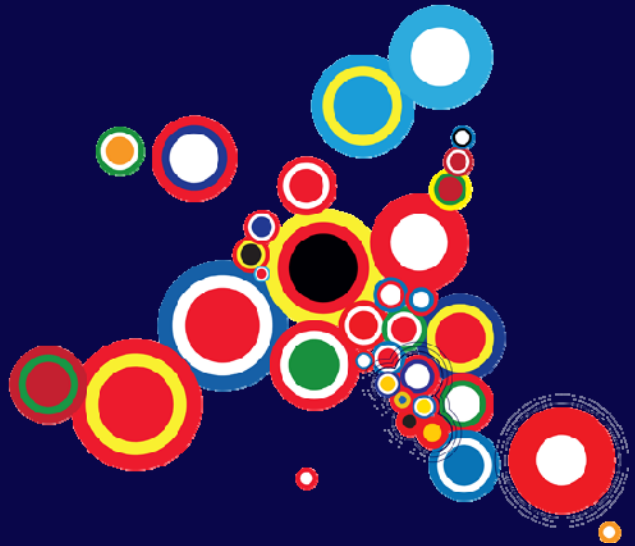




## INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) 2014-2020

### MULTI-COUNTRY

Civil Society Facility and  
Media Programme 2018-  
2019



#### **Action summary**

*This action aims at strengthening participatory democracies and the European path in the Western Balkans and Turkey. It will support improvements of the legal, policy and financial environment for civil society and pluralistic media; build the capacities of civil society and media organisations to engage as accountable players in the democratic process across a range of themes, including reconciliation; and promote and support effective mechanisms of cooperation between civil society and public authorities.*

*A stronger role of civil society and media in the development process of the region will benefit the public institutions in the beneficiaries and facilitate a greater focus on the needs of citizens in policy-making. In addition, the involvement of civil society and media in the pre-accession process will contribute to deepening citizens' understanding of the reforms needed in order to qualify for EU membership.*

<b>Action Identification</b>	
<b>Action Programme Title</b>	Civil Society Facility and Media Programme 2018-2019
<b>Action Title</b>	Multi-Country Civil Society Facility and Media Action 2018 -2019
<b>Action ID</b>	IPA 2018/040-646.01/CSF & Media/Multi-country IPA 2019/040-647.01/CSF & Media/Multi-country
<b>Sector Information</b>	
<b>IPA II Sector</b>	Regional and territorial cooperation
<b>DAC Sector</b>	15150 Democratic participation and civil society 15153 Media and free flow of information
<b>Budget</b>	
<b>Total cost</b>	2018: EUR 10 250 000 2019: EUR 32 380 000
<b>EU contribution</b>	2018: EUR 9 350 000 2019: EUR 29 500 000
<b>Budget line(s)</b>	22.020401
<b>Management and Implementation</b>	
<b>Management mode</b>	Direct
<i>Indirect Management</i> <b>UNESCO</b> <i>Direct management:</i> <b>European Commission</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)  DG NEAR, D5, Unit for Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes
<b>Implementation responsibilities</b>	
<b>Location</b>	
<b>Zone benefiting from the action</b>	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo <sup>*</sup> , the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey
<b>Specific implementation area(s)</b>	N/A
<b>Timeline</b>	
<b>Final date for contracting including the conclusion of delegation agreements</b>	IPA 2018: 31 December 2019 IPA 2019: 31 December 2020
<b>Indicative operational implementation period</b>	72 months from the adoption of this Financing Decision

<sup>\*</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

<b>Policy objectives / Markers (DAC form)</b>			
<b>General policy objective</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Main objective</b>
Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	
Trade Development	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	X		<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Main objective</b>
Biological diversity	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Combat desertification	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 1. RATIONALE

### PROBLEM AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

The Western Balkans and Turkey face a range of challenges, especially in fields such as rule of law, corruption, organised crime, economy and social cohesion. Civil Society can contribute to addressing many of these through advocacy, and monitoring activities at beneficiary, regional and local level.

EU support to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) aims at building stronger democracies, improving accountability systems and ultimately achieving better policy and economic and social development. It seeks to empower civil society to fulfil the following key roles:

- Creating stronger links to citizens by engaging in public policy processes, reaching out to society as a whole including marginalized groups and grass-root communities and encouraging civic activism across all areas and public participation in policy-making;
- Becoming professional and reliable partners in the policy-making and reform process through evidence-based advocacy across all sectors and close monitoring of reforms;
- Contributing to enhancing responsible and inclusive leadership in the political, economic and social spheres and providing early warning in case of societal change,
- Strengthening economic development and create better links with business by promoting entrepreneurship, social innovation and job creation.

The 2018 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on "*A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans*"<sup>1</sup> (hereafter the Western Balkan Strategy) reconfirms the importance that civil society plays in the enlargement process in the Western Balkans. It underlines in particular the importance of the enabling environment, the need for inclusive structured dialogue between civil society and governments on reform priorities, the empowerment of the civil society, and the inclusion of citizens more broadly.

Similarly, while being a fundamental human right, freedom of expression and media is often a precondition for implementation of other rights and freedoms. Deprived of a free media, citizens are denied the right to balanced, factual and reliable information and exposed to bias and propaganda that undermine democracy and the effectiveness of institutions. Pluralistic content in the media landscape is necessary to communicate and analyse the multifaceted nature of society and promotes dialogue and tolerance. Media scrutiny of the political processes helps guarantee their transparency and ensure that governments adhere to predictable policies – free from the interests of narrow pressure groups. This improves the governance in a given country, and in the enlargement region helps create confidence in future Member States.

The Western Balkans Strategy however points to extensive political interference in and control of the media and underlines the need to safeguard the freedom of expression and independence of media as a pillar of democracy.

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2018) 65 final. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans

In the enlargement context, civil society and the media help ensure that accession negotiations between the candidate countries' institutions and the EU, and discussions on the European perspective for potential candidates, are not merely technical discussions, but supported by citizens who understand the institutional, political and economic changes necessary for EU membership. Freedom of expression and media are one of the top priorities in the enlargement context.

Furthermore, both civil society and media have important roles to play in promoting confidence building, good neighbourly relations throughout the region, and normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo. These are key priorities of the European Union towards the Western Balkans.

The EU regularly monitors the situation for CSOs in the region, against objectives set out in its *Guidelines for EU Support to civil society in the Western Balkans and Turkey*. This monitoring is conducted at beneficiary level by different actors and offers an in-depth analysis of the needs of the sector in the Western Balkans and Turkey. At regional level the main findings in 2016 and 2017 could be summarized as follows:

- The legal environment ensuring the exercise of the freedom of association, assembly and expression is formally guaranteed by all IPA II beneficiaries in the region. Its implementation however remains a particular concern among them all, albeit to different degrees, while many bureaucratic obstacles still persist, i.e. in the registration process. Inadequate by-laws and limited practical implementation often jeopardize the actual exercise of the fundamental freedoms.
- The lack of a conducive financial environment is a major challenge. CSOs are still largely depending on funding by foreign donors. Public funding, which could represent an important alternative support, presents problems of accountability and transparency of the distribution mechanisms. Laws on tax exemptions for enabling volunteerism are lacking. Furthermore, CSOs are not generally experienced in gathering resources from their constituencies. Consequently CSOs struggle with insufficient diversification of funds, which undermines their sustainability and independence.
- Similar problems affect the media. In the Western Balkans few independent media have managed to survive the transition and the most recent economic crisis. Transparent rules and procedures for the use of public funds in media are missing/not implemented, but are required to mitigate the risk of clientelistic support to pro-government media and unfair competition within the media market.
- Participatory governance needs to be improved. Strategic mechanisms for cooperation between government and civil society are part of the legal framework in the region, but CSOs continue to experience difficulties in accessing public information, providing input to draft laws, participating in public consultations and contributing to the monitoring of reforms. A participatory approach towards public policy involves not only CSOs but citizens at large, and requires principles such as transparency, accountability, responsiveness and inclusiveness to be respected.
- Civil society and media organizations in the Western Balkans and Turkey are still perceived as not completely transparent and accountable to their constituencies. This is partly due to a lack of capacities, which undermines the impact of CSOs' activities and their external perception.
- In several beneficiaries of the region, CSOs do not regularly network with other organisations neither at international nor at beneficiary and local level and there is a need for support to CSOs coalition-building across all boundaries in order to increase their impact in campaigning and advocacy.

In its 2018 report on implementation of the Enlargement Strategy<sup>2</sup>, the European Commission notes that Fundamental rights are largely enshrined in the legislation in the Western Balkans but that serious efforts are needed to ensure they are fully implemented in practice. It also notes that Turkey has seen a continued strong deterioration in key human rights areas over the reporting period. The report indicates that a particular focus is needed to safeguard freedom of expression and the independence of the media as a pillar of democracy across the region. It notes an important deterioration in this area in some of the IPA II beneficiaries, including serious backsliding in Turkey. Elsewhere, there has been limited progress at best.

The same report recognises that violence against women is an important problem in the region, and underlines that more must be done to advance gender equality and to prevent and address violence against women across the IPA beneficiaries. Gender equality is not just a matter of social justice, but also one of "smart economics": women's participation in the economy is essential for sustainable development and economic growth. Overall, evidence shows that when women are given equal opportunities and access to resources and to decision-making, communities are more prosperous and more peaceful. The EU wants to assist partners in effectively using this significant transformative potential.

The obstacles to exercising their socio-economic and political rights increase women's exposure to violence, so particular focus should be put on legislation and public policies which discriminate against women and girls, and the lack of diligence in combating discrimination practised in the private sphere and gender-stereotyping.

According to the regional Beijing +20 review conducted for Turkey and the Western Balkans, the pervasiveness of multiple levels of discrimination, the re-emergence of strong patriarchal structures, the unequal power relations between women and men, as well as the rising prevalence of different forms of violence against women and girls, require concerted attention.

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey all ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (also known as Istanbul Convention). However, none of the signatories addressed all nine forms of violence against women as outlined in the Istanbul Convention. Further efforts are required to support general and specialist support service providers to comply with minimum standards on prevention, protection, prosecution and the development of integrated policies. Women from minority groups across the region face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. Capacity building of key stakeholders should be informed by obstacles to intersectional service delivery.

Concerted action by civil society - in their capacity as service providers, community mobilizers and drivers of policy development - is needed to push the gender equality and ending violence against women agenda to improve the lives of women and societies. Cooperation within and among IPA beneficiaries; within civil society organisations across the region, and among governments and civil society organisations has proven to be imperative for the advancement of this agenda.

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<sup>2</sup> COM(2018) 450 final. 2018 Communication on EU Enlargement Policy

## OUTLINE OF IPA II ASSISTANCE

The action is composed of multi-country activities focused on increasing capacities of civil society and media in the Western Balkans and Turkey to participate effectively and accountably in the public debate and policy-making processes regarding the sustainable development of their societies.

The action is planned across four components: 1) Support to the capacities of CSOs; 2) Support to media freedom and pluralism; 3) Support to cooperation and normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo; and 4) Fighting violence against and discrimination of women and girls; and promoting gender equality.

It will cover actions for which there is an added value in a multi-country approach, and all activities will be carried out in synergy and complementarity with those implemented under the bilateral envelopes of the CSF. The main direct beneficiaries of the action are CSOs, journalists, women and girls, and indirectly all citizens. Indirect beneficiaries are public institutions, which will get qualitatively and quantitatively better inputs from a stronger civil society, and from the critical monitoring and reporting, and informed citizens, that are resulting by an independent and objective media.

## RELEVANCE WITH THE IPA II MULTI-COUNTRY STRATEGY PAPER AND OTHER KEY REFERENCES

In 2012 the European Commission proposed an enhanced and more strategic approach in its engagement with local CSOs in partner beneficiaries. The communication "The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations"<sup>3</sup> identifies the importance of CSOs as independent actors in development and policy making and, for the first time, commits to promote a more conducive environment for their action. The Multi-Country Indicative Strategy Paper 2014-20 (MCISP)<sup>4</sup> endorses the approach proposed in the Communication and considers the support to civil society and media one of the priorities to improve democracy and rule of law through horizontal support:

*An empowered civil society is an essential component of a participatory democracy. Although IPA beneficiaries are gradually adopting legislation and strategies more favourable to civil society development, engagement with civil society remains weak. An enabling legal and financial environment should be promoted while also ensuring that the necessary structures and mechanisms are in place for civil society to cooperate effectively with public authorities, including social dialogue. [...] The enlargement countries must guarantee an open and pluralistic media landscape which allows for a culture of critical and independent journalism. Media politicisation and media cronyism remain the most serious problems affecting the quality of media in the region.*

The priorities for support to CSOs and media freedom for the period 2018-2019 are guided by two sets of Guidelines: "DG Enlargement Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-20" and "DG Enlargement Guidelines for EU support to media freedom and media integrity in enlargement countries, 2014-20"<sup>5</sup>. The two documents were prepared through wide consultation with governments, civil society, media and International Organisations within the region and beyond. The guidelines translate the political objectives of the Commission as indicated

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<sup>3</sup> COM(2012) 492 final: The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in External Actions

<sup>4</sup> C(2014) 4293 final: Commission Implementing Decision of 30.6.2014 adopting a Multi-country Indicative Strategy Paper for the period 2014-2020

<sup>5</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/press\\_corner/elarg-guidelines-for-media-freedom-and-integrity\\_210214.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/press_corner/elarg-guidelines-for-media-freedom-and-integrity_210214.pdf)

[http://www.tacso.org/doc/doc\\_guidelines\\_cs\\_support.pdf](http://www.tacso.org/doc/doc_guidelines_cs_support.pdf)

in the MCISP and in the Enlargement package into a concrete "results' framework" containing the outcomes to be achieved in the financing period as well as the indicators to monitor them. The measurement of indicators provides information for the elaboration of the yearly European Commission reports and for the programming of IPA support.

**Good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation** are essential elements of the Stabilisation and Association and enlargement processes. The 2018 Enlargement Report notes that promoting stability and the creation of an environment conducive to overcoming the legacy of the past and to reconciliation require both responsible political leadership and further substantive efforts, and indicates that bilateral disputes must be solved as a matter of urgency by the responsible parties. Results in this regard have been limited. Further efforts are required across the Western Balkans region. Urgent progress is needed in the EU-facilitated Dialogue towards the full normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo, which should result in concluding and implementing a comprehensive, legally binding normalisation agreement,

The IPA II regulation specifically targets promotion of gender equality. The EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) for the period 2016-2020<sup>6</sup> stresses the need for the full realisation of women's and girls' full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The Action Plan contains a comprehensive set of actions that need to be undertaken to further the equality between men and women, and to work towards a world where the rights of girls and women are claimed, valued and respected by all, and where everyone is able to fulfil their potential and contribute to a more fair and just society. The Plan covers three thematic pillars: 1) Ensuring girls' and women's physical and psychological integrity; 2) Promoting the social and economic rights / empowerment of girls and women; and 3) Strengthening girls' and women's voice and participation. A fourth, horizontal pillar focuses on shifting the institutional culture to more effectively deliver on EU commitments. Systematic gender analysis is a key tool to be used.

Among other things, the GAP II calls for: 1) "all actions, whatever aid modalities" to be informed by "strong and rigorous gender analysis that is reflected in the final programme implementation";<sup>7</sup> 2) consultations with Women's Civil Society Organizations (WCSOs) to inform actions in the three thematic pillars<sup>8</sup>; and 6) "dedicated funding to improving results for girls and women".

## **LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The Civil Society Facility offers a single window of support to civil society and media freedom, bringing together EU support at bilateral and multi-country level. In the period 2014 to 2015 the total programme: was EUR 68 million, of which the multi-country part was EUR 30.3 million. In the 2016-2017 period the total programme was EUR 87 million, of which the multi-country part was EUR 38.5 million. Currently activities are ongoing in 210 projects across the region, of which 66 are multi-country.

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<sup>6</sup> "Gender Equality and Women's empowerment: transforming the lives of girls and women through EU external relations 2016-2020"

At: [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/staff-working-document-gender-2016-2020-20150922\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/staff-working-document-gender-2016-2020-20150922_en.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> Several EU delegations in the Western Balkans (WB) have conducted these analyses, albeit of varying qualities and with differing levels of consultation with WCSOs (see Kosovo Women's Network for Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, *Mind the GAP*, 2018, at: <http://thekvinnatillkvinnafoundation.org/files/2018/02/kvinna-till-kvinna-kosovo-womens-network-mind-the-gap-report-jan2018.pdf>).

<sup>8</sup> EU GAP Indicator 4.3.1.



A Mid-Term evaluation of the Civil Society Facility<sup>9</sup> was conducted in 2017. It found that the CSF effectively contributes to addressing the needs and priorities of civil society in the region. However, it also indicated that real cooperation between state and civil society remains weak and that the creation of an enabling environment is one of the critical areas that has to be improved. Schemes for support to third parties (commonly referred to as sub-granting) have contributed to strengthening and reaching out small grass-root organisations. A good balance between different types of financing is found to be important. The role of the technical assistance is considered essential.

In terms of efficiency the evaluation shows that a stronger focus is needed on implementation of existing laws and mechanisms, better donor coordination and ensuring that civil society participates across the range of public policy areas. In order to increase effectiveness, it is recommended to enhance coherence between bilateral and regional CSF programmes, to have longer lasting regional networks and look for measures beyond technical capacity building to support civil society. According to the evaluation findings, an increased impact can be achieved through stronger will and capacities by governments as well as increased EU visibility. Sustainability is especially needed for CSO financing through overall diversification of funds. The evaluation also indicated that gender issues needed more strategic attention, including within CSOs.

Responding to these findings, the preparation of the CSF and Media Programme for 2018 – 2019 has been accompanied by thorough coordination between the EU headquarter and EU Delegations in the region. Furthermore, coordination between regional and bilateral level support activities is built into the support itself. Importantly, efforts continue to be taken to complement the financial support to CSO and media actors with direct EU engagement with civil society, through yearly monitoring meetings and consultations at bilateral level, etc. The already established close coordination of the CSF with other EU support, and that of other donors will be continued in the next phase, in order to ensure complementarity and avoid overlapping.

The situation of the CSO and Media sector is monitored and assessed yearly against the civil society and media guidelines mentioned above. A baseline assessment was conducted at the beginning of 2014 for the civil society guidelines and then updated in 2015, 2016 and 2017, while the baseline assessment for the media guidelines was realised in 2015 and 2017. The results of these reports were taken into account in this document. As all monitoring reports were based on opinions of civil society, this enabled wide consultations with organizations from the region and ensured their important role in planning future support.

Given the volatile context in Turkey and the recent negative trends as regards the space for civil society and media in the Western Balkans, the Commission under the CSF 2017 decided to implement additional support to pro-democracy actors in the region. In this context, the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) decided to expand to the Western Balkans and Turkey the granting scheme that is already in place in the Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood regions. The EED is one of few organisations able to provide financial support to activists, small scale media outlets and CSOs who cannot benefit from other financial support from the donor community due to the restrictive legal environment, or due to their size and/or legal status (e.g. non-registered entities or individuals). It is expected that this support will be able to respond to emerging and urgent needs of CSOs, media, activists, academics, etc. in complement with the existing EU civil society and media support programmes.

Since 2016, the EU is supporting a collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) relating to media self-regulation and media literacy. The

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<sup>9</sup> Mid-term Evaluation of the Civil Society Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey, Contract N°2016/380154/1.

Results Oriented Monitoring indicates good results, and it is considered that the media situation in the region calls for further support in this area.

In the field of fight against violence against women, a three-year EU-funded cooperation with UNWOMEN, the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, is currently working to build capacities of CSOs to play a full role in this regard. In view of the important needs in this area, it is considered important to allocate additional resources to allow for a consolidation of results and impacts.

## 2. INTERVENTION LOGIC

### LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX

OVERALL OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	
In an overall vision of enhanced regional cooperation, good neighbourly relations and reconciliation, to strengthen participatory democracies and the EU approximation process in the Western Balkans and Turkey by empowering civil society to actively take part in decision making and by stimulating an enabling legal and financial environment for civil society and pluralistic media.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quality assessment of existing legislation and policy framework (EU Guidelines indicator 1.1.b)</li> <li>% of laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively consulted with CSOs (EU Guidelines indicator 3.1.a)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent assessments by I.O. and CSOs</li> <li>DG NEAR Enlargement package</li> </ul>	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
To enhance the capacities of civil society and media professional organizations to be effective and accountable independent actors on issues relevant to freedom of expression and media, women`s rights, and reconciliation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>External perception of importance and impact of CSOs and media activities as well as CSOs transparency and accountability</li> <li>Share of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks (GI: 5.3.a)</li> </ul>	<p>Independent survey</p> <p>Independent assessments by I.O. and CSOs</p>	<p>Willingness of relevant governmental bodies to cooperate and to adopt policies supportive to CSOs initiatives and media freedom</p> <p>Favourable environment for CSOs development and political stability</p>
RESULTS	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<p><b>Component 1. Support to the capacities of CSOs, the enabling environment and the cooperation between Civil Society and the Governments</b></p> <p><b>Result 1: The capacities of CSOs, the enabling environment and the cooperation between Civil Society and the Governments is enhanced</b></p> <p><b>Result 1.1:</b> The capacities of CSOs are enhanced, including in the area of strategic long-term organisational planning and diversification and sustainability of funding.</p> <p><b>Result 1.2</b> Local pro-democracy actors emerge, operate and adapt their action to the changing local context, including where the space for civic action is shrinking.</p>	<p><b>Indicators for component 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share of CSOs that monitor and evaluate the implementation of their strategies and make this information publicly available/accessible (5.1.b)</li> <li>Number of CSOs' who use adequate argumentation and analysis for achieving advocacy goals (5.2.a.)</li> <li>Number of CSOs/activists supported through sub-granting scheme</li> <li>Percentage of laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively* consulted with CSOs (3.1.a.)</li> <li>Quality* of structures and mechanisms in place for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public</li> </ul>	<p><b>Component 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civil Society Guidelines monitoring reports</li> <li>Independent assessment by I.O. and CSOs</li> </ul> <p><b>Component 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peer reviews under Ch.10, 23 and 24</li> <li>Independent assessment by I.O. and CSOs</li> <li>Survey among media, journalists, Unions and</li> </ul>	<p>Willingness of CSOs to work together</p> <p>Relevant institutional partners responsible for coordination with civil society organisations engage pro-actively in the action.</p> <p>Existence of political will to support reconciliation, good</p>

<p><b>Result 1.3:</b> The importance of CSOs in improving good governance is recognised by public institutions and CSOs are systematically included in decision making and reform processes</p> <p><b>Result 1.4:</b> CSOs regularly network within and outside the beneficiary and make use of coalition-building with an increased impact in campaigning and advocacy</p> <p><b>Component 2. Support to media freedom and pluralism</b>  <b>Result 2. Media freedom and pluralism is enhanced</b>  <b>Result 2.1:</b> Reformed and professional Public Service Media ensure content pluralism and have enhanced its targeting of youth (Result 1.6 Media Guidelines)  <b>Result 2.2:</b> Media platforms emerge, operate and adapt their action to the changing local context, including where the space for media freedom is shrinking  <b>Result 2.3:</b> Public demand for quality media is increased through the introduction of Media and Information Literacy (MIL) in educational systems and schools (Result 1.5 media Guidelines)  <b>Result 2.4:</b> Improved capacities within media outlets to counter disinformation and "fake news" (Result 2 Media Guidelines)  <b>Result 2.5:</b> Media accountability towards users increased thanks to sustainable self-regulation mechanisms (Result 2.3 and 4.4 Media Guidelines)</p> <p><b>Component 3. Support to cooperation and normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo</b>  <b>Result 3: Cooperation between Serbia and Kosovo citizens and communities is enhanced</b>  <b>Result 3.1:</b> Enhanced socio-economic and cultural cooperation between Serbia and Kosovo citizens and communities</p> <p><b>Component 4. Fighting violence against and discrimination of women and girls; and promoting women's rights and</b></p>	<p>institutions (3.1.b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks (5.3.a.)</li> <li>• The policies and legal environment stimulate and facilitate volunteering and employment in CSOs</li> </ul> <p><b>Indicators for component 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established track-record of professionalism, transparency and independence of PSB (Indicators 1.6.a-1.6.f of the Media Guidelines)</li> <li>• Number of contents targeting youth are co-produced by PSB of the Western Balkans</li> <li>• Number of supported journalists/bloggers and media outlets through sub-granting scheme</li> <li>• Public programme to promote media and information literacy are in place (Indicator 1.5.a-1.5.c Media Guidelines)</li> <li>• Presence of representative self-regulatory bodies and effectiveness of their action (Indicators 4.4a-4.4.c Media Guidelines)</li> </ul> <p><b>Indicators for components 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of new joint partnerships created involving at least 1 CSO from Serbia and 1 CSO from Kosovo</li> <li>• Number of joint cultural projects developed promoting tolerance and disseminated to a wide audience;</li> <li>• Number of citizens actively engaged in joint initiatives promoting the intercultural dialogue;</li> <li>• Positive attitude of the general public reported by media on actions and services relevant to the Call for Proposals.</li> </ul> <p><b>Indicators for Component 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of laws and policies in place that are in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention</li> </ul>	<p>CSOs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality assessment of media outputs</li> </ul> <p><b>Component 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project reports</li> <li>• TACSO III CSF projects database (including sub-grantees)</li> </ul> <p><b>Component 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inventory/database of laws and policies</li> <li>• End line survey on perceptions and attitudes on gender equality and acceptance of violence among targeted communities</li> <li>• Service providers' reports</li> <li>• Country-level reports on the findings of the Study on <i>Availability and Accessibility of Services in Response to Violence against Women and Girls</i>, initiated by UN Women and the CoE. The data collection involves a desk review, an online survey and interviews</li> <li>• Pre and Post surveys to be conducted at the beginning and end of the Action.</li> <li>• Project reports</li> </ul>	<p>neighbourly relations and regional cooperation</p> <p>Existence of political will to align laws and policies with CEDAW and Istanbul Convention and to cooperate with women's CSOs/NGOs</p> <p>Women and girls who have experienced violence will seek help from services that fulfil international and regional quality standards.</p> <p>Sufficient capacity for promoting gender equality more broadly can be found and harvested within regional CSOs</p>
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<p><b>gender equality</b></p> <p><b>Result 4: CSO focus on gender equality and fighting violence against women is enhanced</b></p> <p><b>Result 4.1:</b> Enabling legislative and policy environment in line with international standards on eliminating violence against women and other forms of discrimination</p> <p><b>Result 4.2:</b> Improved favourable social norms and attitudes to promote gender equality and prevent discrimination/violence against women</p> <p><b>Result 4.3:</b> Empowered women and girls (including those from disadvantaged groups) who have experienced discrimination/violence advocate for and have access to quality services</p> <p><b>Result 4.4:</b> CSOs, governments and EU Delegations and Office in the region are more aware of the gender dimension of all their activities, and more able to act on them</p> <p><b>Result 4.5:</b> Roma Women's organisations work in the region recognised and encouraged</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of people in targeted communities who think it is never justifiable for a man to beat his wife, disaggregated by men, women, girls, boys</li> <li>• Ratio of women, girls, boys and men beneficiaries of specialist support services related to Gender Based Violence</li> <li>• Number of networks of women's CSOs that monitor and report on the implementation of CEDAW and Istanbul Conventions</li> <li>• Number of CSOs having received training on violence against women, and gender mainstreaming and are applying this in their work</li> <li>• 14 prizes awarded to deserving Roma Women's organisation</li> </ul>		
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## DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

The 2018-2019 Civil Society Facility and Media multi-beneficiary action foresees four components:

### **Component 1 - Support to the capacities of CSOs, the enabling environment and the cooperation between Civil Society and the Governments**

The main activities foreseen under component 1 contributing to the expected results 1.1 – 1.4 are:

- **Activity 1: Support to regional thematic networks of CSOs** operating in the Western Balkans and Turkey. In an overall vision of enhanced regional cooperation, good neighbourly relations and reconciliation, this activity will support regional thematic CSO networks in order to improve coalition- and capacity building between CSOs for an increased impact in campaigning and advocacy. This support will be provided through a call for proposals specifically addressing regional thematic networks of CSOs covering various sectors and contributing to the results included in the EU guidelines for the support to civil society in Western Balkans and Turkey. The specific priorities of the call will be defined in consultation with civil society and other stakeholders.
- **Activity 2: Financial support to grass-roots and community based organisations, activists and emerging actors.** Provision of such financial support to small and innovative organisations will be implemented through two channels:
  - a) through schemes for support to third parties managed by the regional networks financed under activity 1; and
  - b) through support to the EED, in order to contribute to the democratisation and to the social and economic development of IPA beneficiaries by supporting pro-democracy activists, such as local civil society organisations, including individuals, activists as well as small scale and emerging unregistered actors in sensitive environments. The EU financial contribution will cover both direct support to target groups through grants, and EED's operating costs over a period running from January 2019 until December 2021. The operating grants will be combined with resources drawn from the European Neighbourhood Instrument. The operating costs correspond to the functioning of the EED and to the implementation of the other activities that the EED performs as part of its mandate: seminars, studies, conferences, publications, networking events, workshops, training and visibility activities, capacity building for beneficiaries etc. Specific attention will be given to the situation in Turkey
- **Activity 3: Provision of regional technical assistance to CSOs.** This will enhance civil society capacity in cross-cutting themes such as management and organisation and may also include sector specific capacity building; data will be collected for example for the monitoring of the EU CSO guidelines; IPA beneficiaries' resource centres for civil society support will be assisted with technical expertise; CSOs will be given the opportunity to interact and network with their counterparts at all levels (IPA beneficiary, regional and European) and familiarise themselves with the EU institutions, decision-making process, policies, legislation and programmes; synergies between actions will be enhanced through the creation of a database of projects, including those financed by financial support to third parties.

### **Component 2 – Support to media freedom and pluralism**

The activities foreseen under component 2, contributing to expected results 2.1 – 2.5 include:

- **Activity 4: Support to Public Service Media (PSM)** of the Western Balkans in the development of long-term reform strategies for better management, accountability and financial sustainability. These strategies will be aligned with the priorities and plans of the governments and with other policies, based on solid data and performance indicators and consulted and agreed with a wide group of stakeholders. Support will target improved institutional performance through capacity development and improved institutional frameworks. In addition, a new component will focus on co-producing broadcasting contents targeting youth (e.g. launch also in the Western Balkans of the EU-wide "Generation What!" format developed to improve the engagement of Public Service Broadcasters (PSB) with young audiences). In this way, Public service media should not only listen to young people, but also provide a platform to facilitate connections among generations, as well as citizens and the institutions. This should lead to increased dialogue between young people in the region, institutions, governments and the EU.
- **Activity 5. Financial support to small-scale media outlets, bloggers, independent media and emerging actors.** This activity will contribute to the democratisation and to the social and economic development of IPA beneficiaries by supporting pro-democracy activists such as media organisations, including individuals, activists as well as small scale and emerging unregistered actors in sensitive environments. The EU financial contribution will be as described under Activity 2b above. Specific attention will be given to the situation in Turkey.
- **Activity 6: Support to Media Information Literacy, Media good governance, and media self-regulation.** The activity will be a continuation of a long-term engagement with UNESCO, and will have three main themes of work:
  - Supporting the introduction of Media Information Literacy (MIL) in IPA beneficiaries' education and schools in order to help and encourage different social groups – and particularly youth – in identifying disinformation. The activities will be based on the outcomes of the UNESCO MIL consultations held in the IPA beneficiaries with the support of the current programme;
  - Improving the capacities of independent media committed to improving good governance and professional standards in the context of increasing disinformation/misinformation. Activities will include support to regional efforts to counter disinformation through fact-checking and joint investigations.
  - Continued support to the capacities and the sustainability of media self-regulatory mechanisms present in the region with a particular focus on newly established press councils and their ability to operate in the digital environment.

### **Component 3 – Support to cooperation and normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo**

- **Activity 7: Small scale projects promoting cooperating between communities and citizens in Serbia and Kosovo**

The activity will support the overall objective of regional cooperation, good neighbourly relations and reconciliation by providing support to small scale projects finance grass root level actions in the selected region. Financed actions should focus on enhanced collaboration aiming at improving quality of life of citizens in Serbia and Kosovo through socio-economic activities, cultural initiatives promoting intercultural dialogue and stronger cooperation between local communities. Financed projects may target:

- Joint cooperation between local professional groups to stimulate initiatives of common socio-economic interests;
- Joint cultural activities that promote intercultural dialogue among different ethnic and religious communities;
- Joint initiatives that promote contacts, communication and cooperation between local communities, particularly in support of youth, media, local democracy and development of civil society.

#### **Component 4 – Fighting violence against and discrimination of women and girls and promoting gender equality**

- **Activity 8: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds - consolidation and extension**

This component will allow for strengthening and expanding the work done during the first 2 years of implementation of the programme Implementing Norms, Changing Minds funded by the CSF and implemented by UNWOMEN. The reinforced support to the programme will be aimed at tackling issues of violence and discrimination against women in Turkey and the Western Balkans, anchored in the normative frameworks of the UN Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention), and also alignment with EU accession standards. Activities are clustered around three main themes, namely, fostering an enabling legislative and policy environment involving all stakeholders; promoting favourable social norms and attitudes; and, strengthening the voice and agency of women and girls, especially those who are most excluded and discriminated against. Through this component, strong linkages are built between IPA beneficiary and regional level activities, with the understanding that the former will be adapted to the particular needs of each IPA beneficiary level, with each partner focusing on those activities that are most relevant to their respective context.

The additional resources will support, among others, additional activities especially focused on budgeting of different level of government's plans to end violence against women, on the organisation of sub-regional thematic fora on intersectional approaches to counter violence against women, and on the mechanism to foster regional cooperation. Additional efforts will be put to improve support services for victims, and the capacity to reach out to a larger number of users, especially focusing on women from minorities and/or disadvantaged groups that face intersectional barriers. Activities are heavily focused on civil society organisations, including organisations representing women from minority and disadvantaged groups. As such civil society organizations will also be direct beneficiaries, particularly in terms of capacity development and technical assistance, as well as access to knowledge and resources. Support to third parties is foreseen.

- **Activity 9: Support to a regional CSO network for women's rights and gender equality**

A network of CSOs will be supported to promote women's rights and gender equality in the region. Its activities will target both CSOs and governments, and will also engage with EU financed activities, as relevant and complementary to other ongoing support. The network will also help improve coalition- and capacity building between the supported CSOs for an increased impact in campaigning and advocacy.

#### Potential types of activities

- Building CSO capacity to carry out gender analysis and gender mainstreaming
- Supporting gender analyses of specific initiatives – CSO, government, and EU financed.



- Strengthening networking and coalition-building among Women CSOs in the Western Balkans and Turkey through information-sharing, experience exchange, and joint advocacy on gender equality issues.
- Monitoring of gender related commitments.
- Conduct of research and/or analyses to address significant gaps in research and/or gender statistics as they relate to EU Accession processes (e.g., gender pay gap, time use), ideally in cooperation with official statistical institutions.
- Through support to third parties, including collaborating with smaller and grassroots organizations furthering the same objectives at local level

### **Activity 10: Prizes for Local Roma Women's / local Roma Women's organisations in the Western Balkans and Turkey**

This activity will promote the profile, recognition and activities of local Roma women and/or local Roma Women's Organisations in the Western Balkan and Turkey. To this aim, indicatively 14 prizes will be awarded, either to individual Roma Women or Roma Women's Organisations in the Western Balkans and Turkey, having been able to achieve clear improvements in the lives of their families and/or settlements.

#### **RISKS**

The main risk associated to the action can be summarised as follows:

- Political instability and lack of political will in the beneficiaries covered by the action that would impede efforts to align laws and policies with international and EU norms/ standards, to cooperate and to adopt IPA beneficiaries' policies supportive to CSOs initiatives and media freedom as well as to translate political statements into action.

The risks will be addressed through regular inclusive and evidence-based regional political dialogue with the parties concerned and continuous monitoring of progress achieved in order to adapt the approach of the action during the implementation phase. To mitigate these risks, engagement between DG NEAR and the respective EU Delegation/Office in the IPA II beneficiary will be key. Steering Committees to be set up for the different initiatives established through the action will review information at beneficiary level to assess the potential impact on implementation and suggest further mitigation measures, as required. Grantees will ensure that throughout implementation of the action, there is engagement and advocacy with the government during the implementation of the action. Similarly, EED will ensure that synergies with their ongoing and future programming, as well as that of other international stakeholders, are maximized.

#### **CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

The most significant main conditions for implementation of the action are in place. All IPA II beneficiaries have a legal framework ensuring that the exercise of the freedom of association and expression is formally guaranteed, although there are issues of different degrees of seriousness in the implementation of that legal framework.

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

#### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The main institutional stakeholder involved in the management and implementation process of the action is DG NEAR, Unit D.5 as the contracting authority. Unit D.5 will manage all contracting foreseen. DG NEAR D.5. will also organise information sessions and the Technical Assistance to Civil Society Organisations (TACSO) will further inform and advise interested CSOs on the call for proposals. As a mean to improve further networking and cooperation, DG NEAR D.5 will organise kick-off conferences as well as mid-term events grouping all beneficiaries. The projects awarded through the call will also be able to count on the support of TACSO.

Other institutional stakeholders that will be involved at beneficiary level includes: For Component 1,3 and 4 – Office for cooperation with civil society, National Councils for civil society where relevant, tax revenue Offices and relevant Ministries; For Component 2 – journalists professional organizations, Public Service Broadcasters and Ministries for information and communications; Regional Steering Committees will be set up to coordinate several activities.

#### IMPLEMENTATION METHOD(S) AND TYPE(S) OF FINANCING

##### Activity 1 and 2a:

**Support to regional thematic networks of CSOs; and Financial support to grass-roots and community based organisations, activists and emerging actors.**  
Call for proposals.

##### Activity 2b and Activity 5:

**Financial support to grass-root, community-based organisations, activists and emerging actors; and Financial support to small scale media outlets, bloggers, independent media and emerging actors.** Direct awards to the European Endowment for Democracy. The direct awards are justified because EED is one of the rare actors able to provide financial support to activists in the region who cannot benefit from financial support from the donors community through traditional funding channels due to their size, legal status (e.g. non-registered entities or individuals), geopolitical context (e.g. civil war situation) etc. EED offers credibility and reliability thanks to its particular institutional set-up, being steered by representatives of the European Parliament, of the EU Member States, of the European External Action Service and of the civil society of the region. This unique position, combined with a good track-record despite their short existence, with efficient award procedures (that are compliant with the general principles applicable to the use of public funds) and with a standing good reputation, makes of EED an adequate vehicle for providing financial support to local beneficiaries at a micro- or mini-scale, allowing beneficiaries such as non-registered associations, political movements, individual activists, bloggers etc. to benefit from the donors community funding where this would not be possible through more traditional funding channels.

**Activity 3: Provision of regional technical assistance to CSOs.** Service contract

**Activity 4: Support to Public Service Media (PSM).** Service contract

- Activity 6: Support to Media Information Literacy, Media good governance, and media self-regulation.** Delegation agreement with UNESCO. The choice of UNESCO is justified by the specific technical knowledge of the organisation, whose programmes cover the promotion of independent media and freedom of the press. The entity has proven its operational capacity in this area through previous interventions, and the foreseen activities build on previous work carried out by the organisation. Working with a UN Agency such a UNESCO is furthermore expected to provide additional leverage in ensuring full participation of governments in this area. Financial support to third parties - Press Councils - is foreseen.
- Activity 7: Small scale projects promoting cooperating between communities and citizens in Serbia and Kosovo.** Call for proposals. Financial support to third parties is foreseen.
- Activity 8: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds - consolidation and extension.** Direct award to UNWOMEN: The direct award is justified by the specific mandate of UNWOMEN in promoting the gender equality policy agenda, and in its capacity to ensure outreach both to governments and to a large number of civil society organisations, and by the need to consolidate and extend and ongoing action. Financial support to third parties is foreseen.
- Activity 9: Support to a regional CSO network for women's rights and gender equality.** Call for proposals. Financial support to third parties is foreseen.
- Activity 10: Prizes for local Roma Women/ Roma Women's organisations in the Western Balkans and Turkey.** Direct award to Roma Active Albania, as a representative for the Regional Roma CSO Network. The choice of a direct award is based on the organisation 's experience and capacity to be in contact with the local settlement level, ensuring meaningful and representative nominations, as well as on their proven capacity to and organise such an award scheme (as exemplified for example by last year's successful friendly Roma major award). This network has a special position to target the type of award winners targeted by the award, i.e. local Roma women or local Roma women's organisations, and cover all enlargement region at appropriate level. The effective nominations of candidates at local level will require an implementing body that belongs to / have access to the day to day local Roma settlement lives across the region, as well as experience in managing a scheme of this kind. This is the case for the Roma CSO network represented by Roma Active Albania. Indicatively 14 prizes, in seven IPA beneficiaries are foreseen.

Indicatively, the call for proposals for activity 1, 7 and 9 are foreseen to be merged into one.

The envisaged assistance is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU.

#### **4. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT**

##### **METHODOLOGY FOR MONITORING (AND EVALUATION)**

The European Commission may carry out a mid-term, a final or an ex-post evaluation for this action or its components via independent consultants, through a joint mission or via an implementing partner. In case a mid-term or final evaluation is not foreseen, the European Commission may,

during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner. The evaluations will be carried out as prescribed by the DG NEAR guidelines for evaluations. In addition, the action might be subject to external monitoring in line with the European Commission rules and procedures.

The methodology for continuous monitoring of the action is based on the *Guidelines for EU support to civil society* and *Guidelines for EU support to media freedom and media integrity* already quoted. These documents are formulated in the form of a results framework which contains goals and results to be achieved by a combination of political and financial support. The selection of indicators in the logframe and in the indicator measurement table of the present document is derived directly from the Guidelines.

Monitoring of the guidelines is supervised by DG NEAR in collaboration with the EU Delegations in the region, international organisations, the contractor in charge of the regional Technical Assistance to CSOs (TACSO III) and networks of CSOs. Both qualitative and quantitative data is collected, by means of surveys, peer reviews, independent assessment, etc. The results framework allows for the measurement of progress at IPA II beneficiaries level. The monitoring and evaluation system includes a yearly (or biannual) regional meeting with the involvement of media organisations, CSOs and government offices for civil society to analyse the state of play and advancement towards targets. These regional meetings offer a forum for further definition of the role of Governments and CSOs in ensuring ownership and sustainability of the entire process.

The baseline assessment for the civil society guidelines was conducted in 2014, while the monitoring reports were conducted in 2015, 2016 and 2017. An overview of the baseline values, as well as the monitoring reports and IPA beneficiary targets 2020 derived from the results framework of Guidelines for EU support to civil society.<sup>10</sup>

A mid-term evaluation of the enlargement support to CSOs in the IPA II beneficiaries was carried out mid-way through the period in 2017 to assess progress towards objectives and results as well as the continued viability of the strategy. The evaluation was carried out as prescribed by the DG NEAR guidelines for evaluations.

In addition, the action might be subject to external monitoring in line with the European Commission rules and procedures.

Regarding the initiative of this action implemented in partnership with EED:

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

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<sup>10</sup> Baseline: <http://www.tacso.org/Content/Read/107?title=Osnova>

Monitoring reports year 1: <http://www.tacso.org/Content/Read/108?title=Izvješćaonadzorugodine1> (will be reactivated upon launch of TACSO III)  
Monitoring reports year 2: <http://www.tacso.org/Content/Read/109?title=Izvješćaonadzorugodine2> (will be reactivated upon launch of TACSO III)  
Monitoring reports year 3: <http://www.tacso.org/Content/Read/110?title=Izvješćaonadzorugodine3> (will be reactivated upon launch of TACSO III)

A final evaluation should be commissioned at the end of the period (2020) to provide the necessary inputs for further support after the end of the current financial framework.

## INDICATOR MEASUREMENT

	Baseline	Target 2020	Final Target (year)	Source of information
<b>Component 1</b>				
1. Share of CSOs that monitor and evaluate the implementation of their strategies and make this information publicly available/accessible (5.1.b)	1.1 Aggregated baselines to be prepared as part of work of upcoming new TACSO III	Tbd following assessment under TACSO III	Tbd	TACSO III Needs Assessment reports, TACSO III Surveys
	1.2 Aggregated baselines to be prepared as part of work of upcoming new TACSO III			
2. Number of CSOs' who use adequate argumentation and analysis for achieving advocacy goals (5.2.a.)	1.3 Aggregated baselines to be prepared as part of work of upcoming new TACSO III			
	1.4 Aggregated baselines to be prepared as part of work of upcoming new TACSO III			
3. Number of CSOs/activists supported through sub-granting scheme	1.5 Aggregated baselines to be prepared as part of work of upcoming new TACSO III			
	1.6 Aggregated baselines to be prepared as part of work of upcoming new TACSO III			
4. Percentage of laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively* consulted with CSOs (3.1.a.)	1.7 Aggregated baselines to be prepared as part of work of upcoming new TACSO III			
5. Quality* of structures and mechanisms in place for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions (3.1.b)				
6. Share of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks (5.3.a.)				
7. The policies and legal environment stimulate and facilitate volunteering and employment in CSOs				

<b>Component 2</b>				
<p>1. Established track-record of professionalism, transparency and independence of PSB</p> <p>2. Number and quality of contents targeting youth are co-produced by PSB of the WB</p> <p>3. Number of supported journalists/bloggers and media outlets through sub-granting scheme</p> <p>4. Public programme to promote media and information literacy are in place</p> <p>5. Presence of representative self-regulatory bodies and effectiveness of their action</p>	<p>2.1 To be determined if possible in the context of the recent Public Service Broadcasters' project</p> <p>2.2. To be determined in the context of the recent Public Service Broadcasters' project.</p> <p>2.3. 9 media outlets supported</p> <p>2.4 Elements of such programmes are in place in some IPA beneficiaries – extent will be evaluated in the context of the UNESCO programme</p> <p>2.5.To be determined at the outset of the UNESCO programme through a qualitative assessment covering for example how many media outlets are adhering to the regulatory bodies system of self-regulation, and how many bodies have adopted new statutes and new ways to deal with digital media ethics etc.</p>	<p>2.1 Tbd</p> <p>2.2 Tbd</p> <p>2.3 Tbd at contracting stage with EED, but will depend on number and level of needs of applicants</p> <p>2.4 – 1 per IPA beneficiary</p> <p>2.5 Tbd</p>	Tbd	<p>Reviews in the context of the upcoming TACSO III project</p> <p>Project reports and outputs (EED, PSB, UNCESCO)</p> <p>Reviews in context of annual (progress) reports</p> <p>Independent assessment by I.O. and CSOs</p> <p>Beneficiary baseline reports of the Guidelines for EU support to media</p> <p>Survey among media, journalists, Unions and CSOs</p>
<b>Component 3</b>				
<p>1. Number of new joint partnerships created involving at least 1 CSOs from Serbia and 1 CSO from Kosovo</p>	<p>0</p> <p>0</p>	<p>1-2</p> <p>1-2</p>	<p>1-2</p> <p>1-2</p>	<p>Project reports</p> <p>TACSO III CSF projects database (including sub-grantees)</p>

<p>2. Number of joint cultural projects developed promoting tolerance and disseminated to a wide audience;</p> <p>3. Number of new joint initiatives managed by local professional groups, youth, media and civil society.</p>	0	1-2	1-2	
<b>Component 4</b>				
<p>1. Number of laws and policies in place that are in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention</p> <p>2. Percentage of people in targeted communities who think it is never justifiable for a man to beat his wife, disaggregated by men, women, girls, boys</p> <p>3. Ratio of women, girls, boys and men beneficiaries of specialist support services related to Gender Based Violence</p> <p>4. Number of networks of women's CSOs that monitor and report on the implementation of CEDAW and Istanbul Conventions</p> <p>5. Number of CSOs having received training on violence against women, and gender mainstreaming and are applying this in their work</p> <p>6. Indicatively 14 prizes awarded to deserving Roma Women/Women's organisations</p>	<p>4.1 - 4.5: Baseline provided in the context of the reporting of ongoing regional IPA project: Ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds:</p> <p>4.1.: 2017: 7</p> <p>4.2: 2017: 20%</p> <p>4.4: 2017: 5</p> <p>4.5 15</p> <p>4.6: 0</p>	<p>4.1: 12</p> <p>4.2: 75%</p> <p>4.4. 22</p> <p>4.5. 300</p> <p>4.6: Up to 14</p>	<p>4.1: 15</p> <p>4.2:90%</p> <p>4.4:30</p> <p>4.5: 400</p> <p>4.6. N.A</p>	<p>Project reports</p> <p>Pre and Post surveys to be conducted at the beginning and at the end of the Action</p> <p>Inventory/database of laws and policies</p> <p>End line survey on perceptions and attitudes on gender equality and acceptance of violence among targeted communities</p>



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## **5. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

### **GENDER MAINSTREAMING**

Gender mainstreaming will be promoted throughout the implementation of the action, both through an activity specifically targeting gender equality and violence against women; and through targeted effort to enhance gender mainstreaming across CSO networks. Also, when financial support to third parties will be provided under its components, projects that favour gender-equality and women will be of special consideration.

Attention will be given to mainstreaming the gender perspective during the execution of the Calls for CSO proposals and their evaluations, and when establishing project and monitoring teams.

### **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

This action will be implemented in a non-discriminatory manner and according to equal opportunities principles that guarantee that no distinctions will be made on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, ability or other possible grounds in any aspect.

The action will focus on women and girls as beneficiaries, with the aim of ensuring them equal opportunities. Men (and boys) will have a key role to play in the implementation.

### **MINORITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS**

The involvement of minorities and vulnerable groups is at the very heart of the action. Through its design, the action strongly encourages and supports the participation of women from minorities and disadvantaged population groups in the seven IPA II beneficiaries. Specific attention will be given to Roma.

Through its different components, the action encourages the involvement of vulnerable population and minorities, and the development and mainstreaming of adequate community-based tailored social services implemented by civil society. Although local priorities are detected by the stakeholders in local communities, social inclusion and issues of minorities and vulnerable groups are always given special attention.

### **ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY (AND IF RELEVANT OTHER NON-STATE STAKEHOLDERS)**

By definition, this action is aiming to improve the environment for active citizenship and to strengthen the capacity of organised active citizens and has been designed based on inputs provided by activists and CSO representatives during several consultation processes.

Intervening in different specific frameworks and sectors, this action is broadly aimed at strengthening the role and participation of civil society in policy and decision-making processes through an improved dialogue with all level of governance.

### **ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (AND IF RELEVANT DISASTER RESILIENCE)**

The European Union has a longstanding commitment to address environmental concerns in its assistance programmes (as part as a wider commitment to sustainable development). Many of the foreseen subjects will concern rights and obligations relating to the environment EU acquires.

A certain consideration will be granted to the environmental CSOs and to the environmental impact of small scale proposals in the definition of priority areas and in the evaluation of the

Calls for proposals launched to provide financial support to third parties foreseen in the different components of the action.

Climate action relevant budget allocation: EUR 1 million.
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## **6. SUSTAINABILITY**

### **Institutional sustainability**

The main objective of the action, to contribute to the consolidation of a legal, policy and regulatory environment for civil society and media, aims exactly at achieving a long term institutional sustainability for the activities of civil society and media actors in the IPA II beneficiaries.

The activities implemented in the framework of the action will be designed to develop and strengthen existing local resources and reinforce the expertise and capacity of relevant regional actors. The action will help create the conditions for a self-sustainable free civil society and media environment that will be further maintained by the regional, beneficiary level and local stakeholders involved in the project's implementation from the start. The action will be tailored to the specific civil society and media context of each IPA II beneficiary, thereby fostering local ownership. The planned exchanges of good practices and approaches will also encourage the replication and scaling up of actions and open avenues for new complementary partnerships. All activities will build on regional and local networks' capacities and expertise, ensuring that the action results will have a long-term impact in the region and that benefits will be sustained beyond the implementation period.

### **Financial sustainability**

One of the main objectives of the action is to strengthen CSOs in order to become financially sustainable, especially through their own fund-raising abilities. Special emphasis will be dedicated in component 2 to reinforce Public Service Media financing mechanism allowing the PSM to fulfil entirely their remit and improve the financial sustainability of self-regulatory bodies.

## **7. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY**

Communication and visibility will be given high importance during the implementation of the action. The implementation of the communication activities shall be funded from the amounts allocated to the action.

All necessary measures will be taken to publicise the fact that the action has received funding from the EU in line with the Communication and Visibility requirements in force. All stakeholders and implementing partners shall ensure the visibility of EU Financial assistance provided through IPA II throughout all phases of the programme cycle.

Visibility and communication actions shall demonstrate how the intervention contributes to the agreed programme objectives and the accession process, as well as the benefits of the action for the general public. The actions shall aim at highlighting to the relevant target audiences the added value and impact of the EU's interventions and will promote transparency and accountability on the use of funds. Visibility and communication aspects shall be complementary to the activities implemented by DG NEAR and the EU Delegations in the field. The European Commission and the EU Delegations will be fully informed of the planning and implementation of the specific visibility and communication activities.

Visibility of the action will be ensured through a careful coordination of different communication plans for the different components. The component 2 related to media will help in mobilizing local media, particularly those benefitting from the action, to report on key moments of action implementation. Another key angle will be to maximize outreach through EED online media, through its website and social media channels.