

Project Fiche No. 2

Civil Society Facility - Partnership Actions between: 1. Socio-Economic Partners, 2. Minorities/Vulnerable Group Organisations and 3. Cultural Organisations

1. Basic information

- 1.1 CRIS Number:** 2009/021-373
- 1.2 Title:** Civil Society Facility - Partnership Actions between:
1. Socio-economic partners;
2. Minorities/vulnerable group organisations, and
3. Cultural organisations.
- 1.3 ELARG statistical code:** 01.35 – Civil society
- 1.4 Location:** Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia as well as Kosovo under UNSCR 1244/99

Turkey

Implementing arrangements:

- 1.5 Contracting Authority (EC):** The European Community represented by the Commission of the European Communities for and on behalf of the Beneficiaries
- 1.6 Implementing Agency:** Not applicable
- 1.7 Beneficiaries:** Civil Society Organisations¹ (CSOs), i.e. all not-for-profit structures outside government and public administrations², as well as beneficiaries of the “People 2 People” programme (individuals or organisations).

Financing:

- 1.8 Overall cost (VAT excluded)³:** EUR 12 500 000
- 1.9 EC contribution:** EUR 10 000 000
- 1.10 Final date for contracting:** 30 November 2010
- 1.11 Final date for execution of contracts:** 30 November 2012
- 1.12 Final date for disbursements:** 30 November 2013

¹ The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) defines ‘civil society organisations’ as “*all organisational structures whose members have objectives and responsibilities that are of general interest and who also act as mediators between the public authorities and citizens*”.

² e.g. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), professional and business associations, employers’ organisations, trade unions, associations of local self-governments.

³ The total cost of the project should be net of VAT and/or other taxes. Should this not be the case, the amount of VAT and the reasons why it should be considered eligible should be clearly indicated.

2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose

2.1 Overall Objective

To strengthen civil society within a participative democracy, stimulating a civil society friendly 'environment' and culture.

2.2 Project purpose

The project aims to develop a strong regional partnership dialogue between CSOs from the region themselves and with their EU counterparts and public authorities as well as to enhance the transparency and the accountability of CSOs. In particular, the project should favour the following aspects:

- a professionally operating civil society sector,
- new CSO networks, common strategy and initiatives,
- better quality of services and good dissemination of common values in the region,
- better support of democratic issues, including raising awareness of relevant matters amongst citizens and public authorities by means of intercultural dialogue.

In this context, the synergies between CSOs should contribute to promoting the principles and values of the European Union in potential member states in the region, respecting the sensitivities of the countries involved and enhancing regional cooperation and good neighbouring relations.

2.3 Link with AP / NPAA / EP/ SAA⁴

2.3.0 General

A principal political objective of the Western Balkans and Turkey is accession to the European Union.

The Commission Communication of 5 March 2008⁵ described the overall strategy of involving Civil Society in the accession process through the Civil Society Facility (CSF): *“The goal will be to strengthen civil society bodies and their role in the political process, enhance the capacity of civil society organisations to develop cross-border projects and networks, and familiarise civil society representatives and opinion leaders with EU affairs ... the facility will promote cooperation and transfer of know-how between business, trade union, and professional organisations in the partner countries and the corresponding EU level organisations.”*

The Civil Society Facility (CSF) consists of three areas of activity: (i) support for local civic initiatives and capacity-building, (ii) a “People 2 People” programme, and (iii) ‘partnership actions’ to develop networks between CSOs and to promote transfers of knowledge and experience. The project described in this project fiche will focus on the third strand.

The Commission Communication on the Enlargement Strategy 2008-2009⁶ made reference to the CSF and underlined its importance for the increased participation of CSOs in the reforms to be undertaken by the Candidates and Potential Candidates for Accession. This strategy

⁴ AP = Accession Partnership; NPAA = National Programme for the Adoption of the *acquis* (candidate countries), National Action Plan (potential candidate countries); EP= European Partnership; SAA = Stabilisation and Association Agreement

⁵ COM(2008) 127 - “Western Balkans: Enhancing the European Perspective”

⁶ COM(2008) 674- “Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2008-2009”

would strongly determine the pace and quality of the accession process and set out to obtain public support for accession. The Communication also stated that for IPA 2009, support schemes to civil society partnerships should give priority to the following sectors: culture, minorities and business associations.

The CSF is financed both from the IPA Multi-beneficiary programme (which is managed by DG Enlargement, Directorate D) and from the national IPA programmes (which are managed by the European Commission Delegations or – in the case of decentralised implementation – by the authorities of the Western Balkans and Turkey). It is important to emphasise that the CSF is a single facility for the benefit of all Candidates and Potential Candidates for Accession although implemented through both the National and the Multi-beneficiary IPA Programmes.

CSO developments in the Western Balkans and Turkey are summarised below⁷:

2.3.1 Albania

CSOs are monitoring the respect of human rights and the fulfilment of Albania's obligations under the SAA. However, civic engagement is low and the capacity of CSOs remains weak particularly in terms of advocacy, public relations, networking and partnership building. As far as vulnerable groups are concerned, there has been some progress. The protection of children's rights has increased. The 2008-2013 Social Protection and Social Inclusion Strategy⁸ has set out the strategy to improve the situation of poor families, social services for children, minorities, disabled and elderly persons and victims of trafficking but implementation is slow. As far as cultural rights are concerned, more effort is required to promote intercultural dialogue.

2.3.2 Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dialogue between civil society and the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina is limited. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the State-Level Council of Ministers and CSOs in May 2007 providing the framework for cooperation. There have been few developments since then. Few CSOs are country-wide. Trades unions lack official status and are registered as NGOs. Several Human Rights' NGOs have received financing from the EIDHR for issues such as reconciliation, anti-torture, women and children's rights but the country has made little progress in social protection of vulnerable people.

2.3.3 Croatia

Croatia maintains a good record on strengthening democracy and the rule of law. CSOs continue to play an important role in the promotion and protection of human rights and democracy. The Government's "National Strategy for the Creation of an Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development 2006-2011"⁹ is based upon a broad consensus between civil society and government representatives about the strategic priorities for the period 2006 to 2011. However, further progress should be made for raising the influence of CSOs on policy debate. The protection of economic and social rights, as well as minority and cultural rights are still not sufficiently addressed. Further concrete actions are required to tackle child poverty, increase protection of socially vulnerable persons and to ensure better integration, reconciliation and tolerance.

⁷ Information is provided from the relevant 2008 Progress Reports.

⁸ *Albanian Social Protection Sector Strategy 2007-2013* published on the website of the, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, August 2007: www.mpcs.gov.al

⁹ Government of the Republic of Croatia, 12 July 2006, published on the website of the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs, www.uzuvrh.hr

2.3.4 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The Government has adopted a strategy for cooperation with CSOs and the active involvement of CSOs in public policymaking has increased. However, the development of professional and civic associations is still hampered by the lack of finance and depends mainly on external resources. Many sectors are not sufficiently addressed, such as the protection of economic and social rights and compliance with international rules for the protection of children rights.

2.3.5 Montenegro

The legal framework for CSOs is satisfactory. This is demonstrated by the recent establishment of the Office for Cooperation. Nevertheless, socio-economic reform in Montenegro requires better participation of civil society. CSOs should complement services provided by public authority in raising economic and social protection of women, children, and other marginalised and vulnerable groups, particularly in the fields of health, education employment.

2.3.6 Serbia

The Serbian Constitution provides a good overall framework but specific legislation remains to be adopted in a number of areas, in particular anti-discrimination laws regulating the work and election of minority national councils. Much is still required to improve the conditions of children, and rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities.

2.3.7 Kosovo¹⁰

The overall capacity of CSOs remains weak. The Government is not yet accustomed to the idea of a long-term partnership with civil society. The necessary legislative and financial mechanisms for its support remain rudimentary. The civil society sector is re-focusing its attention from post-crisis activities to building democracy as well as being involved in economic, social and cultural development.

Implementation concentrates on minority rights but the protection of women against domestic violence, protection, education and development of children, integration and protection of people with disabilities are all activities that require close attention. Also, the implementation of legislation regarding gender equality should be improved.

2.3.8 Turkey

The legal framework for the freedom of assembly is broadly in line with European standards. Citizens have been able to exercise this right without interference from the authorities but the financial viability of the CSO sector remains under risk. NGOs rely too heavily on foreign funding from the EU and other international donors.

Despite reforms, the participation of NGOs in all sectors of democratic life remains limited. Their participation in policy-making and related formal structures is improving at a slower pace and requires further attention. This is partly due to the limited culture of collaboration in the public sector with CSOs and the lack of a standard general code of conduct for partnership in policy-making.

Concerning social rights, additional efforts are required to improve the administrative capacity of CSOs in the areas of domestic violence against women, the protection of children including

¹⁰ under UNSCR 1244/99

education, juvenile justice system and child labour. Progress should be made to ensure cultural diversity and cultural rights including. access to adequate housing, education, social protection, health and employment.

2.4 Link with MIPD

This project is in line with Section 3.1.3.8 of the IPA Multi-beneficiary Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document (MIPD) 2009-2011¹¹. In order to ensure that civil society is fully engaged in the EU integration process, this project will complement Multi-beneficiary and National projects initiated under IPA 2007 and IPA 2008 and promote partnership actions within the Western Balkan region and Turkey.

3. Description of project

3.1 Background and justification

The foremost political objective of the Western Balkans and Turkey is accession to the European Union. This step is not automatic: the negotiation and ratification of an Accession Treaty must come first. But such a treaty is in itself not enough to make accession a success: since new Member States are to share the same values as those of the existing Member States, support at all levels is necessary in the social transformation of their societies before joining the EU.

Both citizens at an individual level, and organised civil society at a political and general level, should ensure that society implements the necessary changes. To be able to properly advance towards and achieve accession to the EU, new legislation and principles have to be accepted by the population and be monitored effectively. This is where the role of civil society is crucial.

This project is part of the CSF launched in 2008. The CSF offers the opportunity to better meet the needs of the region by providing support to civil society development and dialogue. This will be coordinated and streamlined by focusing on different areas of intervention such as civic initiatives and capacity building at a national level, "People 2 People" visitor projects as well as activities carried out in multilateral partnerships between CSOs both in the Western Balkans and Turkey and in the EU which may lead to a transfer of knowledge, the set-up of new networks, as well as trans-national innovative projects.

The current project will contribute towards expanding partnership actions coordinated by socio-economic organisations, CSOs that support vulnerable groups and minorities, including disadvantaged children, and CSOs active in the field of culture.

Support will be provided to socio-economic CSOs since they play a crucial role in the uptake, implementation and monitoring of the socio-economic *acquis*. Economic changes resulting from the introduction of the *acquis* will particularly create new challenges and difficulties for vulnerable people (viz. disabled persons, children, ethnic and other minorities¹²). CSOs play an important role to advocate the rights of these people and assist them by strengthening their skills and/or by providing specialised care.

It is also essential that both the general public within the EU and the Western Balkans and Turkey become better aware of the role that the EU plays in safeguarding and enhancing cultural diversity , stimulating intercultural dialogue and increasing the understanding and

¹¹ C(2009)5418

¹² Minorities as accepted in the context of the bilateral and multilateral agreements and by IPA countries

mutual respect between people. To this end, this project will strengthen cultural CSOs seeking to promote the exchange of cultural works/actors as well as to protect cultural heritage.

Regional partnerships are necessary to create ideas and initiatives. They ideally should consist of at least three CSOs from three different beneficiary entities and one from the EU. Their purpose is to encourage dialogue among CSOs of the region with their EU counterparts and public authorities as associates, to improve and increase networks and quality of CSO services the impact of which is to be disseminated across the region, to increase cross-border cooperation, to share expertise, networks and to bring about common EU values including a contribution to an alignment with EU standards.

3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect, sustainability and cross-border impact

The project will complement initiatives of other donors and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC). It will be regularly monitored and evaluated to allow for any readjustments. The project will contribute to the process of participative democracy by enhancing civil society bodies, their role in society and their understanding of EU integration, policies and the role of EU institutions. It will also foster partnerships that support the adoption of good practices and standards tackling problems of great importance to the Western Balkans and Turkey.

The project should be seen as a catalyst for the development of regional and sectoral networking, exchanges of experience and information, as well as the sharing of common benchmarks. It seeks to increase regional cooperation and networking among regional CSOs *inter se* and with the CSOs from EU and other stakeholders, encouraging in particular partnership with CSOs and public authorities. Networks established through different project activities should help support the sustainability of the action once the support from the European Commission has ended.

The project will principally benefit the general public. It sets out to increase both the involvement of citizens in society and its awareness of the role of civil society in the light of eventual accession to the EU as well as of EU policy and initiatives in which the general public may exercise a strong influence.

3.3 Results and measurable indicators

The role of CSOs in the democratic process through multilateral partnership and involvement is considered the appropriate way to improve the development, function and involvement of civil society and to increase the influence of civil society region-wide on broadly defined activities and to monitor the results of actions taken.

The following results are expected. Ideally, they will be verified two years after completion of the project using the indicators set out below.

1: Partnership actions between socio-economic partners

Expected Results

- Increased participation of CSOs in decision-making, policy implementation and monitoring;
- Increased cooperation between CSOs themselves¹³ on the one hand and CSOs and public authorities on the other;
- Increased understanding among employers and employees of the relevant EU *acquis* and its impact.

Measurable Indicators

- Number of consultations by public authorities involving CSOs within two years from the end of the project;
- Number of new joint CSO initiatives/networks born as a direct result of the project within two years from its end;
- Number of actions (workshops, trainings, campaigns, manuals/guides, etc.) involving CSOs and public authorities regarding the EU *acquis* (uptake, implementation and monitoring) carried out within two years from the end of the project;
- Number of (common) CSO position papers on the EU *acquis* presented within two years from the end of the project;
- Number of social conflicts resolved resulting directly from the implementation of the EU *acquis* within two years from the end of the project;
- Number of measures taken to adopt and implement the EU *acquis*, notably at firms within two years from the end of the project;
- Number of court cases regarding violation of the EU *acquis* rules, notably concerning firms within two years from the end of the project.

2: Partnership actions between "minorities, vulnerable groups" organisations

Expected Results

- Improved competence of CSOs with respect to advocacy and provision of information and policy advice to stakeholders (e.g. public authorities, other donors);
- Improved cooperation among and between CSOs and public authorities with special emphasis on the implementation of compatible measures for the better integration of minorities and vulnerable groups, with particular emphasis on youth and children;

¹³ E.g. business representative organisations, trade unions, 'watchdogs', think tanks, etc.

- Recognition by society of the conditions of target groups, and relevant legal, political and legal matters;
- Increased participation of CSOs in civil society activities;
- Establishment of regional network of CSOs established as a sustainable tool for pooling expertise and for sharing best practices and lessons learnt;
- Consensus reached with policy makers to set up benchmarks and indicators for steering progress in policy development and implementation.

Measurable Indicators

- Number of new partnerships and networks or increased membership and degree of representation of existing ones, in the two years from the end of the projects;
- Number of (in)formal consultation structures involving CSOs and public authorities and/or relevant stakeholders set up during the two years from the end of the project;
- Number of new measures drawn up and implemented by public authorities with the aim to improve the position of minorities and vulnerable groups in the two years from the end of the projects;
- Number of members of minorities and vulnerable groups that benefit from the support of these CSOs in the two years from the end of the projects.

3: *Partnership actions between cultural organisations*

Expected Results

- Improved public access to all types of culture, with a special focus on youth;
- Enhanced European identity on the basis of common values (e.g. through translation of essays and literary works);
- Intra-regional and inter-regional cultural initiatives and partnerships developed;
- Networking capacities of the cultural organisations and operators strengthened;
- Strengthened links and dialogue between CSOs in the Western Balkan region and Turkey in addition to closer relationships with their EU counterparts;
- Enhanced involvement and ownership of cultural operators/organisations in policy development in the field of culture.

Measurable Indicators

- Number of new networks and presence of cultural actors from different disciplines established within two years from the end of the project;
- Number of cultural initiatives within and outside the regional boundaries implemented during the two years following the project's implementation;
- Number of new joint regional /EU initiatives developed/implemented within two years within two years from the end of the project;

- Number of intercultural activities to which the Beneficiary population participates developed/implemented within two years from the end of the project;
- Number of information/communication material published within two years from the end of the project.

3.4 Activities

All activities in this project are directly linked to the development of synergy of approach established among CSOs of the region by means of a strong regional partnership, dialogue among CSOs with their EU counterparts and public authorities, which in turn lead to:

- a professionally operating civil society sector;
- new CSO networks, common strategy and initiatives;
- better quality of CSO services in the whole region;
- dissemination of common values in the region and build up synergies;
- better support of democratic issues, raising awareness of citizens and public authorities about the role of CSOs and the need of CSO culture throughout the region

1: <i>Partnership actions between socio-economic partners</i>
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- Organisation and implementation of (workshops, information events, training actions, communication and awareness campaigns) so as to increase understanding among the CSOs on relevant EU *acquis* and its impact for social and economic operators, as well as to encourage a common approach throughout the region;
- Provision of training and expert advice to strengthen the capacity of CSOs in assisting/advising their members on the implementation and impact of the relevant EU *acquis*;
- Organisation and implementation of partnership activities to link business association, trade unions, think-tank, watchdogs and other relevant CSOs with each other and with other essential stakeholders;
- Establishment of communication platforms/tools to promote and exchange good practices and to formulate concrete recommendations and practical solutions.

Priorities in terms of the EU *acquis* under this project will mainly focus on health and safety (workplace and/or product), innovation (research and development), environment/energy efficiency, corporate social responsibility and integration of marginalised people (principally disabled persons).

2: <i>Partnership actions between "minorities, vulnerable groups" organisations</i>
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The project will focus on activities that seek to improve the access of minorities and vulnerable groups to social, economic and cultural rights, better social inclusion and integration, and may include:

- Training and expert advice (i.e. needs assessments, analysis of legal measures and their effectiveness, dialogue with minorities, vulnerable groups, young people, public authorities, business actors, etc);

- Organisation and implementation of awareness-raising events (seminars, workshops, conferences) on discrimination;
- Arrangement of meetings with stakeholders from the region to define benchmarking and performance indicators for the integration of minorities and vulnerable groups;
- Development of information, networking and knowledge provision (e.g. website, database, publication);
- Setting-up of structures to monitor policy and measures, survey, research, documentation.

3: *Partnership actions between cultural organisations*

- Actions to foster the exchange of information and experience among cultural operators including artists and other cultural professionals both in the region and with the EU;
- Actions to foster the circulation and access to works of art in the region and in the EU;
- Actions to support regional initiatives/partnerships highlighting the role of culture in economic development, social inclusion, conflict prevention/resolution intercultural dialogue etc;
- Support the participation of cultural operators/professionals in European policy fora (e.g. European Cultural Forum);
- Cooperation action between CSOs aimed at valorisation of heritage sites, including educational activities and innovative cooperation between heritage and contemporary creation;
- Creation of regional tourism projects or similar oriented towards the cultural sites, support to cross-border cultural itineraries;
- Initiatives combined with support to translation of essays within the region and between the EU and the Western Balkans and Turkey, and of literary works within the region¹⁴.

3.5 Conditionality and sequencing

The development of a civil society culture in the region requires political stability and a favourable environment for the enhancement of CSOs and civil society dialogue. The present general political framework within the Western Balkans and Turkey should allow for dialogue and development of and with CSOs.

Consequently, partner CSOs and/or authorities from the Western Balkans and Turkey should be willing to establish and improve their exchange of information. CSOs should be wholeheartedly work together to establish alliances and coalitions to help strengthen advocacy, etc. All these efforts will fail if the authorities implement policies and actions that are counterproductive to achieving a civil society culture. It is therefore of paramount importance that the EU and other donors keep a close eye on this and take appropriate measures if

¹⁴ The culture programme already covers the cost of the translation of literary works.

necessary. It is very important that donors remain committed to a strong civil society in the region.

CSOs have to demonstrate their legitimacy and credibility as reliable and constructive partners representing important elements of society: citizens should trust CSOs. In addition, beneficiary CSOs should be keen on establishing partnerships with other CSOs within the region and the EU and they should have the capacity to absorb and successfully implement contracts awarded to them. These matters will be analysed thoroughly during the selection process of proposals.

3.6 Linked activities

3.6.1 Multi-beneficiary IPA 2008 (EUR 16.5 million) – Civil Society Facility

The IPA 2008 CSF consists of Technical Assistance (EUR 8 million), “People 2 People” activities (EUR 4 million), and Partnership Actions (EUR 4.5 million).

The object of the *technical assistance* is to help CSOs in the Western Balkans and Turkey increase their overall capacity, improve their democratic legitimacy and to promote networking of CSOs across regional borders. During this project, technical assistance desks will be established throughout the IPA region (or in some places the technical assistance desks will be incorporated into existing initiatives). The technical assistance will as far as possible be established within the existing civil society system so as to ensure that actions may eventually be taken over by local civil society platforms.

The “*People 2 People*” programme is implemented through the provision of TAIEX-type technical assistance, mainly study tours, conferences and workshops. The purpose of the “*People 2 People*” is to stimulate civic participation in the region by offering individuals and CSOs the possibility of participating in short-term visits to EU institutions and organisations. “*People 2 People*” events also offer the opportunity for CSOs to interact and network with their national, regional and European-level counterparts and to create new partnerships.

Partnership actions will complement activities already launched under the national CSF projects aimed at partnerships between one or more local organisations and organisations within the EU, which are managed either by Delegations or under decentralised management. For example in the cultural sector, particular attention will be paid to the impact of national cultural heritage and a pilot project launched in 2008 both in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Kosovo.

IPA 2008 activities will focus on the following priorities: (i) environmental fora, (ii) environment, energy efficiency, health and safety at work and (iii) the fight against corruption, organised crime and trafficking.

3.6.2 National Level – “Civic Initiatives and Capacity Building”

CSF national projects will support “civic initiatives and capacity building” and will be funded by national allocations and implemented in 2009.

3.6.2.1 Albania

Several CARDS projects (2005 and 2006: EUR 2.9 million) are already providing support to CSOs. For example: support to capacity-building and developing CSO involvement in the European policy debate; support to participation of NGOs in protection schemes for victims of

human trafficking and actions to strengthen the advocacy role of NGOs and their contribution to the protection of basic citizens' rights. No projects have been planned under IPA 2008.

3.6.2.2 Bosnia and Herzegovina

IPA 2007 supports Civil Society activities (EUR 3 million) in strengthening local democracy through supporting the cooperation of CSOs with municipal authorities and capacity building of CSOs to take part in policy dialogue. The IPA 2008 project (EUR 3.5 million) aims to strengthen local democracy through supporting the cooperation of CSOs with municipal authorities, supporting CSOs active in the fight against corruption, raising the capacity of CSOs in addressing environmental problems and developing youth policy.

3.6.2.3 Croatia

Actions under IPA 2008 (EUR 3 million) consist of improving the capacity of the civil society sector to monitor and implement the *acquis*.

Croatia has over years constantly allocated National Programme funds to support CSOs. The PHARE 2006 grant scheme (amounting to 3 million) is implemented through 34 projects in the fields: human rights, environment and youths.

3.6.2.4 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

IPA 2007 (EUR 1 million) supports the General Secretariat of the Government in implementation of the key elements of the overall public administration reform process and in particular the Unit for NGO cooperation to strengthen the implementation of the Strategy for Cooperation with the Civil Society Sector. IPA 2008 (EUR 1.2 million) supports the development and capacity building of the non-governmental sector through the improved involvement of NGOs in drafting legislation and regulations and in providing social services.

3.6.2.5 Montenegro

The implementation of IPA 2007 civil society project (EUR 1 million) starts in 2009 with the object of facilitating dialogue and partnership between the Montenegrin and EU-based CSOs, particularly in the social, health and cultural fields. The IPA 2007 civil society project also envisages support to promote intercultural dialogue and cooperation in all areas of the arts, including literature, music and cultural heritage. No projects have been planned under IPA 2008. IPA 2009 (EUR 2.2 million) is seen as an opportunity to obtain feedback from past assistance and to consider additional support to civil society.

3.6.2.6 Serbia

Under IPA 2008 (EUR 2.5 million), additional support to Civil Society is planned in line with the objectives of the CSF. The overall objective is to strengthen the participation of civil society in policy dialogue with the Serbian authorities and to promote and improve people's knowledge and understanding of Serbia's eventual integration into the EU. All projects are expected to be contracted in 2009. New CSF activities are expected to be programmed under IPA 2009 (EUR 2 million).

3.6.2.7 Kosovo

IPA 2008 (EUR 1.7 million) will support the Kosovo Media Institute and the civil society sector as a whole. It is also likely to cover the following areas: environment, equal opportunities and provision of social services to specific vulnerable groups. Under IPA 2009, it is planned to implement some aspects of the "Kosovo Strategy for the Roma, Ashkali and

Egyptians” and to facilitate an informal but high-level dialogue between communities in Kosovo.

3.6.2.8 Turkey

The IPA 2008 civil society dialogue amounts to EUR 6.9 million. For the IPA 2009 programming, few projects are at the development stage. The IPA 2007 and 2008 projects provide funds for the civil society sector and are supposed to complement the CSF. In 2008, "People 2 People" initiatives were launched as part of the CSF. The project stimulates civic participation in the region by offering individuals and CSOs the possibility of participating in short-term visits to EU institutions and organisations.

3.6.3 Other Donors

Several EU Member States also deliver support in civil society through bilateral or multilateral channels. Most support has been provided by Denmark, Finland, Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

Other international organisations are strongly involved in supporting civil society in the region. The Council of Europe has allocated small grants to support intercultural dialogue and multi-ethnic understanding. USAID has funded a number of projects in civil society development, e.g. capacity building of CSOs through training projects and the building of resource centres for legal framework reform. The World Bank remains also one of the main participants in the region working for the development of civil society through grant schemes.

The OSCE¹⁵ is active in facilitating the participation of civil society actors in the decision-making process. The UNDP¹⁶ is another important participant in the Western Balkans and Turkey and has contributed to promoting poverty reduction, social exclusion and economic development particularly through civil society empowerment.

3.7 Lessons learned

Under previous projects to support civil society¹⁷ there have been some important achievements. Networks and partnerships have been established and strengthened, and information on the EU *acquis* has been shared. However, it has become apparent that the vast majority of these networks and partnerships include only CSOs of the same nature. As a result, the involvement of other essential partners remains very limited. It is for this reason that the current programme will pay particular attention to cross-sectoral partnerships and networks.

To allow them to flourish, legislative frameworks, public incentives and indeed the perception of CSOs among the general public should be upgraded. The Technical Assistance will provide valuable input for this. Furthermore, the TA will provide guidance to the projects acting as a mediator/facilitator between the different 'segments'.

In addition, more effort is required for further recognition, development and civil society initiatives in the region and for a culture of civil society partnership and consultation in sectors of great interest for the region and relevant stakeholders.

¹⁵ Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe

¹⁶ United Nations Development Programme

¹⁷ CARDS 2003: “Democratic Stabilisation - Civil Society Development and Network Building”; CARDS 2006: “Consolidating Partnership between Civil Society Organisations and Public Authorities for Raising Minority Rights in the Region”; Phare 2006: “Business Support Programme”; IPA 2007 “Support to Media Production in South East Europe”; IPA 2008: “Civil Society Facility”.

Experience has also shown that support to Civil Society is considered as being too fragmented. Therefore this programme will follow the path set by the Civil Society Facility in strengthening the overall coordination and coherence of assistance and activities carried on or funded by the EU, its Member States and other public and private donors. DG Enlargement endeavours to improve coordination by organising regular meetings throughout the year with authorities in the Western Balkans and Turkey, Delegations and stakeholders.

One of the principal issues in this coordination will be the co-financing of projects. Under this programme, it will be necessary to establish partnerships involving CSOs from different backgrounds, which will also allow for more financially powerful CSOs such as Business Representative Organisations to be involved. Moreover, under the Technical Assistance previously mentioned local steering committees composed of CSO representatives and donors will be established throughout the IPA region.

These committees will also be open to private donors (foundations, etc.) opening up the possibility for them to co-finance projects selected under EU calls for proposals or which – although very interesting – fail due to for instance technical and/or administrative errors. Such coordination would not only save much time but also ensure that less financially powerful CSOs would nevertheless be able to participate in calls for proposals launched by the Commission since their co-financing would be secured.

4. Indicative Budget (amounts in EUR)

			SOURCES OF FUNDING									
			TOTAL EXP	IPA COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION		NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION					PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION	
ACTIVITIES	IB (1)	INV (1)	EUR (a)= (b)+(c)+(d)	EUR (b)	% (2)	Total EUR (c)= (x)+(y)+(z)	% (2)	Central EUR (x)	Regional/ Local EUR (y)	IFIs EUR (z)	EUR (d)	% (2)
Activity 1	X		6 250 000	5 000 000	80	-	-	-	-	-	1 250 000	20
Grants	-	-	6 250 000	5 000 000	80	-	-	-	-	-	1 250 000	20
Activity 2	X		3 125 000	2 500 000	80	-	-	-	-	-	625 000	20
Grants	-	-	3 125 000	2 500 000	80	-	-	-	-	-	625 000	20
Activity 3	X		3 125 000	2 500 000	80	-	-	-	-	-	625 000	20
Grants	-	-	3 125 000	2 500 000	80	-	-	-	-	-	625 000	20
TOTAL IB			12 500 000	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INV			-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PROJECT			12 500 000	10 000 000	80	-	-	-	-	-	2 500 000	20

Amounts net of VAT

- (1) In the Activity row use "X" to identify whether IB or INV
- (2) Expressed in % of the **Total** Expenditure (column (a))

5. Indicative Implementation Schedule (periods broken down per quarter)

Grants	Launch of Call for Proposals	Signature of contract	Project completion
Activity 1	Q4 2009	Q2 2010	Q3 2012
Activity 2	Q4 2009	Q2 2010	Q3 2012
Activity 3	Q4 2009	Q2 2010	Q3 2012

6. Cross-cutting issues

6.1 Equal Opportunities

The principle of equal opportunities between women and men should be taken into account when evaluating the quality of all projects proposed under both components and during all phases of their implementation. Specific attention will be paid to the gender dimension when determining the benefit of training activities. While implementing the project activities and to the extent applicable, the Beneficiary authorities will try to assure that gender disaggregated data will be made available to carry out an analysis of the social and economic impact of the actions undertaken.

6.2 Environment

Beneficiaries shall ensure that, during implementation of their actions, due consideration is given to the Governments' development policies relating to environmental management and that such policies are embodied, within all strategic policy documents that they may draft and all training activities that they may carry out.

6.3 Minorities

Intercultural dialogue should be favoured and the rights of minorities and other vulnerable groups, including Roma, should be taken into account when evaluating the quality of all projects proposed under the overall components. While implementing the project activities and to the extent applicable, the Beneficiary authorities will try to assure that national disaggregated data will be made available to carry out an analysis of the social and economic, as well as cultural impact of the actions undertaken

ANNEXES

- I- Logical framework matrix in standard format
- II- Amounts (in EUR) contracted and disbursed per quarter over the full duration of project
- III- Description of Institutional Framework
- IV - Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:
- V- Details per EC funded contract

ANNEX I: Logical framework matrix in standard format.

Project Fiche		Civil Society Facility - Partnership Actions: between: 1. Socio-economic partners 2. Minorities/vulnerable group organisations 3. Cultural organisations	2009/021-373
		Contracting period expires: 30 November 2010	Disbursement period expires: 30 November 2013
		Total budget: EUR 12 500 000	IPA budget: EUR 10 000 000
Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	
To strengthen civil society within a participative democracy, stimulating a civil society friendly 'environment' and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation of the democracy indicators and sector aspects such as freedom of association and human rights improved - Number of good practices that will be promoted at CSO sector level - Degree of population's understanding of the role of CSOs in society, European integration process and objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statistics - Evaluation and Monitor and Progress reports - Impact Assessment - Studies by EU Member states, international organisations, other donors, etc - Country and EC Progress Reports and other Regular Reports (Commission's opinion, Parliament reports, Action Projects, etc) - Findings of the technical assistance contractors - Press and media coverage in the areas in which the project is expected to have impact - Public opinion 	

Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
<p>To develop a professionally operating civil society sector by expanding in particular the advocacy role of CSOs to support democratic issues and to advise citizens and public authorities through intercultural dialogue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of established (in)formal co-operation structures involving CSOs and authorities - Quantity and quality of position papers (or similar) regarding EU <i>acquis</i> uptake and implementation - Laws and similar initiatives and the degree of noticeable CSO involvement and influence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring reports of projects implemented under the project - Ad hoc reports - Interim and final reports - Public opinion surveys - Media coverage - Position papers - Peer reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political stability and favourable environment for development of CSOs and dialogue - Political commitment guaranteed - Legitimacy and credibility of CSOs are recognised by all - Availability of funds and sufficient CSOs' absorption capacity - Citizens' trust of CSO activities - Commitment of EU-based CSOs and institutions to establish partnerships with their counterparts in the Western Balkans and Turkey - Willingness of CSOs to establish coalitions in order to perform a watchdog function - Donors' continued commitment to engage in supporting civil society as being a high priority - Willingness of relevant governmental bodies to cooperate and adopt national policies supportive to CSOs' initiatives

Results	Objectively verifiable indicators ¹⁸	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
<p><i>1: Partnership actions between socio-economic partners</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased participation of CSOs in decision-making, policy implementation and monitoring; - Increased cooperation between CSOs themselves¹⁹ on the one hand and CSOs and public authorities on the other; - Increased understanding among employers and employees of the relevant EU <i>acquis</i> and its impact. 	<p><i>1: Partnership actions between socio-economic partners</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of consultations by public authorities involving CSOs within two years from the end of the project; - Number of new joint CSO initiatives/networks born as a direct result of the project within two years from its end; - Number of actions (workshops, training sessions, campaigns, manuals/guides, etc.) involving CSOs and public authorities regarding the <i>acquis</i> (uptake, implementation and monitoring) carried out within two years from the end of the project; - Number of (common) CSO position papers on the <i>acquis</i> presented within two years from the end of the project; - Number of social conflicts resolved resulting directly from the implementation of the <i>acquis</i> within two years from the end of the project; - Number of measures taken to adopt and implement the <i>acquis</i>, notably at firms within two years from the end of the project; - Number of court cases regarding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring reports of projects implemented under the CSF - Ad hoc reports - Interim and final reports - Project Reporting on project actions - Monitoring / Evaluation reports - Press releases - CSOs 'Newsletters - Review field work - Public opinion surveys - Media coverage - Position papers - Peer reviews 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CSO personnel remains highly motivated - Legislation and previous benchmark results for the EU readily available - Legitimacy and credibility of CSOs are recognised - The efficiency of government initiatives in the fields advocated by CSOs - Citizens trust CSO activities - Public authorities and stakeholders recognise CSOs as providers of expertise in key topics - CSOs' willingness to get closer to their EU counterparts

¹⁸ Ideally to be verified two years after project completion

¹⁹ Including for example business representative organisations, trade unions, 'watchdogs', think tanks, etc.

<p>2: Partnership actions between "minorities, vulnerable groups" organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved competence of CSOs with respect to advocacy and provision of information and policy advice to stakeholders (e.g. public authorities, other donors); - Improved cooperation among and between CSOs and public authorities with special emphasis on the implementation of compatible measures for the better integration of minorities and vulnerable groups, with particular emphasis on youth and children; - Recognition by society of the conditions of target groups, and relevant legal, political and legal matters; - Increased participation of CSOs in civil society activities; - Establishment of regional network of CSOs established as a sustainable tool for pooling expertise and for sharing best practices and lessons learnt; - Consensus reached with policy makers to set up benchmarks and indicators for steering progress in policy development and implementation. 	<p>violation of the EU <i>acquis</i> rules, notably concerning firms within two years from the end of the project.</p> <p>2: Partnership actions between "minorities, vulnerable groups" organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of new partnerships and networks or increased membership and degree of representation of existing ones, in the two years from the end of the projects; - Number of (in)formal consultation structures involving CSOs and public authorities and/or relevant stakeholders set up during the two years from the end of the project; - Number of new measures drawn up and implemented by public authorities with the aim to improve the position of minorities and vulnerable groups in the two years from the end of the projects; - Number of members of minorities and vulnerable groups that benefit from the support of these CSOs in the two years from the end of the projects. 		
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<p>3: Partnership actions between cultural organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved public access to all types of culture, with a special focus on youth; - Enhanced European identity on the basis of common values (e.g. through translation of essays and literary works); -); - Intra-regional and inter-regional cultural initiatives and partnerships developed; - Networking capacities of the cultural organisations and operators strengthened; - Strengthened links and dialogue between CSOs, Public Authorities from the WB and Turkey and closer relationships developed with EU counterparts; - Enhanced involvement and ownership of cultural operators/organisations in policy development in the field of culture. 	<p>3: Partnership actions between cultural organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of new networks and presence of cultural actors from different disciplines established within two years from the end of the project; - Number of cultural initiatives within and outside the regional boundaries implemented during the two years following the project's implementation; - Number of new joint regional /EU initiatives developed/implemented within two years within two years from the end of the project; - Number of intercultural activities to which the Beneficiary population participates developed/implemented within two years from the end of the project; - Number of information and communication material published within two years from the end of the project. 		
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Activities	Means	Cost	Assumptions
<p>1: Partnership actions between socio-economic partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisation and implementation of (workshops, information events, training actions, communication and awareness campaigns) so as to increase understanding among the CSOs on relevant EU <i>acquis</i> and its impact for social and economic operators, as well as to encourage a common approach throughout the region; - Provision of training and expert advice to strengthen the capacity of CSOs in assisting/advising their members on the implementation and impact of the relevant EU <i>acquis</i>; - Organisation and implementation of partnership activities to link business association, trade unions, think-tank, watchdogs and other relevant CSOs with each other and with other essential stakeholders; - Establishment of communication platforms/tools to promote and exchange good practices and to formulate concrete recommendations and practical solutions. <p>Priorities in terms of EU <i>acquis</i> under this project are health and safety (workplace and/or product), innovation (research and development), environment/energy efficiency, corporate social responsibility and integration of marginalised people (principally disabled persons).</p>	Calls for Proposals	EUR 5.0 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Timely adoption of the project, guidelines - Potential Beneficiary authorities are appropriately informed about the project and notably the call for proposals - Beneficiary authorities and other stakeholders have 'ownership' of the project and its calls
<p>2: Partnership actions between "minorities, vulnerable groups" organisations</p> <p>The project will focus on activities that seek to improve the access of minorities and vulnerable groups to social, economic and cultural rights, better social inclusion and integration, and may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training and expert advice (i.e. needs assessments, analysis of legal measures and their effectiveness, dialogue with minorities, vulnerable groups, young people, public authorities, business actors, etc); - Organisation and implementation of awareness-raising events (seminars, workshops, conferences) on discrimination; - Arrangement of meetings with stakeholders from the region to define benchmarking and performance indicators for the integration of minorities and vulnerable groups; - Development of information, networking and knowledge provision (e.g. website, database, publication); - Setting-up of structures to monitor policy and measures, survey, research, documentation. 	Calls for Proposals	EUR 2.5 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applicants are able to present suitable, correct proposals - Beneficiary authorities and partners have sufficient capacity to take part in the calls and to implement the projects

<p>3: Partnership actions between cultural organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actions to foster the exchange of information and experience among cultural operators including artists and other cultural professionals both in the region and with the EU; - Actions to foster the circulation and access to works of art in the region and in the EU; - Actions to support regional initiatives/partnerships highlighting the role of culture in economic development, social inclusion, conflict prevention/resolution intercultural dialogue etc; - Support the participation of cultural operators/professionals in European policy fora (e.g. European Cultural Forum); - Cooperation action between CSOs aimed at valorisation of heritage sites, including educational activities and innovative cooperation between heritage and contemporary creation; - Creation of regional tourism projects or similar oriented towards the cultural sites, support to cross-border cultural itineraries; - Initiatives combined with support to translation of essays within the region and between the EU and the Western Balkans and Turkey, and of literary works within the region²⁰. 	<p>Calls for Proposals</p>	<p>EUR 2.5 million</p>	
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²⁰ The culture programme already covers the cost of the translation of literary works.

ANNEX II: Amounts (in EURm) contracted and disbursed per quarter over the full duration of project

Contracted	Q1 2010	Q2 2010	Q3 2010	Q4 2010	Q1 2011	Q2 2011	Q3 2011	Q4 2011	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013
Grants Activity 1	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants Activity 2	-	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants Activity 3	-	2.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cumulative	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disbursed	Q1 2010	Q2 2010	Q3 2010	Q4 2010	Q1 2011	Q2 2011	Q3 2011	Q4 2011	Q1 2012	Q2 2012	Q3 2012	Q4 2012	Q1 2013
Grants Activity 1	-	2.5	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	0.5
Grants Activity 2	-	1.25	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.25
Grants Activity 3	-	1.25	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	0.25
Cumulative	-	5	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	10

ANNEX III: Description of Institutional Framework

Grantees will be Civil Society Organisations and their partners, or international organisations if appropriate. The involvement of public authorities, educational institutes, research institutes, etc. will be particularly welcome and in some cases essential.

The European Commission, DG Enlargement will implement the project by launching Calls for Proposals respecting the applicable rules, and will involve Delegations in the design of the guidelines and evaluations of the proposals received. DG Enlargement will also invite the authorities in the Western Balkans and Turkey to participate in evaluations. Furthermore, DG Enlargement will invite Delegations to monitor the implementation of projects, urging grantees to keep Delegations well informed and to invite them to major project events.

It is expected that the authorities in the Western Balkans and Turkey will be closely involved in the project, either as an associated partner, as a main counterpart or as an observer/participant in events. It is essential that the projects, as part of their communication and information strategy, inform all relevant parties on activities and results.

The European Commission DG Enlargement will provide the authorities in the Western Balkans and Turkey directly or via the Delegation and/or their missions with information on the overall implementation of the project with annual reports and mid-term briefings.

Each grantee will be responsible for the management of the project for which it receives EU funding.

ANNEX IV: Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents

- EC Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on the “Western Balkans on the road to the EU: consolidating stability and raising prosperity”, COM(2006) 27 final of 27 January 2006;
- Multi-beneficiary Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document (2007-2009), SEC(2007) 749 of 29 May 2007;
- EC Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on the “Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2007-2008”, COM(2007) 663 final of 6 November 2007;
- EC Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on the “Western Balkans: Enhancing the European perspective”, COM(2008) 127 final of 5 March 2008;
- Multi-beneficiary Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document (2008-2010), COM(2008) 3585 of 17 July 2008;
- EC Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on the “Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2008-2009”, COM(2008) 674 final of 5 November 2008.

ANNEX V: Details per EC funded contract

There will be several grant contracts following three Calls for Proposals:

Activity 1: EUR 5 million: partnership actions between socio-economic partners, contracts to be signed following a call for proposals managed by DG Enlargement Unit D3 Regional Programmes.

Activity 2: EUR 2.5 million: partnership actions with "minorities/vulnerable groups" organisations contracts to be signed following a call for proposals managed by DG Enlargement Unit D3 Regional Programmes.

Activity 3: EUR 2.5 million: partnership actions with cultural organisations contracts to be signed following a call for proposals managed by DG Enlargement Unit D3 Regional Programmes.

The selection of proposals will take place in two phases:

- 1: Evaluation and selection of Concept Notes
- 2: Selected applicants (short-list) invited to submit full applications within a certain deadline

EU contribution per contract will be at least EUR 100,000.

Partners' contributions will be 25%.