

**IPA 2009 National Programme for Albania**  
**Project Fiche N°8**  
**Civil Society Facility – Civic Initiatives and Capacity Building**

**1. Basic information**

- 1.1 CRIS Number: 2009/021-642
- 1.2 Title: Civil Society Facility – Civic Initiatives and Capacity building:
- 1.3 ELARG Statistical code: 01.35
- 1.4 Location: Albania

**Implementing arrangements:**

- 1.5 Contracting Authority: Delegation of the European Commission to Albania
- 1.6 Implementing Agency: Delegation of the European Commission to Albania
- 1.7 Beneficiary:

Civil Society Organisations<sup>1</sup> (CSOs), i.e. all not for-profit structures outside government and public administrations<sup>2</sup>, as well as beneficiaries of the “People 2 People” programme (individuals or organisations from Albania)

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**Financing:**

- 1.8 Overall cost (VAT excluded)<sup>3</sup>: EUR 1.63 million
- 1.9 EC contribution: EUR 1.5 million
- 1.10 Final date for contracting:  
Two years following the date of the conclusion of the Financing Agreement.
- 1.11 Final date for execution of contracts:  
Two years following the end date of contracting. These dates apply also to national co-financing.
- 1.12 Final date for disbursements:

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<sup>1</sup> 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 public authorities and citizens*”

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

<sup>3</sup> 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 (see Section 7.6)

One year following the end date for the execution of contracts.

## **2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose**

### **2.1 Overall Objective:**

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

### **2.2 Project purpose:**

Improvement in the capacity and actions of CSOs, their democratic role and that of their counterparts/stakeholders attained.

The project aims to achieve its purpose through:

#### *Activity 1*

➤ Support of Technical Assistance for capacity building of Civil Society Organisations. The TA is aimed at strengthening their institutional and operational capacity in the context of the participation of the Civil Society in the development of the country and in process of European integration. The capacity building will also address the capability of CSOs of providing quality of service.

#### *Activity 2*

Three calls for proposals will be launched in order to select projects proposed by Civil Society Organisations in the following sectors:

- Fight against corruption,
- Environment protection and environmental education,
- Support to vulnerable people (e.g. distressed women, children living in the streets etc.), minorities and poor people

### **2.3 Link with AP/NPAA / EP/ SAA**

The Commission Communication of 5 March 2008 on the Western Balkans entitled “Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2008-2009” introduced a revised strategy to support Civil Society within the framework of the IPA under the Civil Society Facility (CSF). The Civil Society Facility consists of components from both the national IPA programmes and the Multi-beneficiary/regional programme managed by DG Enlargement, Directorate D.

The objectives of the Civil Society Facility are to strengthen civil society within a participative democracy, to stimulate a civil society-friendly 'environment' and culture and to strengthen the overall capacities and accountability of CSOs within IPA beneficiaries as well as to guarantee the quality of services of CSOs and a sustainable role of CSOs in the democratic process.

Annual reports indicate as well that the challenges of the European or Accession Partnerships concern not only state-building, governance, and socio-economic reforms, but also better democracy across the society.

Albania's efforts towards the European Union membership need to be complemented and enhanced by a strengthened civic action and greater role of civil society in the country. The civil society dialogue between EU and Albania, in addition, most certainly could benefit from a better explanation and articulation of EU policies, institutions and actors and their roles and how Albania would fit it in. While awareness about how the EU works is important, it is also imperative to enhance discussion among civil society actors and forums about how Albania can properly understand and address the benefits and obligations of getting closer to the EU

The project does comply with the priorities identified in the European Partnership for Albania:

*Civil Society: Support to civil society in order to create a genuine partnership between authorities and civil society in the democratic stabilisation and the economic and social development of the country.*

The project aims at contributing to the consolidation and broadening of political reforms and EU alignments and to the progress made to date with regard to the implementation of the EU *acquis* and participatory democracy in the country. The project will also match the Civil Society strategy underlined in EC Communications 2005, 2007 and 2008 in promoting civil society dialogue in the region through an enhanced level of networking between local and regional/international CSOs.

## **2.4 Link with MIPD**

The project is in line with the Multi-Indicative Planning Document (MIPD) for Albania (2009-2011) which states (under political requirements) that *IPA intends to support the judicial and police reform, support anti-corruption measures ... IPA can also ... promote the social and economic inclusion of minorities and vulnerable groups and promote civil society dialogue.* The MIPD also foresees support to Civil Society in becoming full members of policy and strategy planning at central and local level as participant in discussions of the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAp) and in the involvement in the European integration process.

## **2.5 Link with National Development Plan**

The need to implement the identified project is based on the requirements defined in the National Strategy on Social Services where it is indicated that local authorities delegate the provision of social services to Civil Society organisations. However, the strategy to date cannot be enforced because the lack of financial resources. Therefore NGOs will only be able to deliver community services with funds provided by the international donors.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has signed a cooperation agreement with representatives of 110 NGOs in the interest of the delivery of social services and poverty reduction.

The project is also adheres to the priorities set forth in the 2007-2013 National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) of March 2008.

## **2.6 Link with national/sectoral investment plans**

- National Strategy on Improvement of the Living Conditions of Roma Minority (2003);
- National Strategy for Environment (2007);
- Sectoral Strategy for Social Inclusion (2005).

In October 2007, the Government provided for the first time funds for Civil Society, but the necessary legal basis for its functioning and distribution mechanisms has not yet been developed.

## **3. Description of project**

### **3.1 Background and justification:**

The project is an integral part of the Civil Society Facility. The latter is to be seen as **one Facility** in which collaboration of all parties engaged in the Multi-Beneficiary/Regional and National Programmes is essential

Albania signed the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with the EU in June 2006. Promotion of Civil Society under the SAA is deemed essential in ensuring the widest possible participation of all the sectors of society in the process of European integration. In this context Civil Society represents an essential element of democratic public life in the effort to comply with the objectives of the SAA. The European Partnership asks the Government to encourage the active participation of CSOs in government decision-making. The active involvement of the Civil Society in the process of political, social and economic reform in Albania contributes to strengthening democracy. However, to attain such involvement further efforts are needed.

The main problems for CSOs in Albania are a lack of organisational experience, financial resources and the necessary advocacy skills to influence decision-making, their considerable dependence on foreign funding and their lack of involvement in policy-making. For these reasons, dialogue between CSOs and the Albanian Government remains weak.

The role of CSOs in decision-making and development planning has so far been consultative or participatory and their influence has been inadequate. There is a need for training and guidance in several skill areas which are process-oriented not only institutionally-oriented, such as communication and networking, community mobilisation, dialogue process facilitation, mediation and negotiation, monitoring and evaluation, community needs assessment, statistical literacy, advocacy campaign

design, funding diversification strategies, as well as project cycle management, writing project reports, needs assessments and financial management.

However, although Civil Society has been making efforts to increase activities, civic commitment remains at a low level. Because of a limited ability to generate domestic financial support, CSOs are still dependent on foreign funding to a considerable degree. Some sectors remain major challenges requiring sustained efforts in particular the fight against corruption, organised crime and people trafficking, the approximation of environmental legislation to EU standards, environmental protection and environmental education and support to independence and professionalism of the media sector.

The current project in Albania will contribute towards expanding civic initiatives and capacity building initiatives. It will foster sectoral (as well as regional) networking, exchange of experience and information, as well as sharing of common benchmarks and good practices in tackling problems of great importance in Albania.

In this context, compliance with priorities covered by the framework of the new Civil Society Strategy and the Civil Society Facility will be ensured by focussing on Technical Assistance and training and three main areas of intervention which will be complementary to the actions foreseen under the Regional Programme.

1) Support for Civil Society organisations with attention to CSOs' activities dedicated to the concrete innovation and measures related to the fight against corruption, organised crime and human trafficking

Organised crime and illegal trafficking remain some of the most urgent and complex issues with broad implications for stability, democratisation and/or the rule of law in the country. Tackling these growing problems requires a joint and multidisciplinary approach and coalition involving different groups of CSOs, social authorities, and law enforcement and migration authorities. The project objective is to promote the contribution of CSOs to bring about change in existing mechanisms and advocating the alignment of legislation and enforcement of laws with EU *acquis*, standards and best practices and to support active contribution of CSOs to improve the rule of law, good governance and public accountability.

2) Actions addressed to CSO engagement with environment protection and environmental education

The country has shown limited improvement in the environment sector. The contribution of Civil Society at large is crucial in helping to achieve the above mentioned progress through actions aiming at information, prevention, awareness raising and piloting small actions. In this context it is necessary that environmental CSOs acquire the full range of necessary organisational and institutional skills. The project intends to make environmental CSOs more familiar with EU policies on environment. It will also strengthen cooperation and communication between CSOs and environmental authorities, private institutions, businesses and other environmental stakeholders and will promote the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision making.

### 3) Support to vulnerable groups (e.g. women, children, minorities and to poor people (poverty alleviation activities))

#### *Gender issues*

In Albanian society today one can notice an increase of domestic violence, which is practised more against women, children and elderly. Studies show that violence is manifested in all forms: psychological violence, the most common form of domestic violence; economic violence, which mainly occurs in urban zones; physical violence, which mainly occurs in rural zones; and sexual violence, which is difficult to monitor as this is seldom reported to authorities. Age groups vulnerable to domestic violence are 18 to 23 and 37 to 45 years of age, and among the most vulnerable are disabled women, migrant women, Roma women and rural women.

In this context it is a priority i) to promote dialogue on achieving gender equality to guarantee equal participation of women and men in the social, economic and political life of the country, equal opportunities to enjoy all their rights and to offer their individual potential for the benefit of the society and ii) to improve protection, legal responses, support for victims of domestic violence, as well as to increase focus on prevention and addressing the root causes of domestic violence.

#### *Children*

Regarding children, in Albania the problem of children living in the streets and/or victims of child labour or beggary phenomena is becoming important in urban areas. This problem is affecting particularly the Roma community.

In Albania a National Strategy for Children was established in 2001 and designed pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Albania, which provides expressly that children have the right to special protection by the State.

Among other actions, the strategy indicates that: "*Albanian government shall welcome the commitment of all social actors, local NGOs and international bodies and organisations to assist in the attainment of the objectives of the National Strategy for Children*". In line with the strategy, the contribution of the CSOs could enhance efforts in the prevention of domestic trafficking, increase exchange of information and experience on how to help children in difficult situations, increase cooperation with the mass media and hold educational, developmental, awareness raising programs targeting vulnerable groups and the public at large and implement programmes and projects directly aimed in helping children.

#### *Poverty alleviation*

Albania's 7.1% annual real GDP growth between 1998 and 2008 has been accompanied by poverty reduction particularly in the urban areas. The poor are still concentrated in the rural areas, particularly in mountain regions where the effects of the economical growth are not tangible. In this context the intervention of COSs specialised in fight against poverty could be important to promote the improvement of living conditions in remote areas.

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

The project will also complement and strengthen civic initiatives launched under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and the work done

at the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), which has been set up by the members of the South East Europe Cooperation Process (SEECF) with the mandate to sustain focused regional cooperation in South East Europe through a regionally owned and led framework that also supports European and Euro-Atlantic integration, in accordance with the RCC Statute. In the context of RCC priority areas, special attention will be placed on establishing close cooperation and contacts with civil society actors.

Furthermore, actions foreseen will be regularly monitored and the impact evaluated in order to allow relevant readjustments and adapt to any changes in beneficiary countries covered under the regional programme.

The project will play a role to the process of participative democracy by enhancing the Civil Society Organisations' function in the society and their understanding of EU integration, policies and EU Institutions. Its primary impact will be through its contribution to an enhanced level of involvement of Civil Society in the stabilisation and association process and in the socio-economic development of the country.

The project should also be seen as a catalytic tool for the development of local, sectoral, regional and international networking, exchange of experience and information among CSOs, as well as a strategic umbrella sharing common benchmarks for the country.

The project will ensure coordination with initiatives taken at the regional level and by other donors in the above sectors in order to capitalise and build upon previous efforts in those areas. It will also favour an environment for a continual dialogue among CSOs and it will encourage partnerships between CSOs and Public Authorities.

Establishment and reinforcement of sustainable ties and networking among CSOs and between CSOs and public authorities in the country and within the region with their counterparts from the EU through the different project activities will help to support the sustainability of the action

### **3.3 Results and measurable indicators:**

#### **Results and measurable indicators in relation with activity 1**

A Technical Assistance will be established in support to local CSOs capacity building activities with a focus on enhancing the capacities of CSOs in their knowledge of project cycle management. Among other things the training will regard also EC financial procedures, particularly PRAG section covering Grants. It aims at assisting CSOs in producing high-quality proposals in response to calls for proposals. The activities of the TA team will be complementary and parallel to those capacity building activities foreseen to be carried out by the Technical Assistance desk established in the country by the Civil Society Facility Regional TA and which will provide guidance and assistance to CSOs in improving their management of the EU projects. The Delegation will assure coordination between these two actions.

## *Results*

The expected results from the Technical Assistance input under this project are:

- Increased understanding by local CSOs of basic elements of project cycle management and of EC financial procedures (Practical Guide rules governing Grants and key documents such as the EU *acquis* and SAA);
- Increased understanding by local CSOs of technical and administrative requirements set forth in Guidelines of specific Calls for Proposals;
- Enhanced skills by local CSOs in proposal writing and budgets preparation;
- Better identification of priority areas of intervention, logical framework analysis, quality checking and quality control of grant applications/dossiers;
- Discussion platform during training sessions aiming at favouring and facilitating exchanges, cooperation initiatives and networking among potential applicants;

## *Indicators*

At the end of the project the following measurable indicators are expected:

- Higher percentage of quality proposals received in response to specific calls as compared to previous and related programmes;
- Rating system of knowledge of EC rules, trust and credibility of CSOs established through after-training tests;
- Higher number of projects and activities effectively contributing to the adoption and implementation of the EU *acquis* in comparison to previous and related programmes.

## **Results and measurable indicators in relation with activity 2**

Funding for proposals made by Civil Society Organisations will be delivered through open Calls for Proposals. The activities covered will complement those already launched and funded under previous CARDS national programmes. They will focus on issues which appear to be of great interest to the country and for whose development partnerships between CSOs and public authorities are essential for the achievement of set objectives.

## *Results*

The expected results from the funding of Calls for Proposals under this project are:

- Higher level of involvement of NGOs in promoting basic citizens' rights, providing assistance to marginalised groups of population, participating in fighting corruption and promoting environmental protection through public participation in environmental decision making;
- Enhanced CSOs involvement in policy debate and policy-making, particularly in the context of the SAP and European integration;



- Management capacities and advocacy role of Albanian CSOs raised;
- Rights of vulnerable people, minorities and poor people enforced, improved living conditions of people targeted by poverty alleviation activities and projects carried out by CSOs.

### **3.4 Activities:**

All contracts implementing the financing agreement will be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the Commission for the implementation of external operations, in force at the time of the launch of the procedure in question.

#### Activity 1

One single Technical Assistance Service Contract will be signed to establish a team of experts with the task to carry out and coordinate the following activities:

- Training delivered to local CSOs on basic principles of EC External Assistance, EU Institutions, instruments, key documents and procedures;
- Training delivered to local CSOs on EC Grant procedures and application procedures in response to Open Calls for Proposals;
- Training on Logical Framework Analysis;
- Training on proposal writing and budgets preparation.

The above list is to be considered indicative and non-exhaustive.

#### Activity 2

Three Open Calls for Proposals under centralised management will be launched in order to implement the following actions:

- Support for Civil Society organisations with attention to CSO's activities dedicated to the concrete innovation and measures related to the fight against corruption, organised crime and human trafficking;
- Actions addressed to CSO engagement with environment protection and environmental education;
- Support to vulnerable people (e.g. distressed women, children living in the streets etc.), minorities and poor people (particularly in rural area) provided via COSs specialised in social actions and social inclusion.

### **3.5 Conditionality and sequencing:**

No conditionalities beyond the contractual obligations will be applied to applicant Civil Society Organisations.

Actions foreseen will be subsequent to and complementary to those foreseen under the Regional Programme tendered in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2009. This will allow for better planning, fine-tuning and harmonising of activities.

This project will form part of an agreement with the Government for the use of IPA funding under the 2009 national action programme for Albania. It is therefore assumed that the Government will broadly agree with the aims and intentions of this programme. In particular, it is expected that the Government will agree to enter into dialogue with Civil Society on questions of anti-corruption, environmental protection and protection of vulnerable groups.

### **3.6 Linked activities**

The project will complement initiatives taken by the Civil Society Facility at the regional/national level and/or implemented by other donors. The proposed interventions will be also complementary to grant schemes by the Commission in the area of democratic stabilisation implemented in Albania over the past few years through CARDS assistance. They would build on the results of the past and ongoing CARDS actions and would bring added value to the interventions envisaged under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR).

### **3.7 Lessons learned**

Project applications submitted under previous EC-funded programmes from CSOs were generally of barely sufficient quality with little to offer in the way of innovative ideas or approaches. Few Albanian CSOs possess the skills and capacities required to implement donor-funded projects, still less to ensure that project interventions are sustainable in the longer run. European Commission funds are therefore distributed to a small group of CSOs, which tend to consider EC assistance as a means of subsistence rather than as support for implementing long-term and sustainable interventions.

The Albanian population associates the European integration process mainly with visa liberalisation and there is an increasing criticism of European policies. Albanian stakeholders tend to underestimate the challenges associated with crucial elements such as regional integration and association as first steps towards membership of the European Union. Increasing public awareness on European policies therefore remains crucial.

Even if improvements in living conditions and political stability are amongst the most effective ways of increasing national enthusiasm for the policies of European integration, still it remains crucial to promote public debate on the stabilisation and association process, and to increase public awareness of the challenges associated with association as a first step towards membership of European Union. Albanian Civil Society in recent years tended to feel left to one side of discussions on European integration issues. This will be taken into account into the current project.

The project will capitalise on the above lessons learned and contribute to speed up the process of participative democracy by enhancing capacity of Civil Society bodies,

their role in the society and their understanding of EU integration and policies, particularly in the three sectors targeted in the present project (fight against corruption, environment protection of vulnerable groups) and the role of EU Institutions. It will ensure a better balance between development of CSOs and dialogue. It will also foster partnerships that support the adoption of good practices and standards tackling problems of great importance in Albania.

#### 4. Indicative Budget (amounts in EUR)

			SOURCES OF FUNDING									
			TOTAL EXP.RE	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)
<u>Activity 1</u> <b>Consultant Services for the delivery of training / capacity building</b>												
<u>Contract 1.1</u> Technical Assistance Framework Contract	-	-	200 000	200 000	12							-
<b>Activity 2</b> <b>Open Calls for Proposals</b>	-	-										-
<u>Contract 2.1</u> Support to CSOs in the fight against corruption			550 000	500 000	31						50 000	3
<u>Contract 2.2</u> <u>Support to CSOs' engagement with environment protection and education</u>	-	-	440 000	400 000	24						40 000	2

<u>Contract 2.3</u> <u>Support to</u> <u>vulnerable</u> <u>people</u>	-	-	440 000	400 000							40 000	2
.....												
TOTAL IB			1 630 000	1 500 000	92						130 000	8
TOTAL INV												
<b>TOTAL PROJECT</b>			<b>1 630 000</b>	<b>1 500 000</b>	<b>92</b>						<b>130 000</b>	<b>8</b>

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)

Contracts	Start of Tendering	Signature of contract	Project Completion
Contract 1.1 Framework Contract	1st Q 2010	1st Q 2010	2nd Q 2011
Contract 2.1 Grant contracts under Activity 1	1st Q 2010	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q 2010	3 <sup>rd</sup> Q 2011
Contract 2.2 Grant contracts under Activity 2	1 <sup>st</sup> Q 2010	2nd Q 2010	4th Q 2011
Contract 2.3 Grant contracts under Activity 3	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q 2010	3rd Q 2010	1 <sup>st</sup> Q 2012

## 6. Cross cutting issues

### 6.1 Equal Opportunity

The principle of equal opportunities between women and men will be taken into account when evaluating the quality of all projects proposed under the three components contemplated under Activity 2 and during all phases of their implementation. Specific attention will be paid to the gender dimension when determining the benefit of training activities.

### 6.2 Environment

The project beneficiaries shall ensure that, during implementation of the actions, particularly those involving environmental protection and environmental education, due consideration will be given to the Government's development policy relating to environmental management and that such policy is embodied, within all strategic policy documents they may draft and all training activities they may carry out.

### 6.3 Minorities

Intercultural dialogue will be favoured and the rights of minorities and other vulnerable groups, including Roma, will 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 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

- 1- Log frame
- 2- Amounts contracted and Disbursed per Quarter over the full duration of Programme
- 3- Description of Institutional Framework

4 - Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents:

Reference list of relevant laws and regulations

Reference to AP /NPAA / EP / SAA

Reference to MIPD

Reference to National Development Plan

Reference to national / sectoral investment plans

5- Details per EU funded contract (\*) where applicable:

## ANNEX 1: Logical framework matrix in standard format

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche	Programme name and number - IPA 2009 programme - Development of Civil Society	
	Contracting period expires Two years following the date of the conclusion of the Financing Agreement	Disbursement period expires One year after the end date for the execution of contracts
	Total budget : EUR 1,630,000	IPA budget: EUR 1,500,000

Overall objective	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	
Level of involvement of Civil Society in the stabilisation and association process and in the socio-economic development of the country increased.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced Civil Society Organisations' function in the society, their advocacy role in decision making and understanding of EU integration, policies and EU Institutions.</li> <li>Degree of public understanding on the role of CSOs in society, European integration process and objectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring reports of the projects implemented under the programme</li> <li>Evaluation reports on the projects implemented under the programme by Civil Society Technical Assistance desk team established in Albania</li> <li>Number of sustainable ties and networking among national CSOs and between CSOs, public authorities and EU counterparts ensuring longer-lasting sustainability of results</li> <li>Press and media coverage in the areas in which the project is expected to have impact</li> <li>Public opinion surveys and media coverage</li> <li>Statistics</li> </ul>	
Project purpose	Objectively verifiable indicators	Sources of Verification	Assumptions
Improvement in the capacity and actions of CSOs, their democratic role and that of their counterparts/stakeholders (principally public authorities) attained through delivery of training and capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of high-quality applications and successful projects as compared to previous programmes</li> <li>Number of initiatives to promote good</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluation reports of the Call for Proposals (including projects on the reserve lists)</li> <li>Percentage of consultation services provided</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Willingness and ability by CSOs to establish partnerships and coalitions nationally and regionally</li> </ul>



<p>building and funding of proposals in the areas of anti-corruption, environment and support to Media</p>	<p>governance, participatory and networking practices in the fields covered by the project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of projects aiming to further adopt and implement the <i>acquis</i> in the fields covered under the project</li> </ul>	<p>by CSOs to citizens and government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Official statements of partnership, MOUs with public authorities and cooperation agreements among stakeholders</li> <li>Monitoring reports, Interim and final reports and ad-hoc reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commitment by CSOs to perform watchdog functions</li> <li>Political stability and favourable environment for CSOs development and dialogue</li> <li>Sufficient absorption capacity by CSOs</li> <li>Willingness of relevant governmental bodies to cooperate with CSOs and adopt national policies supportive to CSOs</li> </ul>
<p><b>Results</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased understanding by local CSOs of basic elements of Practical Guide rules governing Grants, Guidelines and key documents such as the EU <i>acquis</i> and SAA</li> <li>Enhanced skills by local CSOs in proposal writing and budgets preparation</li> <li>Improved overall understanding of Project Management Cycle</li> <li>CSOs involvement in policy debate and policy-making, particularly in the context of the SAP and European integration enhanced</li> <li>Management capacities and advocacy role of Albanian CSOs raised</li> </ul>	<p><b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of training activities aimed to transfer expertise and know-how to CSOs implemented successfully</li> <li>Number of events involving decision makers and degree of participation to the programming, policies development and enforcement</li> <li>Number of projects and activities</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sources of Verification</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rating system of knowledge of EC rules, trust and credibility of CSOs</li> <li>Statistics on total number of targeted CSOs and number of CSOs having benefited from the project</li> <li>Number of project proposals effectively intended to stimulate debate on European integration</li> </ul>	<p><b>Assumptions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSO personnel remains highly motivated</li> <li>Legislation and previous benchmark results for the EU readily available</li> <li>Legitimacy and Credibility of CSOs is recognised</li> <li>Public authorities and stakeholders recognise CSOs as providers of expertise in key topics</li> <li>CSO's willingness to get closer to regional CSOs and EU counterparts</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidated media policy in line with EC standards</li> <li>• Improved living conditions of vulnerable groups</li> <li>• Rights of vulnerable groups enforced</li> <li>• Higher level of involvement of NGOs in promoting basic citizens' rights, providing assistance to marginalised groups of population, participating in fighting corruption and promoting environmental protection through public participation in environmental decision making</li> </ul>	<p>effectively contributing to the adoption and implementation of the EU acquis in comparison to previous and related programmes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved monitoring of the European integration process by the Albanian media</li> <li>• Number of persons targeted by the project living in better conditions</li> <li>• Number of economical activities started in depressed areas</li> <li>• Documented evidence in services provided by CSOs in anti-corruption, environment and protection of minority groups as a result of the project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Press releases</li> <li>• CSOs Newsletters</li> <li>• Project Reporting on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training Events</li> <li>- Study visits / exchanges with EU</li> <li>- Other Events</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Monitoring / Evaluation reports</li> <li>• Review field work of achievements of project objectives</li> <li>• Surveys targeted on vulnerable groups, women, children</li> <li>• Monitoring reports, Interim and final reports and ad-hoc reports produced by Civil Society Technical Assistance desk team established in Albania</li> <li>• Interim and final reports</li> <li>• Public opinion surveys and media coverage</li> </ul>	
<b>Activities</b>	<b>Means</b>	<b>Costs</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<p>Activity 1 – Technical Assistance CSOs activities dedicated to measures related to the fight against corruption, organised crime and human trafficking</p> <p>CSOs activities dedicated to measures related to environmental protection and environmental education</p> <p>CSOs activities dedicated to support to vulnerable people</p>	<p>Framework Contract</p> <p>Call for Proposals: Grant Contracts</p> <p>Call for Proposals: Grant Contracts</p> <p>Call for Proposals: Grant Contracts</p>	<p>EUR 200,000</p> <p>EUR 500,000</p> <p>EUR 400,000</p> <p>EUR 400,000</p>	<p>Good quality experts with right experience on latest PRAG rules and regulations identified</p> <p>CSOs willing to participate to capacity building / training sessions</p> <p>Call for proposals successfully launched and adequate proposals</p>

**ANNEX 2 : amounts (in €) Contracted and disbursed by quarter for the project**

<b>Contracted</b>	<b>Q4 2009</b>	<b>Q1 2010</b>	<b>Q2 2010</b>	<b>Q3 2010</b>	<b>Q4 2010</b>	<b>Q1 2011</b>	<b>Q2 2011</b>	<b>Q3 2011</b>	<b>Q4 2011</b>	<b>Q1 2012</b>
Contract 1.1		EUR 200,000								
Contract 2.1			EUR 500,000							
Contract 2.2			EUR 400,000							
Contract 2.3				EUR 400,000						
.....										
<b>Cumulated</b>		<b>200.000</b>	<b>1.100.000</b>	<b>1.500.000</b>						
<b>Disbursed</b>	<b>Q4 2009</b>	<b>Q1 2010</b>	<b>Q2 2010</b>	<b>Q3 2010</b>	<b>Q4 2010</b>	<b>Q1 2011</b>	<b>Q2 2011</b>	<b>Q3 2011</b>	<b>Q4 2011</b>	<b>Q1 2012</b>
Contract 1.1		EUR 60,000					EUR 140,000			
Contract 2.1			EUR 400,000					EUR 100,000		
Contract 2.2			EUR 320,000						EUR 80,000	
Contract 2.3				EUR 320,000						EUR 80,000
.....										
<b>Cumulated</b>		<b>60.000</b>	<b>780.000</b>	<b>1.100.000</b>			<b>1.240.000</b>	<b>1.340.000</b>	<b>1.420.000</b>	<b>1.500.000</b>

### **ANNEX 3: Description of Institutional Framework**

Progress has been made on building networks of Civil Society organisations under CARDS and EIDHR. A better coordination between the public authorities and CSOs remains however necessary to further facilitate and support the development of civil society. Apart from the European Commission, a number of EU Members states deliver support in the field of civil society through bilateral or multilateral channels.

International organisations are strongly involved in supporting civil society in Albania and in the region. Among these, the Council of Europe, USAID and the World Bank among others funded number of projects in the area of civil society development, e.g. capacity building of CSOs through training programme, building of resource centres for legal framework reform. The OSCE is particularly active in facilitating in the region the participation of civil society actors in the decision making process. UNDP is another important actor in the beneficiary countries that contributes to promoting poverty reduction, social exclusion and economic development particularly through civil society empowerment.

There is no centralised body dealing exclusively with Civil Society issues in Albania. However, in some central governmental agencies, such as the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (sector for Roma issues), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Culture, or local government bodies, such as a number of municipalities, there are offices responsible for relations with Civil Society.

Coordination and coherence of assistance and activities is particularly important, given the large number of players involved. The need for improved coordination and coherence has been highlighted to the Commission during consultations as a continuing concern by the authorities of the region. Efforts are being made by DG Enlargement to improve coordination in this area with the technical assistance to be set up in the Civil Society facility, regional IPA 2008 project. Regular meetings are organised throughout the year for example, with Beneficiaries, Delegations and stakeholders (including for example DG Enlargement Civil Society 2008 Conference, an International Financial Institutions (IFI) days, Donor Coordination days) as well as with the Regional cooperation Council (RCC).

## **ANNEX 4 : Reference to laws, regulations and strategic documents**

Reference list of relevant laws and regulations

- 2001 Law on NGOs and amendments since then

Reference to AP /NPAA / EP / SAA

- As detailed at Section 2.3 of the Project Fiche

Reference to MIPD

- As detailed at Section 2.4 of the Project Fiche

Reference to National Development Plan

- As detailed at Section 2.5 of the Project Fiche

Reference to national / sectoral investment plans

- As detailed at Section 2.6 of the Project Fiche

Reference to National Strategies

-National Strategy for Children (2001)

## **ANNEX 5 : Details per EU-funded contracts**

### *TA contracts:*

Delivery of training to CSOs will be implemented through Technical Assistance. The contractor will be mobilised under the Framework Contract Commission procedure and it will be required to deliver periodic training to CSOs over a period of one year.

The Contractor will be required to deliver training in broad accordance with activities and results highlighted at sections 3.3 and 3.4 of the Project Fiche (Activity 1).

The activity list detailed at section 3.3 of the Project Fiche provides general guidelines on the main components of the training. The contractor will be required to submit a detailed proposal and clear methodology on the content and method of the training at the contractual phase.

### *Grants schemes:*

Three Open Calls for Proposals under centralised management will be launched in accordance with activities and results highlighted at sections 3.3 and 3.4 of the Project Fiche (Activity 2).

No Direct Grant Agreement is foreseen. Open Calls for Proposals will aim to fund activities related to the fight against corruption, organised crime and human trafficking (500 000 EUR), activities related to environmental protection and environmental education (400 000 EUR) and activities dedicated to support vulnerable groups, e.g. women, children, minorities and poor people (400 000 EUR).

A co-financing of 10% from the CSOs is required.