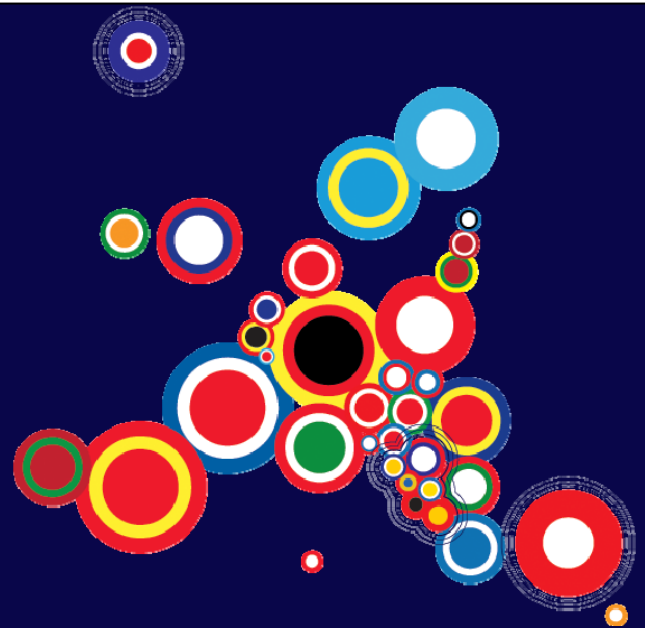




INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) 2014-2020

TURKEY Civil Society Action Document 2015



Action summary

The action addresses the three priorities of the IPA II Indicative Strategy Paper for Turkey under the sub-sector Civil Society. These priorities are: supporting the development of civil society through more active democratic participation in policy and decision making processes; promoting a culture of fundamental rights and dialogue; enhancing civil society dialogue and intercultural exchange between civil societies in Turkey and Europe.

The specific objectives of the Action are to improve the legislative environment for active citizenship; to strengthen cooperation between public sector and Civil Society Organisations and the capacities of and networking between organised active citizens / Civil Society Organisations and to connect people for mutual understanding between citizens in Turkey and the EU.

To this aim, the action includes six activities that will support capacity building of both civil society organisations and public institutions that play a role in improving the enabling environment.

Action Identification	
Action Programme Title	Annual Action Programme for Turkey 2015
Action Title	Civil Society
Action ID	IPA 2015/038-404/1/Turkey/ Civil Society
Sector Information	
IPA II Sector	1. Democracy and governance
DAC Sector	15150 - Democratic participation and civil society
Budget	
Total cost	EUR 23.7000.000
EU contribution	EUR 23.700.000
Management and Implementation	
Method of implementation	Indirect management (for activities 1-3 and 5-6) and direct management (for activity 4)
<i>Direct management:</i> EU Delegation	Delegation of the European Union to Turkey Uğur Mumcu Caddesi No.88, GOP, 06700, Ankara, Turkey
<i>Indirect management:</i> National authority or other implementing body	Central Finance and Contracts Unit Ms. Emine Döğer Acting PAO-CFCU Director Eskişehir Yolu 4. km 2180 Cad. (Halkbank Kampüsü) No: 63 C-Blok 06510 Söğütözü - Ankara / TURKEY
Implementation responsibilities	Ministry for EU Affairs Project Implementation Directorate Bülent ÖZCAN Director Eskişehir Yolu 9.km TOBB İkiz kuleleri D Blok 25. Kat 06800 Bilkent Çankaya Ankara Department of Associations of The Ministry of Interior Fikriye ÇETİN Namık Kemal Mah. İnönü Bul. İçişleri Bakanlığı A Blok Kat:2 Bakanlıklar - Ankara 06644 Prime Ministry Directorate General of Foundations Davut Gazi BENLİ Head of Foreign Affairs Unit Vakıflar Genel Müdürlüğü Milli Müdafaa Cad. No:20 06100 Kızılay Çankaya Ankara The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchange of Turkey Mr. Mustafa BAYBURTLU Head of European Union Department Dumlupınar Bulvarı No. 252 (Eskişehir Yolu 9.km) 06530 Ankara/Turkey Association of Civil Society Development Centre

	Dr. Tezcan Eralp Abay General Coordinator Tunus Caddesi 85/8 06680 Kavaklıdere-Ankara/Turkey
Location	
Zone benefiting from the action	Turkey
Specific implementation area(s)	N/A
Timeline	
Deadline for conclusion of the Financing Agreement	At the latest by 31 December 2016
Contracting deadline	3 years following the date of conclusion of the Financing agreement
End of operational implementation period	6 years following the date of conclusion of the Financing agreement.

1. RATIONALE

PROBLEM AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

For the existence of a vibrant and active civil society, an enabling legal, political and social environment is necessary. In Turkey, several legal reforms have been made in 2004, 2008 and 2011 on the Civil Code, Law on Associations and Law on Foundations. However, further reform and progress is necessary to enhance the enabling environment as a precondition for a vibrant and active civil society in accordance with the ECHR. Eliminating restrictions on freedom of assembly and association is one of the measures foreseen in the Action Plan on the Prevention of Violations of European Convention on Human Rights.

The By-Law on Principles and Procedures for Preparation of Legislation of 2005 and By-Law on Strategic Plan Preparation for Public Institutions of 2006 have provided a legal ground for civil society participation in policy-making. For the first by-law mentioned, the level of consultations with civil society should be further increased, since for some legislative proposals, the contribution of the civil society has been limited for various reasons. For the second by-law, further efforts are needed to monitor implementation to ensure the existence of monitoring and reporting systems.

Relevant legal and operational frameworks for implementation and consultation should be ensured through a holistic strategy for a more active civil society participation. Thereby, further reform in relevant legal framework, capacity-building in public institutions both in terms of human resources and of methods and forms of consultation is necessary. Last, but not least, there is also a need to support the capacities of civil society organisations (CSOs) on the legal framework, and means and forms of participation.

CSOs are key actors in expressing the demands of citizens and encouraging active citizenship. In order to fulfil this potential some areas still need to be improved. CSOs in Turkey need further attempts and diversified mechanisms for their capacity development. According to the research findings of the survey on reputation of CSOs conducted within the framework of on-going project “Strengthening Civil Society Development in Turkey and Civil Society-Public Sector Cooperation in Turkey” (TR11/0135.07), CSOs lack necessary administrative, human resources, financial and know-how capacity to enable them to build effective and productive dialogue channels to public.

Research findings of a Needs Assessment Report of TACSO also mentioned that CSOs, especially in rural areas and small towns, are not aware of their potential to provide input to relevant public authorities to influence social policies. One of the key reasons for limited influence of CSOs over policy is insufficient capacity. Equipped with necessary knowledge, capacity, skills and self-confidence, CSOs will make their voice readily and effectively heard in the decision making processes. Furthermore, TACSO Needs Assessment respondents indicated that the major reason for the lack of efficient dialogue and cooperation between the public sector and CSOs is lack of motivation of public officials both at central level (82,5%) and at local level (70,2%). Another important challenge regarding CSOs-public sector relations is the low level of awareness and experience of public servants regarding the important role of CSOs in democracies.

In Turkey, a sustainable, almost regular and well known support mechanism for CSOs on Civil Society Dialogue has already been established under IPA funds. But for civil society development, besides the Civil Dusun programme run by the EU Delegation, there has so far been no systematic support for CSOs with a certain visibility for capacity building.

The key stakeholder groups are CSOs, networks/platforms/initiatives mainly working on human rights, gender, child rights, environment, youth, disadvantaged and/or vulnerable groups, cultural rights/culture, business life and arts etc. Ministry for EU Affairs, Directorate General of Foundations, Department of Associations of the Ministry of Interior and other public institutions in policy-making position and working with CSOs, business committees are main stakeholders of the action as well.

RELEVANCE WITH THE IPA II STRATEGY PAPER AND OTHER KEY REFERENCES

The Action addresses the objectives of the IPA II Indicative Strategy Paper for Turkey (IPA II Strategy Paper) under the Civil Society sub-sector which are *to support the development of civil society through more active democratic participation in policy and decision making processes; promote a culture of fundamental rights and dialogue; enhance civil society dialogue and inter-cultural exchange between civil societies in Turkey and Europe.*

The Action also covers several of the actions pre-defined for financing under the IPA II Strategy Paper:

- *Improving the legislative environment to support active citizenship, through initiatives to facilitate founding, operating, funding and auditing CSOs, in line with the principles of freedom of association, freedom of speech and proportionality.*
- *Strengthening cooperation between the public sector (at local, regional and national level) and CSOs, including by effective CSO consultation in policy-making and governance, by establishing transparent mechanisms.*
- *Strengthening the capacity of and networking between organised active citizens / CSOs, to improve outreach, governance, and institutional capacities, such as advocacy, administrative skills, and fundraising skills.*
- *Connecting people to improve mutual understanding between citizens in Turkey and the EU, including encouraging exchanges at local level.*

The European Commission's **Enlargement Strategy** has underlined that empowered civil society is a crucial component of any democratic system. In this respect one of the priorities of the strategy is to increase focus on civil society, including capacity building and encouraging the creation of an enabling environment for its development and greater involvement of stakeholders in reforms, including through greater transparency of government action and spending.

The **2014 Progress Report** indicates that *“the development of an active civil society in Turkey continued. The Ministry of the Interior consulted civil society actors when preparing a law on the collection of aid for associations and other significant reforms. However, apart from such ad hoc consultations, there are no structured participatory mechanisms whereby civil society organisations are able to take an active part in legislative and policymaking process. Government-civil society and parliament civil society relations should be improved through systematic, permanent and structured consultation mechanisms at policy level, as part of the legislative process and with regard to non-legislative acts at all levels of administration.”*

DG Enlargement Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-2020 include a set of objectives, results, and indicators for the EU support to civil society which will allow for the measurement of progress at country level as well across the enlargement region. The intervention logic and most of the indicators defined in this Action have been inspired by these Guidelines. The EU Guidelines will be an important tool during the implementation and monitoring process of the Action.

The **10th National Development Plan of Turkey** (2014-2018) points out the increased role of civil society in solving social problems and supporting development efforts. It also refers to the substantial disparities among regions with respect to the number of CSOs, their members and their effectiveness. Therefore, main objectives in the Plan period are to enhance the democratic participation of CSOs in decision making processes, to improve the technical and financial capacities of CSOs in order to increase their support to local development initiatives and to promote their project development and implementation capabilities.

SECTOR APPROACH ASSESSMENT

Civil society in Turkey consists of associations, foundations, trade unions, professional/vocational organisations and cooperatives where associations constitute the majority. In addition to these forms, there are also various platforms or initiatives in Turkey working on different thematic areas. CSOs are active in various fields; nevertheless, the majority focuses on social solidarity and services while a limited group of

CSOs work on advocacy. CSOs in Turkey have a series of strengths; however, there still remain areas to be improved, weaknesses and needs to be addressed.

The main problems of CSOs in Turkey is accessing to **sustainable financial resources and implementation of legal framework**. The main financial resources of CSOs are membership fees, donations, revenues from sales and services, grants from national and international donors via grant schemes and supports from the private sector within the context of the corporate social responsibility projects. Significant reforms in legislation directly concerning civil society between 2003 and 2008 can be considered as a milestone for strengthening the legal framework. However, further reforms in both primary legislation and specifically in relevant secondary legislation are necessary to expand the freedom of association by bringing them in line with the EU standards.

In the needs assessment report prepared by TACSO¹, the obstacles and challenges of CSOs are illustrated as follows:

- **Statistics and data on CSOs** are not integrated into the official statistical system in Turkey.
- **Distribution of CSOs** is very uneven in Turkey. Majority of them exists in the metropolitan cities.
- The **percentage of rights-based CSOs** is very low.
- **Resources** (human and financial) are voiced as the major problem of CSOs. The number of members, volunteers, and specifically active volunteers is very low.
- **Financial capacities** of CSOs in Turkey and their fundraising capacity are very low.
- **Regional distribution in accessing technological tools** is also uneven.
- Regarding internal governance, it can be said that the majority of **CSOs are managed on a daily-basis**, with key decisions taken by chairpersons or managing boards.
- Generally, many CSOs perform as **“one-person” organizations** in which all leadership, management and administrative authority is vested in the chairperson.
- **Relations with other CSOs** mostly depend on individual relations and not maintained at institutional level.

Following Turkey’s recognition as a candidate country, there have been significant improvements in the legislation in the field of freedom of association and civil society having a more liberal approach. However, there is still room to further enhance the freedom of assembly and freedom of associations.

EU accession process has been the catalyser for the development of civil society in Turkey. Therefore, the needs and priorities of the sector have been indicated mainly in the official documents related to the accession process. In addition, several public institutions are involved in the development of the civil society. Yet, a coherent and widely-accepted civil society sector policy or strategy or a single institution responsible for facilitation of such a strategy does not exist in Turkey.

The Ministry for EU Affairs (MEUA) has been identified as the lead institution for the civil society sub-sector due to its experience and long lasting involvement with civil society. The main responsibilities of the MEUA are to direct, monitor and coordinate the works to be undertaken with the aim of preparing Turkey for EU membership and to coordinate the works after Turkey’s accession. MEUA, bearing in mind the fact that CSOs are the natural shareholders of the EU process, has been both consulting CSOs periodically through “Dialogue with Civil Society Meetings” and also implementing several projects aiming to increase the efficiency of cooperation between the public sector-civil society, to develop the capacity of CSOs and to promote a dialogue between the EU and Turkey.

The programming of the IPA-II civil society sub-sector has been proceeding with the participation of all relevant parties. The MEUA steered this process with the relevant civil society organizations and line Ministries. However, the participation and the contribution of the civil society organisations to programming process can still be improved. By experience, it is for sure that in the planning, programming, monitoring and

¹ Turkey Needs Assessment Report, TACSO, 2014

the reporting process of the activities, CSO contribution is an added value. A civil society sub-sector programming without the effective cooperation of CSOs will have certain short comings at some points. As a result, a **new consultation mechanism** will be established by the MEUA, aiming to:

- Integrate the CSOs effectively to the programming cycle
- Enhance public-CSO cooperation
- Produce/mature innovative project proposals
- Enhance the awareness of the CSOs about the civil-society sub-sector and IPA programming process

Beginning with this 2015 Action, MEUA will apply a **new multi-annual methodology** for programming of Civil Society sub-sector, based on a sound consultation mechanism. The “*civil society support programme*” is foreseen to have a certain visibility and a brand name well known by the civil society.

The new approach enshrined in programming of civil society sub-sector includes four pillars in line with the Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries 2014-2020:

- 1- Enabling Environment for active citizenship
- 2- Strengthening cooperation between CSOs and public sector
- 3- Civil Society Capacity Building
- 4- Civil Society Dialogue

The pillars 1 and 2 will also be integrated into some of the activities under the pillars 3 and 4 so as to support progress also with a bottom-up approach.

Activities with CSOs as direct beneficiaries will repeat annually under brand names and the call for proposals for the grant schemes will be published roughly at the same period of the year for a better understanding and follow up of the civil society. The activities will be implemented by long-term technical assistance teams.

Civil Society Dialogue projects will be a follow-up of the previous CSD projects and also new dialogue projects may be integrated in the upcoming years. *Civil Society Capacity Building* activities will address the national CSOs. By this way a bottom-up approach will be enhanced by strengthening the capacity of CSOs. The grant scheme designed under Civil Society Support Programme will also be in line with the objectives defined under the EU Guidelines. Such as; “capable, transparent and accountable CSOs”, “effective CSOs” and “financially sustainable CSOs” The projects developed by public institutions related to civil society sub sector (such as strengthening public-CSO cooperation, improving legal environment etc.) will be covered under the third pillar within the framework of policy dialogue.

LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Activities supporting civil society can be dated back to 2001 and include nearly 30 programmes. A serious investment and effort were made by the EU and Turkey for supporting the development of capacities of civil society organisations and civil society-public dialogue. Moreover, the report of the “*Thematic Evaluation of EU’s Support to civil society in the Western Balkans and Turkey (WBT)*” (2012) highlights several lessons learnt in the area of civil society development:

- Efficiency and effectiveness of EU assistance would be significantly improved by additional efforts to balance the assistance in order to better reach out to smaller and grass-roots organizations. This can be done by simplification of procedures for smaller grants, through enabling use of local languages, decreasing the share of co-funding and allowing for simplified reporting procedures, whilst respecting the general rules and regulations of EU assistance.
- EU support should further build the capacity of CSOs so that they can effectively play their full role as “watchdogs” when it comes to policy issues and advocacy in matters such as human rights and the fight against corruption.

- EU assistance has contributed to building the organizational, advocacy and fundraising skills of larger CSOs. The second step is ensuring the sustainability and democratic values of all CSOs, including these larger ones, by investing in building their capacities in terms of transparency, CSO governance and accountability. In parallel, thematic (micro) grant schemes which have already proven their capacity for reaching small and local CSOs should be pursued and their number increased, while facilitating access, eligibility and utilization by such local grassroots CSOs.

Likewise, according to the above mentioned evaluation report, lessons learned in the area of cooperation between civil society sector and public sector are as follows:

- The governments in all countries of the WBT region have progressed towards a better recognition of the role, value and contribution of CS to the overall development of their countries. They are also increasingly aware of the need to include CS in *decision making processes* in all areas of life, in order to positively affect the lives of marginalised and excluded groups in particular. Further investment in *building institutional and policy frameworks* for cooperation with Civil Society at different levels of government is valuable for enhancing the sustainability of efforts and the longer-term impact of assistance.

The lessons learnt within the scope of the project "Strengthening Civil Society Development and Civil Society-Public Sector Dialogue in Turkey" (2011) are as follows:

- Public institutions and CSOs may act differently on the same issue area because there are not formalized procedures or frameworks of action to govern civil society-public sector cooperation. The two sides of this relationship often act without knowledge of the other and hence joint action and reporting become impossible.
- CSOs perceive that public institutions do not regard CSOs as natural and equal parties to policy-making processes. This negative perception reduces the chances of CSOs to invoke their legal rights (however limited) to engage and converse with public institutions in various policy areas.

Within the context of EU financial assistance to Turkey, it has been observed that STGM has been the leading beneficiary of the projects supported in the field of civil society development. An impact analysis has been carried out regarding STGM's support for civil society development under the "Strengthening Freedom of Association for further Development of Civil Society (TR0401.04)", "Supporting Civil Society Development and Dialogue in Turkey (TR0604.05)" and "Civil Society Development for Active Participation-TR 0801.08" project. The key lessons learnt and recommendations illustrated under the aforementioned study are as follows:

- Although the general opinion regarding the effects of the trainings on awareness raising, development of skills and enhancement of the information level is positive, a significant part of participants held negative thoughts on the variety and sufficiency of training topics.
- It was identified that the support provided needs to be broadened so as to tackle with the comprehensive and multi-dimensional issues of CSOs and some improvement on just and effective distribution of support is expected.

Despite the fact that the study mainly focused on STGM's support to CSOs within the scope of mentioned project, it is valuable to perceive further needs of CSOs and the need of comprehensive and multi-dimensional activities towards CSOs.

2. INTERVENTION LOGIC

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX

OVERALL OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	
To support the development of civil society through more active democratic participation in policy and decision making processes and by promoting a culture of fundamental rights and dialogue	<p>Progress in enabling environment for freedoms, operation of CSOs and participation in policy-making</p> <p>Number of associations and membership, including networks, platforms and civic initiatives</p>	<p>European Commission – Annual Progress Reports for Turkey</p> <p>Turkish Ministry of Interior – Department of Associations</p>	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<p>To improve the legislative environment for active citizenship;</p> <p>To strengthen cooperation between public sector and CSOs;</p> <p>To strengthen the capacities of CSOs, through capacity building, networking and civil society dialogue both at national and European level</p>	<p>Assessment by relevant stakeholders of the legislative environment for active citizenship</p> <p>Ratio of CSOs that use adequate and professional argumentation and analysis for achieving advocacy goal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Records of Ministry of Interior - Data of the Directorate for Foundations - Monitoring reports of CSOs (CSI Turkey Report, Reports of TACSO, STGM, TÜSEV, and other CSOs, platforms and networks e.g. CIVICUS reports - Monitoring reports of the TAs - External evaluations 	Turkey remains committed to full-fledged democratic principles as per Copenhagen political criteria
RESULTS	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<p>R.1 All individuals and legal entities can express themselves freely, assemble peacefully and establish, join and participate in organisations *</p> <p>R.2 The policies and legal environment stimulate and facilitate volunteering and employment in CSOs*</p> <p>R.3 Public institutions recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance through CSOs' inclusion in decision making processes *</p> <p>R.4 Advocacy capacities and communication skills of CSOs are enhanced to develop policies, to engage in policy dialogue with public bodies, and to communicate the results of their activities to the public *</p> <p>R.5. CSOs regularly network within and outside country borders and make use of coalition-building for increased impact in campaigning and advocacy</p> <p>R.6 Long-term partnerships and cooperation between EU and Turkish CSOs increased</p> <p>R.6. . Exchanges between CSOs from Turkey and the EU member states increase, as well as the positive media coverage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality assessment of existing legislation and policy framework (R.1) * - Number of employees and/or volunteers in CSOs ((R.2)* - Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions (R.3)* - External perception of importance and impact of CSOs activities. (R.3)* - Number of advocacy campaign and policy dialogue initiatives of local CSOs (R.4)* - Proportion of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks (R.5, R.6, R.7) * - Number of CSOs from Turkey and from EU Member States involved in the CSD activities (R.6, R.7) - Number of events and positive media coverage (R.6-R.7) - Number of long-term partnerships between EU and Turkish organisations (R.6, R.7) * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Questionnaires and research studies implemented by TATs, both with CSOs and with public institutions - ROM reports prepared by independent evaluation teams - Survey and independent assessments e.g. CIVICUS reports, platforms and networks reports, BSCDN. - TAT reports on number of capacity building activities under IPA 2015 - Media coverage compilations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Related public institutions have political determination to improve legislative environment and to cooperate with CSOs in decision making processes and implementation - Both public authorities and CSOs are willing to engage in dialogue and cooperation. - CSOs are willing to collaborate among themselves and also to create networks and platforms. - Media is open to promote all sorts of civil society work and dialogue.
ACTIVITIES	MEANS	OVERALL COST	ASSUMPTIONS

<p><u>Activity 1: Improving the Institutional Capacity of Directorate General of Foundations</u></p> <p>Priority areas under the activity will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve the institutional capacity of DG of Foundations To improve the capacity of the employees of the DG of Foundations in the field of civil society and to raise awareness as regards the importance of civil society in a participatory democracy <p>To strengthen the cooperation between public sector and CSOs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	Service Contract	<p>Total Cost 23.700.000 € EU Contribution 23.700.000 €</p>	<p>Willingness of the staff of DG of Foundations to actively get involved in the activities Sustainability of the staff implementing the projects can be remained Civil society organisations are willing to attend the activities to be organised by DG of Foundations</p>
<p><u>Activity 2: Enabling Legal and Policy Environment and Increasing the Capacity of Department of Associations</u></p> <p>Priority areas under the activity will be:</p> <p>To improve the institutional capacity of Department of Associations</p> <p>To improve the guidance services of Department of Associations to CSOs</p> <p>To prepare a road map to define and eliminate the legal and administrative practices restricting the activities of CSOs and to lessen the the bureaucratic procedures and controls over NGOs, also covering the secondary legislation.</p>	Service Contract		<p>Willingness of the staff of Department of Associations to actively get involved in the activities Sustainability of the staff implementing the projects can be remained Public institutions and civil society organisations are willing to attend the activities to be organised.</p>
<p><u>Activity 3: Civil Society Support Programme – II</u></p> <p>This grant scheme is designed in line with the objectives defined under the EU Guidelines, such as; “capable, transparent and accountable CSOs”, “effective CSOs” and “financially sustainable CSOs”. The activity addresses the national CSOs for enhancing a bottom-up approach by strengthening the capacity of CSOs. With this annual grant scheme programmes a systematic and a simple methodology with a certain visibility and a brand name well known by the civil society will be created.</p> <p>This grant scheme will support CSOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to improve internal governance structures - to increase the transparency of CSOs - to monitor and evaluate the results and impact of CSOs - to prepare long term organisational and strategic plans, also needs assessments - to create and use adequate argumentation and analysis for achieving advocacy goals <p>Non-exhaustive list of priority areas under the activity will be: Advocacy activities, Lobbying initiatives, Campaigning, Awareness raising activities, Establishing or improving platforms and networks, Exchanging experiences, building partnerships and develop common strategies on thematic issues, Monitoring of administration of law and regulations, Preparing analyses and strategies regarding to problems between different agents improving internal governance structures, preparing strategic plans etc.</p>	Grant scheme		<p>Enough attention of the civil society can be attained for the grant schemes</p> <p>A successful promotion can be realised within the TA to create a brand name for the programme and programme is owned by the civil society within this promotion study</p>
<p><u>Activity 4: Strategic Capacity Building for local/grassroots CSOs: ad hoc support mechanism</u></p> <p>In line with the objectives of DG NEAR Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society, this ad-hoc support mechanism, is a complementary intervention to Activity 3: Civil Society Support Programme – II. It aims at contributing to improvement of capacities of local/grassroots CSOs who currently have very significant difficulties to access available grant schemes.</p> <p>This ad-hoc support mechanism has two mutually complementary components: a) Direct Supports and b)</p>	Direct Grant Agreement, including financial support to third parties	<p>Capacity of STGM as implementing body</p> <p>Willingness of grassroots CSOs Public institutions are supportive</p>	

<p>capacity building activities including trainings, coaching, matchmaking and partnerships supports.</p> <p>Priority areas under the activity will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Local/grassroot civil participation in decision making mechanisms:</i> The actions which formulate possible solutions/ policy proposals to local problems by establishing a cooperation mechanism among stakeholders, including public and private sector, in order to enhance civil participation in decision making mechanisms. • <i>Awareness-raising from local to international level:</i> The actions such as local campaigns, trainings and complementary activities like publications, meetings, festivals, street activities etc. • 			
<p><u>Activity 5: Supporting civil society dialogue between EU and Turkey (CSD V)</u></p> <p>The Activity is the successor of previous CSD interventions implemented by the Ministry for EU Affairs. Priority areas under the Activity will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to increase bilateral exchanges and cooperation between CSOs in Turkey and the EU at local, regional and national levels <p>to promote awareness raising initiatives on importance and benefits of membership of Turkey to the EU within Turkey and EU and on challenges and opportunities posed by Turkey's accession</p>	<p>Service contract and grant schemes</p> <p>(The Technical assistance team under this Activity will also support Activity 3 there will be a common, long term contract)</p>		<p>Willingness of grant beneficiaries to develop sustainable and effective cooperation</p>
<p><u>Activity 6: Turkey-EU Business Dialogue</u></p> <p>Priority areas under the activity will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to improve the cooperation among Turkish and European Chambers and business communities, <p>to enhance the capacity of Turkish Chambers and their role in the EU accession process</p>	<p>Direct Grant (a consortium to EUROCHAMBERS and grant schemes</p>	<p>Results of impact assessment study will be taken into account in the design of the activity</p>	<p>Results of external impact assessment study for the previous projects will be taken into account in the design of the activity</p> <p>The Turkish and European chambers are still willing to participate in the project activities</p> <p>The Turkish and European chambers are still interested enough in the grant scheme</p>

(*) Result and indicators are adopted from the EU Guidelines

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

Activity 1- Improving the Institutional Capacity of Directorate General of Foundations

The specific objective of the Activity is to improve the institutional capacity of Directorate General of Foundations, which is a regulator and controller in the area of foundations, to improve the capacity of the employees of the DG of Foundations in the field of civil society and to raise the awareness among them and to strengthen the cooperation between public sector and CSOs for developing a better legal frame in order to establish a more integrated policy.

The activity will be composed of two components, namely “capacity building” and “strengthening the cooperation between public sector and CSOs to develop a better legal frame”.

Within the activity, consultation meetings and workshops will be organised for improving legislative environment and for strengthening the cooperation between DG Foundations and CSO’s. These activities will become commencement of a study providing long term cooperation and coordination among institutions to establish a “legal process monitoring group”. The consultation meetings and workshops will include suggestions related with establishing of a suitable environment to provide the financial sustainability of foundations, policies that shall support the employment and definition of “voluntariness” “public interest” concepts, establishment, registration and activities of foundations, increasing of transparency and accountability, implementation of international standards, operation of efficient control mechanisms and tax exemption. On the other hand it will be brought into question how foundation based civil society area shall be extended by benefiting from traditional foundation experience.

Also various capacity building activities will be organised (such as trainings -about the role of civil society on in democratization process and economic and social development, social integration and aid-, study visits, improving/revising the information systems, reporting of the regular statistical data etc.)

Activity 2- Enabling Legal and Policy Environment and Increasing the Capacity of Department of Associations

The specific objective of the Activity is to increase the participation capacities of CSOs into policy processes; to create a close relation and dialogue between the CSOs (also between each other) and the public sector and to set up a substructure for the constitution of mechanisms that will include CSOs in the public decision-making processes and to conduct studies towards enabling the legal and policy environment.

The activity will be composed of two components, namely “capacity building” and “enabling legal and policy environment”.

Within the activity, consultation meetings and workshops will be organised for improving legislative environment and for strengthening the cooperation between Department of Associations and CSO’s. Institutional capacities of the beneficiary, the partner institutions and other civil society related public bodies will be improved. Public authorities and organized individuals will be supported in strengthening their technical knowledge of issues related to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association as well as the role of civil society in general via international conferences based on sharing best practices. Also capacity building activities will be enhanced for improving the guidance services of Department of Associations to CSOs. A training programme will be developed for CSOs and various regional trainings will be implemented.

In the second component an analysis of the current legislation and implementations about the CSO’s will be performed and a **roadmap** to define and eliminate the legal and administrative practices restricting the activities of NGOs and to lessen the bureaucratic procedures and controls over NGOs will be developed together with the partner institutions. This roadmap will be a baseline on the preparation process of the secondary legislation.

Non-exhaustive list of priority areas under the activity will be:

- Improving the guidance services of Department of Associations to CSOs
- The current situation of CSOs financial sustainability will be analysed and a road map will be prepared regarding “Tax derogations for the CSO’s”, the status of public benefit and tax exemption”, “commercial activities of the CSO’s”, “collection of charitable donations”
- horizontal issues such as employment, regarding the policies and the legal framework
- Creating and sharing reliable and systematic data about the CSO’s.
- Conduct studies for defining “volunteer”
- Improving the legal framework on the foundation, registration, engagement, operation, inspection and punishment of the CSO’s.
- Awareness raising activities on active citizenship
- Coordination and improvement studies on the standardized, transparent and accountable data of public funds transferred to CSO’s, providing donor coordination
- Preventing the legal disputes that arise between the associations and their members, through removing the open-ended provisions in Associations Law; providing an efficient and effective service to the associations; strengthening the confidence in the civil society organisations; and as it is mentioned in the ECtHR rulings, providing a legal basis to ensure that civil society organisations work effectively in accordance with the passive and active obligations of the State regarding freedom of association.
- Legal arrangements on the collection of charitable donations in accordance with the changing needs and conditions.

Activity 3 – Civil Society Support Programme – II

With the Activity, the capacity of civil society organizations will be improved for a better civil dialogue, participation and reputation. Civil society organizations will be supported and the development of established organizations and networks will be sustained.

This Activity is designed in line with the objectives defined under the EU Guidelines, such as; “capable, transparent and accountable CSOs”, “effective CSOs” and “financially sustainable CSOs”. The activity addresses the national CSOs for enhancing a bottom-up approach by strengthening the capacity of CSOs. With this annual grant scheme programmes a systematic and a simple methodology with a certain visibility and a brand name well known by the civil society will be created.

The financial sustainability and the institutional capacity of the CSOs will be increased via projects under the grant schemes in addition to promoting public-CSO cooperation and enabling a better legal environment.

The priorities to specifically addressed each year will be revised after consultation with the civil society organisations both at the national and local level.

Both the Directorate for Project Implementation and Directorate of Civil Society, Communication and Culture will jointly be responsible for the implementation of the activity. The TAT under Activity 5 will also support the implementation of grant schemes under this activity.

Activity 4: Strategic Capacity Building for local/grassroots CSOs: ad hoc support mechanism

In line with the objectives of DG NEAR Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society, this ad-hoc support mechanism is a complementary intervention to Activity 3: Civil Society Support Programme – II. It aims at contributing to the improvement of capacities of local/grassroots CSOs who have currently very significant difficulties to access available grant schemes due to capacity limits, procedural, structural and/or other reasons..

This activity is mainly designed to function as a tool to facilitate and stimulate the grassroots CSOs' networking and project development capacities, improving their relations with public institutions, their lobbying, campaigns, communication and PR activities. The target group of the financial support to 3rd parties under this direct grant will be grassroots CSOs based in Turkey; geographical distribution of support will be taken into account. In addition to general capacity building, this activity will also promote a more effective civic participation in policy processes at local level and strengthening of cooperation among CSOs. The activity is aimed at fostering the role of civil society actively participating in public debate to influence local policy and decision-making processes. With the activity, the capacity of civil society organizations will be improved for a better civil dialogue, participation and reputation.

This ad-hoc support mechanism has two mutually complementary components: a) Direct Supports (financial support to 3rd parties to support grassroots CSOs' requests of trainings, campaigns, advocacy activities, networking meetings, work visits, digital empowerment, and publications, etc.) and b) capacity building activities including trainings, coaching, matchmaking and partnerships supports.

The trainings will be designed to enhance the research capacity of CSOs and to improve their understanding of specific research approaches and methodologies, how to gather, analyse, use and assess information/knowledge better in policy making and advocacy, as well as in planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Communication and advocacy are essential elements for CSOs in all of their interventions, but especially in policy dialogue. Using communication and advocacy strategically enhances the impact of CSOs in decision making processes. The supports under this activity will provide local CSOs with necessary advocacy and communication skills to engage in policy dialogue with public bodies more adequately and effectively, and to take part with greater ability in decision-making processes.

As the grant recipient institution, STGM will cover all expenses including experts, travel, accommodation, meeting venue, meals and coffee breaks, publications directly and provide these service in-kind to the end beneficiaries, i.e. grassroots CSOs all across Turkey.

Activity 5 – Supporting civil society dialogue between EU and Turkey (CSD V)

The Activity is the successor of previous CSD interventions implemented by the Ministry for EU Affairs. Specific objectives of the activity are;

- to increase bilateral exchanges and cooperation between CSOs in Turkey and the EU at local, regional and national levels and
- to promote awareness raising initiatives on importance and benefits of membership of Turkey to the EU within Turkey and EU and on challenges and opportunities posed by Turkey's accession

The grants will be awarded to the projects supporting the EU accession process of Turkey. The civil society dialogue is a driving force for Turkey's integration with the EU and it is an indispensable element of this integration process, as well as for the negotiations. CSD V will focus civil society dialogue activities on the identification of dynamics and issues related to civil society participation to the accession process of Turkey. By this way it is targeted that the **aspect of the “dialogue”** is highlighted within the framework of the

projects. Since—almost all activities in the *COM(2005) 290 final*² have been addressed by previous CSD interventions so far, instead of adopting a focus on topics and sectors, the calls will focus on “expected sustainable results” of actions, influencing the general public opinion and deepening and sustaining dialogue established under previous CSD interventions. Non-exhaustive list of priority areas might be as follows:

- establishing a “common approach” and “pilot initiatives”, for developing models and methodologies based on the sharing of experiences and the exchange of knowledge;
- building “common agendas” for guiding advocacy and policy engagement;
- fully participating in process of preparation of Turkey's accession to the EU;
- reinforcing regional and international networks and platforms between the EU and Turkey;
- promoting common cultural values and policies;
- supporting the sustainability of dialogue actions established under previous CSD interventions
- identifying the current concerns and perceptions within the EU and Turkey and promoting the initiatives to discuss and overcome them
- creating the campaigns to inform the general public about EU accession of Turkey
- enhancing the knowledge and understanding of the EU within the public in Turkey

The second component will be a service contract for Technical Assistance to assist the MEUA during the implementation stage. The Technical Assistance Team will assist the MEUA to implement the CSD and civil society support programmes in **2015** and **2016** programming years. It will be a multi-annual, long term contract. Both the Directorate for Project Implementation and Directorate of Civil Society, Communication and Culture will jointly be responsible for the implementation of the activity. The TAT's main task will be to ensure coherence between the various Activities and therefore will support the Ministry to implement the Grant Schemes and to conduct promotion and visibility activities of the **Civil Society Dialogue** and **Civil Society Support Programme in 2015 and 2016 Activity Documents**. Also this TA will assist MEUA in the management of the consultation mechanism

Activity 6 – Turkey-EU Business Dialogue

The Activity is built on the experience of previous projects implemented by EUROCHAMBRES and TOBB in the context of the civil society dialogue (the two first phases of the EU-Turkey Chambers Forum in 2007-2009 and 2011-2014) and the two phases of the Turkish Chamber Development Programmes in 2002 and 2005. The overall objective of the activity is to strengthen mutual knowledge and understanding between Turkish Chambers and their counterparts in the EU, thus promoting the integration of EU and Turkish business communities and ensuring a stronger awareness of the opportunities and challenges of a potential future Turkey's accession to the EU in both Turkey and the EU.

The Activity will take into account the new political and economic context both in Turkey and in the EU as well as at the international level, in which the project will be implemented. The dialogue as well as mutual knowledge and understanding between the business communities both in the EU and in Turkey will be further deepened. The specific objectives of the activity are:

- to increase the capacity of Turkish Chambers so that they improve/ add new services to their members
- to increase opportunities of networking and exchange of best practices between Chambers from the EU and Turkey
- to increase the participation of the business community in political life in Turkey, in particular in providing input to modernise the Customs Union between the EU and Turkey and to move forward the EU accession process.
- to enhance awareness of the opportunities and challenges of Turkey's accession to the EU between both business communities,

² Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Civil Society Dialogue between the EU and Candidate Countries {SEC(2005) 891}

An impact assessment study for the previous projects will be completed at the end of 2015 and the results of this study will be taken into account in the further design of the Activity. Within the Activity, two surveys will be published, 3 business roundtables will be organised for gathering recommendations on modernising the Customs Union and to move forward in the accession process, 60 SME workshops on EU issues will be organised, the *acquis* audit team will be enhanced, an energy efficiency audit team will be established etc. Also a grant scheme for establishing 20 partnerships between EU and Turkish Chambers will be implemented, as far as possible small Chambers in Turkey or Chambers in less developed regions will be included.

The beneficiary of the Activity will be TOBB- The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey and the beneficiary of the direct grant will be EUROCHAMBERS- Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

For Activity 1- “Improving the Institutional Capacity of Directorate General of Foundations”

Directorate General of Foundations is the beneficiary of the Action. A Technical Assistance Team will provide capacity building services to the Directorate General and other related institutions included in the activity. A Steering Committee will be composed of representatives from the EUD, MEUA, Directorate General of Foundations, related CSOs and the CFCU. Other relevant organisations may be invited as seen necessary.

For Activity 2- Enabling Legal and Policy Environment and Increasing the Capacity of Department of Associations

Department of Associations is the beneficiary of the Action. A Technical Assistance Team will provide capacity building services to the Department of Associations and other related institutions included in the activity. A Steering Committee will be composed of representatives from the EUD, MEUA, Department of Associations, related CSOs and the CFCU. Other relevant organisations may be invited as seen necessary.

For Activity 3- “Civil Society Support Programme – II”

The beneficiary of the Activity is Ministry for EU Affairs. MEUA will coordinate the implementation of the activity, ensuring the involvement and participation of all concerned institutions. The Technical Assistance Team will be established to assist MEUA for the implementation of the grant schemes and visibility issues. The Technical Assistance Team will assist the MEUA to implement the CSD and civil society support programmes in **2015** and **2016** programming years. It will be a multi-annual, long term contract. A *Steering Committee* will be formed composed of representatives from the EUD, MEUA, CFCU, other relevant public institutions and CSOs’ representatives in a way that an open, fair and transparent countrywide participation.

For Activity 4- Strategic Capacity Building for local/grassroots CSOs: ad hoc support mechanism

This activity will be implemented by means of direct management by the Delegation of the EU to Turkey. The EUD will make a direct agreement with STGM.

It will be a multi-annual, long term contract. A *Steering Committee* will be formed composed of representatives from the EUD, MEUA, STGM and other relevant public institutions and CSOs’ representatives in a way that an open, fair and transparent countrywide participation.

For Activity 5- Supporting civil society dialogue between EU and Turkey (CSD V)

The beneficiary of the “Supporting civil society dialogue between EU and Turkey (CSD V)” is Ministry for EU Affairs. MEUA will coordinate the implementation of the activity, ensuring the involvement and participation of all concerned institutions. The Technical Assistance Team will be established to assist MEUA for the implementation of the grant schemes and visibility issues. The technical assistance team will

assist the MEUA to implement the CSD and civil society support programmes in **2015** and **2016** programming years. Also this TA will assist MEUA in the management of the consultation mechanism. It will be a multi-annual, long term contract.

A *Steering Committee* will be formed composed of representatives from the EUD, MEUA, CFCU, other relevant public institutions and CSOs' representatives in a way that an open, fair and transparent countrywide participation.

For Activity 6- Turkey-EU Business Dialogue

The main beneficiary of the Activity is TOBB- The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey and the beneficiary of the direct grant EUROCHAMBERS.

A *Steering Committee* will be formed composed of representatives from the EUD, representatives of the chambers involved TOBB, CFCU, MEUA and other relevant public institutions.

The Implementing Agency for all activities (except Activity 4) under this Action will be the Central Finance and Contracts Unit (CFCU) that will be responsible for all procedural aspects of the tendering process, contracting matters and financial management (including payments) of the activities.

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

Activity 1- Improving the Institutional Capacity of Directorate General of Foundations will be implemented through a service contract with a Technical Assistance Team.

Activity 2- Enabling Legal and Policy Environment and Increasing the Capacity of Department of Associations will be implemented through a service contract with a Technical Assistance Team.

Activity 3- "Civil Society Support Programme – II" will be composed of a grant scheme. The Technical Assistance Team under Activity 5 also will support the implementation of this activity.

For Activity 4- Strategic Capacity Building for local/grassroots CSOs: ad hoc support mechanism program will be implemented through a direct agreement with STGM. As the resource centre for capacity building for civil society organisations in Turkey at a country-wide level, as well as a long-standing EU supported umbrella CSO, STGM will through this contract manage the financial support to third parties scheme to support grassroots organisations.

Activity 5- Supporting civil society dialogue between EU and Turkey (CSD V) will be composed of a grant scheme and a service contract. The Technical Assistance Team will assist the MEUA to implement the CSD and civil society support programmes in **2015** and **2016** programming years. It will be a multi-annual, long term contract.

Activity 6- Turkey-EU Business Dialogue will be composed of a direct grant to EUROCHAMBERS and a grant scheme.

4. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

METHODOLOGY FOR MONITORING (AND EVALUATION)

In line with the IPA II Implementing Regulation 447/2014, an IPA II beneficiary who has been entrusted budget implementation tasks of IPA II assistance shall be responsible for conducting evaluations of the programmes it manages.

The 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 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 EC rules and procedures set in the Financing Agreement.

At the grant scheme level, in order to monitor the grant contracts a monitoring team will be formed within MEUA together with the Technical Assistance Team throughout the implementation. At the activity level, a *Steering Committee* will be formed for with the participation of representatives from the EUD, MEUA, CFCU, Directorate General of Foundations Department of Associations and other relevant organisations for Activity 1 and 2 and of representatives of the EUD, MEUA, CFCU and CSOs representatives and other relevant organisations for Activity 3. Steering Committees will meet every six months to monitor the activity.

For the monitoring of the Action, an *Action Monitoring Committee* will be established with the participation of MEUA, EUD, CFCU and CSOs' representatives. This committee will meet annually or semi-annually and be responsible for the monitoring of the Action holistically. In addition, an ex-post evaluation of the Action by independent evaluation team is foreseen.

Besides, an evaluation study to measure the impact of the whole Action is foreseen in 2020.

INDICATOR MEASUREMENT

Indicator	Baseline (year) (2)	Milestone 2017(3)	Target 2020 (4)	Final Target (year) (5)	Source of information
CSP indicator (impact/outcome) - Number of associations and membership, including networks, platforms and civic initiatives - Progress in enabling environment for freedoms, operation of CSOs and participation in policy-making					DG ELARG – Progress report
Outcome indicator 1 Assessment by relevant stakeholders of the legislative environment for active citizenship	To be determined after the finalisation of the baseline study				
Outcome indicator 2 Ratio of CSOs which use adequate argumentation and analysis for achieving advocacy goal	To be determined after the finalisation of the baseline study	40 %	70 %	79 %	Monitoring Report of EU Guidelines The percentages will be determined on the basis survey of a representative sample of CSOs
Output indicator 1* Quality assessment of existing legislation and policy framework	To be determined after the finalisation of the baseline study	25% of gaps in national legislation and policy framework are identified and addressed.	50% of gaps in national legislation and policy framework are identified and addressed.	50% of gaps in national legislation and policy framework are identified and addressed.	Progress Reports, BCSDN, CIVICUS reports, Monitoring Report of EU Guidelines
Output indicator 2* Number of employees and/or volunteers in CSOs	To be determined after the finalisation of the baseline study	0,3% of total employments is employed in CSO sector Number of volunteers increased by %50	0,4% of total employments is employed in CSO sector Number of volunteers increased by %100	0,4% of total employments is employed in CSO sector Number of volunteers increased by %100	BCSDN, records of TUIK
Output indicator 3* Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for dialogue and cooperation between	To be determined after the finalisation	Department of Associations and DG Foundations	Department of Associations and DG Foundations	Department of Associations and DG Foundations	BCSDN, TAT reports.

CSOs and public institutions	of the baseline study	consulted laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms with CSOs	consulted effectively laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms with CSOs	consulted effectively laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms with CSOs	
Output indicator 4* External perception of importance and impact of CSOs activities	To be determined after the finalisation of the baseline study	20 % of respondents can list at least 5 positive CSO achievements	40 % of respondents can list at least 5 positive CSO achievements	40 % of respondents can list at least 5 positive CSO achievements	Independent survey run by TACSO
Output indicator 5* Proportion of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks	To be determined after the finalisation of the baseline study	%5 of CSOs are taking part in at least 1 local, national, regional or international network	%10 of CSOs are taking part in at least 1 local, national, regional or international network	%10 of CSOs are taking part in at least 1 local, national, regional or international network	Independent survey run by TACSO
Output indicator 6: Number of CSOs from Turkey and from EU Member States involved in the CSD activities	805	1200	1600	1600	Award lists, TAT reports, Monitoring reports
Output indicator 7: Number of events and positive media coverage	To be determined after the finalisation of the inception report	Increase by one point on each percentage of the baseline	Increase by one point on each percentage of the baseline	Increase by one point on each percentage of the baseline	Public opinion polls TA reports Monitoring Reports Media coverage Ex-post evaluation report of the grant schemes Feedback from grantees
Output indicator 8: Number of long-term partnerships between EU and Turkish organisations	To be determined after the finalisation of the inception report	At least 75% of partners continue dialoguing beyond the lifespan of the grant	At least 70% of partners continue dialoguing beyond the lifespan of the grant	At least 65% of partners continue dialoguing beyond the lifespan of the grant	Ex-post evaluation report

(*) Indicators are adopted from the EU Guideline

5. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Gender balance will be sought on all the managing bodies and activities of the Action, and importance will be given during all stages of contracting and implementation. Equal participation of women and men will be secured in the design of activities and access to the opportunities they offer. Promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities will be considered when preparing guidelines for applicants for the calls for proposals. The selection criteria for the grant schemes will favour projects that demonstrate a positive impact on equal opportunities. Appropriate guidance will be included in guidelines to applicants. All contractors shall be requested to provide monitoring data, recording the participation of men and women in terms of expert inputs (in days) and of trainees/beneficiaries benefiting under the project (in days) as an integral component of all activity progress reports.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (AND IF RELEVANT DISASTER RESILIENCE)

According to the OECD-DAC's methodology, in the activities foreseen, environment and climate change (mitigation and/or adaptation) should be classified as "not targeted" (Rio markers), as these issues are not relevant in the context of this action. The activities on this Action Programme are envisaged not to have any negative effect to climate change.

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

The Ministry for EU Affairs, as the lead institution for the civil society sub-sector, has been steering the programming process with the relevant civil society organizations and line Ministries. As a result of its attempts to improve the participation and the contribution of the civil society organisations to programming process, a new consultation mechanism is foreseen to be developed together with the CSOs themselves, which are supposed to own the process and provide utmost contribution. The aim of this attempt is to create an added value in the planning, programming, monitoring and the reporting process of the actions foreseen under the sector to eliminate any probable short comings that would hinder the effective programing and implementation otherwise. Within the consultation mechanism, not only the CSOs but also the relevant line Ministries will be at stake.

With regard to the implementation of the action, CSOs will be members in the *Steering Committees* of the activities and the *Action Monitoring Committee*.

MINORITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

According to the Turkish Constitutional System, the word minority encompasses only groups of persons defined and recognized as such on the basis of multilateral or bilateral instruments to which Turkey is a party. The activities supported under this Action will contribute to the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms without any discrimination. Throughout the Action, minorities and vulnerable groups will be observed for active participation in and benefiting from the activities. The participation of children, women and groups with low-income level will be promoted along with other groups of civil society in all of the activities through the democratic processes and appropriate measures.

6. SUSTAINABILITY

Under Activities 1&2 the capacity of Directorate General of Foundations and Department of Associations for public-CSO cooperation will be increased and this will provide a guarantee for further steps as both are key institutions for providing a better legal environment for CSOs. Another strong sustainability aspect of these activities is that the events to be organised will also provide "*model implementations*" in terms of their content and methodology for the use of other relevant public institutions which may then easily be financed under the framework of other projects.

Under Activity 3 - Civil society support programme will repeat annually and the call for proposals for grant schemes will be published roughly at the same period of the year. This will provide sustainability within the programming period. Furthermore, the increased civil society capacity will be the guarantee for long term partnerships in thematic areas as another sustainability component of this activity.

Under Activity 4 - The proposed activity is based on the lessons learned from various EU funded grant schemes for long years in Turkey. In the light of these experiences, a result can be concluded: although rules and procedures are always essential for guaranteeing the efficient functioning in any granting mechanism, especially for local/grassroots CSOs, micro and small scale grants should be subject to specific procedures taking into account their specific needs. This activity will provide a simplified access procedure to EU funds for these organizations, and activists. As EU funded Sivil Dusun programme already revealed, an in-kind support mechanism enhanced by a capacity building program might have better functionality and efficiency. This will contribute to the sustainability of the activity. Furthermore, the increased civil society capacity will be the guarantee for long term partnerships in thematic areas as another sustainability component of this activity. Grassroots CSOs will see their capacity increased and will better lobby decision-makers including in policies related to their own funding and related enabling legal, administrative and financial environment..

Under Activity 5 – Civil society dialogue programme will repeat annually and the call for proposals for grant schemes will be published roughly at the same period of the year. This will provide sustainability throughout the programming period. Furthermore, existing partnerships and networks will be strengthened and new partnerships/cooperation among CSOs at all levels will be established which is foreseen to establish strong dialogue bridges among Turkish and EU civil societies.

Under Activity 6 - Considering previous cooperation projects and already existing contacts between business chambers from Turkey and EU member states, it can be expected that relevant actors will continue to work together in the future in order to strengthen the EU-Turkey mutual understanding, the integration of Turkey in the EU economy and the capacity of the Turkish Chambers to lead the EU accession process. The activity shall result in a better service offer of the Turkish Chamber towards their local members; this is expected to have a financial impact on the revenue of these Chambers. For instance, the EU experts that will emerge from the acquis audit training foreseen under the activity will add significant value to the Chambers' customers in terms of information and knowledge on the EU acquis. Furthermore, the sound financial situation of business chambers to be involved in the activity will ensure that joint activities far and beyond the scope of this action be financially viable and sustainable. Relying on a wide network of European and Turkish regional and local Chambers for its implementation implies that the concrete outcomes and long-term effects of the project will not be confined to EUROCHAMBRES and TOBB but rather be shared by their members at all levels. The institutional approach taken in most activities aims precisely at building a long term impact: Turkish and European Chambers will continue their cooperation beyond the duration of the Partnerships, and the Study Visits will give the opportunity to establish contacts for long term relations between the EU and Turkey. Finally, the activity is deemed to be sustainable in so far as its main objectives, i.e. to strengthen the Turkish Chambers' services to members as well as their role vis à vis other institutions, will ultimately benefit the business community in Turkey and its civil society at large.

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 the responsibility of the beneficiary, and shall be funded from the amounts allocated to the Action.

All necessary measures will be taken to publicize 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 Commission (DG NEAR) will have to be followed.

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.

It is the responsibility of the beneficiary to keep the EU delegation and the Commission fully informed of the planning and implementation of the specific visibility and communication activities.

The beneficiary shall report on its visibility and communication actions in the report submitted to the IPA monitoring committee and the sectorial monitoring committee.

All projects /contract implemented under this programme shall comply with the **Visibility Guidelines for European Commission Projects in Turkey** published by the EUD to Turkey, at http://www.avrupa.info.tr/AB_Mali_Destegi/Gorunurluk_Visi.html

All communication and visibility activities should be carried out in close co-operation with the CFCU and the EUD to Ankara. The CFCU and the EUD are the main authorities in charge of reviewing and approving visibility-related materials and activities.

The EU-Turkey cooperation logo should be accompanied by the following text:

“This project is co-funded by the European Union.”

Whether used in the form of the EU-Turkey cooperation logo for information materials or separately at events, the EU and Turkish flag have to enjoy at least double prominence each, both in terms of size and placement in relation to other displayed logos and should appear on all materials and at all events as per the Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Actions. At visibility events, the Turkish and the EU flag have to be displayed prominently and separately from any logos.

Logos of the beneficiary institution and the CFCU should be clearly separated from the EU-Turkey partnership logo and be maximum half the size of each flag. The logos will not be accompanied by any text. The CFCU and beneficiary logo will be on the lower left-hand corner and lower right-hand corner respectively. The consultant logo with the same size will be in the middle of the CFCU and beneficiary logo. If the consultant is a consortium, only the logo of the consortium leader will be displayed.

Any publication by the Supplier, in whatever form and by whatever medium, including the Internet, shall carry the following or a similar mention: “This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union”. In addition, the back cover of any such publications by the Supplier should also contain the following disclaimer: “The contents of this publication is the sole responsibility of name of the author/Supplier/implementing partner – and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union”.