

Civil Society Facility 2013, amending the programme for

2011-2012

(9) Country Fiche: Turkey

1. Basic information

1.1 CMS Number: 2011/22-965; 2012/23-324; 2013/24-081

1.2 Title: Civil Society Facility Turkey Programme

1.3 ELARG Statistical code: 35 (Civil Society)

1.4 Location: Turkey

Implementing arrangements:

1.5 Contracting Authority: European Commission, EU Delegation to Turkey

1.6 Beneficiary: Civil society organisations in Turkey

Financing:

1.7 IPA contribution: **Total: EUR 4 800 000**
2011: EUR 1 300 000
2012: EUR 1 750 000
2013: EUR 1 750 000¹

1.8 Final date for contracting:

30 November 2012 for the 2011 budget appropriations
30 November 2013 for the 2012 budget appropriations
30 November 2014 for the 2013 budget appropriations

1.9 Final date for execution of contracts:

30 November 2016 for the 2011 budget appropriations
30 November 2017 for the 2012 budget appropriations
30 November 2018 for the 2013 budget appropriations

1.10 Final date for disbursements:

30 November 2017 for the 2011 budget appropriations
30 November 2018 for the 2012 budget appropriations
30 November 2019 for the 2013 budget appropriations

¹ Budget appropriations for 2013 are subject to the approval of the Budget Authority of the 2013 budget.

2. Objective and purpose

2.1 Overall Civil Society Facility Objective and Programme Purpose:

The Commission Communication on the Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2007-8² and the latest Strategy Documents (2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011³) underline the importance of civil society being able to play its role in a participatory democracy.

The 'Civil Society Facility' (CSF) was set up in 2008 to financially support the development of civil society. This programme sets out the strategy and scope of activities for the CSF for the next three years with associated budget appropriations for 2011 and 2012, as well as for 2013 subject to availability of funds for this purpose under the 2013 budget.

In line with the original vision for the Civil Society Facility (CSF), the overall **objective** for the CSF period is: *'To contribute to anchoring democratic values and structures, human rights, social inclusion and the rule of law, thereby supporting the EU integration process.'*

The **programme purpose** is to achieve: *'A more dynamic civil society actively participating in public debate on democracy, human rights, social inclusion and the rule of law and with capacity to influence policy and decision making processes.'*

For the period ahead, the CSF will focus on the achievement of **three outcomes** which have been identified on the basis of needs analyses⁴, internal and external reviews, and feedback from EU Delegations responsible for national programming:

- Greater benefit of civil society from national legal and financial frameworks and improved dialogue with state institutions;
- Greater commitment and capacity of civil society organisation (CSO) networks to give citizens a voice and influence public sector reform processes through analysis, monitoring and advocacy etc; and
- Increased access of grass-root organisations and civic initiatives to financial resources, in-kind contributions or expertise from established CSOs and CSO networks.

These purpose and outcomes hold for the CSF as a whole. The Civil Society Facility Turkey Programme will have its own specific purpose as described below (2.2 Country Fiche Purpose).

2.2 Country Fiche Purpose:

To improve the environment for active citizenship and to strengthen the capacity of organised active citizens.

2.3 Link with recent Enlargement Strategies and Progress Reports

The Enlargement Strategy 2010-2011 outlines the following:

² COM (2007) 663 "Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2007-2008"

³ COM (2008) 674 "Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2008-2009"

COM (2009) 533 "Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2009-2010"

COM (2010) 660 "Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2010-2011"

COM (2011) 666 "Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2011-2012"

⁴ TACSO (2010): "Civil society organisations' capacities in the Western Balkans and Turkey - A comparative summary of the eight country CSO needs assessments"

"Civil society activities are essential for a mature democracy, the respect for human rights and the rule of law. Such activities enhance political accountability, stimulate and expand the space for discourse on societal choices and strengthen the consensus for a pluralistic society. By contributing to a more open, participatory and dynamic democracy, a lively and vibrant civil society is also conducive to tolerance and reconciliation. The involvement of civil society organisations in the pre-accession process contributes to the quality of and public support for accession-related reforms.

A culture of acceptance and appreciation of the role played by civil society need to be in place to allow civil society organisations to engage in an effective policy dialogue. Public consultation on policy initiatives and draft laws should become the general principle. The access of civil society to government support is frequently hindered by a lack of transparency and poorly developed allocation criteria.

The civil society facility helps civil society organisations to strengthen their capacities and professionalism, allowing them to engage in an effective dialogue with public and private actors and to monitor developments in areas such as the rule of law and respect for fundamental rights. The facility finances initiatives at local level, regional networking and short-term visits to the EU.

The Commission has reviewed the facility to better reach out to local community-based organisations, taking into account feed-back from civil society organisations. The Commission will better target needs in each country and provide longer-term seed-funding to NGOs. Stronger, well-established organisations could become mentors and facilitators for smaller organisations."

For Turkey, the 2010 Progress Report further specifies:

"[...] civil society organisations continue to face disproportionate administrative checks and fines. Moreover, the bureaucratic requirements for fund-raising, obtaining public benefit status and lack of simplified rules for small or medium-sized associations prevent a more enabling environment for associations. More restrictive legislation applies to foreign associations.

Overall, the legal framework on freedom of association is broadly in line with EU standards. However, association face difficulties to meet legal requirements and some are subject to disproportionate controls. "

The Enlargement Strategy 2011-2012 confirms the priority place given to the role of Civil Society in democratic, policy making and implementation processes by stating the following:

"The Commission encourages the development of an active civil society as an essential element of democracy, also as a facilitator of an informed debate on EU enlargement."

With regard to freedom of association, the 2011 Progress Report for Turkey concludes that
"Legislation on freedom of association is broadly in line with EU standards. However, disproportionate controls and restrictive interpretation of the law remain; funding rules for CSOs remain restrictive."

Generally, the report also advocates for increased participation and inclusion of Civil Society in Policy Reform and implementation processes. With particular regard to the constitutional reform process, the Report states: *"Further concrete steps need to guarantee an inclusive process with the involvement of all political parties and civil society."* and *"Due attention needs*

to be paid to ensuring the broadest possible consultation in this work, involving all political parties and civil society."

2.4 Link with Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document

MIPD 2011-2013:

Under part 3.1. Justice, Home Affairs and Fundamental Rights

"To be effective, continued development and pluralism of civil society is needed as engine for, and guarantor of, the reforms besides the direct support for institution building and capacity strengthening. Specific guiding principles for civil society development were drafted and widely discussed among civil society stakeholders in Turkey. The consultations revealed that there are a number of legal and administrative obstacles, which need to be removed in order to ensure an effective participation of civil society in the reform process."

"The fifth objective in this sector [i.e. Justice, Home Affairs and Fundamental Rights] is to set up strong democratic institutions and civil society promoting pluralism and the values of European integration."

The Guiding Principles for EC Support of the Development of Civil Society in Turkey:

In 2005 the Commission Communication on Civil Society Dialogue⁵ emphasised the importance of civil society dialogue between the EU and candidate countries, in particular for Croatia and Turkey. The Commission policy on civil society in candidate and potential candidate countries was reinforced in the 2007 Enlargement Strategy⁶. This outlined a specific Civil Society Facility to support civil society development and dialogue in/with the candidate countries. With the "Guiding Principles for EC Support of the Development of Civil Society in Turkey" the Commission intends to refer in more concrete terms to the civil society development aspects for Turkey, including financial support under the Civil Society Facility and under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights in Turkey.

The Guiding Principles encourages a multi-annual approach to support civil society development, in line with the existing strategy and programming documents, including the Accession Partnership and the Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document (MIPD 2009-2011).

2.5 Link with Country Strategies on Civil Society

Strengthening of civil society and its involvement in decision-making processes is considered by the 8th Special Expert Commission on Good Governance in Public Sector under the 9th Five Year Development Plan (2007-2013).

This project will contribute to the 9th Five Year Development Plan which encourages dialogue between CSOs, the public and private sectors and it will enable local CSOs to participate actively in decision-making processes by supporting their institutional capacity.

The 9th Five Year Development Plan (2007-2013) addresses cooperation of the public sector, CSOs and private sector as a basic principle: *"In the development process, a competitive market,*

⁵ COM (2005) 290 "Civil Society Dialogue between the EU and candidate Countries"

⁶ COM (2007) 663 "Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2007-8"

effective public administration and democratic civil society will function as the institutions complementing each other.”⁷

The 9th Five Year Development Plan also indicates the importance of cooperation between all sectors of society: *“The Plan will serve to provide a long term perspective and unity in objectives, not only for the public sector, but also for the society. Within this framework, it will contribute to the communication and the cooperation towards common objectives amongst the public sector, the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).”*

3. Description of project

3.1 Background and justification⁸:

Context and needs of civil society in Turkey:

Effective pluralism implies the respect for human rights, the rule of law and the possibility for political change. Civil society activities – often defined as primarily non-state, non-business and non-private activities – mirror this pluralism. They encourage citizens to organise themselves and to collaborate in their common interest. A thriving civil society contributes to a more open, participatory and consequently a more dynamic democratic society. Through its advocacy activities, civil society can help ensure that accession negotiations between the candidate country institutions the EU are not merely technical discussions. Accession will only be successful when it is supported by citizens who understand the necessary institutional, political and economic changes.

There are over 80,000 associations in Turkey with a total of over seven million members, only 16% of whom are women. Political parties, chambers and sports clubs are the most prevalent but religious organisations are also popular. In addition, there are over 4,000 foundations; they are mostly asset-based and/or raise funds and implement them for mostly charitable purposes. Only few organisations make themselves grants.

With regard to the legal environment in which CSOs operate, many bureaucratic obstacles remain with, in particular, operation, funding and in some cases the legal establishment, for example:

- there continue to be heavy fines or severe punishments for failing to comply with the Law on Associations and its regulations;
- there is an administrative requirement to notify authorities before receiving financial support from abroad;
- at times inspections of those CSOs receiving financial support from abroad are disproportionate; the legal framework for the collection of donations and tax exemptions for CSOs remains to be improved;
- the procedures to obtain the status of public benefit that allows donors to deduct grants from their taxes remain problematic and hence are granted to few CSOs; grants by employees – as opposed to institutions – are effectively not tax-deductible.

⁷ 9th Development Plan approved by Turkish Grand National Assembly on 28.06.2006 with Law No 877

⁸ From the Guiding Principles for EC Support of the Development of Civil Society in Turkey 2011-2015
http://www.avrupa.info.tr/EUCSD.guiding_principles_and_the_comments.html

Participatory governance supportive of active citizenship is another area that remains to be strengthened. Systematic stakeholder consultation would underpin transparency, the ownership by individuals and thus the sustainability of legislative processes including the accession process. Overall, the legal framework on associations is broadly in line with European standards. However, considerable progress needs to be made as regards its implementation as associations still face disproportionate scrutiny of their activities, which in some cases has led to judicial proceedings.

In terms of the financial environment, it is worth noting that the financial resources of CSOs depend largely on philanthropy, and actions funded through philanthropy concentrate on social or educational activities. According to a study by TÜSEV⁹, the amount of individual charity and institutional philanthropy totals approximately EUR 1.5 billion annually. According to that study, the tradition of giving is mostly motivated by religious obligations (1/3), custom (1/4) or serving society (1/9). A third of the donors, however, give directly to individuals because their donations are typically small or unplanned. Only 1/8 of donors make donations to organisations.

The majority of the rights-based CSOs single out the lack of funding as their biggest problem, which forces them to direct most of their energy and resources to fund-raising. Hence, the dearth of financial resources available emerges as a major challenge. There may be a potential for increased private grants to organisations promoting active citizenship.

With regard to capacities, organised citizens' activities are often limited by the institutional management systems, human resources and weak external relations of their organisations as well as their generally weak membership base. Only one out of ten Turkish citizens is member of a CSO, one out of 14 is a volunteer and one out of 13 donates to a CSO. One out of five organisations has a paid employee and of these organisations five out of six consider the capacity of its employees as inadequate. One third of CSOs indicates that it has not had any cooperation with another organisation in Turkey during the preceding three months. Where networks have been established, they often have serious problems of sustainability. According to a survey conducted by YADA¹⁰, 69.6% of members are aged between 31 and 50, whereas only 13.8% are under 30.

Consultation mechanisms for civil society:

The first draft of the Guiding Principles were based on a thorough review of existing studies and assessments of civil society in Turkey, including the needs assessment carried out by TACSO within the framework of the 2008 multi-beneficiary Civil Society Facility.

Based on this draft, the EU Delegation organised an open consultation of civil society on the Guiding Principles (see part 2.4. above) from 5 April to 30 May 2010 with 12 meetings throughout Turkey. There was also an electronic consultation with Turkish Civil Society and Turkish Authorities. Almost 500 persons participated and 382 comments were recorded, 268 of which were directly related to the Guiding Principles. All inputs were carefully assessed as part of the finalisation of the Guiding Principles. The final version of the Guiding Principles and the comments are now available.¹¹ This document sets out the needs expressed during the consultation in terms of objectives, results and indicators for EU support to civil society. The EU indicated that in future years, the Guiding Principles would be re-assessed based on feedback

⁹ <http://www.tusev.org.tr/content/detail.aspx?cn=640&c=73>

¹⁰ <http://www.yasamadair.org/Adminjkl/1.pdf>

¹¹ The Guiding Principles for EC Support of the Development of Civil Society in Turkey 2011-2015
http://www.avrupa.info.tr/EUCSD.guiding_principles_and_the_comments.html

from CSOs. The CSF–deconcentrated national window builds directly on this process and will be the subject of regular consultation throughout its implementation.

3.2 Activities:

In order to address the above-mentioned issues, support to civil society will be provided using one or more of the methods of implementation mentioned under 4.1 of the main text of the Financing Proposal.

The needs and concerns of Turkish civil society have been clearly identified during the consultation process on the Guiding Principles for EC Support of the Development of Civil Society in Turkey. As a result, different activities have been identified under each of the results indicated in section 3.3. The consultation process undertaken with civil society in Turkey will be continued on a regular basis (at least annually) in order to review and confirm priorities for action, sequencing and financial allocations throughout the whole implementation period. (See description of the consultation mechanism in 3.1. 'Background and justification').

From an operational viewpoint, activities under different results will be grouped and implemented under the four components listed below (activities are linked to results using the following reference system: R1: result 1, A1: activity 1)

Component 1: Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs) for supporting networks

This component will include a grant scheme to introduce Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs) that will support existing or new national, regional¹², local or thematic platforms and networks through technical assistance, capacity building training, exchange of information and best practices, including re-granting and/or direct in kind support to smaller CSOs and/or members of the network/platform.

This grant scheme will respond to the needs expressed by CSOs during the consultation process on the Guiding Principles about longer-term (multi-annual) EC support to networks and platforms – moving away from a standard project approach.

Total indicative budget (2012 appropriations): EUR 1 000 000

Total indicative budget (2013 appropriations): EUR 1 000 000

A first call for proposals (total budget: EUR 1 000 000) will tentatively be launched during the second year (budget appropriations 2012) with a view to having tentatively 3-5 FPAs involving platforms and networks of NGOs. In order to support needs of both national and local/(multi)provincial networks (whether thematic or cross-cutting), the possibility of establishing separate lots should remain open. This will allow for relatively bigger grants to be awarded to national networks and smaller grants to encourage the creation and/or to strengthen existing local/(multi-) provincial networks. This sequencing of the calls for proposals, priorities, budgets, lots, number FPAs, etc. will be confirmed through follow-up consultations with civil society, as described under part 3.1 above and Annex II.

A second call (total indicative budget: EUR 1 000 000) is planned for the 3rd year (budget appropriations 2013).

EU co-financing: up to 100%. Justification: the multi-annual partnership approach calls for moving away from the traditional project co-financing approach. The FPAs will be financed in

¹² In the sense of regions within Turkey

full by the Commission conditional upon funds being made available by the Budgetary Authority and in accordance with Article 163 the Implementing Rules to the Financial Regulation and Article 253(1)(e) of the Implementing Rules to the Financial Regulation¹³.

FPA's will include (but not exhaustively) support to networks and platforms focusing on:

- legal and political literacy (especially on fundamental rights and freedoms) among individuals in order to reinforce the watchdog role of civil society (This sub-component will contribute to the achievement of Result 1)
- helping Civil Society Organisations – including grassroots – and individuals to acquire knowledge in the areas of human rights, democracy and the *EU acquis* (This sub-component will contribute to the achievement of Result 3)
- Strengthening communicational skills and institutional coaching of networks/platforms members (This sub-component will contribute to the achievement of Result 3)

Component 2: Flexible response mechanism for civil society in action.

This component will include a micro-grant scheme to allow for ad hoc / small funding including equipment purchase, rent of a CSOs joint office¹⁴, small support schemes for CSOs volunteers, researches, surveys and studies carried by CSOs, CSO visibility grants (e.g. audio, visual and printed materials, websites, events, campaigns, etc.) etc.

This grant scheme will respond to the needs expressed by CSOs during the consultation process on the Guiding Principles for rapid, direct, small-scale support focused on CSOs immediate needs in performing their core activities as civil society actors. Therefore, the proposed scheme will allow for prompt identification and selection of local projects as well as timely distribution of financial assistance.

Total indicative budget (2012 appropriations): EUR 750 000.

Total indicative budget (2013 appropriations): EUR 750 000

Size of single project: EUR 8 000-10 000 (indicative)

An assessment of smaller needs – i.e. below EUR 8 000 (indicative) - will be conducted under Component 4 during the first year of the Service Contract (see below).

A single call for proposals will be launched on an annual basis with monthly submission deadlines and an indicative budget of one twelfth of the total amount per submission deadline. An estimated average of 24-32 projects will be agreed per quarter (6-8 per month on average).

This sequencing of calls for proposals, priorities, amounts, number of projects, and detailed eligibility criteria, etc. will be confirmed through follow-up consultations of civil society, as per process described under part 3.1 above and Annex II.

EU co-financing: up to 100%. Justification: the micro-scheme addresses the needs of grassroots organisations which require full financial support because of the scarcity of their own financial means. The projects will be financed in full by the Commission in accordance with Article

¹³ "Art. 253 (e) : "where it is in the interests of the Community to be the sole donor to an action, and in particular to ensure visibility of a Community action"

¹⁴ Provided a sound sustainability plan is submitted

253(1)(e) of the Implementing Rules to the Financial Regulation¹⁵.

Projects will include (but not exhaustively) support to local and grass-root organisations in the following areas:

- legal and political literacy among Civil Society Organisations – including grassroots – and individuals in order to reinforce the watchdog role of civil society (This sub-component will contribute to the achievement of Result 1)
- CSO capacity to increase their own visibility for their campaigns (This sub-component will contribute to the achievement of Result 2)
- helping individuals to acquire knowledge in the areas of Copenhagen political criteria and the *EU acquis* (This sub-component will contribute to the achievement of Result 3)
- exchange of good practices among CSOs both within Turkey and with EU-based CSOs, create and expand citizen networks, initiatives and platforms, and/or participate in European umbrella organisations and civil society platforms (This sub-component will contribute to the achievement of Result 4)

This component will give priority to rights-based organisations in line with the results of the consultation on the Guiding Principles. More detailed eligibility and selection criteria will be developed based on feedback from the regular consultations with civil society about the immediate needs of CSOs to be covered by the calls under this component (see section 3.4).

Component 3: Active citizenship mechanism

This component will include a facility for interpretation, translation, travel and ad hoc expertise to allow for a broader participation of active citizens in EU activities and of activists from the EU in civil society events in Turkey. Cultural events are also included.

This facility will respond to the needs expressed by CSOs during the consultation process on the Guiding Principles. Therefore, the proposed facility will allow for prompt identification and selection of requests for support as well as timely assistance.

This facility will be implemented through a technical assistance contract together with component 4 below. The technical assistance team will assist the EU in developing transparent and fair criteria for providing the support under these components (3 & 4), including by preparing tools for selecting beneficiaries of this in-kind support and ensuring its effective delivery. In addition, a balanced geographical participation will have to be considered while awarding support.

Total indicative budget (2011 appropriations): EUR 500 000 over 4 years

This facility will support:

- European civil society activists to participate in networks and events in Turkey and non-English speaking Turkey-based civil society activists in the EU, hence supporting the exchange of good practice, allowing the creation and expansion of citizen networks, initiatives and platforms, including support for voluntarism (This sub-component will contribute to the achievement of Result 4)

¹⁵ "Art. 253 (e) : "where it is in the interests of the Community to be the sole donor to an action, and in particular to ensure visibility of a Community action"

- Non-English speaking civil society activists to participate in European umbrella organisations and civil society platforms (This sub-component will contribute to the achievement of Result 4)
- Visa and passport costs (administrative fees, local travel, etc.) for participants from Turkey to P2P and other events in the EU/Enlargement countries/neighbourhood

This list is not exhaustive.

Component 4: Visibility and awareness-raising.

This component will raise awareness of CSOs about the EU support to Civil Society through the CSF-national window and ensure the visibility of its different components.

During the consultation on the Guiding Principles, CSOs expressed the need for increased awareness and understanding of EU support available for civil society. They also called for more direct support in making themselves more visible and their activities better known.

This component is linked to all four results of the CSF national window. This design aims at maximising the resources available for direct support to CSOs under components 1 and 2.

This facility will be implemented through a technical assistance contract together with component 3 above.

Total indicative budget (2011 appropriations): EUR 800 000 over 4 years

This component will include (but not exhaustively):

- Support to raise awareness of opportunities offered by the CSF national window in the area of freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, and in the area of culture (This sub-component will contribute to the achievement of Result 1)
- Support to develop knowledge and skills for fund raising, including pre-grant and post-grant training related to components 1 and 2 and the CSF-national window (This sub-component will contribute to the achievement of Result 3)
- Expertise in developing manuals and assessment tools for grants and micro-grant schemes including lessons learnt and recommendations for improvement within and after the project. This will also include relevant baseline studies as well as methodologies for establishing measurable and objectively verifiable indicators.
- Support for the overall coordination of the CSF deconcentrated national window and for continuing regular consultation of CSOs on EU programmes for civil society. This will also include seminars, workshops etc. for dissemination of results with beneficiaries and other concerned stakeholders, including if appropriate other donors in Turkey. Visibility of results achieved through the various project components (This sub-component will contribute to the achievement of Result 3)
- An assessment of smaller CSOs needs – i.e. below EUR 8 000 (indicative) - during the first year of the Service Contract (see Component 2 above). This assessment will allow for the establishment of a plan to be implemented in the future to support **in-kind small CSOs organisational capacity needs** (e.g. purchasing a laptop, a fax machine, etc.) *via* the Technical Assistance. This input will be taken into account when re-assessing the components of the Project Fiche and revising the amounts allocated to the CSF –

Turkey Window and in-between components. (This sub-component will contribute to the achievement of Result 3)

- Support CSOs in establishing of a pool of experts (in PR and communication, in PCM, in conducting surveys, etc.) whose expertise could be used by CSOs on a demand basis - i.e. in-kind expertise/support to complement Component 1, 2 and 3. (This sub-component will contribute to the achievement of Results 1, 2, 3 and 4)

3.3 Expected results and measurable indicators:

Result 1: The freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association are enjoyed fully and effectively (Component 1 and 4).

Indicators:

- More interactions of CSOs with public institutions on freedom of expression and assembly
- Positive feedback from CSOs concerning the implementation of relevant legislation
- Increase in the number of associations and foundations, voluntary work and individuals engaging in honorary offices
- Decrease in the number of associations and foundations closed and penalised
- Decrease in the number of closure cases brought before courts against CSOs

Result 2: Improved capacity of CSOs to benefit from public and private funding mechanisms. (Component 2 and 4)

Indicators:

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- Increase in the number of domestic public and private donors supporting organized citizens, as well as of its total volume.
- Decrease in the share of income of selected associations originating from a single donor
- Increase in the number of joint actions and cases of sequencing among donors

Result 3: Organised citizens more effectively mobilise support from citizens and decision-makers (Component 1, 2 and 4)

Indicators:

- Improvement in the quality of communication materials produced by organised citizens
- Increase in the number of citizens who volunteer in CSOs and initiatives
- Increase in the number of public campaigns organised by organised citizens
- Improvement in the media visibility of organised citizens
- Increase in the number of members of associations
- Increase in the income of selected associations from its members
- Improvement of the public perception with regards to civil society
- Increase in the number of CSO reports taken into consideration by public authorities

Result 4: Organised citizens more effectively network, share information and collaborate (Component 2, 3 and 4)

Indicators:

- Increase in the number of active CSO networks
- Increase in the number of joint public campaigns

3.4 Selection mechanism

Services and grant contracts will be awarded according to the EC rules and procedures for external actions.

The thematic scope of the calls for proposals under component 1 and 2 will be deliberately formulated as broadly as possible to allow to better meet the needs of CSOs in Turkey. Component 2 is designed in a flexible and innovative manner in order to respond better and more rapidly to the needs of Civil Society activities. For this reason, calls may be organised monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly. The specific frequency as well as the eligibility and selection criteria will be decided during the inception phase of the CSF national window, taking into account the specificities linked to the priority areas and/or focal themes that may be encompassed within the call.

Calls for proposals and support provided under all components of this project fiche will be designed to address the capacity building needs of grass root CSOs. In all components specific effort will be made to simplify procedures (e.g. simplified application form under Component 2, basic request mechanism under Component 3, etc.) and to ensure user-friendly mechanisms allowing as fast a response as possible to the applicants. Also, special attention will be paid to the use of Turkish language, whenever possible, in communication and applications to support schemes under all the components of the Project Fiche.

This bottom-up participatory approach is supported by the results of the consultation on the Guiding Principles indicating that rights-based organisations should be given the priority. In particular under component 1 and 2, more detailed eligibility and selection criteria will be developed based on feedback from regular consultations of Civil Society concerning immediate needs of CSOs to be covered by each call. Therefore the calls for proposals will be concentrating on active citizens' participation mainly in the area of fundamental rights and freedoms (including support to vulnerable groups) and environment and nature protection.

CSOs in Turkey - including through the Local Advisory Groups - will continue to be consulted throughout the whole implementation of the CSF deconcentrated national window.

3.5 Conditionality and sequencing

Component	Year 1: 2012	Year 2: 2013	Year 3: 2014	Year 4: 2015	Year 5: 2016
1		1st call for proposals evaluated + contracting (3 to 5 grants)	Implementation	Implementation	
			2nd call for proposals evaluated +	Implementation	Implementation

			contracting (3 to 5 grants)		
2		1st micro call for proposals evaluated + contracting (75 to 93 contracts)	Implementation	Implementation	
			2nd micro call for proposals evaluated + contracting (75 to 93 contracts)	Implementation	Implementation
3 &4	1 service contract (maximum duration allowed : 48 months)	Implementation	Implementation	Implementation	Implementation

3.6 Linked activities

3.6.1 Civil Society Development

The following EU funded actions can be mentioned:

The Civil Society Development Projects culminated in the establishment of the Civil Society Development Centre in Ankara and subsequent Project on Supporting Civil Society Development and Dialogue, implemented as a direct grant to the Centre.

Currently, the civil society development centre is implementing the "*Civil Society Facility - Civil Society Development for Active Participation*". This project aims at strengthening the institutional capacity of target group NGOs in order to encourage civil participation in decision-making processes at local and national level. It also seeks to enhance dialogue between state, NGOs and private sector.

A follow-up project "*Strengthening Civil Society Development and Civil Society-Public Sector Cooperation in Turkey*" will be financed under IPA Programming 2011 – Part I and will continue to focus on improving the environment and organisational capacity for civil society and strengthening the capacities of organised active citizens. It will also aim at fostering more effective civic participation in policy dialogue and processes at all levels, including a better legal framework for establishing, operating and funding civil society organisations. Support will be provided to the sustainable development of grassroots civil society organisations and newly established organisations and networks.

3.6.2 Civil Society Dialogue

From 2006, the EU stepped up its support to Civil Society Dialogue through a number of programmes with varied and complementary objectives, based on the Council Decision of 2004 and the Commission Communication of 2005 on dialogue between civil society in the EU and Candidate Countries.

Under the *Small Projects Programme: Strengthening Civil Society Dialogue* (EUR 750 000), 17 partnership projects including organisations from 13 EU countries and Turkey worked together on youth, minority rights and business communities.

The *Civil Society Dialogue: Europa-Bridges of Knowledge* (EUR 2 000 000) programme funded 27 projects involving civil society organisations (CSOs) and universities to enhance expertise in Turkey on EU legislation. Between 2006 and 2008, *Civil Society Dialogue: Culture in Action* (EUR 1 450 000) supported 17 cultural projects and communications activities linked to EU enlargement.

From 2007 to 2009, the *Promoting Civil Society Dialogue between the EU and Turkey* programme (EUR 21 500 000) supported 119 joint projects involving over 330 organisations from Turkey and the EU and other candidate countries. These projects covered four areas: Towns and Municipalities, Professional Organisations, Universities and Youth Initiatives.

Two other dialogue programmes connected EU and Turkish Chambers of Commerce and Trade Unions Confederations. They were, respectively, the *Civil Society Dialogue: Bringing Together Workers from Turkey and the European Union through a Shared Culture of Work* (EUR 3 190 000) and the *EU-Turkey Chambers Forum* (EUR 4 250 000). In 2011, a follow-up project - the *EU-Turkey Chambers Forum II* (EUR 4 500 000) - will continue to promote the integration of business communities of the EU and Turkey.

Two new civil society dialogue programmes were launched at the beginning of 2010. The programme *Promoting Civil Society Dialogue between the EU and Turkey II* (EUR 6 200 000) promotes initiatives in two distinct areas: culture and arts, fisheries and agriculture. It also allows the participation of Turkish organisations in EU events. The *Parliamentary Exchange and Dialogue* (EUR 2 250 000) programme promotes dialogue between politicians, civil society organisations and political parties in the EU and Turkey.

In the future, the EU will continue its sustained engagement on Civil Society Dialogue between the EU and Turkey. EUR 9 600 000 (IPA 2010) have been allocated to the programme *Civil Society Dialogue III*, which will promote dialogue on political criteria and media. More funds will be set aside for similar purposes in the years to come.

3.6.3 EIDHR

Turkey has benefited from the EIDHR since 2002 with an average of approximately EUR 2 700 000 per year allocated to macro/global grants (bigger in size and selected by the Commission's Europe Aid cooperation office through global calls) and to micro/country-based grants (smaller in size and selected by the Delegation of the European Union to Turkey).

To date more than 100 macro and micro projects have been supported and over 20 projects are currently being implemented. Projects address issues ranging from freedom of expression, to improved access to justice, to fight against torture and impunity, to protection and respect of cultural diversity, etc. The growing number of applications received over the years confirms an increasing interest of organisations in Turkey to benefit from the EIDHR as a vital instrument for supporting them in their action to promote, protect and defend human rights. This support has been instrumental in complementing EU support to Turkey's reform efforts through enabling better participation of organised citizens in the reform process.

3.6.4 TAIEX – P2P – EUVP

The Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX) is a financial instrument for enlargement that aims to help countries with regard to the approximation, application and enforcement of EU legislation. TAIEX provides short-term technical assistance and advice, technical training and peer assistance, and database tools.

As a component of TAIEX, the People to People Programme (P2P) aims to strengthen the role of civil society organisations by offering to individuals and non-governmental organisations the possibility to visit the EU institutions, relevant EU umbrella non-governmental organisations, and other European, national and international organisations, in order to familiarise themselves with the vast set of EU policies, programmes, initiatives and best practices.

The European Union Visitors Programme (EUVP) aims to increase mutual understanding between professionals from non-EU countries and their EU counterparts by organising individual 5- to 8-day programme of meetings with EU officials in Brussels, Strasbourg and/or Luxembourg.

3.6.5 Other donors' activities

There are several donor agencies providing support to CSO projects according to their specific programmes. During the last five years, private companies also initiated CSO support programmes and campaigns (under the corporate sponsorship) in different fields of activities.

The “*Decentralised Facility Targeted to Civil Society in Turkey*” project is funded by Denmark. It supports the direct participation of CSOs and professional associations in the promotion of the role of civil society in meeting the political Copenhagen criteria.

The “*MATRA programme*” in Turkey has been funded by the Government of Netherlands since the Helsinki European Council Meeting of 1999 which confirmed Turkey as an official EU member state candidate. This programme concentrates on support to the transition towards the reinforcement of good governance, democratic citizenship and civic society. To implement the Matra programme, several instruments have been developed. “Matra Small-Scale Embassy Projects Programme” (KAP) supports the establishment of small CSOs dealing with activities in the areas of legislation, good governance, environment, information, education and media. The Matra Projects Programme as “twinning” supports cooperation between Turkish CSOs and Dutch CSOs.

UNDP-GEF/SGP: The “*Global Environment Facility*” (GEF) has a small grant programme which provides financial and technical support (including capacity building training courses) to CSOs in environmental areas specifically on biodiversity conservation and international water bodies.

3.7 Lessons learned

Based on past experience, the priority under DIS-implemented projects will focus on the support to Turkish Institutions to mainstream civil society participation and institutional support for activities such as mapping of CSOs, strategies of participatory policy-making according to the ministry/public body, etc.

The civil society participation mainstreaming approach should be an important criterion in

designing DIS projects.

The EIDHR will continue to have a direct focus on promoting human rights where of course support to civil society also plays an instrumental role. In particular, 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) thus be used as a *means*
- The EIDHR is the policy tool of the EC to promote democracy and human rights in all of its external policies. As such, EIDHR assistance is an instrument serving an *objective* where supporting CSOs/Human Rights Organisations is rather "democratic capacity-building focused". In addition, past experience shows that, in the Turkish context, the EIDHR is not easily reaching grass-root organisations. Its scope is defined within the limits of human rights and defending human rights defenders.

Another important lesson learned in Turkey indicates that full funding is a critical condition to ensure outreach to small/grass roots organisations with maximum visibility of EU support.

4. Indicative Budget (in EUR)

	EU - IPA assistance 2011-2013 (indicative for budget appropriations 2013) All Institution Building				Total Co-financing of Project 2011-2013 (indicative*)	Total IPA + Co-financing 2011-2013
	2011	2012	2013	Total 2011-2013		
Component 1: Call for Proposals		1 000 000	1 000 000	2 000 000	0	2 000 000
Component 2: Call for Proposals		750 000	750 000	1 500 000	0	1 500 000
Component 3 Service contract (pt)	500 000			500 000	0	500 000
Component 4 Service contract (pt)	800 000			800 000	0	800 000
TOTAL	1 300 000	1 750 000	1 750 000	4 800 000	0	4 800 000

* EU Co-financing: up to 100%. Justifications: the projects will be financed in full by the Commission in accordance with Article 253(1)(e) of the Implementing Rules to the Financial Regulation¹⁶

¹⁶ "Art. 253 (e) : "where it is in the interests of the Community to be the sole donor to an action, and in particular to ensure visibility of a Community action"

5 Indicative Implementation Schedule (periods broken down per quarter)

Contracts	Start of Tendering	Signature of contract	Project Completion
Service contract (IPA 2011)	Q1 2012	Q4 2012	Q4 2016
Call for Proposals (IPA 2012)	Q4 2012	Q4 2013	Q4 2017
Call for Proposals (IPA 2012)	Q4 2012	Q4 2013	Q4 2017
Call for Proposals (IPA 2013)	Q4 2013	Q4 2014	Q4 2018
Call for Proposals (IPA 2013)	Q4 2013	Q4 2014	Q4 2018

6. Cross-cutting issues

6.1. Equal Opportunity

Through its focus on fundamental rights and freedoms, the project will promote equal opportunities, gender equality and participation by more marginalised groups/organisations/individuals to the target groups in terms of services provided through the three project components.

In the grant selection process, the project will as far as possible ensure gender equality, for example, through measures such as having women facilitators in workshops, having a sensitive approach to gender equality while preparing posters, brochures and the web site.

The project will pay particular attention to the access of people with disabilities to activities and outputs.

Special attention will be paid to ensure that through platform and network grants as well as micro grants, an affirmative action budget will be allocated to the activities for the above mentioned purposes.

6.2. Environment

During the identification phase of the CSF environment emerged as one of the thematic areas to be covered. Special attention will be paid to ensure this through platform and network grants as well as micro grants to environmentally sensitive activities.

Reducing waste and recycling will be promoted under the three components.

6.3. Minority and vulnerable groups¹⁷

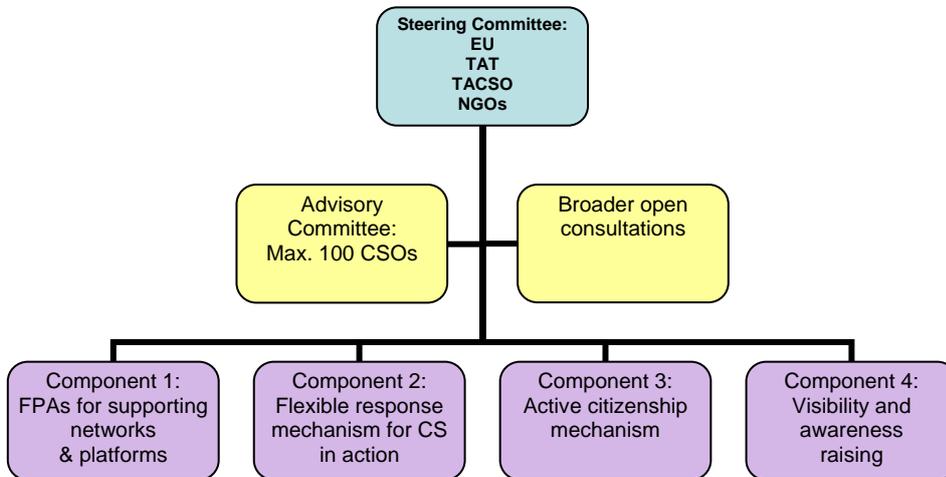
Through its focus on fundamental rights and freedoms, the project will promote the inclusion and access of minorities and vulnerable groups to project activities. Throughout the project, the participation of minorities and vulnerable groups will be encouraged. Their representation will be sought along with other groups of civil society in project activities. Whenever required, measures will be taken to increase their participation in project activities.

¹⁷ "According to the Turkish Constitutional System, the word minorities encompasses only groups of persons defined and recognized as such on the basis of multilateral or bilateral instruments to which Turkey is a party" quote of the Ministry of EU Affairs.

Annex I: Tentative budget appropriations in EUR

Component	Year 1: 2011	Year 2: 2012	Year 3: 2013	TOTAL by component
C1		1 000 000	1 000 000	2 000 000
C2		750 000	750 000	1 500 000
C3 & C4	1 300 000			1 300 000
Total by budget year	1 300 000	1 750 000	1 750 000	4 800 000

Annex II: Institutional Framework and project steering and management mechanisms



CSF-Turkey window Steering Committee (SC):

A Steering Committee (SC) will be established to provide guidance on all aspects of the CSF – Turkey window implementation. It will be composed of the EU, the Technical Assistance Team (TAT), the TACSO Team and representatives of NGOs with experience on implementing civil society development related programmes (approx. 5 selected through an open call for interest). Other organisations/institutions may be identified by the Steering Committee in the course of implementation, if deemed necessary.

The Committee will meet on a monthly basis in order to discuss and evaluate the progress of the project. The EU will chair the meetings. The organisation and logistics will be covered by the TAT. The agenda and the minutes of the meetings will be drafted by the TAT based on indications from the EUD and the other SC members.

Advisory Committee

The EU will set up an Advisory Committee at the beginning of the project. It will be composed of representatives of the CSO community and individuals actively working in civil society. The Ministry for EU Affairs and other relevant Turkish authorities will be invited to participate as observers to these Committee meetings. The main aim of the advisory committee is to assess the activities of the CSF–Turkey window and give recommendations and suggestions for improvement. The advisory group will also have a role in coordinating the various EU support instruments for civil society (Civil Society Facility, support under the national programme for civil society development and civil society dialogue and EIDHR) to explore synergies and to avoid overlap and duplication, and to ensure the adequate provision of information. Approximately 100 CSO representatives will be invited to take part in the working of the AC meetings. It will meet every six months. The organisation and logistics will be covered by the TAT.

Broader open consultations:

The consultation process on the Guiding Principles and their follow-up launched in 2010 will be continued and more closely linked to the implementation of the CSF-Turkey window. This forum will be consulted on a yearly basis in conjunction with the milestones of the CSF-Turkey window implementation. The inputs of consulted CSOs, together with that of the Advisory Committee will be recorded, published and used by the SC for confirming and fine-tuning the design of the CSF-Turkey window with particular regard to the 2nd and successive implementation years. The organisation and logistics will be covered by the TAT.