



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 11.12.2014
C(2014) 9571 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 11.12.2014

**adopting a Civil Society Facility and Media Programme for the years 2014-2015 under
the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures of the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action¹ and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance² and in particular Article 7 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002³ and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 lays down the objectives and main principles for pre-accession assistance to beneficiaries listed in Annex I to that Regulation.
- (2) In accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 the assistance should be implemented through annual or multi-annual, country-specific or multi-country programmes. These programmes should be drawn up in accordance with the framework for assistance referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 and the relevant country or multi-country indicative strategy papers referred to in Article 6 of that Regulation.
- (3) In accordance with Article 6(3) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014, the Commission may adopt multi-annual action programmes for a period of up to three years in the case of recurrent actions. For years other than the initial commitment year, the commitments are indicative and depend on the future annual budgets of the Union.
- (4) The Council established an Accession Partnership or a European Partnership for all beneficiaries listed in Annex I of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014. The Commission adopted an Indicative Multi-country Strategy Paper for the period 2014 - 2020⁴ on 30 June 2014 which provides indicative allocations for the priorities for multi-country pre-accession assistance.

¹ OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 95

² OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 11

³ OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p.1

⁴ C(2014) 4293, 30.06.2014

- (5) Considering the proposals for action submitted by the beneficiaries concerned, the Civil Society Facility and Media Programme for 2014-2015 aims at providing assistance for actions in the horizontal support priority of the multi-country indicative strategy paper, and the good governance and democracy, as well as the rule of law and fundamental rights sectors of the countries' indicative strategy papers;
- (6) It is necessary to adopt a financing decision, the detailed rules of which are set out in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012⁵.
- (7) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals to the bodies identified in the Annex and for the reasons provided therein.
- (8) The maximum contribution of the European Union set by this Decision should cover any possible claims for interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 92 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Article 111(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (9) Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 the Commission should define changes to this Decision which are not substantial in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible.
- (10) The action programmes provided for by this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the IPA Committee set up by Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014⁶,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the programme

The Civil Society Facility and Media Programme for the years 2014-2015 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) as set out in the Annex, is hereby approved.

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum amount of the European Union contribution for the implementation of the Programme referred to in Article 1 is set at:

EUR 44.05 million and shall be financed from the budget line 22.02.04.01 of the general budget of the EU for year 2014

EUR 24.65 million and shall be financed from the budget line 22.02.04.01 of the general budget of the EU for year 2015

⁵ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1

⁶ The Member States have declared, recalling the Council Conclusions of 18 February 2008, that the adoption of this programme does not prejudice the position of each individual Member State on the status of Kosovo, which will be decided in accordance with their national practice and international law.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations for the year 2015, following the adoption of the general budget of the European Union referred to in the first paragraph or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

The financial contributions referred to in the first sub-paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

Article 3

Implementation modalities

This programme shall be implemented by direct management.

Article 4

Grants without a call for proposals

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to the bodies identified in the Annex, in accordance with the conditions specified therein.

Article 5

Non-substantial changes

The following changes shall not be considered substantial provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions:

- a) increases or decreases for not more than 20% of the maximum contribution for each budgetary year set in the first paragraph of Article 2, and not exceeding EUR 10 million;
- b) cumulated reassignments of funds between specific actions within each budgetary year not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2;
- c) extensions of the implementation and closure period;
- d) within the limits of 20% referred to in points (a) and (b) above, up to 5 % of the contribution referred to in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this financing decision may serve to finance actions which were not foreseeable at the time the present financing decision was adopted, provided that those actions are necessary to implement the objectives and the results set out in the programme.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 11.12.2014

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission

ANNEX 1

CIVIL SOCIETY FACILITY AND MEDIA 2014-2015

1

2 IDENTIFICATION

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Beneficiary | <i>Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as Kosovo* Turkey</i> |
| CRIS/ABAC reference Total cost = EU Contribution Budget line | <i>2014/031-605 for year 2014: EUR 44.05 million On budget line 22.020401</i> |
| CRIS/ABAC reference Total cost = EU Contribution Budget line | <i>2015/037-653 for year 2015: EUR 24.65 million On budget line 22.020401</i> |
| Management mode | <i>Direct management by the European Commission</i> |
| Final date for contracting including the conclusion of delegation agreements | <i>For the budgetary commitment of year 2014 at the latest by 31 December 2015 For the budgetary commitment of year 2015 at the latest by 31 December 2016</i> |
| Final date for operational implementation¹ | <i>For the budgetary commitment of year 2014 at the latest by 31 December 2019 For the budgetary commitment of year 2015 at the latest by 31 December 2020</i> |
| Programming Unit | <i>Unit D.3</i> |
| Implementing Unit/ EU Delegation | <i>Unit D.3, EU Delegations in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, EU office in Kosovo</i> |

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

¹Due to the nature of the actions, aiming at long-term engagement with Civil Society Organisations, this programme requires 4 years of operational implementation.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION PROGRAMME

3.1 PRIORITIES SELECTED UNDER THIS ACTION PROGRAMME

- ***Rationale for the selection of the specific priorities under this programme:***

Strengthening civil society is a core part of the Political Criteria for accession. As such it also corresponds to essential and closely interlinked elements of the enlargement strategy and a crucial area that is regularly monitored in the Progress Report. Indeed, a more dynamic civil society can contribute to the accession process becoming more than just a technical process between the candidate country and the EU and to sustain public support for accession.

In 2012, the European Commission proposed an enhanced and more strategic approach in its engagement with local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)² in partner countries. The communication "The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations"³ identifies the importance of CSOs as independent development actors and, for the first time, commits to promote a more conducive environment for their actions, so they can fully play their role and contribute to policy making.

The Multi Country Indicative Strategy Paper 2014-20⁴ endorses the approach proposed in the Communication and considers the support to civil society and media one of the priorities to improve democracy and rule of law through horizontal support.

The Civil Society Facility (CSF) introduced for the first time in 2008⁵ to support civil society financially and technically, proved to be a powerful means to strengthen participatory democracies and freedom of media. The CSF comprises both National and Multi-beneficiary initiatives which are programmed in a coordinated manner. The CSF is therefore a single facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey.

The priorities of the CSF and media action for the period 2014-15 are largely inspired by two sets of Guidelines elaborated in coordination with all Delegations and endorsed by the Commission's Directorate-General for Enlargement (DG Enlargement) end-2013, beginning 2014: *EU Guidelines for the support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-20* and *EU Guidelines for the support to media freedom and media integrity in enlargement countries, 2014-20*. The two documents have been widely consulted with governments, civil society, media and International organisations within the region and in the EU. The guidelines translate the political objectives of the Commission as indicated in the Indicative Strategy

² As defined in the REGULATION (EU) No 233/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020 "The EU considers CSOs as non-State, non-profit making actors operating on an independent and accountable basis. They include: non-governmental organisations, organisations representing indigenous peoples, organisations representing national and/or ethnic minorities, diaspora organisations, migrants' organisations in partner countries, local traders' associations and citizens' groups, cooperatives, employers' associations and trade unions (social partners), organisations representing economic and social interests, organisations fighting corruption and fraud and promoting good governance, civil rights organisations and organisations combating discrimination, local organisations (including networks) involved in decentralised regional cooperation and integration, consumer organisations, women's and youth organisations, environmental, teaching, cultural, research and scientific organisations, universities, churches and religious associations and communities, philosophical and non-confessional organisations, the media and any non-governmental associations and independent foundations, including independent political foundations, likely to contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the DCI Regulation.

³ COM(2012) 492 final

⁴ C(2014) 4293, 30.06.2014

⁵ COM (2008) 127 – "Western Balkans: Enhancing the European Perspective".

Papers and in the enlargement package into a concrete "results' framework" containing the outcomes to be achieved by 2020 as well as the indicators to monitor them. The measurement of indicators will provide information for the elaboration of the yearly country progress reports and for the programming of IPA support.

A baseline assessment was conducted beginning 2014 and the baseline situation per country against indicators of the civil society Guidelines were presented in a regional conference in on May 2014. In that occasion a trilateral discussion has started among the Commission, national Governments and CSOs on the process of defining targets per country and on the requirements for longer-term sustainability of the monitoring and reporting exercise. The yearly national and regional meetings foreseen in the next years to analyse the advancements towards the targets will provide also a forum for further definition of the role of Governments and CSOs in ensuring ownership and sustainability of the entire process

With regard to freedom of expression, in an effort to have a thorough understanding of the systemic nature of the challenges in the enlargement zone and to elaborate adequate policy responses to it, the Commission organised two Speak-up! Conferences (2011 and 2013) involving stakeholders from the media community, CSOs and decision makers. These events and the following conclusions became important reference points in addressing the issues of media freedom and integrity in the context of the enlargement policy and the Guidelines for media offer a long term assistance approach to this end. The monitoring mechanism of the Guidelines for media is at an initial stage and a thorough baseline assessment is planned in 2015.

- ***Overview of past and on-going EU, other donors' and/or IPA II beneficiary's actions in the relevant sectors:***

The 2012 external thematic evaluation of EU's support to civil society in the Western Balkans and Turkey⁶ concluded that the CSF support contributed to the strengthening of democracy and reconciliation with special focus on fulfilling the Copenhagen criteria.

In order to follow up on the lessons learned of the evaluation, the Commission decided to introduce the civil society and media guidelines to facilitate the translation of the political priorities into concrete objectives and results with indicators to measure their achievement. This major effort which is thoroughly reflected in the present document will support solid monitoring in the future of the EU contribution to civil society development in the Western Balkans and Turkey.

On the other hand the previous financial support to CSOs was based on providing action grants quite limited in time (up to 24 months), via calls for proposals centred on specific themes. With the introduction of Framework Partnership Agreements (IPA 2011-12) and Operating Grants (IPA 2013) the Commission decided to pay particular attention to cross-sectorial partnerships and networks involving more established and experienced EU and national CSOs as well as more grass-root local

⁶ Thematic Evaluation of EU's Support to Civil Society in the Western Balkans (namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro and Serbia) and Turkey" (2012)

CSOs. Nowadays, the support to long-term networks of CSOs will be further prolonged up to 4 years.

To reach smaller grassroots organisation outside urban areas the present programme will put in place the implementation of sub-granting schemes managed by regional thematic networks and International organizations. Several other activities to support the capacities of local and community based CSOs are organized regularly by TACSO (regional technical assistance to civil society organisations with offices in each beneficiary) and the EU Delegations at country level (e.g. helpdesk, info days, translation of the guidelines in local languages when new call of proposals are published).

Regarding assistance to media, the involvement of international bodies with a specific mandate has proven to be effective in the realization of regional activities targeting Public Service Broadcasts (European Broadcasting Union - EBU) and self-regulatory bodies (UNESCO) and will be further strengthened according to the recommendations of a recent scoping study on the topic⁷.

Referring to consistency of the European Union assistance, the activities of the CSF foreseen at multi country level have been carefully assessed and coordinated with the EU Delegations in the Western Balkans and Turkey. Thanks to the common priorities set in the Guidelines for EU support to civil society and media, a "division of labour" has been agreed with the Delegations in order to avoid overlapping and improve synergies between regional and national programmes, and coherence with the enlargement strategy.

The complementarity with other Commission's instruments devoted to support civil society (e.g. European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights - EIDHR and civil society dialogue in Turkey) is ensured by regular exchanges of information and, mostly, at field level thanks to the joint management of the programmes by the EU Delegations. However, a clear distinction should be made between the different and complementary approach of the CSF deconcentrated/national window and the EIDHR:

- The Civil Society Facility should focus on empowering CSOs (i.e. civil society development) and increase Governments' response to CS needs;
- The EIDHR is the policy tool of the EU to promote democracy and human rights in all of its external policies.

The CSF and media programme 2014-2015 includes the following actions:

| <i>Action number and title</i> | <i>EU contribution 2014 (EUR million)</i> | <i>EU contribution 2015 (EUR million)</i> |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Action 1 CSF and media multi-country 2014-2015 | 25.0 | 5.3 |

⁷ "Western Balkans and Turkey Media and Freedom of Expression Fact-finding and Scoping Study" (2013)

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Action 2 CSF Albania | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| Action 3 CSF Bosnia and Herzegovina | 2.1 | 2.5 |
| Action 4 CSF the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| Action 5 CSF Kosovo | 0.7 | 4.1 |
| Action 6 CSF Montenegro | 2.25 | 1.25 |
| Action 7 CSF Serbia | 2.0 | 4.5 |
| Action 8 CSF Turkey | 5.0 | 0 |
| | | |
| Total 8 actions | 44.05 | 24.65 |

3.2 DESCRIPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PRIORITY 1 | <i>Horizontal support to sector policies and reforms</i> | Amount EU EUR 68.77 million |
| Action 1 | <i>Civil Society Facility and media multi-country 2014-15</i> | <i>EU 2014: EUR 25 million</i> <i>EU 2015: EUR 5.3 million</i> |

(1) Description of the Action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the action:

The CSF is a single facility managed directly by Headquarters and by the EU Delegations / office in the beneficiaries, which supports the strengthening of civil society in the IPA region. The strategy for the CSF and media covers support at national and multi-beneficiary levels over the next two years, with associated budget appropriations for 2014 and 2015.

Objective:

The implementation of the strategy will contribute to the achievement of the overall objective for the CSF and media 2014-2015 programme, namely to strengthen participatory democracies by anchoring democratic values and structures, human rights, social inclusion and the rule of law, thereby supporting the EU integration process.

The purpose of the action is to stimulate an enabling legal and financial environment for civil society and pluralistic media as well as to empower civil society and media organisation to be effective and independent actors on issues relevant to freedom of expression and association with capacity to influence policy and decision making processes.

In order to achieve these objectives the CSF and media multi-country action foresees four components and 13 expected results.

Key performance indicators:

The main indicators related to the specific objective are:

- Quality assessment of existing legislation and policy framework
- Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for cooperation between CSOs/media and public Institutions
- External perception of importance and impact of CSOs activities and of CSOs' transparency and accountability

Expected results:

Component 1 – Support to cross-border networks through long-term and operating grants

Result 1: CSOs regularly network within and outside country borders and makes use of coalition-building with an increased impact in campaigning and advocacy

Result 2: The importance of CSOs in improving good governance is recognised by public institutions and CSOs are systematically included in decision making and reform processes

Result 3: The activities of CSOs are guided by strategic long-term organisational planning and have a diverse and sustainable funding base

Main indicators for component 1 are:

- Share of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks
- Number of CSOs networks/ Associations awarded a long-term or operating grant

Component 2 - Media freedom and integrity

Result 4: Parliaments conduct periodic assessments of the state of media freedom and adopt policy and legislative proposals in line with the EU law and international standards

Result 5: Independent and professional regulators preserve media pluralism and prevent unfair competition in media market

Result 6: Judiciary acting in conformity with article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights

Result 7: Reformed and professional Public Service Media ensure content pluralism in an independent and accountable manner

Result 8: Public demand for quality media is increased and citizens are empowered through Media and Information Literacy (MIL) to better understand the role of online and offline media

Result 9: Improved internal governance and transparency within media outlets through the implementation of internal rules, labour standards and enforcement of ethical codes

Result 10: Media accountability towards users increased thanks to efficient and sustainable self-regulation mechanisms and the inclusion of professional standards in the basic education of journalists

Result 11: Representative networks of media and journalist professional organizations take responsibility of media sector relevant issues in dialogue with authorities as well as provide services to their members

Main indicators for component 2 are:

- Annual assessments of existing legislation, other legal acts affecting media and factors influencing freedom of expression conducted
- Number of rulings related to media that are consistent with European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) case law
- Quality assessment of the legislation, financing mechanisms and accountability of Public Service Broadcast (PSB)
- Public programme to promote media and information literacy are in place
- Presence of representative self-regulatory bodies and effectiveness of their action
- Increased share of journalists reporting adequate working conditions (contracts, social protection, etc.)

Component 3 - Strengthening reconciliation

Results 12: The governments of Post-Yugoslav countries established a RECOM ('Regional Commission for the identification and public disclosure of facts about the war crimes') interstate Commission in cooperation and consultation process with their civil societies aimed at reaching a regional consensus about the past. Researching and documenting human losses and detention sites during the Yugoslav wars is completed.

Main indicators for component 3 are:

- Post-Yugoslav countries established a RECOM interstate Commission in cooperation and consultation process with their civil societies
- Researching and documenting human losses and detention sites during the war in Kosovo; the war in Croatia; in Bosnia and Herzegovina and during the NATO bombing of FR of Yugoslavia is completed

Component 4 – Support to children rights

Result 13: Strengthened capacities of CSOs to better monitor the realisation of children's rights, to promote inclusive and innovative services and increase public support for the protection of children from violence and social inclusion of children with disabilities. Any differences between girls and boys relating to these issues are addressed.

Main indicators for component 4 are:

- Mechanisms for identifying and responding to violence against children and ensuring social inclusion of children with disabilities are in place
- Data on child victims of violence and children with disabilities is available.

The P2P programme managed by the Technical Assistance for CSOs (TACSO), thanks to its demand driven approach, will serve the scope of addressing new topics not foreseen in this action document.

(2) Assumptions and conditions

A main precondition for the achievement of the objective of the action is that 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. Consequently, partner CSOs and/or authorities from the Western Balkans and Turkey should be willing to establish and improve their exchange of information. All the assistance 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 necessary. Failure to comply with the requirements set out above may lead to a recovery of funds under this programme and/or the re-allocation of future funding.

(3) Essential elements of the action

Procurement:

- a) The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 1.7 million (EUR 0.3 million under IPA 2014, and EUR 1.4 million under IPA 2015).
- b) The indicative number and type of contract award procedures:
 - One service contract or specific contract under FWC BENEf 2013 for the baseline assessment of the media guidelines.
 - One service contract or specific contract under FWC BENEf 2013 for the mid-term evaluation of the CSF.
 - One service contract extension (2013/325-596 with SIPU) for TACSO - p2p.
- c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure:
 - 1 Q1 2015 for the baseline assessment of the media guidelines
 - 2 Q3 2016 for the CSF mid-term evaluation
 - 3 Q1 2016 for the contract extension of TACSO - p2p

Grant – Call for proposal Regional Thematic Networks of CSOs:

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The call for proposal to award long-term grants to regional thematic networks of CSOs will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of the action and results 1, 2, 3 (component 1) and 11 (component 2) mentioned above (under point 1).
- b) The essential eligibility criteria:

In order to be eligible the applicant must be based in one of the beneficiary countries and be active in⁸ and/or group CSOs from at least four of the seven IPA Beneficiaries in the Western Balkans and Turkey. CSOs from EU Member States could be co-applicants of the actions.

- c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.
- d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.
- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:
The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.
- f) Indicative amount of the call:
Call for proposal to award long-term grants to regional thematic networks of CSOs: EUR 16.1 million (IPA 2014)
- g) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals:
Call for proposal to award long-term grants to regional thematic networks of CSOs: Q2 2015

Grant – Call for proposal Operating Grants (2nd and 3rd year of op. grants awarded under the Call for Proposals EA/136034)

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:
The call for proposal to award the second and third year of the operational grants awarded with the Call for Proposal EA 136034 will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of the action and results 1, 2, 3 (component 1) and 11 (component 2) mentioned above.
- b) The essential eligibility criteria:
In order to be eligible the applicant must be based in one of the beneficiary countries and be active in and/or group CSOs from at least four of the seven IPA Beneficiaries in the Western Balkans and Turkey. CSOs from EU Member States could be co-applicants of the actions.
- c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.
- d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.
- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:
The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.
- f) Indicative amount of the call:

⁸ To be active in a country includes: having offices, being registered, having implemented recently and/or at present activities in a given country.

IPA 2014: EUR 1.4 million

IPA 2015: EUR 1.4 million

Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals:

Not applicable, since the grants will be a follow up of the operating grants awarded with the Call for Proposals EA 136034 which has been launched in Q2 2014.

Grant - Direct Grant award to International Organisations

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The direct grant award to a number of international organisations will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of the action and all the results foreseen under component 2 "Media freedom and integrity", 3 "Strengthening reconciliation" and 4 "Support to children rights" mentioned above.

b) Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals:

Under the responsibility of the Authorizing Officer by Delegation, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to international institutions as Council of Europe, UNESCO, UNICEF other European and regional organisations while building on their respective mandates, strengths and expertise in the area of media freedom and integrity, children rights and reconciliation. All beneficiaries as outlined below under point c) will be awarded direct grants in accordance with article 190, f) of the Regulations on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) n. 966/2012:

c) the names of the beneficiaries:

The following organizations will benefit of a direct grant award:

- The **Council of Europe (COE)**, with the support of international and local organizations having the required know how – e.g. national Justice Academies, European Broadcasting Union and national Public Service Broadcasts, for implementing the activities aiming at obtaining a judiciary acting in conformity with article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights as well as a reformed and professional Public Service Media ensuring content pluralism in an independent and accountable manner (Component 2).
- **UNESCO**, in partnership with international media CSOs and local self-regulatory bodies, for implementing the activities aimed at increasing the public demand for quality media through Media and Information Literacy (MIL) and for improving internal governance and transparency of media outlets (Component 2).
- The strengthening reconciliation, component 4, will be implemented by the **Coalition for RECOM** which is a non-political regional gathering of CSOs coordinated by the Humanitarian Law Centre (HLC). HLC has been awarded a direct grant under IPA 2011, and the Coalition is the only one providing this type of services. Moreover, they are already involving the Presidents of the concerned countries.
- **UNICEF** will implement the action aimed at strengthening childrens' rights, involving the European Disability Forum when it concerns the disabled

children (Component 4). Moreover, 60% of the funds will be implemented by CSOs (through sub-granting from UNICEF) in each beneficiary.

d) Indicative amount of the grants:

- COE: EUR 2.5 million (IPA 2015)
- UNESCO: EUR 1.5 million (IPA 2014)
- Humanitarian Law Centre: EUR 0.7 million (IPA 2014)
- UNICEF: EUR 5.0 million (IPA 2014)

e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:

The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for direct grants is 90% of the eligible cost of the action.

f) Indicative date for signing the grant agreement:

- COE: Q4 2015
- UNESCO: Q3 2015
- Coalition for RECOM: Q1 2015
- UNICEF: Q2 2015

g) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

h) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| PRIORITY 1 | | Amount EU EUR 68.7 million |
| Action 2 | Civil Society Facility Albania | EU 2014: EUR 2.0 million EU 2015: EUR 2.0 million |

(1) Description of the Action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the action and objective:

The specific objective of the action is (1) Civil society and public institutions work in partnership through dialogue and cooperation, based on willingness, trust and mutual acknowledgment around common interests and through an enabling financial environment which supports sustainability of CSOs as well as, (2) CSOs becoming more capable, transparent, accountable and financially sustainable". The Civil Society Facility action in Albania foresees 14 expected results.

Key performance indicators:

The main indicators related to the specific objective are:

- Percentage of laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively consulted with CSOs
- Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions
- CSOs' perception of the ease and effectiveness of financial rules and reporting requirements
- Percentage of CSOs publishing their governance structure and internal documents
- Share of CSOs that monitor and evaluate the implementation of their strategies and make this information publicly available/accessible

Expected results of the action:

Component 1 – Good governance and dialogue

1 A mechanism for a structured dialogue between CSOs and state bodies (Parliament, Judiciary, Central and Local Governments) is set-up

2 Public institutions recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance through CSO inclusion in decision-making processes

Component 2 – Financial environment

1 Easy-to-meet financial rules for CSO which are proportionate to their turn-over and non-commercial activities are put in place

2. Donations are stimulated with adequate legislation and regulations
3. Financial (e.g. tax or in-kind) benefits are available for CSOs
4. Government support to CSOs is provided in a transparent, accountable, fair and non-discriminatory manner

Component 3 – CSOs capacity

1. CSOs' internal governance structures are transparent and accountable to members/constituents/beneficiaries
2. CSOs are able to communicate the results of their activities to the public
3. CSOs are transparent about their programme activities and financial management
4. CSOs monitor and evaluate the results and impact of their work

Component 4 – Networking and strategic planning

1. CSO activities are guided by strategic long-term organisational planning
2. CSOs regularly network within and outside country borders and make use of coalition-building for increased impact in campaigning and advocacy

Component 5 – Financial sustainability of CSOs

1. Fund-raising activities are rooted in CSOs' long-term strategic plans and the core mission of the organisation
2. CSOs have a diversified funding base, including membership fees, corporate/individual giving and social entrepreneurship

The activities to achieve the expected results are respectively:

- Activities to achieve results under components 1 and 2: Technical assistance to the Government
- Activities to achieve results under components 3, 4 and 5: Capacity building to CSOs in key sectors including justice sector, good governance and fight to corruption, vulnerable groups (women, children, minority groups, LGBT), environment and media, through granting scheme including sub-granting mechanism to reinforce technical and administrative capacities.

The main indicators related to all expected results are:

- A National Council for Civil Society is formally established and is properly functioning
- The representatives of the CSOs in the National Council for Civil Society are identified in an inclusive and participative way
- CSOs' perception of the ease and effectiveness of financial rules and reporting requirements
- Number and kind of donations to CSOs from individual and corporate donor

- Percentage of CSOs benefiting from tax incentives
- CSO's perception of the provision of funds in terms of transparency, fairness and non-discrimination
- Quality and applicability/practice of the legal framework for individual and corporate giving
- Quality of the system of tax benefits for the CSOs' operational and economic activities
- Quality of state funding frameworks for civil society organisations
- Diversity in CSO sources of income

(2) Assumptions and conditions

The main precondition for the achievement of the objective of the action is the willingness of the government to develop a structured dialogue with civil society actors and to improve the legal framework for CSOs functioning in the country. At the same time the CSOs should be able to organize themselves for a structured dialogue with the governmental counterparts bypassing disruptive political polarization. Failure to comply with the requirements set out above may lead to a recovery of funds under this programme and/or the re-allocation of future funding.

(3) Essential elements of the action

Procurement:

- a) the global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 0.6 million under IPA 2014
- b) the indicative number and type of contract award procedures:
One service contract for Technical Assistance to Government for components 1 and 2
- c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q1 2015

Grant – Call for proposal Strengthening CSOs capacities in priority sectors (justice, fight to corruption and support to vulnerable groups and minorities)

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The call for proposal for grants to strengthen CSOs capacities in priority sectors (justice, fight to corruption and support to vulnerable groups and minorities) including sub-granting mechanisms will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of the action and of the results foreseen under the components 3, 4 and 5 mentioned above.

b) The essential eligibility criteria:

In order to be eligible the applicant must be based in Albania or in an EU member state but with an established office in the country.

- c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.
- d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.
- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:
The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.
- f) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 1.4 million under IPA 2014
- g) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q1 2015

Grant – Call for proposal Strengthening CSOs capacities in priority sectors including sub-granting schemes

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:
The call for proposal for grants to strengthen CSOs capacities in priority sectors including sub-granting schemes will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of the action and of the results foreseen under the components 3, 4 and 5 mentioned above.
- b) The essential eligibility criteria:
In order to be eligible the applicant must be based in Albania or in an EU member state but with an established office in the country.
- c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.
- d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.
- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:
The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 90% of the eligible cost of the action.
- f) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 2.0 million under IPA 2015
- g) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q2 2016

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|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| PRIORITY 1 | | Amount EU EUR 68.7 million |
| Action 3 | Civil Society Facility Bosnia and Herzegovina | EU 2014: EUR 2.1 million EU 2015: EUR 2.5 million |

(1) Description of the Action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the action:

The action 3 will encourage sector based networking and cooperation among CSOs in areas of journalism and human rights concerning the right to a free access to information, freedom of expression, protection against violence and pressure; education, entrepreneurship, environment, focusing on youth and gender as cross cutting issues. In addition, this assistance will also increase domestic CSO capacities to ensure transparent and fair elections' monitoring, and improve capacities of CSOs to combat corruption. The assistance will also be provided to Governments to capacitate them for more effective inclusion in the decision-making.

Objective:

The specific objective of the assistance is «Civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina influences policy, decision-making processes and legislation enacting in the areas critical for EU integration».

Key performance indicators:

The main indicator related to the specific objective is: percentage of laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively consulted with CSOs.

Components and expected results:

Component 1 - Supporting CSOs to combat corruption (in particular in the areas of health and education):

Result 1. Civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina developed models to combat corruption particularly in the areas of health and education

Result 2. CSOs with expertise in combating corruption strengthened (or established where applicable) coordination with relevant governmental agencies

Component 2 - Building capacities of Bosnia and Herzegovina CSOs to monitor elections in order to enable fair and democratic elections.

Result 3. Civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina capacitated for professional election monitoring ensuring fair and democratic elections

Result 4. CSOs with expertise in election monitoring joined their capacities for increased effectiveness of election monitoring.

Component 3 - Support to networking CSOs in areas of journalism and human rights concerning the right to a free access to information, freedom of expression, protection against violence and pressure, education, entrepreneurship and environment.

Result 5. CSOs in the areas of journalism and human rights (the right to a free access to information, free speech, protection against violence and pressure), education, entrepreneurship, environment, youth and gender developed and effectuated a platform for improving their networking capacity, mission related capability, transparency and accountability.

Result 6. General and specific public satisfied with the actions/outputs of the network in respective area (journalism and human rights, education, entrepreneurship, environment, youth and gender)

Component 4 - Capacity building of Governments to include CSOs into the decision-making

Result 7. Governments gained knowledge and skills about how to better include CSOs into the decision- and policy-making.

Result 8. Governments at all levels improved/developed their strategic documents defining cooperation with CSOs

The main indicators related to the expected results are:

- External perception of importance and impact of CSOs activities
- Quality of the enabling environment for grass-roots organisations
- Share of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks
- Share of CSOs that monitor and evaluate their projects and programmes using baselines and quality indicators
- Quality of state funding frameworks for civil society organisations (focusing on procedural document)

(2) Assumptions and conditions

Among the preconditions for the achievement of the objective of the action civil society and the governments should cooperate in a transparent way based on institutional arrangements; the Governments should implement the outcomes of the cooperation with civil society and the Governments and CSOs have to appoint competent representatives to participate in the common project activities. Failure to comply with the requirements set out above may lead to a recovery of funds under this programme and/or the re-allocation of future funding.

(3) Essential elements of the action

Procurement:

- a) the global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 1.2 million (IPA 2015)

- b) the indicative number and type of contracts:
One service contract for social dialogue and social partners;
One service contract to support the government structure in charge of civil society cooperation.
- c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q1 2015

Grant – Call for proposal Supporting CSOs to combat corruption

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:
The call for proposal for grant to support CSOs to combat corruption (in particular in the areas of health and education) will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of this action and of the results foreseen under component 1 above.
- b) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:
The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.
- c) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 0.6 million under IPA 2014
- d) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q2 2015

Grant – Call for proposal Building the capacities of Bosnia and Herzegovina CSOs to monitor elections

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:
The call for proposal for grant to build the capacities of Bosnia and Herzegovina CSOs to monitor elections in order to enable fair and democratic elections will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of this action and of the results foreseen under component 2 above.
- b) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:
The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.
- c) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 1.5 million under IPA 2014
- d) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q2 2015

Grant – Call for proposal Supporting networking of CSOs in areas of journalism and human rights

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:
The call for proposal for grant to support networking of CSOs in areas of journalism and human rights concerning the right to a free access to information, freedom of expression, protection against violence and pressure, education, entrepreneurship, and environment will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of this action and of the results foreseen under component 3 above.

b) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:

The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.

c) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 1.3 million under IPA 2015

d) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q1 2015

Eligibility, selection and award criteria applying to the 3 call for proposals:

a) The essential eligibility criteria:

In order to be eligible the applicant must be based in Bosnia and Herzegovina or in an EU member state but with an established office in the country.

b) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

c) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

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|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| PRIORITY 1 | | Amount EU EUR 68.7 million |
| Action 4 | Civil Society Facility and media the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | EU 2014: EUR 5.0 million EU 2015: EUR 5.0 million |

(1) Description of the Action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the action and objective:

The specific objective of this action is: to enable the legal and policy environment for the exercise of the rights for freedom, expression, assembly and cultural diversity, as well as (2) to improve the dialogue, cooperation and partnership between the CSO, the Media and the public institutions. This action foresees 13 expected results divided under two components.

Key performance indicators:

The main indicators related to the specific objective are:

- Mechanism for permanent dialogue with civil society are operational
- Funding mechanisms for CSO's and Media further strengthened
- Implementation of EU standards in the area of media freedoms

Components and expected results:

Component 1 - Support to Civil Society and participatory democracy

Result 1 – National and local authorities have enabling policies and rules for grass-root organisations

Result 2 – Government support to CSO's is provided in a transparent, accountable, fair and non-discriminatory manner

Result 3 – CSO activities are guided by strategic long-term organisational planning

Result 4 – Independent and professional regulators preserve media pluralism and prevent unfair competition in media market.

Result 5 – Media outlets voluntarily adhere to principles of transparency (as required by good governance). Professional associations of media owners/publishers established.

Result 6 – Improved conditions for quality investigative journalism including modern/innovative approaches to increase quality and credibility of investigative journalism.

Result 7 – Stimulate public's demand of quality journalism. Increase in media literacy and understanding of role of professional and ethical journalism in off-line and online media.

Component 2 - Freedom of expression and media integrity

Result 1 – Public institutions include and collaborate with CSOs in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies, strategies and operational programs

Result 2 – Advocacy CSOs use research and other forms of evidence to underpin their activities

Result 3 – CSOs regularly network within and outside country borders and make use of coalition-building for increased impact in campaigning and advocacy

Result 4 – CSOs participation with Government is representative and with mechanisms in place to engage/inform constituents and beneficiaries

Result 5 – Initiative and creativity by state institutions in using tools at their disposal to promote free speech and media diversity

Result 6 – Improved understanding of fundamental rights and non-discrimination

The main indicators related to the expected results are:

- External perception of importance and impact of CSOs activities
- Quality of the enabling environment for grass-roots organisations
- Share of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks
- Share of CSOs that monitor and evaluate their projects and programmes using baselines and quality indicators
- Quality of state funding frameworks for civil society organisations (focusing on procedural document)

(2) Assumptions and conditions

Among the preconditions for the achievement of the objective of the action are: the presence in the country of a political consensus on the need of further inclusion of the CSO in the decision-making process, both at local and central level; the Government commitment to implement the National Strategy for development of civil society sector and the resources allocated in government budget to support CSOs. Failure to comply with the requirements above may lead to a recovery of funds under this programme and/or the re-allocation of future funding.

(3) Essential elements of the action (for direct management)

Grant – Call for proposal support Civil Society and participatory democracies

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The call for proposal to support Civil Society and participatory democracies will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of this action and of the results 1, 2 and 3 foreseen under component 1 above.

b) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:

The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.

c) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 1.0 million under IPA 2014

- d) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q2 2015

Grant – Call for proposal Freedom of expression and media

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The call for proposal to support Freedom of expression and media will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of this action and of the results 4, 5, 6 and 7 foreseen under component 1 above.

- b) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:

The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.

- c) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 2.5 million under IPA 2014

- d) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q2 2015

Grant – Call for proposal Intercommunity relations

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The call for proposal to strengthen Intercommunity relations will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of this action and of the results 1 foreseen under component 2 above. The call aims in particular at implementing the Ohrid framework Agreement and at improving intercommunity relations

- b) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:

The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.

- c) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 1.5 million under IPA 2014

- d) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q2 2015

Grant – Call for proposal strengthen civil society horizontal measures

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The call for proposal to strengthen civil society horizontal measures will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of this action and of the results 1, 2 and 3 foreseen under component 1 above

- b) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:

The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.

- c) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 1.5 million under IPA 2015

- d) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q2 2016

Grant – Call for proposal supporting civil society in watchdog and monitoring

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The call for proposal "Supporting civil society in watchdog and monitoring" will address in particular the activities realized by the public institutions in the following specific thematic field:

- a. Public procurement, budget expenditure and execution
- b. Public employment
- c. Access to information and regulatory impact assessment
- d. Quality of public services.

The call will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of this action and of the results 1, 2 and 3 foreseen under the component 2 mentioned above.

- b) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:

The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.

- c) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 2.0 million under IPA 2015

- d) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q2 2016

Grant – Call for proposal supporting fundamental rights

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The call for proposal "supporting fundamental rights" will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of this action and of the results 4, 5 and 6 foreseen under component 2 above and in particular:

- a. Rights of the child
- b. Combating different forms and manifestations of non-discrimination
- c. Enhanced/Improved understanding and tolerance of LGBTI community

- b) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:

The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.

- c) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 1.5 million under IPA 2015

Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q2 2016

Eligibility, selection and award criteria applying to the 6 call for proposals:

e) The essential eligibility criteria:

In order to be eligible the applicant must be based in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia or in an EU member state but with an established office in the country.

f) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

g) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

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|-------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| PRIORITY 1 | | Amount EU EUR 68.7 million |
| Action 5 | Civil Society Facility Kosovo | EU 2014: EUR 0.7 million EU 2015: EUR 4.1 million |

(1) Description of the Action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the action and objective:

The specific objective of this action is: to enable and stimulate a participatory democracy in Kosovo by creating an environment which promotes partnership and dialogue between civil society and public institutions, and by building the capacity of CSOs to be effective and accountable independent actors. It, foresees 3 results and 3 components.

Objective by component:

The specific objective of this action is: to enable and stimulate a participatory democracy in Kosovo by creating an environment which promotes partnership and dialogue between civil society and public institutions, and by building the capacity of CSOs to be effective and accountable independent actors:

Component 1- CSO/Government Dialogue and Cooperation

The objective of this component is to enhance CSO inclusion in decision-making processes related to priority areas of the Indicative Strategy Paper for Kosovo⁹. In order to achieve this, the Action will provide medium-term support to strategic CSO coalitions, focusing on priority areas of the Indicative Strategy Paper for Kosovo. 3 Grants will be awarded to strategic coalitions with an envisaged duration of 4 years. They will be accompanied by a supporting Service Contract, which will assist the beneficiaries of this grant scheme (and of the operating grants) in their institutional development and strategic planning processes.

Component 2 – Strengthen Capacities of Grass-root and community-based CSOs

The objective of this component is to enhance the capacities, transparency, accountability and effectiveness notably of grass-root CSOs in Kosovo. To this end, one grant contract will be concluded with the objective of financing a sub-granting scheme to support grass-root organisations. In addition, and in order to provide predictable core funding to less-established CSOs a grant scheme will be established to provide up to 5 operating grants to community-based and/or self-advocacy CSOs.

Component 3 – Strengthen Government Capacities for Strategy Implementation

⁹ C(2014) 5772

The objective of this component is to enhance the capacities of the government of Kosovo to ensure full implementation of the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society. The above mentioned Service Contract for Technical Assistance will also support the government with very specific, concrete and well defined measures.

Key performance indicators and expected results:

The main indicator related to the specific objective is: Progress with the implementation of the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society

Result 1: Civil society and public institutions work in partnership through dialogue and cooperation, based on willingness, trust and mutual acknowledgment around common interests.

Result 2: Civil society organisations in Kosovo are capable, transparent, accountable and effective.

Result 3: An effective implementation of the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society improves governance through CSOs' inclusion in decision making processes

The main indicators related to the expected results are:

- Percentage of laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively consulted with CSOs. (result 1 and 3)
- Number and quality of contacts between government and CSOs in the joint council for Civil Society consultation.(result 1 and 3)
- Public perception of importance and impact of CSOs activities (result 2)
- Share of CSOs which have developed strategic plans (result 2)
- Share of CSOs use adequate argumentation and analysis for achieving advocacy goals (result 2)

(2) Assumptions and conditions

The main preconditions for the achievement of the objectives of the action are: Civil Society Organisations have a genuine interest to enhance their inclusion in decision-making processes related to priority areas of the Indicative Strategy Paper for Kosovo; the support provided by TACSO to CSOs and the government is coherent and complementary with the activities of the Civil Society Facility; the Government is fully committed to the implementation of the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society and mobilises the necessary financial and human resources. Failure to comply with the requirements above may lead to a recovery of funds under this programme and/or the re-allocation of future funding.

(3) Essential elements of the action

Procurement:

- a) the global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 0.8 million (IPA 2015)

- b) the indicative number and type of contracts:

One service contract (International Restricted Procedure) to provide assistance to the grant schemes beneficiaries in their institutional development and strategic planning processes, and to provide Technical Assistance to the government structure in charge of civil society cooperation.

- c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q2 2015

Grant – Call for proposal Strategic CSO Coalitions

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:

Call for Proposals to award 3 grants (EUR 3 ml) to Strategic CSO Coalitions to enhance their inclusion in decision-making processes related to priority areas of the Country Strategy Paper for Kosovo; and to award 1 grant (EUR 0.7 ml) with the purpose of sub-granting to grass-root CSOs. The grants will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of this action and of the results mentioned above (component 1 and 2).

- b) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:

The rate of EU co-financing for grants under these calls is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.

- c) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 3.7 million (EUR 0.7 million under IPA 2014 and 3.0 million under IPA 2015)

- d) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q1 2015

Grant – Call for proposal Operating grants for to CSOS for advocacy activities and coalition-building.

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:

Call for Proposals to award up to 5 operating grants will be awarded to CSOs to enable advocacy activities and coalition-building. The grants will be awarded on an annual basis to the selected organisations but for a maximum duration of four years. The grants will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of this action and of the results mentioned above (component 2).

- b) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:

The rate of EU co-financing for grants under these calls is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.

- c) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 0.3 million under IPA 2015

- d) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q3 2015

Eligibility, selection and award criteria applying to the 2 call for proposals:

- a) The essential eligibility criteria:

In order to be eligible the applicant must be based in Kosovo or in an EU member state but with an established office in Kosovo.

- b) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.
- c) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

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|-------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PRIORITY 1 | | Amount EU EUR 68.7 million |
| Action 6 | Civil Society Facility Montenegro | EU 2014: EUR 2.25 million EU 2015:EUR 1.25 million |

(1) Description of the Action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

The main objective of the Action 6 is to build CSOs' capacity to be effective and accountable independent actors. Another objective will be the improvement of the dialogue between civil society and media with the government. Moreover, the Action aims at fostering the conditions for independence and professionalism of media – including for the development of investigative journalism and higher ethical standards.

The main indicator related to the specific objective is: cumulative amount of public grants to CSOs for social service delivery

The action 6 foresees the following results:

Result 1: CSOs and media are recognised by the government and citizens as reliable partners in improving good governance, policy-making procedures and social service implementation.

Result 2: CSO capacities strengthened to participate in decision-making processes, deliver professional transparent and cost-effective services as well as able to communicate effectively their activities to the public.

Result 3: Sufficient public funding to CSOs is available and provided in a regular, transparent, accountable, fair and non-discriminatory manner

Result 4: Improved quality and independence of information delivered by traditional and social media and increased trust and cooperation between national authorities and media.

The main indicators related to the expected results are:

- External perception of importance and impact of CSO activities;
- Percentage of adopted laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively consulted with CSOs;
- Quality of state funding frameworks for CSOs.
- Presence of representative self-regulatory bodies and effectiveness of their action
- Assessments of existing legislation, other legal

(2) Assumptions and conditions

The main preconditions for the achievement of the objectives of the action are: Government and line ministries continue to treat the civil society sector with respect, trust and in a professional manner; environment remains conducive to genuine and independent civil society activities; government structures and civil society representatives agree on measures to be taken to create enabling environment for civil society actors. Failure to comply with the requirements above may lead to a recovery of funds under this programme and/or the re-allocation of future funding.

(3) Essential elements of the action

Procurement:

- a) the global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 0.5 million (IPA 2014)
- b) the indicative number and type of contracts:
One service contract to provide technical assistance to the Office for Cooperation between NGOs and the government as well as to the Council for cooperation between NGOs and the government
- c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q1 2015

Grant – Call for proposal (EUR 0.5 million under IPA 2014)

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:
Call for Proposals to award 3 to 5 action grants in the media sectors, designed as a result of thoroughly consulted tender/call for proposals. The grants will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of this action and of the results 4 mentioned above.
- b) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:
The rate of EU co-financing for grants under these calls is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.
- c) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 0.5 million
- d) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q2 2015

Grant – Call for proposal (EUR 1.25 million under IPA 2014)

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:
Call for Proposals to award 8- 10 action grants in diverse CSP sectors, designed as a result of thoroughly consulted tender/call for proposals. The grants will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of this action and of the results 1 and 2 mentioned above.
- b) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:
The rate of EU co-financing for grants under these calls is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.
- c) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 1.25 million

- d) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q2 2015

Grant – Call for proposal (EUR 1.25 million under IPA 2015)

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:

Call for Proposals to award 8- 10 action grants in diverse CSP sectors, designed as a result of thoroughly consulted tender/call for proposals. The grants will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of this action and of the results 1 and 2 mentioned above.

- b) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:

The rate of EU co-financing for grants under these calls is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.

- c) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 1.25 million

- d) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q2 2016

Eligibility, selection and award criteria applying to the 3 call for proposals:

- a) The essential eligibility criteria:

In order to be eligible the applicant must be based in Montenegro or in an EU member state but with an established office in Montenegro.

- b) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

- c) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

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|-------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PRIORITY 1 | | Amount EU EUR 68.7 million |
| Action 7 | Civil Society Facility Serbia | EU 2014:EUR 2.0 million EU 2015: EUR 4.5 million |

(1) Description of the Action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the action and objective:

The specific objective of the Action 7 is: "(1) To improve the legal and financial environment which supports sustainability of CSOs, and; (2) to improve the legal, regulatory and policy environment for free expression and media. To achieve the objective the action foresees 2 components and 6 results.

The main indicators related to the specific objective are:

- State funding frameworks for civil society support regulated
- Mechanism for permanent dialogue with civil society developed and operational
- Media legislation harmonised in line with EU standards and AVMS Directive

Components, expected results and key performance indicators of the action:

Component 1- Legal and financial environment which supports sustainability of CSOs

Result 1: Government support to CSOs is available and provided in a transparent, accountable, fair and non-discriminatory way

Result 2: CSOs' are able to communicate the results of their activities

Result 3: Public institutions recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance through CSOs' inclusion in decision making and reform processes

Component 2 - Legal, regulatory and policy environment for free expression and media

Result 4: Improved conditions for quality investigative journalism including modern/innovative approaches to increase quality and credibility of investigative journalism.

Result 5: Independent and professional regulators preserve media pluralism and prevent unfair competition in media market.

Result 6: Stimulate public's demand of quality journalism. Increase in media literacy and understanding of role of professional and ethical journalism in off-line and online media.

The main indicators related to the expected results are:

Component 1:

- Quality of state funding frameworks for civil society organizations (focusing on procedural document)
- Public perception of importance and impact of CSOs activities
- Number of CSOs which take part in monitoring policies, EU and other donor funding and negotiation process

Component 2 :

- Media attention paid to the relevant issue/topic (amount of coverage)
- The legislation provided for independent and professional operation of regulatory authorities without interference
- Presence of self-regulatory bodies with relevant representation of the media community

(2) Assumptions and conditions

The main preconditions for the achievement of the objectives of the action are: political stability and EU accession process continued; accession negotiations on Chapter 23, 24 and 10 continue; Government is committed to implement National Strategy for development of civil society sector in Serbia; Resources allocated in government budget to support implementation of national strategy; Government remains committed to develop and improve legal and strategic framework for development of the media in line with Media Strategy; Civil Society and media are responsive to the programme opportunities. Failure to comply with the requirements above may lead to a recovery of funds under this programme and/or the re-allocation of future funding.

(3) Essential elements of the action

Procurement:

- a) the global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 0.7 million under IPA 2015
- b) the indicative number and type of contracts:

Two service contracts:

- c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure:
 - Q1 2016 Service contract for civil society
 - Q3 2015 service contract for media

Grant – Call for proposal Support of quality media production in the area of rule of law, i.e. good governance, human rights and minority protection, freedom of expression and regional reconciliation

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:

Call for Proposals to enhance investigative reporting through support of quality media production in the area of rule of law, i.e. good governance, human rights and minority protection, freedom of expression and regional reconciliation. Grant will be between 50.000- 150.000 and with duration of 12 to 24 months. The grants will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of this action and of the results 4, 5 and 6 of the second component mentioned above.

b) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:

The rate of EU co-financing for grants under these calls is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.

c) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 1.8 million under IPA 2014

d) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q1 2015

Grant – Call for proposal for awards of grants covering Chapters 23 and 24, regional cooperation and support to the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

Civil Society Call for Proposals including small grants in selected thematic areas covering Chapters 23 and 24, regional cooperation and support to the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina. In addition civil society participation in the process of negotiations in Serbia and policy monitoring, as well monitoring of EU and other donor funding will be enhanced through support for CSOs platform and networks and capacity building. The grants will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of this action and of the results 1, 2 and 3 of the first component mentioned above.

b) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:

The rate of EU co-financing for grants under these calls is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.

c) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 3.8 million under IPA 2015

d) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q3 2015

Eligibility, selection and award criteria applying to the two calls for proposals:

a) The essential eligibility criteria:

In order to be eligible the applicant must be based in Serbia or in an EU member state but with an established office in Serbia.

b) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

c) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

Grant - Direct Grant award to the self-regulatory body Press Council

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The direct grant award aims at providing direct support in the form of an action grant to the self-regulatory body Press Council for the period of 2 years that would also include regular informative press sessions on the Council's activities

and monitoring, research and analysis of media content; media campaign aimed to inform the public of the role and importance of media self-regulation, and the role of the Council in enforcing it; public events on national and local level aimed at explaining the benefits of self-regulation to all target groups, including the public; consultation sessions for judiciary and newsrooms; seminars/lectures for journalism students. These activities will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of the action and all the results foreseen under component 2 "Media freedom and integrity", 3 "Strengthening reconciliation" and 4 "Support to children rights" mentioned above.

b) Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals:

All beneficiaries as outlined below under point c) below will be awarded direct grants in accordance to article 190, f) of the Regulations on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) n. 966/2012:

c) the name of the beneficiary: Press council in Serbia

d) Indicative amount of the grant: EUR 0.2 million under IPA 2014

e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing: chose one of the following options:

The maximum possible rate of EU financing may be up to 100% of the total cost of the action in accordance with Article 192 of Financial Regulation if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out. The necessity for full EU funding will be justified by the responsible authorising officer in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

f) Indicative date for signing the grant agreement: Q1 2015

g) The essential selection criteria are financial, technical and operational capacity of the applicant.

h) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| PRIORITY 1 | | Amount EU EUR 68.7 million |
| Action 8 | Civil Society Facility Turkey (Sivil Düşün II) | EU 2014: EUR 5.0 million |

(1) Description of the Action, objectives, expected results and key performance indicators

Description of the action and objective:

The specific objective of Action 8 is to improve the environment for active citizenship and to strengthen the capacity of organised active citizens. To achieve the objective the action foresees 3 expected results.

The main indicators related to the specific objective are:

- Law on associations and law on collecting aid are amended and annihilate existing obstacles
- Activists and citizens are not convicted while exercising their freedom of expression and assembly.
- CSOs institutional management systems, human resources and external relations are improved.
- CSOs financial sustainability is improved.
- A law on volunteerism exists and encourages targeting the whole population.

Expected results and key performance indicators of the action:

Result 1: Freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association are enjoyed fully and effectively

Result 2: Improved capacity of CSOs to benefit from public and private funding mechanisms.

Result 3: Organised citizens are more often supported by citizens and decision-makers and more effectively use this support.

The main indicators related to the expected results are:

- Quality assessment of existing legislation and policy framework
- Laws are amended and implemented in the sense of greater freedom of expression, assembly and association
- Number of employees in CSO (permanent and part-time)

- Number and kind of donations to CSOs from individual and corporate donors (specified in monetary values)
- Percentage of CSOs benefiting from tax incentives
- CSO's perception of the provision of funds in terms of transparency, fairness and non-discrimination
- Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions
- Number of volunteers in CSOs per type of CSO / sector
- Increase in the number of public campaigns organised by organised citizens
- Share of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks
- Increase in the number of joint public campaigns

(2) Assumptions and conditions

The main preconditions for the achievement of the objectives of the action are: Turkey is committed to full fledge democratic principles as per Copenhagen political criteria and to improve the laws and regulations as well as their implementation in the area of Freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association; CSOs are willing to collaborate among themselves and also to create networks and platforms; Individuals are willing to volunteer and to become activists; Media are open to promote all sorts of civil society work; both public authorities and CSOs are willing to engage in dialogue and cooperation; Private donors are willing to support civil society beyond "classical" education and social related programmes; Public authorities' funds are granted in a fair, transparent and equal manner; CSOs are willing to collaborate among themselves and also to create networks and platforms; Individuals are willing to volunteer; Media are open to promote all sorts of civil society work. Failure to comply with the requirements above may lead to a recovery of funds under this programme and/or the re-allocation of future funding.

(3) Essential elements of the action

Procurement:

- a) the global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 5.0 million (IPA 2014)
- b) the indicative number and type of contracts:
One technical assistance service contract to implement the Active citizenship mechanism called "Sivil Düşün".
This component is linked to all four results of the action.
- c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q1 2015

**4 INDICATIVE BUDGET TABLE
CSF AND MEDIA PROGRAMME 2014 - 2015**

| 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | EU Contribution (EUR) | Co-financing by grant beneficiaries and IOs (EUR) | Total expenditure (EUR) | | EU Contribution (EUR) | Co-financing by grant beneficiaries and IOs (EUR) | Total expenditure (EUR) |
| Priority 1 Horizontal support to sector policies and reforms | | | | Priority 1 Horizontal support to sector policies and reforms | | | |
| Action 1 CSF and media multi-country | 25,000,000 | 3,120,000 | 28,120,000 | Action 1 CSF and media multi-country | 5,300,000 | 400,000 | 5,700,000 |
| Action 2 Albania CSF | 2,000,000 | 140,000 | 2,140,000 | Action 2 Albania CSF | 2,000,000 | 200,000 | 2,200,000 |
| Action 3 Bosnia and Herzegovina CSF | 2,100,000 | 233,100 | 2,333,100 | Action 3 Bosnia and Herzegovina CSF | 2,500,000 | 144,300 | 2,644,300 |
| Action 4 the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia CSF and media | 5,000,000 | 500,000 | 5,500,000 | Action 4 the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia CSF and media | 5,000,000 | 500,000 | 5,500,000 |
| Action 5 Kosovo CSF | 700,000 | 75,000 | 775,000 | Action 5 Kosovo CSF | 4,100,000 | 330,000 | 4,430,000 |
| Action 6 Montenegro CSF and media | 2,250,000 | 150,000 | 2,400,000 | Action 6 Montenegro CSF and media | 1,250,000 | 100,000 | 1,350,000 |
| Action 7 Serbia CSF and media | 2,000,000 | 200,000 | 2,200,000 | Action 7 Serbia CSF and media | 4,500,000 | 400,000 | 4,900,000 |
| Action 8 Turkey CSF | 5,000,000 | - | 5,000,000 | Action 8 Turkey CSF | - | - | - |
| TOTAL 2014 | 44,050,000 | 4,418,100 | 48,468,100 | TOTAL 2015 | 24,650,000 | 2,074,300 | 26,724,300 |
| | | | | | | | 68,700,000 |

5 IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES AND GENERAL RULES FOR PROCUREMENT AND GRANT AWARD PROCEDURES

This programme shall be implemented by direct management by the Commission (DG Enlargement / D3 regional programmes unit) and by the Union Delegations in accordance with article 58(1)(a) of the Financial Regulation and the corresponding provisions of its Rules of Application.

Procurement shall follow the provisions of Part Two, Title IV Chapter 3 of the Financial Regulation No 966/2012 and Part Two, Title II, Chapter 3 of its Rules of Application.

Grant award procedures shall follow the provisions of Part Two Title IV Chapter 4 of the Financial Regulation No 966/2012 and Part Two Title II Chapter 4 of its Rules of Application.

Under the Financial Regulation, Parts One and Three of the Financial Regulation apply to external actions except as otherwise provided in Part Two.

The Commission will also use services of Framework Contracts concluded by other Directorates General of the Commission following Part One of the Financial Regulation.

6 PERFORMANCE MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

As part of its performance measurement framework, the Commission shall monitor and assess progress towards achievement of the specific objectives set out in the IPA II Regulation on the basis of pre-defined, clear, transparent measurable indicators. The progress reports referred to in Article 4 of the IPA II Regulation shall be taken as a point of reference in the assessment of the results of IPA II assistance.

The Commission will collect performance data (process, output and outcome indicators) from all sources, which will be aggregated and analysed in terms of tracking the progress versus the targets and milestones established for each of the actions of this programme, as well as the Indicative Strategy Papers.

In the specific context of indirect management by IPA II beneficiaries, National IPA Coordinators (NIPACs) will collect information on the performance of the actions and programmes (process, output and outcome indicators) and coordinate the collection and production of indicators coming from national sources.

The overall progress will be monitored through the following means: a) Result Orientated Monitoring (ROM) system; b) IPA II Beneficiaries' own monitoring; c) self-monitoring performed by the EU Delegations; d) joint monitoring by DG Enlargement and the IPA II Beneficiaries, whereby the compliance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and coordination in implementation of financial assistance will be regularly monitored by an IPA II Monitoring committee, supported by Sectoral Monitoring committees, which will ensure a monitoring process at sector level.