



This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 3

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of the Republic of Moldova

Action Document for the Civil Society Facility (Moldova)

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 the following sections concerning calls for proposals: 5.3.1 Grants: call for proposals "Support to Civil Society" (direct management).

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Civil Society Facility (Moldova) CRIS number: ENI/2015/038-137 financed under European Neighbourhood Instrument
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	Republic of Moldova The action shall be carried out at the following location: the whole territory of the Republic of Moldova (including Transnistria)
3. Programming document	Single Support framework (SSF) for EU support to the Republic of Moldova (2014-2017)
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Complementary support for civil society
5. Amounts concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 8.368 million Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 8 million This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 0.368 million
6. Aid	Direct management: grants – call for proposals; procurement of services.

modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)				
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"/>	X
	Aid to environment	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<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"/>
	9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagship	Not applicable (N/A)		

SUMMARY

The cooperation between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union (EU) is guided by the EU-Moldova Association Agreement (AA) signed on 27 June 2014. The success of the implementation of this agreement relies on the commitment of the Government of Moldova to implement reforms, as well as on the engagement of a strong civil society.

The AA highlights the need for key priority reforms in democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, good governance, a functioning market economy and sustainable development. EU assistance is synchronised with the priorities and objectives set out in the AA and it is framed in the Single Support Framework (SSF) 2014-2017 that foresees a specific envelope for complementary support for civil society engagement in non-focal sectors.

The overall objective of the proposed action for a Civil Society Facility in Moldova is to contribute to the development of civil society in becoming a stronger actor, including in actively participating in decision and-policy making and implementation processes of the EU-Moldova AA with the aim to enhance domestic political and financial transparency and accountability.

The objectives are, first to develop the internal capacity, professionalism, collaboration, the ability to advocate for their enabling environment and to organise its representative and constituent structuring of the civil society sector and second, to build partnerships between government, civil society and other socio-economic actors, including to contribute to implementation of the AA in the fields of good governance, social and economic development, and social protection.

As a result of this action it is expected that the civil society sector will be more evenly distributed, with more and stronger organisations, which have an increased capacity to create coalitions and consortia that would better coordinate civil society actors. The activities proposed should lead to increased participation in policy making and implementation, accompany AA implementation, as well as innovation in the field of social service delivery, while creating synergies with local governments.

1. CONTEXT

1.1. Sector/Country/Regional Context/Thematic area

The Republic of Moldova, a landlocked country with borders to Romania and Ukraine, has a resident population of 3.5 million. It is the poorest country in Europe with a GDP per capita of USD 2,233 in 2014.

With the signature of the Association Agreement (AA) - including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) - the Republic of Moldova undertook to implement a series of reforms that should lead to an increase in the quality of governance on one hand and to long term social and economic development on the other. The reforms are touching all sectors of the population, which is why the involvement of civil society organisations is needed.

First, corruption remains a main obstacle to Moldova's economic development. In the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness index Moldova ranks 89 out of 148 countries, stressing corruption and political instability among the top obstacles for doing business in the country. The 2014 Corruption Perceptions Index Corruption places Moldova 103 out of 175 countries. Corruption is pervasive, affecting all sectors of the public sphere. Although a number of civil society organisations are acting as public accountability watchdogs and advocating for a sounder anti-corruption legislation, they are based mostly in the capital city, with limited outreach in the regions.

Second, the implementation of market and trade-related reforms would require a restructuring of certain sectors of the Moldovan society. The benefits of the recent economic growth and decline in poverty rate remain unevenly distributed. At the same time, the growth was partially fuelled by labour migrants' remittances. Despite its positive impact on Moldova's economy, outward migration has left the country with a skewed labour market, showing little signs for renewal (youth unemployment rate highest among age groups). In addition, local Moldovan producers are turning to the EU as the main export market. Associations representing their interests will need to become stronger government interlocutors, as will trade unions in the case of labour market reforms.

Third, access to basic services in remote areas remains problematic. Citizens expect local governments to deliver a wide range of services. Financing is ensured through transfers from the central government, and they generally cover staff salaries. The system based on employing 'social workers' at local level did not exist until less than ten years ago, making professional needs identification and customisation of services the exception and not the rule. To address this need, Moldovan Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working in regions have specialised in social service delivery, presenting an opportunity to capitalise on their experience for policy reform in the social sector and for social innovation practices that could eventually be taken over by the local authorities.

The civil society sector in Moldova benefits currently from a favourable environment. The legislative framework safeguards respect for the freedom of assembly and association, the freedom of opinion and expression, as well as the right to access public information. The dialogue with civil society is structured at central level, allowing CSOs to participate in policy-making through specific platforms. On the other hand, the active participation in supervising the implementation of governmental policies and the monitoring of governmental bodies at a local level is weak.

Financial sustainability of CSOs remains the main challenge. Evidence has shown that the majority of CSO activity is funded by foreign donors up to 80-90%. Lacking state funding and citizens' support, the organisations are donor-driven and operate on a fragmented project-based approach. This limits the overall impact of their activities. A major achievement was the adoption of the 2% Law (2013), allowing taxpayers to divert 2% of their income tax to non-commercial organisations of public utility. However, this Law is not yet guided by operational implementing rules. CSOs can also be accredited from local and central state institutions to provide social services.

In conclusion, the current political context in Moldova creates opportunities for government – civil society engagement, especially in the areas of good governance and social and economic development. Moldovan CSOs have currently the minimum conditions to engage in policy dialogue with the government, while the lack of financial sustainability and the uneven distribution of capacities between the capital city and the regions are outstanding challenges.

1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

The National Development Strategy (NDS) Moldova 2020 represents the overall strategic development vision for the Republic of Moldova and covers the period from 2012 to 2020. The policy objective of the strategy is to promote sustainable economic development and poverty reduction.

The main national policy document guiding the development of the Civil Society sector is the *Civil Society Development Strategy 2012-2015* and its implementation plan (2012). Its main objective is 'to create a favourable framework for developing an active civil society capable to progressively contribute to the democratic development of Moldova, to stimulate social cohesion, and finally to develop social capital'. In order to do so, it aims to strengthen the framework for civil society participation in the preparation and monitoring of public policies' implementation, to promote and strengthen civil society financial sustainability, and finally to develop active citizenship and volunteering.

EU policy and domestic objectives in terms of civil society development are closely linked to one another. The 2011 Review of the Neighbourhood Policy is placing the 'partnership with societies' as one of the pillars of EU policy in relation to its neighbours. The Civil Society Facility (2011-2013) – which stemmed from this policy review – has already supported a number of Moldovan CSOs to engage in the areas of good governance and social development. The new multi-annual financial framework (expressed in the Single Support Framework for Moldova 2014-2017) is emphasizing both the need to mainstream civil society into focal sectors (public administration reform, police reform and rural and regional development), as well as to build the capacities of civil society organisations (financial and technical) to engage in policy dialogue and monitoring reforms, including in non-focal sectors.

In 2014 the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova together with EU Member States elaborated a Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society. This document is guiding EU engagement with local civil society for the years to come and it is based on intensive consultations with civil society organisations. Priorities 1 and 2 of the Roadmap emphasised the need to develop the capacities of civil society in becoming a stronger counterpart for the government, especially in promoting good governance, including by guaranteeing the oversight and the monitoring of the implementation of Moldova-EU Agreements. Priority 3 of the Roadmap looks at the need to support local, smaller Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and their umbrella organisations. The action will address all these 3 priorities.

The Association Agreement recognises civil society as one of the parties in its implementation structure. In addition to the requirement of having civil society involved in public decision making related to the implementation of the Agreement, with its signature a platform composed of EU and Moldovan civil society has been created. This platform will meet regularly and feed into the decisions of the EU-Republic of Moldova Association Council.

1.1.2 Stakeholders analysis

The civil society sector in Moldova is weak and unevenly distributed. As per a recent mapping of Moldovan civil society (2013), there are about 7,000 registered CSOs in Moldova, but only about a quarter have carried any projects in the past three years. The main fields of activity reported are education/training (50%), social services (40.8%), community development (36.9%), followed by civic participation and advocacy (26.2%), health and youth (19.2% each), and culture (16.9%). Business associations (including associations of producers and Chambers of Commerce) have developed separately from the other types of civil society organizations in Moldova. Their number is reduced but the few existent organizations have contributed significantly to the improvement of their enabling environment. The lack of domestic financial funding resources for Civil Society (CS) is a major issue when it comes to CS development.

The role of civil society as a catalyst for public debate is underdeveloped in Moldova. In a highly corrupt environment, citizens mistrust public authorities, with only 22 % of Moldovans declaring that they believe to have a say in Moldovan politics. This helps maintain the corruption prone setup, with citizens relying more on informal clientele's networks and kinship links as instruments to influence public decision-making. Donor-driven elite of a few NGOs from the centre, disconnected from the wider society, dominates the relations with

donors and the government. The development of smaller, local NGOs, local action groups and interest groups having a real constituency in society is therefore low.

In 2006 the National Commission for Collective Consultation and Bargaining was set up as a body to channel social dialogue in Moldova. However, its impact is limited as only the two main confederations – the National Confederation of Moldova employers and the National Trade Union Confederation of Moldova – engage in dialogue with the government through it.

Transnistrian organisations have difficulties registering in the Republic of Moldova, which makes it difficult for them to obtain EU funding that target the CSO sector in Moldova at large.

Moldova presents quite a rich landscape of civil society platforms that advocate visibly at central level. A major achievement concerning participation in decision-making is the creation of the National Participation Council (NPC), as an advisory body to the Government of Moldova. In addition, the National NGO Council monitors Parliament's activities.

The Eastern Partnership National Civil Society Platform, set up in 2011, still experiences difficulties to find its own mandate and to work effectively. The Association Agreement has established an EU-Moldova Civil Society Platform the work of which will feed into the decisions of the Association Council, as well as a domestic advisory group that will monitor the implementation of the DCFTA and a Civil Society Forum (Trade and Sustainable development chapter).

When it comes to Moldovan authorities, the department of Policy and Foreign Aid Coordination and the Central Public Administration Reform Department within the State Chancellery are in charge of the CS policy coordination and of the implementation of the National Civil Society Development Strategy. There is a real need to improve coordination mechanisms with NGOs and donors and to secure sustainable funding mechanisms to the CS.

1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

To assess the needs of the Civil Society, several consultations were organised involving NGOs, trade unions, employers' representatives, as well as national CSO consortiums/platforms (NGO Council, National Participation Council) in the sectors covered by this action. International organisations and national agencies with experience in CSO as well as Member States were consulted. Based on this extensive stakeholders' consultation process, it emerged that there is a high need of building up the capacities of civil society especially at local level, of supporting CSOs interaction with government and finally to associate civil society in the monitoring and implementation of the AA.

The activities to be supported by the action correspond to the priority areas covered by the Association Agenda. CSOs will contribute to the political and socioeconomic development of the Republic of Moldova, through wide ranging cooperation in a broad spectrum of areas of common interest, in particular in the areas of good governance (including freedom, security and justice, public administration and civil service reform, civil society participation, institution building), social and economic development (trade integration and enhanced economic cooperation, employment and social policy), as well as social service delivery (poverty reduction and inclusive local development).

The action intends to ensure the involvement of civil society in communities at all levels, in order to enhance civil society participation in the public decision-making process, particularly by establishing an open, transparent and regular dialogue between the public authorities and CS; to facilitate a process of institution-building and consolidation of CS organisations in various ways, including advocacy support, informal and formal networking; and finally to enable CS representatives to become acquainted with the processes of consultation and dialogue between civil and social partners.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Geopolitical tensions and less favourable economic performance hamper political stability	M	Intensified policy dialogue with the Government and local stakeholders following (and within) the framework of the Association Agreement
Political unwillingness to increase public sector transparency and accountability. Lack of commitment and weaknesses in decision making to implement targeted reforms by Government	M	Reinforced dialogue with the Government based on extended performance monitoring ensuring full implementation of Government's commitment in term of transparency and accountability. EU direct involvement to promote an active and independent CS sector at local and central level ensuring a role of full policy dialogue partner overseeing reform processes
Contextual and structural weaknesses / fragilities of the CSO sector	M	Technical support/assistance to remediate project management challenges
Assumptions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All political actors at central and local level remain committed to the reform process and within the timeframe envisaged. • The Moldovan Government continues to ensure its coordination role and secure enhanced regular dialogue and cooperation with reform partners and civil society. • There is willingness on the part of Civil Society Organisations to participate in the policy dialogue. • The local civil society and authorities at central and local level take over the results and ensure their sustainability with proper financing mechanism. 		

3. LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

During the last years, the EU acquired a substantive experience in CSO engagement through numerous calls for proposals: European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities (CSO-LA), Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility, Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and crosscutting programme support. The EU is one of the main providers of CSO support. Based on this experience, the present action needs to take into account, in priority the following lessons learnt:

- There is lack of coordination and organisation within the CSO sector, which makes its ability to react to developments on the public agenda limited.
- Lack of knowledge and experience in the area of Public Finance Management of CSO, including monitoring and advocacy, resulted in a quite passive presence in this field. Development of CSO capacities in public financing monitoring is needed.
- Civil society organisations technical and financial capacities and expertise are limited and need to be reinforced, especially in terms of enhancing the role of the civil society in monitoring policy reforms.
- Competition between CSO participates, partially, to the weaknesses of the sector. To encourage CSO's partnership, the guidelines for applicants (Call for Proposals) will oblige CSO to apply collectively with minimum several co-applicants for grants and also for sub grants.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

This action is designed as complementary to on-going support programs to Civil Society. At country level, the EU is directly implementing or supporting projects covering a wide range of activities and themes. The main instruments/programmes are the following: European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility (CSF), Non-State Actors and Local Authorities (NSA-LA)/Civil Society Organisations-Local Authorities (CSO-LA, former NSA-LA), Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) which fosters cooperation between the two banks of the river Dniestr.

In addition to the European Neighbourhood Instrument that supported the Civil Society Facility from 2011 to 2013, civil society was and continues to be mainstreamed into the overall EU support to the country. The Regional Civil Society Facility has provided for technical assistance to CSOs in Moldova, the elaboration of various studies, and will continue to have Moldova covered in the years to come, especially in the elaboration of the monitoring matrix for the enabling environment for civil society organisations in the Eastern Partnership.

Confidence Building Measures programme cover support to Transnistria, Gagauzia and Taraclia. This action will not particularly target CSOs in these regions, even though they will be eligible to apply as any other Moldovan CSOs.

The European Union, EU Member States and USAID are the biggest donors to civil society. The European Endowment for Democracy (EED) and International Visegrad Fund are active in Moldova. The Swedish Embassy leads the sectorial international donor coordination of

CSO activities. Donor coordination for CSO's is currently facilitated by the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova which is responsible from the governmental side to ensure coordination activities with the Civil Society in line with the Civil Society Development Strategy 2012-2015 and its action plan. This institution was consulted during the identification and formulation phase of the action.

The EU Delegation is heavily involved in ensuring donor coordination, and in that role has initiated a donor matrix of civil society. The members of the civil society informal donor coordination groups have been regularly consulted during the identification and formulation phases for this action. Member States have been invited to contribute to the preparation of this action during regular presentations and consultations organised by EU Delegation.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

Good governance and democracy promotion will be one of the primary objectives of the action.

Environmental issues will be closely monitored. The principles of sustainable development will be promoted in line with the EU and Moldovan mutual commitments. Chapter 16 (article 86-91) of the Association Agreement is dedicated to environment. It stipulates that the AA shall contribute to the long-term objective of sustainable development and greening the economy. Since part of the action concerns the monitoring of the AA implementation, specific activities will de facto address environmental issues.

Gender equality will not be only addressed at horizontal level as a key crosscutting theme. Specific activities targeting gender mainstreaming will be one of the criteria for selection of the proposals. The gender equality will be monitored in qualitative and quantitative terms in all activities of a specific action. Gender equality is expected to be reported in details in a specific chapter in all monitoring reports.

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives/results

The overall objective of the proposed action is to contribute to the development of civil society in becoming a stronger actor, including in actively participating in decision and-policy making and implementation processes of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement with the aim to enhance domestic political and financial transparency and accountability.

The specific objectives (SO) and results of this action are:

SO 1: To develop the internal capacity, professionalism, collaboration, the ability to advocate for their enabling environment and to organise its representative and constituent structuring of the inclusive civil society sector

- Result 1: The civil society sector is more evenly distributed through the increase of the number and size of civil society organisations, most of all at local level, and their capacities to be actively involved in the country's reform processes.
- Result 2: The consortium-building and coordination capacities are improved within all different types of civil society organisations.

SO 2: To build partnerships between the government, civil society and other socio-economic actors in policy dialogue, including to contribute to the implementation of the Association Agreement in the fields of good governance, social and economic development and social protection.

- Result 1: The involvement of civil society organisations in all levels of decision-making and policy implementation processes is improved at local and central level to achieve financial governance and government's accountability through the existence of efficient and sustainable dialogues between CSO and public authorities in which citizens play an active and engaged role in policy dialogue.
- Result 2: The civil society contribution to the improvement of social cohesion is increased through its active involvement in the reforms of the social service system and the social and economic development.

4.2 Main activities

Component 1: Support to Civil Society Organisations through a grant scheme

Areas of intervention and activities:

1. Good governance

- improving transparency and accountability of public institutions through the monitoring by civil society of public policies development and implementation as well as the monitoring of activities of public authorities and other related institutions;
- enhancing participation of CSOs at all levels of the decision-making and public financial governance through oversight of public budgets/finances, and verifying/analysing public expenditure, by ensuring adequate cooperation between public authorities and CSO sector.

2. Economic and social development

Reinforcing the role of Civil Society in:

- making the Labour Market more inclusive and in supporting the private sector in taking the best advantages of the economic opportunities opened up by the DCFTA;
- reinforcing the role of Civil Society in improving the legal framework of the Labour Market, as well as the skills and the competitiveness of the labour force;
- supporting effective social dialogue;
- improving the business environment, promoting entrepreneurship including social entrepreneurship, and access to EU market by developing and implementing practical initiatives covering all the economic actors (e.g. individual and collective trainings, retraining, management counselling, participation to business' fora).

3. Social cohesion through an improved social service delivery system

Supporting civil society in:

- promoting a more inclusive society by improving social cohesion through better social services;
- promoting, amongst others, innovative social solutions that should enhance social inclusion of more vulnerable groups;
- delivering new social services in isolated areas; developing and testing innovative social services.

Component 2: Reinforcing civil society's global capacities through Technical Assistance

1. Strengthening CSOs in general and contributing to a more evenly distributed CSO sector in Moldova.
 - Training and capacity building sessions to CSOs at central and local level targeting in priority small local NGOs working at local level;
 - Increasing CSO technical capacity and tackling their organisational constraints such as: basic activity planning, setting up of priorities, development and implementation of strategies and actions plan(s), monitoring and evaluating activities, ensuring sound financial management and financial sustainability, and improving internal governance.
2. Technical Assistance to sub-grantees
The TA will provide individual support to each sub grantee as deemed appropriate to limit the management's risks inherent to such activities while improving at the same time internal CSO's management capacities. In no case, the TA will implement activities instead of the sub grantees. These will include provision of individual and practical on-the-job support, knowledge transfer and coaching type of activities. It shall assist the beneficiary of sub-grants in all the phases of the project's cycle management.
3. Supporting Civil Society's consultative bodies for AA monitoring.
This component tackles the technical support to Civil Society representative's bodies/groups foreseen in the AA to facilitate their functioning. This includes the development of mechanisms that would guarantee the information flow between the representatives of the platform and their constituencies.

4.3 Intervention logic

To achieve political progress in a modern and democratic society, it is vital to have the support of active and committed citizens and their organisations. After the signature of the AA, CSOs need to be able to follow and eventually be involved in its implementation.

In the new context of the establishment of close economic and political cooperation between Moldova and the EU, Civil Society will be promoted and strengthened to become a trustful and reliable partner capable to accompany the political and socio-economic reforms of the country. Therefore, this action will address the main challenges faced by civil society in the Republic of Moldova, namely lack of capacities, poor coordination and limited funding resources. It will do so by employing the sub-granting tool to channel funds to grass-root organisations outside Chisinau, working in the areas of good governance, socioeconomic development and social cohesion. By implementing the grants, beneficiaries will gain hands-on knowledge in project management. In addition, the technical assistance component will reinforce civil society's global capacities.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, 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 48 months from the date of the entry into force of the financing agreement.

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

5.3.1 Grants: call for proposals "Support to Civil Society" – Component 1 (direct management)

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

The objectives of the grants are: to develop the internal capacity and professionalism of civil society, collaboration, the ability to advocate for their enabling environment and to organise representative and constituent structuring of the inclusive civil society sector and to build partnerships between government, Civil Society and other socio-economic actors in policy dialogue, including to contribute to the implementation of the AA. The main purpose of the grants will be to provide financial support to third parties.

The fields of intervention will be the following: good governance; economic and social development; social cohesion through better social services.

The expected results are: a more evenly distributed civil society sector, with more and stronger organisations, with an increased capacity to create coalitions and consortia which would coordinate better; increased participation of civil society in policy making and implementation; increased innovation in the field of social service delivery, while creating synergies with local governments.

(b) Eligibility conditions for grant

The applicants shall be Civil Society Organisation, defined as follow: non-governmental organisations, organisations representing indigenous peoples, organisations representing national and/or ethnic minorities, diaspora organisations, migrants' organisations in partner countries, local traders' associations and citizens' groups, cooperatives, employers' associations and trade unions (social partners), organisations representing economic and social interests, organisations fighting corruption and fraud and promoting good governance, civil rights organisations and organisations combating discrimination, local organisations (including networks) involved in decentralised regional cooperation and integration, consumer organisations, women's and youth organisations, environmental, teaching, cultural, research and scientific organisations, universities, churches and religious associations and communities, the media and any non-governmental associations and independent foundations, including independent political foundations.

National agencies or International organisations shall not be eligible.

Subject to information to be published in the call for proposals, the indicative amount of the EU contribution per grant is between EUR 2 000 000 and EUR 3 000 000 and the grants may be awarded to sole beneficiaries and to consortia of beneficiaries (coordinator and beneficiary). The indicative duration of the grant (its implementation period) is 30 months.

(d) 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.

(e) Maximum rate of co-financing

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

(f) Indicative timing to launch the call

Second trimester of 2016.

5.3.2 Procurement (direct management)

Subject	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Technical assistance to support CSO development in the Republic of Moldova	Service	1	Second Trimester 2016
Evaluation/audit	Services	2	Third trimester 2018

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, (amount in EUR)
5.3.1 - Call for proposals - Support to Civil Society (direct management)	7 000 000	368 000
5.3.2 - Procurement of services (direct management)	900 000	N.A.
5.9, 5.10 - Evaluation, Audit	100 000	N.A.
Total	8 000 000	368 000

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

The project will be implemented by the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Moldova (EUD) as contracting authority.

The national counterparts for the action are:

- the Civil Society organisations and/or their representative bodies;
- the national authorities responsible for CSO coordination.

For each contracts (i.e. one for each grant and one for the service contract) a Steering Committee (SC) will supervise the implementation and monitor the activities. The Steering Committee shall review and orientate the work of the activities and shall supervise its overall implementation.

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 implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) or the list of result indicators (for budget support). 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 will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultant contracted by the Commission.

It will be carried out for learning purposes, in particular to prepare future CSO support actions.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least two months in advance of the dates foreseen for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

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

Indicatively, one contract for evaluation services shall be concluded under framework contract indicatively in the third trimester of 2018.

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.

Indicatively, one contract for audit services shall be tendered under a framework contract in the third trimester of 2018.

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 specific Communication and Visibility Plan (at project/contract level). No specific contract is foreseen at the action level but communication and visibility measures are part of each contract.

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

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

APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX¹

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action without an amendment to the financing decision. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for listing the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) when it is relevant and for reporting purpose on the achievement of results as measured by indicators

	Intervention logic	Indicators	Baselines (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: Impact	To contribute to the development of civil society in becoming a stronger actor, including in actively participating in decision and-policy making and implementation processes of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement with the aim to enhance domestic political and financial transparency and accountability	Percentage of organisations declaring that they were involved in decision making at central level Percentage of organisations declaring that they were involved in decision making at local level	37.7% (2014) 42.3% (2014)	40% (2017) 50% (2017)	Civil Society mapping study (2014)	The environment in which civil society organisations operate remains favourable to their development

¹ Indicators aligned with the relevant programming document are marked with '*' and indicators aligned to the EU Results Framework with '**'.

Specific objective: Outcome	<p>- The internal capacity, professionalism, collaboration, the ability to advocate for their enabling environment and to organise its representative and constituent structuring of the inclusive civil society sector is improved.</p> <p>- Partnerships between the government, civil society and other socio-economic actors in policy dialogue are built up and they contribute to the implementation of the Association Agreement in the fields of good governance, social and economic development and social protection.</p>	Percentage of organisations identifying training on organisational management/ strategic planning skills as a need	63.5% (2014)	55% (2017)	Civil Society mapping study (2014)	<p>All political actors at central and local level remain committed to the reform process and within the timeframe envisaged;</p> <p>The Moldovan Government continues to stay open to regular dialogue and cooperation with reform partners and civil society;</p> <p>There is willingness on the part of Civil Society Organisations to participate in the policy dialogue.</p> <p>Local civil society and authorities at central and local level take over the results and ensure their sustainability with proper financing mechanism.</p>
		Number of thematic consortia created	9	13, among which 60% at local level	Project reports	
		Number of advocacy coalitions created in the implementation period	1	5 among which 60% at local level		
		Percentage of CSOs declaring they have been consulted on the general budget	25,4 %	30 %	Civil Society mapping study (2014)	
		Percentage of CSOs declaring they have been involved in the elaboration of local budgets	LPA level I (27,7%) LPA level II (23,8 %)	LPA level I 30% LPA level II 30%		
		Percentage of CSOs declaring that they specialise in good governance issues	14,6 % of CSO declaring that they specialise in good governance issues	25 % of CSO declaring that they specialise in good governance issues		
		Percentage of CSOs declaring they are involved in socioeconomic development issues	13,1 % of CSO declaring that they specialise in socioeconomic development issues	20 % of CSO declaring that they specialise in socioeconomic development issues	Civil Society mapping study (2014)	
		No. of EU-funded projects in which collaboration mechanisms between public authorities and NGOs have been elaborated in the domain of social services	1 EU-funded projects in which collaboration mechanisms between public authorities and NGOs have been elaborated in the domain of social services	Minimum. 6 EU-funded projects in which collaboration mechanisms between public authorities and NGOs have been elaborated in the domain of social services		
Sustainability of CSO activity in social service delivery enhanced	4,3 (2014)	3,7 (2017)	USaid CSO sustainability index			

Outputs	Increased capacity of civil society organisations, most of all smaller, local NGOs on organisational management, while acquiring the sufficient expertise to be involved in the country's reform processes.	Number of capacity transfer mechanisms established between professional NGOs and small-scale grass-roots NGOs.	(2015) 7	(2017) 60 smaller NGOs	Projects' reports	A sufficient number of applications will be received for the 3 components of Call for Proposals
		Number of organisations trained	9 centrally 0 at local level	Min 40 Min 120	Projects' reports	
	Increased capacity of Moldovan civil society to participate in the implementation of the AA	Number of papers/ public statements issued by civil society organisations in relation to AA/DCFTA implementation	1 paper/statement	6 papers/statements	Public reports	
	Increased civil society activity in the domain of social service delivery, good governance and economic and social development	Number of civil society meetings organised in the context of AA implementation	0 meeting	6 meetings	Meeting reports	
		No. of big scale projects	2 big-scale projects in good governance, 1 big-scale project in social and economic development	3 big-scale projects in each area, and at least 20 small-scale projects through sub-granting in the various areas	Project reports	
	No. of small-scale projects supported by the EU in these areas					