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This action is funded by the European Union

**ANNEX 4**

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of the ENI South countries

**Action Document for the Neighbourhood South Civil Society Facility 2015**

**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.

<b>1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number</b>	Neighbourhood South Civil Society Facility 2015 (ENI/2015/038-294) financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument
<b>2. Zone benefiting from the action/location</b>	ENI Southern region – The action shall be carried out at the following location: Algeria, Egypt, Israel <sup>1</sup> , Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine <sup>2</sup> , Tunisia and Syria.
<b>3. Programming document</b>	Programming of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) - 2014-2020. Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)
<b>4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area</b>	Regional South: Objective 3: Building a Partnership with the People
<b>5. Amounts concerned</b>	Total estimated cost: EUR 3 222 222 Total amount of EU budget contribution <b>EUR 3 000 000</b> Budget line: 21.03.01.02 This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 222,222

<sup>1</sup> 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://eurlex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C\\_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG](http://eurlex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG).

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<b>6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)</b>	Project Modality Direct management: - grants – call for proposals - procurement of services			
<b>7. DAC code(s)</b>	15150 - Democratic participation and civil society			
<b>8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Main objective</b>
	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"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Main objective</b>
	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"/>
	<b>9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships</b>	N/A		

## SUMMARY

The **overall objective** of the Neighbourhood South Civil Society Facility 2015 is to **strengthen and promote Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)' role in democratic changes and reforms** taking place in the southern Neighbourhood countries. The Civil Society Facility will pursue the following **specific objectives**:

1. to strengthen **CSOs' involvement** in the policy-making process and in policy dialogue; to strengthen CSOs' role as watchdog players;
2. to increase **CSOs' capacity** to promote reforms and promote public accountability;
3. to support **CSOs' role in local development**.

## 1 CONTEXT

### 1.1 Sector context

The **situation of civil society** in the southern Neighbourhood region differs from one country to another but some common features can be pointed out.

In a large number of countries, the **political context** does not favor the blossoming of civil society, with old and new legislation restricting its role, affecting freedom of assembly and association. Much remains to be done across the region to the

necessary space for civil society to operate and contribute to sustainable socio-economic development and democratization processes.

The **capacity** of CSOs *per se* and with a view to engaging in policy dialogue remains weak despite training and information campaigns at local level. Many CSOs remain **isolated**, which hampers their development and opportunities. Networking should be supported as it strengthens CSOs' capabilities and access to information. Furthermore networking offers them an easier access to authorities. Furthermore, organisations which are eager to take part in the debate triggered by Euro-**Mediterranean** policies often have insufficient knowledge of the Euro-**Mediterranean** partnership mechanisms. In addition, access to funds remains difficult for many CSOs due to **complex procedures**; this is especially the case for grassroots organisations.

Against this context, the EU is firmly committed to supporting efforts for civil society to flourish and become active and influential in the southern Neighbourhood region. To this end, promoting **an enabling environment** with partner countries is fundamental, and can be pursued via various dialogue mechanisms at regional and national level.

Promoting **active participation by CSOs** in policy making is key and hence the relevance to support **capacities at management and advocacy levels, abilities to monitor reforms and play an efficient watchdog role** They also need support for enhancing their **internal governance, accountability and transparency, as well as networking and coordination.**

#### 1.1.1 *Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework*

As one of these steps to provide greater support to civil society, the European Commission launched in 2011 *the Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility*, with the objective to strengthen civil society's capacity to promote and monitor reform, to carry out advocacy work and to increase public accountability. For the period 2011 – 2013, a budget of over EUR 34 million was dedicated to support of civil society in the southern Neighbourhood countries. This measure fits into a much wider framework based on acknowledgement by the EU of the crucial role played by CSOs in promoting democratic governance, equitable development and inclusive sustainable growth.

In September 2012, the European Commission issued the *Communication "The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with civil society in external relations"* proposing an enhanced and more strategic approach for EU's engagement with civil society. The objective of the Communication is to facilitate constructive relations between states and civil society organisations. The Communication identifies priority areas for engagement with local CSOs in partner countries relating to i) promotion of an enabling environment, ii) participation of civil society in domestic policies, in the EU programming cycle and in international processes and iii) capacity development for CSOs to perform their roles more effectively.

According to the Communication, the EU and the Member States should develop *Civil Society Country Roadmaps* to activate and ensure structured dialogue and strategic cooperation, improve the impact, predictability and visibility of EU actions, and ensuring consistency and synergy throughout the various sectors covered by EU external relations. These roadmaps are also meant to trigger coordination and sharing of best practices with the Member States and other international actors, including for

simplification and harmonisation of funding requirements. EU Delegations should coordinate the process locally.

These policy orientations represented the ground for the *Thematic Programme “Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities” 2014 – 2020*. Within the framework of the Development Cooperation Instrument overall goals, the objectives of this Programme is to strengthen civil society organisations and local authorities; this will be articulated around the two core pillars of the Agenda for Change, acknowledging that governance and sustainable and inclusive growth are deeply intertwined and mutually reinforcing. Accordingly, the Programme will pursue the objective of improving governance and accountability through inclusive policy-making by empowering citizens and populations, through the voicing and structuring of their collective demands, to contribute to tackle injustice and inequality.

As far as dialogue with civil society concerns, enhancing regular dialogue and consultations with Civil Society is one of the principles stated in the Lisbon Treaty, with a view to ensuring consistency and transparency of EU policies. In the development field, the European Union has, over the last decade, promoted the comprehensive and progressive participation of Civil Society Organisations in countries' development processes and in broader political, social and economic dialogues at all levels, including on climate change and environment.

To follow-up on the Structured Dialogue's results, the above-mentioned Communication set up the *Policy Forum on Development (PFD)*, a consultative multi-stakeholder group allowing CSOs to dialogue with EU institutions on EU development policies and to promote communication and better understanding among all stakeholders. The PFD primarily focuses on European development policies, as well as global development agendas, building on the momentum gained by current debates and discussions on the global architecture for international aid.

Focusing on the Mediterranean region, *the Initiative for a regional structured dialogue* aims at the creation of sustainable structures and mechanisms for sustained and open dialogue between Civil Society, the EU and the Authorities on a regional level. The Initiative has been launched during the Anna Lindh Forum in 2013 and lays under the responsibility of the Inter-Institutional Steering Group, composed by representatives of the European Commission, the European External, Action Service and the European Economic and Social Committee.

### 1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

The direct beneficiaries of this action are **civil society organisations (CSOs)**.

According to the abovementioned 2012 Communication, *“the concept of “CSOs” embraces a wide range of actors with different roles and mandates. 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. The EU values CSOs' diversity and specificities; it engages with accountable and transparent CSOs which share its commitment to social progress and to the fundamental values of peace, freedom, equal rights”*.

Special attention will be paid to the new organisations and networks that have emerged in the wake of the Arab spring and which are **representative** of civil society.

**Local authorities** in partner countries (defined as ‘decentralised bodies in the partner countries, such as regions, departments, provinces and municipalities’), will be considered partners, especially where partnerships between CSOs and local authorities can demonstrate added value.

**Partner governments’ authorities** should be associated in the capacity-building activities, case by case. The Civil Society Facility should ultimately also aim to foster public institutions’ ability and willingness to associate CSOs in policy dialogues, co-operation activities and sector reforms.

### 1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

Though not exempted of difficulties, the new context in the Mediterranean has created new opportunities for **the emergence of a comprehensive, thriving and active civil society**. To certain degree, civil society became more organised and structured, and acquired new roles, moving from being mainly service deliverers to be politically vocal, able to exert public influence and recognised as drivers of change.

But civil society in the region remains dominated by **weak capacities**. In many cases, the **limited experience** of the new players in managing an organisation, implementing projects and participating in public life and dialogue curtails their potential.

Civil society in the Southern Neighbourhood Region is also characterized by **fragmentation and isolation**. The new context raises the issue of the **representativeness and legitimacy** of these new players, their **internal governance**, their ability to *co-ordinate and network* with their peers instead of competing for resources, etc.

Therefore, **supporting capacity building, skills reinforcement and networking between CSOs are the main priorities** of the Civil Society Facility. Concretely, actions to strengthen civil society **participation in policy dialogue and governance**, in **evidence-based advocacy and monitoring** and in reinforcing civil society capacities with regards to **networking, knowledge sharing and communication** will implemented at local level. Current needs for additional funding have been identified mainly in **Algeria, Egypt, Israel<sup>3</sup>, Morocco**.

Besides support at national level, **regional initiatives with the same objectives** could also be financed under this action, especially in those areas of work considered priority such as support to **gender and to youth**.

## 2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risks of political instability in the region and possible changes of government or</li> </ul>	H	Monitoring of the situation and supporting democratic structures and principles. This goes directly to the core of the Civil Society

<sup>3</sup> 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://eu-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C\\_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG/](http://eu-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG/).

<p>regimes. Support given to political actors, leaders of political movements and emerging leaders is a highly sensitive issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a risk that the authorities might not see the added value of involving CSOs in the policy dialogue 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.</li> <li>• Unwillingness of CSOs to engage in policy dialogue with the State or simply the lack of incentives to do so.</li> </ul>	<p>H</p> <p>M</p>	<p>Facility, which sets out to promote a more participatory approach to decision-making processes by broader inclusion of CSOs.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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### 3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

#### 3.1 Lessons learnt

The Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility (CSF) was launched in 2011 as a special measure to help strengthening the civil society both in the eastern and southern Neighbourhood. Its objective is to strengthen and promote the role of civil society in reform and democratic change taking place in their respective countries, through increased participation in the fulfilment of Neighbourhood Policy objectives. In 2011 the CSF focused on strengthening CSOs capacities to promote reform and increase public accountability, and supporting CSO-led regional and country projects implemented through calls for proposals launched by HQ and in country by EUDs. The CSF 2012-2013 complemented the first phase with a broader scope in terms of objectives, aiming to enhance CSOs' involvement in the policy-making process and in the policy dialogue, to strengthen their role as watchdog players and to support CSOs' role in the local development.

The overall budget dedicated to the Civil Society Facility South for the period 2011-2013 amounted to over EUR 34 million.

The use of CSF funds has been very diverse across countries in the Southern Neighbourhood, depending on the situation of civil society in each country. In general, countries where CSF funds have only been used to top-up Thematic Programme Development Cooperation Instrument *Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities CSO/LA* call for proposals (CfPs), see the tool mainly as an increase of the financial allocation.

However, countries that have used CSF funds to reinforce capacities of CSOs, see a **real added value** compared to the two other thematic instruments in support of Civil Society (such as Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Palestine and Egypt). EU Delegations in these countries made the following remarks:

- The CSF offers **complementarity** regarding:
  - the type of aid modality: *Service contracts* launched under CSF have allowed to support certain types of initiatives which would not have been possible to support under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) or the CSO/LA instruments<sup>4</sup>.
  - the *type of actions*: In countries where the thematic programme CSO/LA is not present (Israel), the CSF has allowed to complement with actions which could not be covered by the EIDHR, notably regarding actions to promote an enabling environment, which go beyond the work of Human Rights organisations. In countries under crisis situation (Tunisia), the CSF allowed to target actions to improve the enabling environment for CSOs.

Both the recommendations of the mapping study of civil society in **Israel**<sup>5</sup> (2014), and the recommendations of the external EIDHR/CSF Evaluation (2015) has indicated the need to separate the CSF from the EIDHR CfPs in order to put more focus on supporting capacity building and skills reinforcement of CSO both in their internal operation and their interactions with the government, safeguarding an enabling environment, and networking and cooperation's between CSOs. Since 2011, CSF funds were added to the EIDHR CfPs but the specificity of the CSF programme was not always made clear and distinguished from the EIDHR. The two reports mentioned above recommended to delineate between the 2 programmes through separate CfPs which address the specific objectives of each programme.

- The CSF offered **predictability** of funding, with a flexible approach providing allocations depending on actual country needs and proposals.

In **Morocco**, the capacity building provided for advocacy and monitoring of public policies has proved to be highly appropriate and useful. Moroccan CSOs, selected according to the importance of the two latter axes in their strategies, have been able to benefit from structured training, have exchanged about their practices and have developed more professional skills in these matters. On this basis, CSOs have benefitted from individual coaching on the basis of the needs detected during the training sessions that needed to be addressed in a very targeted manner.

It is also noteworthy that the training sessions on monitoring of public policies have been extended to the Ministries and public institutions representatives, as well as to the parliament, on a pilot basis. This has allowed, on the one hand, the creation of a space for dialogue between CSOs and public institutions on a measure that has been constitutionalized, but which faces difficulties in its concrete implementation; on the

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<sup>4</sup> This support ranged from a resource centre for CSOs in Algeria, to specific support to build capacities of the four main NGOs platforms in Palestine, to the establishment of a baseline of CSOs in Egypt in order to later prepare for a future targeted capacity building program or the reinforcement capacities of CSOs in Morocco so as to advocate and monitor national reforms.

<sup>5</sup> 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](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG).

other hand, it has enabled a better understanding by the public institutions of CSOs' intervention logic and their priority claims.

- At national level, the CSF is often seen as a tool that allows for a more independent way of working, in comparison with allocations from the Single Support Framework where partner government is an active player.

In **Algeria**, civil society has come out depleted after the “black decade” of the 1990s, characterized by a violent repression of political rights as well as a tragic civil war. The society is still recovering from this era, women and the youth being the most vulnerable groups of the population, that are not effectively exercising their political rights and that are largely in a position of economic failures. CSF has helped targeting horizontal and added value projects which accompany and bring a leverage effect to the national and thematic programmes and actions. While there is little progress on the recognition of civil society's role at national level, there has been a general trend in Algeria towards a more open and supported network of civil society organisations at decentralized, community level. There are indeed decentralized opportunities, tackling youth and women issues, and enhancing the capacity of local authorities, that would benefit from being nurtured. CSF would help here bringing strategic value and targeting those grassroots communities through targeted interventions aiming at capitalizing on existing actions in the field of sub-national governance, mainstreaming of human rights (including women and migrants rights) and identifying drivers of change, in particular amongst the youth, that could bring increased leverage to the EU policy towards civil society.

### 3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

Various support mechanisms and initiatives for CSOs are already being implemented by the European Commission, the EU Member States and other donors in Neighbourhood countries. Co-ordination is of utmost importance to **avoid fragmentation** and provide **effective support** to CSOs without overloading them with multiple initiatives and demands. EU Delegations will keep other donors informed of the progress made under the Civil Society Facility in the country-level donor co-ordination groups.

The Civil Society Facility takes a coherent and supporting approach towards the other programmes and instruments targeting CSOs, such as the **geographic and thematic programmes**. It complements them in areas and/or countries where engagement with CSOs needs to be enhanced. The **European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)** and **thematic programmes under the Development Co-operation Instrument: CSO/LA, Investing in People, Migration and Asylum, Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy (ENRTP)**, have global coverage and are implemented largely through calls for proposals in which applicants, mainly CSOs, have a right of initiative.

Strong coordination should be ensured between the **Civil Society Facility and other EU programmes or institutions supported by the EU**. This is especially the case for

- support through **bilateral programmes** (SSFs);
- regional programmes: such as Euro-Med Youth, Med-Culture, Community Development Initiative to support the Regional Development and Protection



Program in the North of Africa" (CDI-RDPP), Small Grant Programme for NGOs working on environment, etc.;

- actions led by the following institutions: the Anna Lindh Foundation, the European Endowment for Democracy, the Council of Europe, UN Women, etc.

### 3.3 Cross-cutting issues

The focus on an enabling environment for CSOs' work, and by the same token on difficulties faced by CSOs in their activities (harassment and restriction of **fundamental rights** such as freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of assembly), will contribute to respect of human rights.

The programme aims at reinforcing CSOs' contribution to the decision-making process and fostering interaction between authorities and civil society. This participatory approach to decision-making lies at the heart of the **good governance** principles and is a core component of democracy. The Civil Society Facility will enhance the accountability of the governments and for the reforms implemented vis-à-vis a structured and solid civil society. It will also enhance the representativeness, transparency and internal democracy of CSOs themselves.

The Civil Society Facility also aims at strengthening civil society's engagement in inter-cultural dialogue to harness its role in supporting mediation and reconciliation processes, conflict prevention and respect for cultural and religious diversity.

The Civil Society Facility will mainstream **gender equality and youth issues** and seek to integrate, and capitalise on the existing thematic, regional and bilateral programmes already implemented with CSOs active in the fields of gender equality and support for youth.

**Environmental sustainability** and **climate change** will also be given due consideration as cross-cutting issues, for instance by encouraging applicants to adopt a mainstreamed approach.

## 4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

### 4.1 Objectives/results

The **overall objective** of the Neighbourhood South Civil Society Facility 2015 is to **strengthen and promote CSOs' role in democratic changes and reforms** taking place in the southern Neighbourhood countries.

The Civil Society Facility will pursue the following **specific objectives**:

1. to strengthen **CSOs' involvement** in the policy-making process and in policy dialogue; to strengthen CSOs' role as watchdog players;
2. to increase **CSOs' capacity** to promote reforms and promote public accountability;
3. to support **CSOs' role in local development**.

### 4.2 Main activities

**Specific objective 1 - To strengthen CSOs' involvement in the policy-making process and in the policy dialogue; to strengthen CSOs' role as watchdog players**

Expected results:

- The role of CSOs in policy dialogue and their relationship with authorities are increased; Mutual understanding and trust between Government and civil society is increased.
- Existence of transparent and visible communication mechanisms between the Government and CSOs at national and local level, including strengthened structures for social dialogue.
- CSOs systematically involved in a structured way in the programming, designing and oversight of sector and budget support programmes as well as project support, by EU and other donors.
- Improved levels of media and citizens' knowledge and perception of the role and accomplishments of CSOs.

Indicative type of activities:

- Multi-stakeholder consultations at national level involving CSOs, national authorities and EU Delegations to identify ways to facilitate civil society actors' participation in (selected) sector policy dialogues between the EU and partner countries and in implementation of relevant bilateral projects and programmes will be organised. In this framework, national entry points (sectors) will be identified and prioritised by the authorities in dialogue with CSOs;
- Involving of CSOs in the monitoring of budget support targets and in reporting of annual budget support reviews;
- Consultation with CSOs can make part of the matrix of conditionalities for a sector support programme;
- Workshops, meetings and consultations are organised by the EU Delegations at an early stage during the programming process;
- Concerning the strengthening of the social dialogue: organisation of preparatory activities such as preparatory surveys, preparatory workshops and conferences; organisation of joint trainings for the social actors to strengthen their abilities to undertake dialogue and foster co-operation and collaboration among them; identification and dissemination of results of social dialogue processes; exchange of best practices, etc.

**Specific objective 2 – To increase CSOs' capacity to promote reforms and promote public accountability**

Expected results:

- Improved capacities of CSOs in monitoring progress in the implementation of democratic reforms and public policies,
- CSOs and CS-networks are enabled to dialogue, lobby and advocate with the Government and visibly engage with local or national authorities on development policies, service delivery, and citizens' rights enforcement
- Existence of functioning networking mechanisms among civil society organisations;
- Increased understanding and knowledge by CSOs of EU (and more specifically ENP) policy-instruments and programmes; new aid modalities and EU procedures;

Indicative type of activities:

- Identification and dissemination of good practices regarding CSOs-oriented ENP programmes and the participation of non-state actors in new aid modalities such as budget support programme;
- Organisation of trainings, seminars, meetings;
- Ad-hoc support (e.g. helpdesks for CSOs, support to CSOs umbrellas, etc.) is provided;
- North-South exchanges are supported as they offer a good opportunity of peer-learning and of networking among CSOs from the North and from the South. North-South exchanges between CSOs regarding the manner in which to most effectively engage in policy dialogue with the authorities could be promoted.
- Activities targeting the facilitation of information to CSOs, such as internet platforms or resource centres can also be funded.

### **Specific objective 3: to support CSOs' role in local development**

Expected results:

- Available funding opportunities for CSOs' actions contributing to local development are increased;
- Empowerment of CSOs is enhanced through their action in favour of local development;
- Interaction between CSOs and local and national authorities is promoted;
- Participation of deprived populations in the definition and in the implementation of strategies and projects related to local development is promoted;
- The living conditions of vulnerable and marginalised populations (women, youth, handicapped persons, poor people) is improved;
- Jobs will be created and sustained through the mobilisation of human, cultural and natural local resources and by the involvement of women and youth people;

Indicative type of activities:

- Activities funded could encompass innovative approaches from CSOs aiming at supporting and setting up services in the field of economic development;
- Support to CSOs' involvement in local policy dialogue, capacity-building and networking;
- Trainings on procedures in order to overcome CSOs' lack of technical skills to respond to calls for proposals. Grassroots organisations will be specially targeted.

## **4.3 Intervention logic**

With a view at reaching the objectives and implementing the activities as described in sections 4.1 and 4.2, and in the framework of direct centralised management, the proposed programme shall combine **service, framework contracts and grants**.

## **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 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**

In the framework of direct management, the proposed programme will be implemented through procurement of services and the award of grants.

**Technical assistance** shall be provided through service and/or framework contracts managed by Headquarters, and by service and/or framework contracts managed by the EU Delegations.

**Financial allocations (grants)** at local level shall be implemented through calls for proposals launched by EU Delegations. Financial allocations at regional level shall be implemented through calls for proposals launched by Headquarters.

#### *5.3.1 Grant: call for proposals*

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

To strengthen and promote CSOs' role in democratic changes and reforms taking place in the southern Neighbourhood countries, by strengthening CSOs' involvement in the policy-making process and in policy dialogue as well as CSOs' role as watchdog players; by increasing CSOs' capacity to promote reforms and promote public accountability; by supporting CSOs' role in local development.

*(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; the media; cross-border associations; non-governmental associations and independent foundations.

Subject to information to be published in the call 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 consortia of beneficiaries (coordinator and at least two co-beneficiaries).

The indicative duration of the grant (its 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 this call is 90% of the eligible costs of the action. The rate may be higher if the auto-financing capacity of the targeted beneficiaries is weak.

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 trimester of the 2016.

5.3.2 *Procurement (direct management)*

Subject in generic terms	Type	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Technical assistance	Services Framework contracts	5	1st trimester 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 provision.

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 realization of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

## 5.5 Indicative budget

<b>Module</b>	<b>Amount in EUR (indicative)</b>	<b>Third party contribution (indicative)</b>
5.3.1. Call for proposals (direct management)	2,000,000	222,222
5.3.2. Procurement of services (direct management)	1,000,000	0
Totals	3,000,000	222,222

## 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).

## 5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this EU financial contribution will be a continuous process and part of the beneficiaries' responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system and elaborate, within the framework of each contract, regular reporting, including progress (if considered relevant) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the corresponding work programme, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by indicators. The reports 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 implementation of the successive work programmes. The final reports, narrative and financial, will cover the entire financial year of the corresponding work programme.

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

Evaluations, including intermediate and final or ex-post evaluations, may be carried out for the grants/services funded under this action. Such evaluation may be performed via independent consultants contracted by the Commission

When an evaluation is decided, the Commission shall inform the beneficiary at least 2 weeks in advance of the dates foreseen for the evaluation missions. The beneficiary 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 its premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with key stakeholders where relevant. The beneficiary and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation(s) and, where appropriate jointly decide on the follow-up actions to

be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the work programme(s).

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 funded under this action.

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 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.