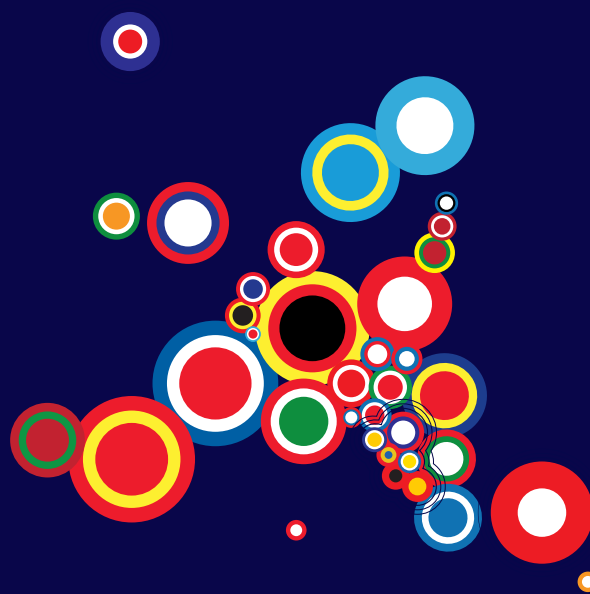




INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) 2014-2020

MULTI-COUNTRY

Civil Society Facility and
Media Programme 2016-
2017



Action Summary

This Action aims at strengthening participatory democracies and the EU integration process in the Western Balkans and Turkey by improving the legal, policy and financial environment for civil society and pluralistic media, by building the capacities of CSOs and media organizations as well as enhancing the mechanisms of cooperation between CSOs and public authorities.

A stronger role of civil society and media, as effective and accountable independent actors, 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 can contribute to deepening citizens' understanding of the reforms a country needs to complete in order to qualify for EU membership and support reconciliation in societies.

| Action Identification | |
|---|---|
| Programme Title | Civil Society Facility and Media 2016-2017 |
| Action Title | Multi-Country Civil Society Facility and Media Action 2016 -2017 |
| Action Reference | IPA 2016/038-960.01/CSF & Media/Multi-country IPA 2017/038-961.01/CSF & Media/Multi-country |
| Sector Information | |
| IPA II Sectors | Democracy and Governance – subsector civil society Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights - subsectors Civil Society and Media |
| DAC Sector | 15150 Democratic participation and civil society 15153 Media and free flow of information |
| Budget | |
| Total cost | 2016: EUR 27 million 2017: EUR 16,1 million |
| EU contribution | 2016: EUR 23,5 million ¹ 2017: EUR 15 million |
| Budget line(s) | 22.020401 |
| Management and Implementation | |
| Management mode | <i>Direct</i> |
| <i>Direct management:</i> European Commission | <i>DG NEAR, D5, Unit for Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes</i> |
| Implementation responsibilities | <i>Sector for civil society and Social Inclusion</i> |
| Location | |
| Zone benefiting from the action | <i>Western Balkans and Turkey</i> |
| Specific implementation area(s) | <i>N/A</i> |
| Timeline | |
| Final date for contracting including the conclusion of delegation agreements | <i>IPA 2016: 31 December 2017 IPA 2017: 31 December 2018</i> |
| End of operational implementation period | <i>IPA 2016: 31 December 2021 IPA 2017: 31 December 2022</i> |

¹ The sum includes EUR 3 million from BiH and EUR 0.5 million from Albania national envelopes (IPA 2016)

| Policy objectives / Markers (DAC form) | | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| General policy objective | Not targeted | Significant objective | Main objective |
| 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"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
| Trade Development | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health | <input type="checkbox"/> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RIO Convention markers | Not targeted | Significant objective | Main objective |
| 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 IPA II beneficiaries face a range of challenges, especially in fields such as the rule of law, corruption, organised crime, the economy and social cohesion. Civil Society actors and organisations can make a substantial contribution to addressing many of these through their lobbying, advocacy and oversight activities at national, regional and local level. When it comes to democratic governance and the rule of law and fundamental rights, including freedom of expression & association and minority rights, they can create demand for enhanced transparency, accountability and effectiveness from public institutions and facilitate a greater focus on the needs of citizens in policy-making. CSOs in the region have also demonstrated their ability to initiate effective anti-corruption initiatives, contribute to regional integration and reconciliation processes, support independent media, campaign for gender equality, fight against discrimination, and promote social inclusion and environmentally sustainable policies and practices.

Beyond this, civil society and the media can help ensure that accession negotiations between the candidate country institutions and 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. To this aim it is also essential that the IPA II beneficiaries guarantee open and pluralistic media landscapes which allow for a culture of critical and independent journalism. Without the presence of a fully free media, citizens in these beneficiaries are denied the right to factual and reliable information without exposure to bias and propaganda. The alarming deterioration of the media environment advanced freedom of expression and media to one of the top priorities in the enlargement context and this was subsequently reflected in the annual Enlargement Strategy paper.

The annual assessments of the civil society and media enabling environment², conducted at national level by different actors, offer an in depth analysis of the needs of the sector in the Western Balkans and Turkey. At regional level the main findings could be summarized as follow:

- 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 with the exception of Turkey, but 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 one of the main challenges that civil society and media organization are experiencing in the current period of crisis. As indicated in most EU progress reports, 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. As a consequence CSOs are struggling with insufficient diversification of funds that undermine their sustainability and independence.
- Similar problems affect the media. In the Western Balkans few independent media have managed to survive the transition and the current economic crisis. Transparent rules and procedures for the use of public funds in media (e.g. in the form of the so called “government advertisement”) should be implemented to mitigate clientelistic support to pro-government media and unfair competition within the media market.
- Participatory governance is another dimension which is lacking proper implementation. The strategic mechanisms for cooperation between government and civil society are part of the legal framework, but CSOs continue to experience difficulties in consulting draft laws and in participating to public consultations.

² Monitoring reports per beneficiary, TACSO, April 2015: http://www.tacso.org/documents/otherdoc/?id=9887&template_id=73&langTag=en-US ; Monitoring Matrix on enabling environment for civil society development , BCSDN and ECLN, May 2015: http://monitoringmatrix.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/MM-Regional-Report-2014-final_web.pdf

- Civil society and media organizations in the Western Balkans and Turkey are still perceived 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 organizations neither at international nor at national and local level and a there is a clear need for support to CSOs coalition-building across national and regional boundaries in order to increase their impact in campaigning and advocacy.

Coming to gender violence and discrimination, 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. Most beneficiaries in the region have ratified CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention and produce regular reports. However, despite formal commitments, progress on the ground is slow and has been impacted by unfavourable socio-economic and political developments including a “re-traditionalization” of family policies, increasing nationalist discourses and the influence of religious forces. Moreover, although women as a group face the same types of discrimination and violence, some groups of women are confronted with specific barriers and situations of vulnerability such as in the case of Roma women, women with disability, rural women and refugee women.

RELEVANCE WITH THE IPA II MULTI-COUNTRY INDICATIVE 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"³ 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 MCISP 2014-20⁴ endorses the approach proposed in the Communication and considers the support to civil society and media one of the priorities to improve democracy and rule of law through horizontal support:

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 Enlargement Strategy 2015 reflects similar priorities to the MCISP and states that:

A stronger role for civil society organisations and a much more supportive and enabling environment to foster their development is needed in the enlargement countries. This is necessary to enhance political accountability and promote deeper understanding of accession related reforms. Special attention is devoted in the annual package to freedom of expression and media that [...] remains a particular concern. Already in 2014 instances of back-sliding were noted in this field. This trend has continued in 2015. There has been undue political interference in the work of public broadcasters in

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

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

*the Western Balkans, as well as intimidation of journalists and limited progress with media self-regulation*⁵.

The priorities of the present document for the period 2016-17 are largely inspired by two sets of Guidelines prepared in coordination with EU Delegations and endorsed by DG Enlargement in 2014: "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"⁶. The two documents have been widely consulted with governments, civil society, media and I.O. within the region and in the EU. The guidelines translate the political objectives of the Commission as indicated in the MCISP and in the Enlargement package into a concrete "results' framework" containing the outcomes to be achieved in the next financing period as well as the indicators to monitor them. The measurement of indicators will provide information for the elaboration of the yearly European Commission reports and for the programming of IPA support. The monitoring exercise will also allow for comparison of results achieved by the different beneficiaries in the development of enabling and stimulating participatory democracy.

To achieve the priorities formulated in the strategic documents, in the period 2016-17 the Commission will continue its efforts to consolidate regional networks and associations of CSOs and to increase their accountability. By promoting long-term partnership with CSOs cross-border thematic platforms the Commission intends to empower local civil society and to demonstrate that CSOs are reliable partners to inform local policies and to be engaged in positive dialectic with public authorities.

The 2016-2017 programme will also focus on building the institutional mechanisms for cooperation between governments and civil society and introducing transparent procedures for financing CSOs from public budgets. This will lead to possible indirect management of CSF funds by beneficiaries in the second part of the financial framework (2018-2020) and well before the EU accession for these beneficiaries. The activities to build the capacity in the public administrations and to advise Ministries and subnational Authorities will be implemented mostly through CSF actions at national level, the Technical Assistance for CSOs (TACSO) and in cooperation with I.O.

Referring to consistency of the European Union assistance, the activities of the CSF foreseen at multi-country level have been carefully assessed and coordinated with the EU Delegations in the Western Balkans and Turkey. Thanks to the common priorities set in the Guidelines for EU support to civil society and media, a "division of labour" has been agreed with the Delegations in order to avoid overlapping and improve synergies between regional and national programmes. The complementarity with other Commission's instruments devoted to support civil society (e.g. EIDHR and civil society dialogue in Turkey) is ensured by regular exchanges of information with the relevant Units and, at field level, thanks to the joint management of the programmes by the EU Delegations.

Coherence of the proposed approach and complementarity of the action with International organizations and other donors have been discussed during the consultation phase of the media and civil society guidelines and will be carefully monitored during the implementation phase through regular meetings of the TACSO Local Advisory Groups (LAG).

LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Action builds on the lessons learned from IPA I, which demonstrated that progress towards meeting EU membership criteria is best achieved by a mix of measures planned both at national and at regional level. The IPA interim evaluation and meta-evaluation recommended that the Multi-beneficiary programme develop more rigorous selection criteria for programmes and focus on areas with clear needs for a regional approach. It also concluded that further efforts are needed to involve

⁵ COM(2015) 611– " EU Enlargement Strategy"

⁶http://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

regional stakeholders more in programming and that national administrations should be involved in project implementation as a way to improve ownership and coordination.

In order to follow up on the lessons learned of previous financial assistance DG NEAR introduced the civil society and media guidelines to facilitate the translation of the political priorities into concrete objectives and results and to improve consistency between the interventions planned at regional and national level. This major effort which is thoroughly reflected in the present document will offer a solid ground to monitoring in the future the contribution of the EU to civil society development in the WBT. More particularly a baseline assessment was conducted at the beginning of 2014 for the civil society guidelines and then updated in 2015 while the baseline assessment for the media guidelines was realized in summer 2015. More details are provided in the chapter dedicate to monitoring.

The programme allocations for 2016-17 envisages an increase of 34% compared to 2014-2015 and comprises one decision per year implemented directly by D5 (the multi-country envelope) and by each EUD for each of the national envelopes. 75.7% of the 2016-2017 programme funds will support CSOs directly (action grants, operating grants, low values grants, resource centres, people-to-people actions), 10.6% will benefit media and media CSOs, 7.2% will be allocated for technical assistance to governments and CSOs, 5.8% to international organisations and 0.8% for support measures.

The previous financial support to CSOs was based on providing action grants quite limited in time (up to 24 months), via calls for proposals centred on specific themes. The introduction of the new Financial Regulations offered the possibility to support long-term regional networks of CSOs up to 4 years. To reach smaller grassroots organization outside urban areas the present action will put in place the implementation of systematic financial support to third parties (e.g. sub-granting schemes) by regional thematic networks and I.O.

With regard to freedom of expression, in an effort to have a thorough understanding of the systemic nature of the challenges in the Enlargement zone and to elaborate adequate policy responses to it, the Commission organised three Speak-up! Conferences (2011, 2013 and 2015) involving stakeholders from the media community, CSOs and decision makers. These events and the following conclusions have become important reference points in addressing the issues of media freedom and integrity in the context of the enlargement policy and the Guidelines for media offer a long term assistance approach to this end. The involvement of international bodies with a specific mandate has proven to be effective in the realisation of regional activities targeting self-regulatory bodies (UNESCO) and Judicial Academies (CoE) according to the recommendations of a recent scoping study on the topic⁷.

In the field of local democracy the UNDP managed Social Innovation Fund in RS and the UNDP-operated LOD in BiH could be considered as a reference frame for new innovative approaches targeting civil society empowerment. Based on lessons learned from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the programme proposed in partnership with UNDP to strengthen partnerships between local governments and civil society will be replicated at regional level.

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

2. INTERVENTION LOGIC

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX¹

| OVERALL OBJECTIVE | OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*) | SOURCES OF VERIFICATION | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p>To strengthen participatory democracies and the EU integration 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.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality assessment of existing legislation and policy framework • % of laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively consulted with CSOs (EU Guidelines indicator 3.1.a) • Donations are stimulated with adequate legislation and regulations (EU Guidelines indicator 2.2) • Government support to CSOs is available and provided in a transparent, accountable, fair and non-discriminatory manner (EU Guidelines indicators 2.4) | <p>Independent assessments by I.O. and CSOs</p> <p>Progress reports</p> | |
| SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE | OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*) | SOURCES OF VERIFICATION | ASSUMPTIONS |
| <p>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, local democracy, reconciliation and their capability to dialogue with Governments.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External perception of importance and impact of CSOs and media activities as well as CSOs transparency and accountability • The policy and legal environment stimulate and facilitate volunteering and employment in CSOs (EU Guidelines indicator 1.2.) | <p>Independent survey</p> <p>Independent assessments by I.O. and CSOs</p> | <p>Willingness of relevant governmental bodies to cooperate and to adopt national policies supportive to CSOs initiatives and media freedom</p> <p>Favourable</p> |

¹ The main results and indicators presented in the logical framework matrix derive directly from the EU Guidelines for civil society and for media (see annex 2)

| | | | environment for CSOs development and political stability |
|--|---|---|--|
| RESULTS | OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*) | SOURCES OF VERIFICATION | ASSUMPTIONS |
| <p>Component 1 – Support to the capacities of CSOs at regional level</p> <p>Result 1: CSOs regularly network within and outside the beneficiary and make use of coalition-building with an increased impact in campaigning and advocacy</p> <p>Result 2: The importance of CSOs in improving good governance is recognised by public institutions and CSOs are systematically included in decision making and reform processes</p> <p>Result 3: The activities of CSOs are guided by strategic long-term organisational planning and have a diverse and sustainable funding base</p> <p>Result 4: A regional technical assistance is in place and provide support to capacity development of CSOs and to the organizations of regional P2P events</p> <p>Component 2 - Media freedom and integrity</p> <p>Result 5: Reformed and professional Public Service Media ensure content pluralism in an independent and accountable manner</p> <p>Result 6: CSOs and media regularly network and make use of coalition-building and online platforms to implement high quality investigative reporting programmes</p> <p>Component 3 - Strengthening local democracy</p> <p>Result 7: Strengthened partnerships between local governments and civil society in the Western Balkans by scaling-up a model of transparent and project-based CSO funding from local government budgets towards greater civic engagement in decision-making and improvement of local service delivery</p> <p>Result 8: The capacity of civil society organisations and local governments in implementation of municipal grant schemes and delivering of good quality projects is strengthened</p> | <p>Indicators for component 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks • CSOs' internal governance structures are transparent and accountable to members/constituents/beneficiaries (EU Guidelines indicator 4.1) • CSOs are transparent about their programme activities and financial management (EU Guidelines indicator 4.3) <p>Indicators for component 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality assessment of the legislation, financing mechanisms and accountability of PSB • PSB establish track-record of professionalism, transparency and independence • Number of joint –journalist/CSOs projects. Number of cooperative and regional teams dedicated to journalist investigation. <p>Indicators for component 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of formal partnerships established between local governments and civil society • Average annual percentage of increase in transparently disbursed public funds to CSOs from local government budgets of participating local governments • Number of citizens from local governments in IPA II beneficiaries who directly benefit from | <p>Component 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent surveys and assessments <p>Component 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer reviews under Ch.10, 23 and 24 • Independent assessment by I.O. and CSOs • Survey among media, journalists, Unions and CSOs <p>Component 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal agreements/memoranda signed between local governments and CSOs • Budgets of participating local governments, as well as information on budget execution. • Public call records, media coverage of launched calls, | <p>Willingness of CSOs to work together</p> <p>Citizens trust and support for the CSOs' work</p> <p>Relevant institutional partners responsible for coordination with civil society organisations engage pro-actively in the Action.</p> <p>Sufficient number of local governments apply for participation in interventions under the Actions</p> <p>Existence of political will to align laws and policies with CEDAW and Istanbul Convention and to cooperate with</p> |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p>Component 4 – Fighting violence against and discrimination of women and girls</p> <p>Result 9: Enabling legislative and policy environment in line with international standards on eliminating violence against women and other forms of discrimination</p> <p>Result 10: Improved favourable social norms and attitudes to promote gender equality and prevent discrimination/violence against women</p> <p>Result 11: Empowered women and girls (including those from disadvantaged groups) who have experienced discrimination/violence advocate for and have access to quality services</p> <p>Component 5 – Civic monitoring of the Regional Housing Programme</p> <p>Result 12 RHP sub-projects are realized in accordance with actual housing needs and socio-economic status of RHP beneficiaries.</p> <p>Result 13 Assistance and support to vulnerable refugees and IDPs is provided in all four countries to ensure their easier access to and equal participation in the RHP.</p> | <p>improved local services as a result from the assistance</p> <p>Indicators for components 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of laws and policies in place that are in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention (result 9); • 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 (result 10) • Ratio of women, girls, boys and men beneficiaries of specialist support services related to Gender Based Violence (result 11) • Number of national and regional networks of women’s CSOs that monitor and report on the implementation of CEDAW and Istanbul Conventions (result 12) <p>Indicators for component 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of solved housing issues for the most vulnerable refugees and IDPs in the four Partner Countries • Shortened procedure and simplified Programme application documents; facilitated legal aid and guidance to refugees and IDPs | <p>government documents on adoption of the methodology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records on awarded funds, Contracts <p>Component 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiary-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 (result 9 and 11). • For result 10 and 12: Pre and Post surveys to be conducted at the beginning and end of the Action. <p>Component 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent expert report on the civil monitoring. • Interviews conducted with 100 families with the resolved housing issues within the RHP. | <p>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>Readiness of the relevant beneficiaries to provide conditions for the sustainability of the RHP</p> |
|---|---|---|---|

(**)

(*) All indicators should be formulated as measurement, without specifying targets in the Logical Framework Matrix. The targets should be included in the performance measurement table in section 4. More detailed guidance on indicators is provided in Section 4 on performance measurement.

(**) Relevant activities have to be included only in the following sub-section.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

The Civil Society Facility and media multi-beneficiary action foresees five components:

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

Overall, the EU support under component 1 will be centred on issues that are directly linked with the enlargement policies. Therefore, long-term and operating grants will be given to network of CSOs which will monitor policies, provide policy recommendations, defend the rights of vulnerable groups and minorities as well as carry out actions that would serve persons with special needs and provide grants to smaller CSOs. By entering into long-term partnerships with CSOs the Commission is demonstrating to the authorities and citizens of the Western Balkans and Turkey that CSOs are essential sources of information and expertise. That they are essential communication channels to obtain feedback on policies as well to identify the main concerns and needs upon which new policies and programmes should be based. As such CSOs are essential for governments to exercise their functions.

The main activities foreseen under component 1 and contributing to the 3 expected results are:

- **Support to regional thematic networks of CSOs** operating in the Western Balkans and Turkey to improve the enabling environment for civil society development, the relations between civil society and governments and the capacities of CSOs. This support will be provided by a new call for proposals specifically addressing regional thematic networks of CSOs (the priorities of the call will be defined in consultation with civil society during 2016). Priority will be given during the evaluation to projects focused on advocacy.
- **Continued support to regional Associations of CSOs** active in fields related to EU policies in order to be fully operational in influencing public sector reform processes through analysis, monitoring and advocacy. The action will support the fourth year of implementation of the operating grants awarded with Cfp EuropeAid 136034.
- **Financial support to grass-root and community based organisations** located in rural areas thanks to sub granting schemes included in the call for proposals above mentioned and in the grant agreements with I.O. under components 3 and 4.
- **Continuation of the regional technical assistance to civil society organization (TACSO)**. A service contract after international tender will be awarded in order to continue the successful experience of TACSO I and II. Main tasks of the regional TACSO will be to conduct civil society needs assessments, provide technical assistance and implement strategic training programmes. TACSO will supervise the review of the full range of legal and financial regulations that apply to civil society in order to identify gaps, inconsistencies and areas of possible improvements in the legal environment for civil society. The focus of the technical assistance will shift towards regional support to capacity development and application of methodologies for effective partnerships; civil society needs and impact assessment; advocacy strategies; implementation of the People-2-People (P2P) Programme.

The detailed scope of TACSO's work will be defined in the ToRs of the tender. One major task of the new TACSO will be to supervise, harmonize and facilitate the work of the national resource centers (RC) that have been identified after selection procedures by current TACSO in 2014 and are being supported by TACSO with transfer of knowledge and joint work during 2015, 2016 and 2017 (current TACSO contract expires in Q3 2017). The RCs will replace TACSO at national and local level including the provision of information, awareness, capacity building and trainings for local and national CSO. An initial envelope of € 0.5 m per IPA II beneficiary has been allocated for a three years programme. Funds will come from the national Actions of the CSF 2016-17 and will be contracted by EUDs.

Component 2 - Media freedom and integrity

The activities foreseen under component 2 will be achieved in partnership with the media community and civil society, including journalist professional organisations, think-tanks and human rights organisations. More specifically the activities to achieve the expected results are:

- A restricted international tender will be launched in the course of 2016 for the activities related to result 5. The technical assistance will aim at supporting the national PSM of the enlargement area in the development of long term reform strategies for better management, accountability and financial sustainability. The multi-beneficiary action will not include investments in infrastructure but aims towards improved institutional performance as results of capacity development and improved institutional frameworks. Main expected services of the Technical Assistance are:
 - Advice and training activities to PSM to enhance the capacity in news production and in strengthening their programming in favour of pluralistic society
 - Training and guidance to improve management and governance capacity of PSM including digitalization and archiving
 - Development and monitoring of long term reform strategies to ensure independence, accountability, institutional and financial sustainability of PSM

More details will be provided in the ToRs of the tender that will be finalized in Q2 2016 by an external framework contractor.

- Activities to achieve result 6 will be implemented with the same modalities foreseen for CSOs under the first component, namely support to regional thematic networks and financial assistance to local CSOs. In particular the new call for proposal for long-term grants will include a lot for the promotion of regional networks of investigative journalists with a particular focus on the promotion of modern/innovative journalistic approaches (e.g. new media, web portals and social media). Non-profit media organizations will be eligible for the call for proposal.

Component 3 - Strengthening local democracy

The activities under component 3 will be implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and will be based on a model of transparent and project-based funding of CSOs by local governments successfully applied in BiH over the past 5 years. The methodology that will be promoted in the framework of component 3 of the Action will guide local governments through the entire process of design, management, and monitoring and evaluation of their financial grant schemes for CSOs, ensuring transparent and quality-driven process of selecting CSO projects for funding; funding and monitoring of CSO projects which directly contribute to legitimate local needs and local development priorities; foundation for effective partnership and dialogue with civil society. The initiative will target each participating IPA II beneficiary within the WB region with the same set of activities⁹. In some aspects the actions will be simultaneous but they will also be tailored to the needs of specific local governments or participating IPA II beneficiary. The regional programme could foresee piloting 5 municipalities in each one of the IPA II beneficiaries. Additional financial resources from beneficiaries' envelopes could increase the number of benefitting municipalities in the respective beneficiary. At least 60% of the funds will be sub-granted to CSOs working in the selected municipalities.

The activities are structured around four main results:

- A model of transparent and project-based funding of CSOs by local governments is introduced and institutionalized in all participating local governments, and thus promoted and anchored across Western Balkans.

⁹ Involvement of Turkey not yet confirmed.

- Services delivered by civil society organisations address the needs of local communities within partner local governments across the IPA II beneficiaries.
- The capacity of civil society organisations and local governments in implementation of municipal grant schemes and delivering of good quality projects is strengthened.
- Enhanced regional networking and dialogue of civil society and local governments across the IPA II beneficiaries enable capitalisation of good practices.

Component 4 – Fighting violence against and discrimination of women and girls

The activities under component 4 will be implemented in partnership with UN Women, European and local CSOs representing women from minority and disadvantaged groups. The proposed Action will tackle issues of violence and discrimination against women in Turkey and six IPA II beneficiaries, anchored in the normative frameworks of CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention, and also alignment with EU accession standards. There are seven main inter-related results, clustered around three main themes, namely, fostering an enabling legislative and policy environment; 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 national and regional level activities, with the understanding that national level activities will be adapted to the particular needs and situation at beneficiary level, with each IPA II beneficiary focusing on those activities that are most relevant to their respective context.

A variety of activities are planned for the realization of the above-mentioned results, including, among other things: convening a regional forum, establishing networking platforms, capacity development, technical assistance, supporting national reporting mechanisms, promoting innovation and experimentation in advocacy, knowledge production, and dissemination of good practices.

The activities are heavily focused on civil society organizations, including organizations 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. Although funds will be directly awarded to UN Women, the organisation is obliged to sub-grant 60% of funds to CSOs working in the same area.

Component 5 – Civic monitoring of the Regional Housing Programme (RHP)

Funded after the Dayton agreement the Igman Initiative is a coalition of CSO that will monitor the implementation of the RHP in the four countries with special attention to local and national authorities dealing with vulnerable beneficiaries. The grant will be awarded to the Centre for Regionalism which ensures the Secretariat general of the Igman initiative. The action grant will also include low values grants for grass root organisations. The main activities foreseen under this component are clustered around the following objectives:

- Ensuring that the realization of the RHP's subprojects in the four countries is in accordance with the actual housing needs and socio-economic status of the RHP beneficiaries.
- Increasing the transparency of the implementation of the RHP towards potential beneficiaries and general public in the Partner Countries.
- Opening the dialogue and ongoing exchange of information with national Lead Institutions and Project Implementation Units in finding adequate and durable housing solutions for vulnerable refugees and IDPs in the four countries.
- Providing assistance and support to vulnerable refugees and IDPs in all four countries to ensure their easier access to and equal participation in the RHP.

RISKS

Main risks and assumption associated to the action can be synthesized 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 national policies supportive to CSOs initiatives and media freedom as well as to translate political statements into action.
- A change of political priorities due to the current refugee crisis that affects some of the beneficiaries covered by the Action.
- Insufficient financial resources to implement policies and legislation to protect women from violence and to establish new services for survivors of violence/upgrade existing services in line with international and EU quality standards.
- Limited budget funds allocated for the civil society at local level due to shortages in municipal budgets causing inability to commit sufficient funding.

The risks will be addressed through regular 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/UN Women/UNDP and the respective EU Delegation in the IPA II beneficiary will be key. Additionally, the Steering Committees of 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. UN Women/UNDP will ensure that throughout implementation of the Action, there is high-level engagement and advocacy with the government in each IPA II beneficiary. Similarly, UN Women/UNDP 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 already in place. All IPA II beneficiaries, excluding Turkey, have a legal framework ensuring that the exercise of the freedom of association and expression is formally guaranteed. Similarly, concerning the local democracy component, there is an existing but still insufficient legislative framework related to CSO funding from public sources in all the IPA II beneficiaries and, with the exception of Kosovo*, all the beneficiaries have ratified CEDAW and produce regular reports.

The Component 3 has to be backed by the national agencies dealing with civil society and respective ministries to support scaling-up and anchoring model of transparent and project-based funding of CSOs. The intervention is primarily foreseen as a local government support, therefore local acceptance and municipal assemblies must support mayors in the process of institutionalization and anchoring of the model.

Regarding component 4, with the exception of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo, the remaining beneficiaries have ratified the Optional Protocol to CEDAW (which recognizes the validity of the CEDAW Committee to receive and consider complaints from individuals or groups within the respective States' jurisdiction). Furthermore, five of the countries (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey) have also already ratified the Istanbul Convention, while the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is a signatory.

*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

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 prepare the guidelines for Long-term grants and operating grants as well as the Terms of Reference for the procurement. DG NEAR will organise information sessions and the Technical Assistance to Civil Society Organisations (TACSO) will further inform and advise interested CSOs on these calls. 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. These projects can also count on the support of the Technical Assistance to CSOs (TACSO) during its lifetime and its successor(s).

The activities under components 3 and 4 to be realized in agreement with I.O. will be financed with grants agreements.

Other institutional stakeholders that will be involved at national level could be identified per each of the Action components: Component 1 – Office for cooperation with civil society, national Councils for civil society, tax revenue Offices and relevant Ministries; Component 2 – journalists professional organizations, Public Service Broadcasters and Ministries for information and communications; Component 3 – Ministries for local development and local Governments/ Authorities at different level; Component 4 – Ministries for social affairs and welfare; Component 5 – Council of Europe Development Bank and national authorities in charge for housing related issues.

Regional Steering Committees will be set up to coordinate the activities of I.O. involved in the components dedicated to media freedom, local democracy and women's rights.

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

One call for proposal to award long-term grants to regional thematic networks of CSOs is foreseen at the moment. The long-term actions will be concluded for the maximum period of four years. The operating grants will be awarded on an annual basis to the selected organisations but for a maximum duration of four years. Each grant will be awarded following submission and approval of the work programme. The amount awarded will decrease over the years. A call for proposals addressed to regional network of CSOs beneficiaries and co-beneficiaries of the Framework Partnership Agreements awarded through the CfP EuropeAid 132438 is also foreseen.

Both the grants to CSOs and I.O. will have resources dedicated to financial support to third parties (e.g. re-granting schemes for activists, grassroots and community based organizations).

The co-financing arrangement at the moment foresees a 90% co-financing both for Call for proposals and for the direct agreements with I.O.

4. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

METHODOLOGY FOR MONITORING (AND EVALUATION)

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 draft 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, I.O., TACSO and networks of CSOs. The collection of data includes both qualitative and quantitative data and is conducted 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 and offers a forum for further definition of the role of Governments and CSOs in ensuring ownership and sustainability of the entire process. As this may serve as input into the annual progress reports, the Commission's political desks are associated with it.

The baseline assessment for the civil society guidelines was conducted beginning 2014. The data related to the monitoring for the reference year 2014 were presented in a regional conference held in Belgrade on 28-29 April 2015 and are available online¹⁰. Please refer to TACSO website for an overview of the baseline values (reference year 2014) and national targets 2020 derived from the results framework of Guidelines for EU support to civil society.

A similar exercise was conducted for the media guidelines in summer 2015 and the main findings were presented during the Speak up! 3 Conference on 3 November 2015. Final report containing baseline values of the media guidelines is expected to be published beginning 2016 on DG NEAR website.

Regarding the 2 main initiatives of this Action implemented in partnership with I.O.:

- UNDP will be responsible for the monitoring of activities under Component 3 in line with the set of indicators provided. Each UNDP Country Office will implement and monitor the activities under their responsibility. At the start of implementation, the UNDP will refine the matrix of indicators for the Action after undertaking the necessary research and data collection to fine-tune baselines and realistic milestones and targets. The matrix of indicators will be discussed with DG NEAR and the EUDs and approved by the Steering Committee. The monitoring arrangements (including data to be collected, responsibilities, tools and frequency of monitoring activities) will be detailed in the Implementation Manuals to be developed at the start of the Action.
- UN Women, in charge for the monitoring of activities under Component 4, normally implements results-based monitoring, reporting and evaluation. The technical coordinator in each IPA II beneficiary will be responsible for monitoring and reporting at their level, including collection and analysis of baseline, monitoring and endline data, field visits, and day-to-day monitoring and reporting of programme activities and results. The monitoring of the Action will be in accordance with the UN Women regulations and procedures for monitoring and in line with the UN Women Programme and Operations Manual.

Finally, considering the entire IPA II financial framework (2014-2020), a mid-term evaluation of the enlargement support to CSOs in the IPA II beneficiaries will be carried out mid-way through the period (2017) to assess progress towards objectives and results as well as the continued viability of the strategy and 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.

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.

¹⁰ www.tacso.org/documents/otherdoc/?id=9887&template_id=73&langTag=en-US

INDICATOR MEASUREMENT

| Indicator | Baseline 2014 (2) | Target 2020 (3) | Final Target/ benchmark(4) | Source of information |
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| <u>All components</u> | | | | |
| <p>ENABLING ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>1. The policies and legal environment stimulate and facilitate volunteering and employment in CSOs (EU Guidelines indicator 1.2.)</p> <p>2. Donations are stimulated with adequate legislation and regulations (EU Guidelines indicator 2.2)</p> | <p>1.1. and 1.2. No precise data available for number of employees and volunteers in the CSOs</p> <p>2.1. some IPA II beneficiaries do not have legislation that stimulates donations</p> <p>2.2. activities such as strengthening of democracy, rule of law, fighting corruption, sustainable development, protection of nature, etc. are not recognised as activities of general interest. Thus, donations for these purposes do not count as tax-admissible expenditures.</p> <p>2.3. Provided companies are within the distribution donation margin of up to 3% of total</p> | <p>1.0. Accurate data is available on the annual level for both employment and volunteering (EU Guidelines target 1.2.b.1.)</p> <p>1.1. 0,5% of all employed is employed in CSO sector EU Guidelines target 1.2.a.)</p> <p>1.2. Number of volunteers increased for 5% (EU Guidelines target 1.2.b.2.)</p> <p>2.0. Accurate data is available on the annual level (2.2.a.1)</p> <p>2.1. Legislation provides for stimulating tax incentives for corporate and individual giving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tax relief in the amount of 4 % of taxable income for corporations, • tax relief in the amount of 5 % of taxable income for individual persons OR 2 % tax allocation for public benefit purposes (for the IPA II beneficiaries with % law system) (2.2.a.2.) <p>2.3. Legislation for definition of</p> | <p>1.1. 6 % of total workforce is employed in CSO sector (EU average) (EU Guidelines 1.2.a.)</p> <p>1.2. Number of volunteers in CSOs is increased for 50% (EU Guidelines 1.2.b.)</p> <p>2.1 Legislation provides for stimulating tax incentives for corporate and individual giving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - tax relief in the amount of 5 % of taxable income for corporations, - Tax relief in the amount of 10 % of taxable income for individual persons OR 2 % tax allocation for public benefit purposes (for the IPA II beneficiaries with % law system)[2] (EU Guidelines 2.2.a.1.) | <p>TACSO Needs Assessment reports,</p> <p>TACSO Survey</p> <p>BCSDN Monitoring Matrix</p> |

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| <p>3. Government support to CSOs is available and provided in a transparent, accountable, fair and non-discriminatory manner (EU Guidelines indicators 2.4)</p> <p>4. Public institutions recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance through CSOs' inclusion in decision making processes (EU</p> | <p>annual income</p> <p>2.4. CSOs complain that tax exemptions are too low to stimulate a culture of giving</p> <p>3.1. There is no unified mechanism for allocation of public funds to CSOs.</p> <p>3.2. Some of those institutions have clear and developed procedures while some do not.</p> <p>3.2. The funding is available is for a short period with a maximum of one year. The funds are disbursed at the end of the project making it difficult for CSOs to implement projects if they do not have the liquidity to cover their expenses. In some cases, the funding does not cover the administrative costs. There are delays in payment and funding is not flexible.</p> <p>3.3. The price is the lead criteria for selection of service providers, not taking into consideration the quality of the services delivered. There is no clear guidance to ensure transparency and avoid conflict of interest.</p> <p>4.1. not all IPA II beneficiaries have data on how many laws are sent via public consultations</p> <p>4.2 there are some improvements in setting up needed structures</p> | <p>public benefit causes is adopted in which public benefit purposes are harmonized in relevant laws</p> <p>- CSOs that provide social services and social protection institutions have the same status</p> <p>3.1. State provides funding for the implementation of 10% of public policies, identified in policy documents, for which CSOs are identified as key actors for implementation (2.4.a.)</p> <p>3.2. Legal framework for public funding includes: inclusion of beneficiaries in programming of the tenders, clear criteria published in advance, deadlines for decision, merit decision with arguments, evaluation of achieved outputs and outcomes on the project and program level, possibility of prepayments and multi-annual contracts. (2.4.b.)</p> <p>4.1.50 % of laws/ bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively consulted with CSOs (3.1.a.)</p> | <p>2.2. 60% of corporations use tax incentives when donating to CSOs (EU Guidelines 2.2.a.2.)</p> <p>2.3. 60% of individuals tax payers use tax incentives when donating to CSOs (EU Guidelines 2.2.a.3.)</p> <p>3.1. State provides funding for the implementation of 80 % of public policies, identified in policy documents, for which CSOs are identified as key actors for implementation (2.4.a.2.)</p> <p>3.2. Legal framework for public funding includes: public funding on the basis of policy papers, inclusion of beneficiaries in programming of the tenders, clear criteria published in advance, deadlines for decision, merit decision with arguments, evaluation of achieved outputs and outcomes on the project and program level, possibility of prepayments and multi-annual contracts. (2.4.b.)</p> <p>4.1. 80 % of laws/ bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively consulted with CSOs (3.1.a.)</p> | |
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| <p>guidelines indicators 3.1.)</p> <p>CSOs' CAPACITIES</p> <p>5. CSOs' internal governance structures are transparent and accountable to members/constituents/beneficiaries (EU Guidelines indicator 4.1)</p> <p>6. CSOs are transparent about their programme activities and financial management (EU Guidelines indicator 4.3)</p> | <p>5.1. Of the surveyed CSOs, 2 out of 10 believe that the majority of CSOs are managed in compliance with the prescribed rules and they include consultations with the employees and volunteers</p> <p>5.2. Of the surveyed CSOs, 4 out of 10 claim that in their organisation in the majority of cases the decisions are in compliance with the prescribed rules and they include consultations with the employees and volunteers</p> <p>6.1. 14% of CSOs stated that they have a rulebook and it available on their web page, 27% stated that they have a rulebook, 14% stated that have a rulebook, but it is not accessible to the public, and 30% stated that they do not have a rulebook</p> <p>6.2. Surveyed CSOs believe that in the NGO sector, 71% of organisation do not publish or make publicly available their Annual Program Statement of Work.</p> <p>6.3. The surveyed CSOs believe that a significant number of CSOs do not publish their financial statements, 73%</p> | <p>5.1. 60% of CSOs regularly publish and updates their governance structure and internal documents (statutes, codes of conduct etc.) (4.1.a.)</p> <p>6.1. 30 % of CSOs make their (audited) financial accounts and annual reports publicly available (4.3.a.)</p> | <p>5.1. 80 % of CSOs, that have an online presence, regularly publish and updates their governance structure and internal documents (statutes, codes of conduct etc.) (4.1.a.)</p> <p>6.1. 80 % of CSOs make their (audited) financial accounts and annual reports publicly available (4.3.a.)</p> | <p>TACSO Needs Assessment reports</p> <p>TACSO Survey</p> |
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| | 6.4. The surveyed CSOs believe that a significant number of CSOs do not publish their audited financial statements, 76% | | | |
| Component 2 | | | | |
| 7. Quality assessment of the legislation, financing mechanisms and accountability of PSB (EU Guidelines for media result 1.6) | 7.1 Public service media remit is defined in law in all WBT, though often in somewhat general terms 7.2 In most IPA II beneficiaries revenues from license fees and income from advertising have been decreasing for years | Tbd | Tbd | Peer reviews under Ch.10, 23 and 24 Independent assessment by I.O. and CSOs Beneficiary baseline reports of the Guidelines for EU support to media Survey among media, journalists, Unions and CSOs |
| 8. PSB establish track-record of professionalism, transparency and independence (EU Guidelines for media result 1.6) | 8.1 Trust in the public service broadcasters is not regularly measured in the WBT. But public opinion surveys generally show low esteem for the media and particular low esteem for PSBs | | | |
| 9. Number of joint – journalist/CSOs projects. Number of cooperative and regional teams dedicated to journalist investigation (EU Guidelines for media indicator 3.1.a and 3.1.b) | 9.1 Although there are good examples of joint journalist-CSO projects (BIRN) their number is insufficient. Investigative journalism is very rarely and inconsistently practiced by the public service media. As investigative journalism is costly, only few outlets dedicate resources to it. | | | |
| Component 3 | | | | |

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|--|--|--|--|---|
| 10. Number of formal partnerships established between local governments and civil society | 10.1 100* | 10.1 130 | 10.1 130 | Formal agreements/ MoU signed between local governments and CSOs |
| 11. Average annual percentage of increase in transparently disbursed public funds to CSOs from local government budgets of participating local governments | 11.1 TBD upon selection of local governments | 11.1 20% (Final cumulative increase) | 11.1 20% (Final cumulative increase) | Decisions of Municipal Councils related to formalising partnership with CSOs Budgets of participating local governments |
| 12. Number of citizens from local governments in IPA II beneficiaries who directly benefit from improved local services as a result from the assistance | 12.1 40,000* est. * Data included are for BiH only – numbers related to the results of the LOD intervention in BiH (period 2009- Oct. 2015) | 12.1 60,000 (30,000 male and 40,000 female) | 12.1 80000 (40000 male and 40000 female) | Agreements on co-funding, proofs of co-funding payment; Records on allocated funds, municipal budgets; Invitations for local CSOs published by local governments; Contracts and records on funds awarded; CSO reports, Evaluation and monitoring reports |
| Component 4 | | | | |
| 13. Number of laws and policies in place that are in line with CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention (result 9); 14. 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 (result 10) 15. Ratio of women, girls, boys and men beneficiaries of specialist support services related to Gender Based Violence (result | 13.1 Tbd (Q1 2016) – once all beneficiary-level reports on the findings of the Study on Availability and Accessibility of Services in Response to Violence against Women and Girls are completed 14.1 Tbd (Q3 2016) 15.1 Tbd (Q1 2016) 16.1 Tbd (Q3 2016) | 13.1 Tbd (Q1 2019) 14.1 Tbd (Q3 2016) 15.1 Tbd (Q1 2019) 16.1 Tbd (Q1 2019) | Tbd | Beneficiary-level reports on the findings of the Study on Availability and Accessibility of Services in Response to Violence against Women and Girls which will be available as baseline in 2016 and will be repeated in 2018 as part of the Action to collect endline data |

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|--|--------------------------------|-----|-----|---|
| 11) 16. Number of national and regional networks of women's CSOs that monitor and report on the implementation of CEDAW and Istanbul Conventions (result 12) | | | | Pre and Post surveys to be conducted at the beginning and at the end of the Action |
| Component 5 | | | | |
| 17. Number of solved housing issues for the most vulnerable refugees and IDPs in the four Partner Countries 18. Shortened procedure and simplified Programme application documents; facilitated legal aid and guidance to refugees and IDPs | 17.1 0 (zero) 18.1 0 (zero) | Tbd | Tbd | Independent expert report on the civil monitoring. Interviews conducted with 100 families with the resolved housing issues within the RHP. |

(1) This is the related indicator as included in the Indicative Strategy Paper (for reference only)

(2) The agreed baseline year is 2010 (to be inserted in brackets in the top row). If for the chosen indicator, there are no available data for 2010, it is advisable to refer to the following years – 2011, 2012. The year of reference may not be the same either for all indicators selected due to a lack of data availability; in this case, the year should then be inserted in each cell in brackets. The baseline value may be "0" (i.e. no reference values are available as the Action represents a novelty for the beneficiary) but cannot be left empty or include references such as "N/A" or "will be determined later".

(3) The target year CANNOT be modified.

(4) This will be a useful reference to continue measuring the outcome of IPA II support beyond the 2014-2020 multi-annual financial period. If the Action is completed before 2020 (year for the performance reward), this value and that in the 2020 target column must be the same.

5. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

The Action includes a component specifically focused on the protection of women/women's rights and ending discrimination and violence against women. There is a large amount of evidence that men and boys have a key role to play in actions that aim to end discrimination and violence against women. Thus, principles of gender mainstreaming will be respected throughout the implementation of the Action, especially when it comes to changing patriarchal values and attitudes that discriminate against women, as well as the promotion of non-violent conflict resolution.

The Action will promote equal opportunities among vulnerable groups. In particular, when financial support to third parties will be provided under its components, CSO 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, evaluation commission of CSO project proposals, and in particular when establishing project and monitoring teams. In addition, topics such as on equal opportunities and gender mainstreaming in the context of local development and inclusiveness in a decision making will be embedded within capacity development activities.

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.

Through a specifically focused component the Action will be focused 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 although they are not the primary target beneficiaries of the action; whole households and communities will benefit from understanding the importance of ending violence and discrimination against women and girls.

MINORITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

The involvement of minorities and vulnerable groups is at the very heart of several components 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.

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.

In particular, there will be a special measures under the component 4 implemented by UN-WOMEN providing for a minimum 30% representation of women from minority and disadvantaged groups throughout the activities implemented under this component.

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, all components of this Action are 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. Component 3 aims at strengthening partnerships between local governments and civil society in the Western Balkans promoting a model of transparent and project-based CSO funding from local government budgets. In this framework civil society will be involved in every phase of the component implementation, from capacity development,

communication, coordination, to policy recommendations and implementation of small scale projects under the component.

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 acquis.

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 majority of the components of the Action.

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 beneficiary 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, national and local stakeholders involved in the project's implementation from the start. Action will be tailored to the specific civil society and media context of each target 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, as well as through an established mechanism for transparent public funding. 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 Manual for EU External Actions. Additional Visibility Guidelines developed by the European Commission (DG NEAR) will have to be followed. It is the responsibility of the beneficiaries to keep the European Commission/EU Delegation fully informed of the planning and implementation of the specific visibility and communication activities.

Visibility and communication actions shall demonstrate how the intervention contributes to the agreed programme objectives and the accession process. Actions shall be aimed at strengthening general public awareness and support of interventions financed and the objectives pursued. 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 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 UNDP and UN Women online media, through their website and social media channels. News and feature articles and audio-visual works will be published on the main website of the I.O. involved.