs.</p> <p>Partner countries can choose between different schemes of cooperation and actions do not necessarily concern all countries. Non-inclusion of countries in crisis will not hamper project implementation, as this is a regional project that can be flexible in the countries it targets.</p>
There is a risk that the authorities might not see the added value of involving CSOs in the policy dialogue / public affairs or that they might not provide an enabling environment that puts in place modern and transparent institutions to encourage accountability and good governance and ensure fair and transparent rules	H	The EU's political dialogue with partner countries includes the requirement to engage with CSOs at national level and to promote a more enabling environment for the work of civil society, in an attempt to counteract any unwillingness on the part of partner countries' authorities to engage with CSOs.
Unwillingness of CSOs to engage in policy dialogue / public affairs with the State or simply the lack of incentives to do so.	M	Tripartite dialogue (between the authorities, the EU and CSOs) will then help to highlight the usefulness for CSOs and also for the authorities of conducting a dialogue

		and working together
Limited capacity of actors (CSOs, local authorities, ...)	M	Specific support to be provided to local actors in particular to build partnerships
Lack of coordination channels for CS in the region (networks, platforms) and no permanent communication between regional CS actors and EU institutions.	M	Identify/reinforce networking opportunities towards mappings and forums Improve coordination and communication (use different media)
Increasingly restrictive situation for media and journalists	M	Identify subjects, platforms programmes which meets needs of young audiences (education , jobs..) without having a political angle
In particular broadcasters who are state funded do not perceive the urgency of changing production patters to produce content relevant for the young and opening up channels to engage with them	M varies considerably between countries	Recognition of risk
Assumptions		

3. LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1. Lessons learnt

Ongoing support to good governance and democratisation processes in the Neighbourhood South region have shown the need to support citizens' engagement and especially participation of young women and men in public affairs. Citizens request to voice their concerns, to debate, to be heard and to be taken into account.

Programmes, in support of civil society and their evaluations, have brought a positive contribution to the building of democratic societies where governing authorities are recognized legitimate if their politics are accountable to the citizens and/or, where the degrees for social inclusion and gender equality have increased. New venues for dialogue and the increasing use of social media have brought debate to peripheral and isolated areas, beyond the reach of the usual channels. In terms of policy dialogue, several EU-funded civil society initiatives have brought valuable good practices and lessons. For example at country level, the EU-funded project on tripartite dialogue between civil society, Tunisian authorities and EU could bring an interesting format which can be used for inspiration.

Supporting capacities of civil society from a regional perspective has proven of added value in the Neighbourhood South. Following the concept paper⁵ proposing options on this mechanism, it is recommended to strengthen and expand current networks, looking for a diversification in participants, include wider civil society organisations (schools, universities, media, ...) and promote the interaction between civil society and national authorities. In addition it is important to promote both axes

⁵ *Concept Paper on issues to be addressed and choices to be made for the definition of a governance and management model to enhance regional civil society-related dialogue in the ENP south*, by Juan Nicolas, December 2015.

of communication and exchange between countries in the region, North-South and South-South.

New initiatives promoting participation and engagement of civil society need to show: i) political recognition and leverage; ii) policy orientation; iii) openness and transparency; iv) ownership by civil society v) open channels of interaction with authorities and EU institutions; vi) coherent and complementary of the dialogue at national and regional levels; vi) engagement of wide range of stakeholders, such as local authorities, trade unions, business associations, environmental organisations, social movements, local development agencies, foundations, youth organisations, media or academia.

The component promoting the role and engagement of young women and men in pluralistic media complements the regional EU-funded MedMedia programme which supports the institutions and individuals committed to reforming the media sector in the Southern Mediterranean region. The new project proposes to take up one specific, successful strand of activities launched by MedMedia, namely programming for young audiences by public broadcasters and to develop it further. MedMedia's 'youth on screen' workshops organised together with the EU-funded Net-MedYouth programme have demonstrated that civil society, in particular youth organisations have vibrant if not always viable ideas for programmes targeted at young audiences. They are not necessary based on scientific surveys but nevertheless, based on their expertise, offering young people platforms of information and engagement on issue that matter to them. MedMedia will end in late 2017 and can thus directly and specifically share experiences and contacts with the new project.

By opening the target group up to include online media this component will build on the experience gained under the EBTICAR project⁶ in terms of providing sub-grants to allow online-media significant step forwards combined with technical assistance to reap the most benefit from funding.

The development of media programmes and channels relies on the interaction between civil society and the media in order to develop interesting, financially viable and sustainable options.

3.2. Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

At regional level, the setting up of a technical secretariat for strengthening regional dialogue will build on on-going efforts, with special attention to link what the EU is supporting at national level (civil society roadmaps) and other regional initiatives in place (Civil Society Facility Technical Assistance (CSF South), the EU-Civil Society Forum Neighbourhood South, the *Policy Forum for Development*).

The activities included in this component will take into account the main programmes implemented by the major donors in the region. It is worth noting that ongoing programmes under EU financing, such as NET-MED Youth, Spring Forward for Women, MedMedia, MedCulture, institutions receiving EU Support (Anna Lindh Foundation, Council of Europe, European Endowment for Democracy) and through the Erasmus+ Programme's Youth in Action strand promoting mobility of young people, youth workers and other stakeholders, informal and non-formal

⁶ 'EBTICAR - Nouvelles libertés d'expressions, citoyennes et numériques en Méditerranée ' is the EU- funded project which provides sub-grants to innovative online media in the southern Neighbourhood and accompanies the implantation of these sub-grants. The name EBTICAR stands for 'E-Booster for Technical and Innovative Contents in the Arab Region'.

learning, mutual understanding, training and youth networking projects and support of youth organisations from both the EU and Mediterranean Partner Countries which all enhance Euro-Mediterranean co-operation in the youth field.

In addition, the programme Young Mediterranean Voices 2.0 will complement a global initiative under the thematic programme 'Investing in People' whose aim is to contribute to inclusive growth by helping partner countries to better respond to the aspirations of young people and strengthen their involvement in national development processes, through a better understanding of the determinants of youth inclusion and greater capacity to design effective evidence-based national policies promoting youth inclusion.

At regional level, the programme will take into account and coordinate with other regional EU programmes dealing with enhancing women's rights and promoting equality. It will also coordinate with programmes dealing with media such as Young Mediterranean Voices. In addition the programme will ensure improved synergy effects through coordination among donors and with other relevant initiatives dealing with capacity building and skills improvement.

3.3. Cross-cutting issues

In 2013, civil society representatives proposed the EU institutions to articulate debate and consultation around three main areas: i) reducing inequalities (economic and social rights), including gender equality and women's rights; ii) shrinking space for civil society (civil and political rights); iii) mobility and migration shrinking space. Therefore, by promoting citizens' engagement and participation under those three axes, this programme includes crucial cross-cutting issues such as human rights, governance, and rule of law, gender, environment and climate change.

The action will highly contribute to governance and democratisation by the supporting involvement and participation of citizens, especially young people, in public affairs. Also the debates that will be organised among women and men will deal with priority themes for the region, among them respect for human rights and promotion of democracy, equality between women and men, respect for environment and sustainable use of resources, migration and mobility, refugees situation, etc.

While the programme is unlikely to have a direct impact on the environment, activities that may promote environmental and climate change awareness through media, being an priority item of concern, which may have an indirect and positive impact.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1. Objectives/results

The main objective of the programme '*Empowerment of young women and men in the Neighbourhood South*' is to promote citizen engagement in public affairs and political participation, targeting in particular young women and men, empowering them to assume a central and visible role in addressing common social challenges in partnership with peers to the north and south of the Mediterranean.

Three complementary actions will be supported with the following specific objectives:

- strengthen and structure dialogue on the regional agenda between civil society, EU institutions, regional entities and authorities;

- empower young women and men in their ability to participate in public affairs through dialogue and debate;
- promote co-operation between media and youth in order to increase the role and visibility of youth in pluralistic media (public and private broadcasters as well as online media) in order to reflect the needs and concerns of youth in programmes/channels with focus on education, entertainment and information.

The programme '*Empowerment of young women and men in the Neighbourhood South*' will be implemented through three components with the following expected results:

Component 1.- Civil Society Facility 2016 – Support for setting-up a 'Regional Dialogue Hub' (a technical secretariat) strengthening structured regional dialogue (EUR 3 million) - enhanced participation of civil society in policy dialogue and advocacy mobilised by a technical secretariat which promotes debate and dialogue around regional agendas and links civil society, EU institutions and other regional entities (Anna Lindh Foundation, League of Arab States, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Council of Europe, etc.). This technical secretariat is governed by civil society. It also promotes regional networks and exchanges, the contribution by civil society to policy making, as well as increased capacities of CSOs for advocacy and participation.

Component 2.- “Young Mediterranean Voices 2.0” (EUR 3.29 million) - increased number of young people have the required skills for political participation and debate with policy-makers and authorities. Their voices are being integrated into policy dialogue at national and regional level promoting and enhancing a culture for public debate.

Component 3.- Promoting participation and visibility of young women and men in pluralistic media (EUR 5 million) - public broadcasters and those with a public service mandate, as well as online media in the region, offer programmes/platforms/online channels developed with young audiences for young audiences, recognising the added value of a close co-operation with civil society on programmes/platforms.

The action promotes the use of innovative tools, IT platforms and web-based media to widen the outreach to a whole range of actors in the region and allow participation by permeating where civil society have difficulties to operate.

4.2. Main activities

The main activities, by component, are:

Component 1.- Civil Society Facility 2016 – Support for setting-up a 'Regional Dialogue Hub' (a technical secretariat) strengthening structured regional dialogue (EUR 3 million).

The technical secretariat, governed by civil society, will be able to engage in:

- creating clusters for dialogue on determined priority sectors, developing key messages to authorities and regional institutions;
- organising fora, working groups and debates (presential and online) through web based platforms and/or meetings/conferences/workshops organised in the region. Specific attention will be given not only to equal representation of women but also to the mainstreaming of gender issues in topics of debate and discussion;

- developing communication and advocacy activities such as an on-line platform in EN, FR, AR to facilitate activities;
- creating a "resource centre" for civil society and produce comprehensive regional mappings as well as sharing of good practices. Attention will be given to the disaggregation of data by sex in all documents/reports produced by the resource centre;
- providing capacity building (through e-learning methods) on skills for advocacy, social accountability, sector policy follow up, public debate;
- promoting networking activities among peers.

Component 2.- “Young Mediterranean Voices 2.0” (EUR 3.29 million)

This project will target young women and men and will provide for:

- capacity building activities: training of trainers' programmes, specific training programmes targeting women, specific training programmes disseminating skills for debate, dialogue and advocacy, collection and analysis and dissemination of thematic debate topics, fellowships, issue-based debate contents;
- opening new spaces for dialogue: promote 'debate tournaments'; through a sub-grant scheme, supporting 'debate hubs' dealing with concerns expressed by youth; create new spaces for debate in digital media.

Component 3.- Promoting participation and visibility of young women and men in pluralistic media (EUR 5 million)

The project will support the development of pilot programmes and web-based platforms of online media and broadcasters from the region which reflect interests and needs of young audiences in the region based on audience analysis and feedback:

- Support the development of concepts and pre-production of TV programmes which meet the interests and needs of young audiences supported by audiences surveys/feedback and the co-operation of young people in the development of the programmes. The analysis and audience surveys/feedback will pay specific attention to young women's needs and interests;
- Support the development of online platforms which meet the interests and needs of young audiences supported by analysis of needs through audiences surveys/feedback and the co-operation of young people in the development of the programmes. The analysis and audience surveys/feedback will pay specific attention to young women's needs and interests;
- Promote co-operation between media and civil society organisations, who are aware of the frustrations, needs and interests of young audiences, for the development of relevant programmes, channels and tools;
- Establish constructive dialogue and co-operation between civil society and online media/broadcasters;
- Facilitate exchange of best practices in youth programming between media (online and broadcasters) at regional level.

4.3. Intervention logic

All the actions will be implemented via grants as:

This allows a civils society driven leadership rather than an EU driven one.

It thus opens the possibility to more creative ideas and a better echo/implementation of the priorities of civil society.

Grants are more flexible by nature and allow adapting to changing circumstances.

Grants will better capitalise on initiatives that might already exist at national or sub-regional level.

Except for component 2, calls for proposals will be used as a competitive procedure, and they will partly include sub-granting schemes opened to all eligible civil society actors (which include, among others, development NGOs, academia, professional associations, foundations, ...).

Component 2 will be implemented through a direct grant awarded to the Anna Lindh Foundation, intergovernmental organisation playing a main role in the promotion of intercultural dialogue and in strengthening the role of young people in public affairs.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

5.1. Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner countries, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

5.2. Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 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

This action will be implemented through the award of grants.

Financial allocations (grants) at regional level shall be implemented through calls for proposals (except for component 2) launched by Headquarters.

Component 2 will be implemented through a direct grant awarded to the Anna Lindh Foundation, intergovernmental organisation playing a main role in the promotion of intercultural dialogue and in strengthening the role of young people in public affairs.

5.3.1. Grants: calls for proposals (direct management) for components 1 and 3

Calls for proposals will be used as a competitive procedure, and they will partly include sub-granting schemes opened to all eligible civil society actors (which include, among others, development NGOs, academia, professional associations, foundations, ...).

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

The objectives per component are:

1) Civil Society Facility 2016 – support for setting up a 'Regional Dialogue Hub' (a technical secretariat) to strengthen structured dialogue on regional agendas between civil society, EU institutions, regional entities and local/national authorities;

3) support initiatives that promote co-operation media and young people in order to reflect in programmes/channels of pluralistic media the needs of youth in education, entertainment and information' (public and private broadcasters and online media).

The expected results per component are:

Component 1 *Civil Society Facility 2016 – Support for setting-up a 'Regional Dialogue Hub' (a technical secretariat) strengthening structured regional dialogue* (EUR 3 million) - enhanced participation of civil society in policy dialogue and advocacy mobilised by a technical secretariat which promotes dialogue and debate around regional agendas and links civil society, EU institutions and other regional entities (Anna Lindh Foundation, League of Arab States, UfM, Council of Europe, etc.). This technical secretariat is governed by civil society and aims to enhance advocacy by civil society at regional level. It also promotes regional networks and exchanges, contributions by civil society to policy making, as well as increased capacities of CSOs for advocacy and participation.

Component 3 *Promoting participation and visibility of young women and men in pluralistic media* (EUR 5 million) - Public broadcasters and those with a public service mandate as well as online media offer programmes/platforms/online channels developed with young audiences for young audiences, recognizing the added value of a close co-operation with civil society on programmes/platforms.

(b) Eligibility conditions

Place of establishment of applicants: ENI south countries, EU countries, IPA countries, EFTA countries.

Type: CSOs in the widest sense of the term, as defined in abovementioned European Commission Communication 2012: non-governmental organisations; organisations representing national and/or ethnic minorities; local citizens' groups and traders' associations; co-operatives, trade unions and organisations representing economic and social interests; local organisations (including networks) involved in decentralised regional co-operation and integration; consumer organisations; women's and youth organisations; teaching, cultural research and scientific organisations; universities; churches and religious associations and communities; associations of median and media development agencies; cross-border associations; non-governmental associations and independent foundations.

Subject to information to be published in the calls for proposals, the indicative amount of the EU contribution per grant ranges from EUR 0.5 million to EUR 1 million and the grants may be awarded to sole beneficiaries and to consortia of beneficiaries (coordinator and at least two co-beneficiaries).

The indicative duration of the grants (their implementation period) is 24 to 48 months.

(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 these calls is 90% of the eligible costs of the action.

In accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, 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

1st quarter 2017.

5.3.2. Grants: direct award (direct management) for component 2

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

The objective of this grant is to empower young women and men in their capacity to participate in public affairs through dialogue and debate. Expected results are increased number of young people have the required skills for political participation and debate with policy-makers and authorities. Their voices are being integrated into policy dialogue at national and regional level creating an enhanced culture for public debate.

b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to Anna Lindh Foundation.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because such modality is allowed for actions having specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence or its high degree of specialisation in accordance with Art 190 (f) of the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. This is the case of the ALF which plays a pivotal role in the promotion of intercultural dialogue and functions as a network of networks. In addition, the ALF is a result of a high level advisory group on dialogue between peoples and culture in the Euro-Mediterranean area called by the Commission itself.

The ALF added value comes from its unique nature as both an inter-governmental organisation and a network of CSOs. As such, the ALF is the best platform for both governments and civil society organisations to work in the fields covered by the ALF's mandate.

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 programme (component 2); design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

d) Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for this grant is 80% of the total eligible costs of the action.

In accordance with Article 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, 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 trimester to conclude the grant agreement

4th quarter of 2016.

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 and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility in accordance with Article 9(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of products and services in the markets of the countries concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

5.5. Indicative budget

	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified
5.3.1 – Call for proposals (direct management) – Component 1: Civil Society Facility 2016 – support for setting up a 'Regional Dialogue Hub' - Neighbourhood South	3,000,000	333,000
5.3.2 – Direct grant (direct management) – Component 2: Young Mediterranean Voices 2.0	3,290,000	822,000
5.3.1 – Call for proposals (direct management) – Component 3: Participation and visibility of young women and men in pluralistic media	5,000,000	555,000
Totals	11,290,000	1,710,000

5.6. Organisational set-up and responsibilities

This action will be managed by Commission Services (Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations) and, where relevant in close collaboration with other relevant EU institutional stakeholders (European Parliament, EEAS, EU Member States). An appropriate inter-service consultation mechanism will be created to ensure the coherence of the project and synergies with the similar projects ongoing in the Neighbourhood East and the Western Balkans.

For each component, in the cases where a steering committee is created, the participation as observer of relevant Commission Services is foreseen.

5.7. Performance monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process and part of the beneficiaries' responsibilities. To this aim, the beneficiaries shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate, within the framework of each contract, 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). 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, a mid-term evaluation and a final evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

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

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 audit 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 5.5 above.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner countries, 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.

6. PRE-CONDITIONS

Not applicable

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX

	Results chain	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	1. Promote citizen engagement and political participation of young women and men , empowering them to assume a central and visible role in addressing common social challenges in partnership with peers to the north and south of the Mediterranean	% of young women and men actively involved in public consultations/debates on policies/strategies/legislation				
Specific objective(s): Outcome(s)	<p>1. Facilitate and structure dialogue on the regional agenda between civil society, EU institutions, regional entities and authorities to contribute to policy making</p> <p>2. Empower young women and men to participate in public life through dialogue and debate</p> <p>3. Improve co-operation between media and young people in order to reflect in programmes/channels the needs of youth in education, entertainment and information.</p>	<p>C1: Number of CS networks created/supported through the hub</p> <p>C2: % of young men and women with required skills for political participation and debate as a result of the project (check indicators + baseline from previous phase)</p> <p>C3: % of pilot programmes and channels being further developed and maintained</p>	<p>C1: 0</p> <p>C2: To be established by programme</p> <p>C3: 0</p>	<p>C1: 3 by 2018</p> <p>C2:</p> <p>C3: 75%</p>	<p>C1: statistical data available</p> <p>C2:</p> <p>C3: web-based/ tv programming</p>	
Expected results (outputs)	1. Enhanced participation of civil society in policy dialogue and advocacy facilitated by the "Regional dialogue hub" which promotes dialogue around regional agendas and links civil society, EU institutions and other	<p>C1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> new "Regional dialogue hub" in place; number of international meetings organised online platform launched and 	<p>C1: 0</p> <p>0</p>	<p>C1: 1 regional hub by 2017</p> <p>2 international meetings per</p>	<p>C1: projects reports</p>	

	<p>regional entities</p> <p>2. Increased number of young people (men and women) that have the required skills for political participation and debate with policy-makers and authorities.</p> <p>3. Public and private broadcasters and online media offer programmes that attract the attention of young audiences and allow them to engage on topics that concern them</p>	<p>operational</p> <p>C2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of young people (men and women) involved in project activities • Number of training programmes delivered • Number of debate tournaments organised • Number of new debate spaces created in digital media <p>C3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new TV programmes which meet the interests and needs of young audiences launched with the support of the project • Number of online channels and tools which meet the interests and needs of young audiences developed with the support of the project • Number of exchanges of good practices at regional level between media organised by the project • Number of media/broadcasters involved in project activities 	<p>0</p> <p>C2:</p> <p>C3: 0</p>	<p>year 1 online platform by 2017</p> <p>C2:</p> <p>C3: 4 new TV programmes by (Idem) 10 online channels by (Idem) 2 regional exchanges by end of programme (specify date) 25 media/broadcasters by (Idem)</p>	<p>C2: project reports</p> <p>C3: project reports</p>	
--	---	--	----------------------------------	--	---	--