



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Brussels, 30.11.2017  
C(2017) 8192 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 30.11.2017**

**amending Implementing Decision C(2016) 4889 final of 20 July 2016 adopting a Civil Society Facility and Media Programme for the years 2016-2017 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)**

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**amending Implementing Decision C(2016) 4889 final of 20 July 2016 adopting a Civil Society Facility and Media Programme for the years 2016-2017 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures of the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action<sup>1</sup> and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002<sup>2</sup> and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Civil Society Facility (CSF) and Media Programme for the years 2016-2017 was adopted on 20 July 2016 by Commission Implementing Decision C(2016) 4889 final, amended by Decisions adopted by the authorising officer by sub-delegation on 13 December 2016, 31 March 2017, and 8 June 2017.
- (2) The said Programme shall be amended as follows:
  - Action 1 – CSF and media multi-country: Given the volatile context in Turkey and the recent negative trends in the Western Balkans, a new Component 6 "Support CSOs and media" is added to the action for an overall value of EUR 6 million. The additional financial allocations will come from the flexibility cushion for the Western Balkans (EUR 4 million) and from the Turkey Annual Action Programme (AAP 2017) (EUR 2 million).
  - Action 2 – CSF and media Albania: the amendment concerns a request for the reallocation of EUR 600 000 unspent under the media component to two specific objectives related to support to civil society organisations in policy dialogue and capacity building.
  - Action 6 – CSF and media Montenegro: under 2016 allocations, EUR 186 000 non-allocated are used to extend the Technical Assistance project to support the Governmental NGO office; under 2017 allocations: change of Operating Grants for Civil society organisations into Action Grants.
- (3) - Action 8 – CSF and Media Turkey. The amendment concerns the reallocation of EUR 16 million from the Turkey AAP 2017 to the Civil Society Facility and Media Programme for years 2016-2017. The reallocation is a result of the decision to centralise the Civil Society Portfolio under AAP 2017 to direct management by the

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 95.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p.1.

Commission/EU Delegation in the context of a changing operating environment for the CSOs following the coup attempt of 15 July 2016. It is necessary to adopt a financing decision, the detailed rules of which are set out in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012<sup>3</sup>.

- (4) The measures provided for by this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the IPA II Committee set up by Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)<sup>4</sup>

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Sole article*

The Commission Implementing Decision C(2016) 4889 final of 20 July 2016 adopting a Civil Society Facility and Media Programme for the years 2016-2017 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) is amended as follows:

(1) In Article 2, first paragraph, second indent, the words "EUR 38.31 million" are replaced by the following: "EUR 60.31 million".

(2) The Annex is replaced by the Annex to this Decision.

Done at Brussels, 30.11.2017

*For the Commission,  
Johannes HAHN  
Member of the Commission*

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<sup>3</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

<sup>4</sup> JO L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 11.



## ANNEX

**to Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision C(2016) 4889 final of 20 July 2016 adopting a Civil Society Facility and Media Programme for the years 2016-2017 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)**

### 1 IDENTIFICATION

<b>Beneficiary</b>	<i>Western Balkans: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo* Montenegro, Serbia Turkey</i>
<b>CRIS/ABAC Commitment references</b>	<i>2016/038-960 for year 2016:</i>
<b>Total cost = EU Contribution</b>	<i>EUR 49.01 million</i>
<b>Budget line</b>	<i>On budget line 22.020401</i>
<b>CRIS/ABAC Commitment references</b>	<i>2017/038-961 for year 2017:</i>
<b>Total cost = EU Contribution</b>	<i>EUR 60.31 million</i>
<b>Budget line</b>	<i>On budget line 22.020401</i>
<b>Management mode/ Entrusted Entity</b>	<i>Direct management by the European Commission</i>
<b>Final date for contracting including the conclusion of delegation agreements</b>	<i>For the budgetary commitment of year 2016 at the latest by 31 December 2017 For the budgetary commitment of year 2017 at the latest by 31 December 2018</i>
<b>Final date for operational implementation<sup>1</sup></b>	<i>For the budgetary commitment of year 2016 at the latest by 31 December 2021 For the budgetary commitment of year 2017 at the latest by 31 December 2022</i>
<b>Programming Unit</b>	<i>Directorate General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, Unit D.5: Regional Cooperation and Programmes</i>
<b>Implementing Unit/ EU Delegation</b>	<i>Unit D.5, EU Delegations to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, EU Office in Kosovo, EU Delegations to Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey</i>

\* 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

<sup>1</sup> Due to the nature of the actions, aiming at long-term engagement with Civil Society Organisations, this programme requires 4 years of operational implementation

## 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION PROGRAMME

### 2.1 PRIORITIES SELECTED UNDER THIS ACTION PROGRAMME

- **Rationale for the selection of the specific priorities under this programme:**

Strengthening civil society is a core part of the political criteria for accession. As such civil society also corresponds to essential and closely interlinked elements of the enlargement strategy and is regularly monitored in the Progress Report. Indeed, a more dynamic civil society can contribute to the accession process and sustain public support for accession.

The Multi Country Indicative Strategy Paper 2014-2020<sup>2</sup> (MCSP) endorses the approach proposed in the Communication *The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations*<sup>3</sup> as well as in the *EU Human Rights Guidelines on Freedom of Expression Online and Offline* and considers the horizontal support to civil society and media as one of the priorities to improve democracy and rule of law.

The priorities of the present document for the period 2016-2017 are largely inspired by two sets of guidelines prepared in coordination with EU Delegations: "*EU Guidelines for support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-2020*" and "*EU Guidelines for support to media freedom and media integrity in enlargement countries, 2014-2020*". The guidelines translate the objectives as indicated in the MCSP and in the annual 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 annual IPA II beneficiaries' progress reports and for the programming of IPA support.

The overall objective of the 2016-2017 programme is 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.

To achieve the priorities formulated in the strategic documents for the period 2016-2017 the Commission will continue its efforts to consolidate regional networks and associations of civil society organisations (CSOs)<sup>4</sup> and to increase their accountability as well as in building the institutional mechanisms for cooperation between governments

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<sup>2</sup> C(2014) 4293, 30.06.2014

<sup>3</sup> COM(2012) 492 final

<sup>4</sup> As defined in the Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020 "The EU considers CSOs as non-State, non-profit making actors operating on an independent and accountable basis. They include: non-governmental organisations, organisations representing indigenous peoples, organisations representing national and/or ethnic minorities, diaspora organisations, migrants' organisations in partner countries, local traders' associations and citizens' groups, cooperatives, employers' associations and trade unions (social partners), organisations representing economic and social interests, organisations fighting corruption and fraud and promoting good governance, civil rights organisations and organisations combating discrimination, local organisations (including networks) involved in decentralised regional cooperation and integration, consumer organisations, women's and youth organisations, environmental, teaching, cultural, research and scientific organisations, universities, churches and religious associations and communities, philosophical and non-confessional organisations, the media and any non-governmental associations and independent foundations, including independent political foundations [...]"

and civil society and introducing transparent procedures for financing CSOs from public budgets.

With regard to freedom of expression, in an effort to have a thorough understanding of the systemic nature of the challenges in the Western Balkans and Turkey 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.

- **Overview of past and on-going EU, other donors' and/or IPA II beneficiaries' actions in the relevant sectors:**

The programme 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. In order to follow up on the lessons learned of previous financial assistance, the Commission 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 is thoroughly reflected in the present document and offers a solid ground to future monitoring of the contribution of the EU to civil society development in the Western Balkans and Turkey. 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.

The Civil Society Facility (CSF) was introduced for the first time in 2008 to support civil society financially and technically and proved to be a powerful means to strengthen participatory democracies and freedom of media. The CSF comprises both national and multi-beneficiary initiatives which are programmed in a coordinated manner. The CSF is therefore a single facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey.

The programme allocations for 2016-2017 are EUR 87.32 million (EU contribution) envisaging an increase of 27% compared to 2014-2015 and comprises one decision per year implemented directly by DG NEAR (the multi-country envelope) and by each EU Delegation for each of the national envelopes. 68.8% of the 2016-2017 programme funds will support CSOs directly (action grants, operating grants, low value grants, resource centres, people-to-people actions), 12.4% will benefit media and media CSOs, 11.6% will be allocated for technical assistance to governments and CSOs, 6.2% to international organisations and 1% for support measures.

In accordance with the MCSP, assistance to civil society and media will be delivered under the headings "Horizontal support to sector policies and reforms".

The CSF and media programme 2016-2017 includes the following actions:

<i>Action number and title</i>	<i>EU contribution 2016 (million EUR)</i>	<i>EU contribution 2017 (million EUR)</i>
<b>Action 1</b> CSF and media multi-country <sup>5</sup>	23.5	21
<b>Action 2</b> CSF and media Albania	4	5
<b>Action 3</b> CSF and media Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	4.5
<b>Action 4</b> CSF and media the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2.65	3.65
<b>Action 5</b> CSF and media Kosovo	3.36	5.16
<b>Action 6</b> CSF and media Montenegro	2.5	1.5
<b>Action 7</b> CSF and media Serbia	3	3.5
<b>Action 8</b> CSF and media Turkey	10	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	49.01	60.31

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<sup>5</sup> The sum includes EUR 3 million from Bosnia and Herzegovina and EUR 0.5 million from Albania national envelopes (IPA 2016)



## 2.2 DESCRIPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIONS

<b>Priority 1</b>	<b><i>Horizontal support to sector policies and reforms</i></b>	<b><i>Amount EU EUR: 87.32 million</i></b>
<b>Action 1</b>	<b><i>Civil Society Facility and media multi-country 2016-2017</i></b>	<b><i>EU 2016: EUR 23.5 million EU 2017: EUR 21 million</i></b>

### ***(1) Description of the Action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators***

#### **Description of the action and objective**

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. In particular, the multi-country action will strengthen regional networks in various fields.

The action is structured in six main components:

1. Support to the capacities of CSOs at regional level;
2. Media freedom and integrity: support to Public Service Media (PSM);
3. Strengthening local democracy through reinforced partnership between local governments and CSOs;
4. Fighting violence against and discrimination of women and girls;
5. Civic monitoring of the Regional Housing Programme (RHP);
6. Support CSOs and media.

#### **Expected results**

- CSOs regularly network within and outside the beneficiary with an increased impact in advocacy;
- Public institutions recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance through inclusion of CSOs in decision-making processes;
- The activities of CSOs are guided by strategic long-term planning and have a diverse funding base;
- Professional PSM ensures content pluralism in an independent and accountable manner;
- Capacity of CSOs and local governments in implementation of municipal grant schemes and delivering of quality projects is strengthened;
- Improved enabling environment for eliminating violence against women and other forms of discrimination;
- RHP sub-projects are realized in accordance with actual housing needs and socio-economic status of RHP beneficiaries;

- Civil society and media in the Western Balkans and Turkey are strengthened and maintained and local pro-democracy actors enabled to emerge, operate and adapt their actions to respond to the changing local context, including where the space for civic action is shrinking.

### **Key performance indicators**

- Quality assessment of existing legislation and policy framework;
- Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for cooperation between CSOs/media and public Institutions;
- External perception of importance and impact of CSO activities and of CSO transparency and accountability;
- Number of final beneficiaries of the RHP benefited.
- Number of CSOs/activists/journalists and media outlets supported through the grant making programme.

### ***(2) Assumptions and conditions***

A main precondition for the achievement of the objective of the action is that the development of a civil society culture in the region requires political stability and a favourable environment for the enhancement of CSOs and civil society dialogue. Consequently, partner CSOs and/or authorities from the Western Balkans and Turkey should be willing to establish and improve their exchange of information. Part of the assistance efforts will fail if the authorities implement policies and actions that are counterproductive to achieving a civil society culture. It is therefore of paramount importance that the EU and other donors keep a close eye on this and take appropriate measures if necessary. Failure to comply with the requirements set out above may lead to a partial recovery of funds under this programme and/or the re-allocation of future funding.

### ***(3) Essential elements of the action***

#### **Procurement:**

- a) the **global** budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 6.5 million (EUR 1.5 million under IPA 2016, and EUR 5 million under IPA 2017).
- b) the indicative number and type of contracts:

Two service contracts, one for regional technical assistance to civil society organisations (TACSO Regional) and one for Technical Assistance to Public Service Media.

- c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure:

Q3 2016 for the Technical Assistance to Public Service Media (IPA 2016)

Q2 2017 for TACSO Regional (IPA 2017)

#### **Grant – Call for proposals Regional Thematic Networks of CSOs:**

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The call for proposals to award long-term grants to regional thematic networks of CSOs will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of the action, namely to enhance the capacities of civil society and media organisations to be effective and

accountable independent actors on issues relevant to advocacy and policy reforms and their capability to dialogue with Governments.

b) The essential eligibility criteria:

For the applicants

In order to be eligible the applicant must be a CSO based in one of the IPA II beneficiaries and be active in and/or group CSOs or media organisations from at least five of the seven IPA II beneficiaries. CSOs from EU Member States could be co-applicants of the actions.

For the actions

Main actions supported by this call for proposals are related to the creation or development of regional thematic networks through long-term grants.

Actions, such as regional networking and advocacy for policy reforms that contribute to achieving the objectives and foreseen results of this call for proposals and comply with the requirements of the Financial Regulation will be eligible for financing.

c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:

The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 90% of the eligible cost of the action.

f) Indicative amount of the call:

EUR 6.5 million (IPA 2016) + EUR 10 million (IPA 2017)

Contracts will only be concluded subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for the year 2017.

g) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals:

Q4 2016

**Grant – Renewal of operating grants (4<sup>th</sup> year of operating grants awarded under the Call for proposals EA/136034):**

As stipulated in the financing decision no. 2013/024-081, "The operating grants may be awarded for several consecutive years; however, the contracts can only be awarded on an annual basis. Therefore, depending on the result of the first 12 months, the strategy for the future of the Regional Association and in particular its work plan for the next year the Contracting Authority may award an additional operating grant for the following year, albeit that this EU grant will be lower in either percentage or total amount compared to the previous grant. The subsequent grant will be provided as financial support to the operating costs of the Regional Association".

This will be the last year of renewal of the operating grants.

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The fourth renewal of the operating grants will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of the action, namely to enhance the capacities of CSOs to be effective and accountable independent actors.

The 10 beneficiaries of the previous operating grants (awarded following the call for proposals EA/136034 and the subsequent renewals) will be invited to submit the detailed Work Programme for 2018, which has to comply with the objectives and requirements set by this Action.

In addition, one of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year operating grants foreseen to be financed under decision 2015/037-653 for the period January 2017 - December 2017 will be financed under the current decision 2016/038-960. The renewal of this grant is in line with the conclusions of the corresponding Evaluation Committee as registered in the evaluation report of 17 November 2016 – Ares(2016)6477479.

Based on the indications introduced in the financing decision 2013/024-081 in relation to operating grants, the value of the EU support per Work Programme is progressively reduced each year. This should allow the allocation programmed under the decision 2016/038-960 to cover for an additional operating grant without creating a shortage of funds in 2017.

b) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the Work Programme. The evaluation will analyse the report of the first nine months of the previous year and the Work Programme for the next 12 months period (year 2018).

c) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:

The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants is 75% of the eligible cost of the action.

For the 3<sup>rd</sup> year grant under point a) the maximum possible rate of EU co-financing is 80% of the eligible cost of the action.

d) Indicative amount:

EUR 1.5 million (IPA 2016)

e) Indicative date for launch of the application period:

Q3 2017

#### **Grants - Direct grant awards:**

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The direct grant award to the benefit of two International Organisations and one unique network of CSOs will contribute to the achievement of the specific objective of the action and all the results under component 3 "Strengthening local democracy", 4 "Fighting violence against and discrimination of women and girls" and 5 "Civic monitoring of the Regional Housing Programme".

b) Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals:

Under the responsibility of the Authorizing Officer by Delegation, grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to international institutions as UN Women, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) or other European and regional organisations while building on their respective mandates, strengths and expertise in the area of women rights, local democracy, housing for refugees and reconciliation. All beneficiaries as outlined below under point c) will be awarded direct grants in

accordance with Article 190 (1) f) of the Regulations on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) n. 966/2012 (RAP).

c) the name of the beneficiary:

- UN Women will implement the action aimed at fighting violence against and discrimination of women and girls, involving international and local organizations (Component 4). Moreover, 60% of the funds will be implemented by CSOs through sub-granting from UN Women in each IPA II beneficiary;
- UNDP will implement the action aimed at strengthening local democracy and service delivery, involving international and local organizations (Component 3). Moreover, 60% of the funds will be implemented by CSOs and local authorities through sub-granting from UNDP in each IPA II beneficiary;
- To strengthen reconciliation and improve the housing conditions for refugees at local, national and regional level, component 5 will be implemented by the Centre for regionalism on behalf of the IGMAN Initiative, a non-political network of CSOs from the Dayton countries (i.e. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia). The IGMAN Initiative has strong expertise in housing and property issues related to refugees and internally displaced persons in the Western Balkans and can provide support to both the beneficiaries and the implementing institutions of the Regional Housing Programme. It is also the only initiative providing this type of services.
- The European Endowment for Democracy (EED) will implement the action for CSOs and media (Component 6). The primary aim of the action is to provide financial support to third parties.

d) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicants.

e) The award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

f) indicative amount of the grant:

- UN Women: EUR 5 million (IPA 2016)
- UNDP: EUR 8.5 million (IPA 2016). N.B.: The sum includes EUR 3 million from Bosnia and Herzegovina and EUR 0.5 million from Albania national envelopes (IPA 2016)
- Centre for regionalism on behalf of the IGMAN Initiative: EUR 0.5 million (IPA 2016)
- EED: EUR 6 million (IPA 2017)

g) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:

The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for direct grants is 90% of the eligible cost of the action, with the exception of the grant to EED for which it is 95%.

h) Indicative date for signing the grant agreement:

- UN Women: Q3 2016
- UNDP: Q3 2016
- Centre for regionalism/IGMAN initiative: Q3 2016
- EED: Q2 2018

<b>PRIORITY 1</b>		
<b>Action 2</b>	<b><i>Civil Society Facility and media Albania 2016-2017</i></b>	<b><i>EU 2016: EUR 4 million EU 2017: EUR 5 million</i></b>

***(1) Description of the Action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators***

**Description of the action and objective**

The main objectives of this action are to strengthen the cross-sector cooperation between the Government and civil society and to develop CSO capacities.

Support will be provided to CSOs to take part to the policy dialogue and play their role of lobbying, advocacy and monitoring the implementation of reforms in sectors which are essential in the accession process, such as rule of law, fight against corruption, freedom of expression and social inclusion. This is expected to provide a more solid base for the proper implementation of the EU sector budget support.

A second phase of a Technical Assistance project to the Albanian Government is also included to complete the improvement of the legal framework for CSO work. This is expected to secure a stronger base for the independence and future sustainability of the CSOs.

**Expected results**

1. Public institutions recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance through CSO inclusion in decision-making processes;
2. Easy-to-meet financial rules for CSO are put in place;
3. Improved capacities of CSOs (internal governance structures, strategic long-term organisational planning, fund-raising activities);
4. Regular dialogue within the media community and with the authorities is established;

**Key performance indicators**

- Percentage of laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms, per sector, effectively consulted with and monitored by CSOs;
- Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions;
- CSOs' perception of the ease and effectiveness of financial rules and reporting requirements;
- Increase of professional and labour standards for journalists.

***(2) Assumptions and conditions***

A primary condition for the proper advancement of the programme is the setting up of the National Council for Civil Society. The relevant law has been approved by the Parliament at the end of 2015 and it is expected to be implemented in the next future with the selection and appointment of the representative from both governmental and non-governmental sides. This would provide a solid base for organizing the participation of CSOs in the different bodies where strategies are defined and monitored.

A binding condition for the release of the share of funding targeting the Albania Government is the satisfactory solution of the problems affecting VAT reimbursement on EU grants to CSOs. Current legal base exists but it is not regularly applied and a specific commitment of the government is needed for the application of the existing rules throughout all the public administration bodies both at central and local level.

Failure to comply with the requirements set out above may lead to a partial recovery of funds under this programme and/or the re-allocation of future funding.

### ***(3) Essential elements of the action***

#### **Procurement:**

- a) the **global** budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 1.6 million
- b) the indicative number and type of contracts: one service contract for technical assistance to the government (EUR 1.4 million, IPA 2017) and one framework contract for supporting evaluation of calls for proposals (EUR 0.2 million, IPA 2016).
- c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: service Q3 2017, FWC Q3 2016

#### **Grant – Call for proposals 1 (Support to CSOs to participate in Policy dialogue)**

There will be one call for International Organizations or EU Member State public bodies

##### a) Objectives and foreseen results:

One grant will be awarded to an international organisation or an EU Member State public body that will be in charge of redistribution of funds to support CSOs to actively contribute to the policy dialogue, enhanced public consultation and participation and act as oversight and policy implementation of various sector reforms. A mechanism of recurrent call for proposals will be established to secure support to a wide number of civil society activities along the process of strategy definition, implementation and monitoring.

##### b) The essential eligibility criteria:

###### For the actions

Applicants must provide a suitable mechanism for redistribution of funds in a flexible way to CSOs for activities such as participation in public consultations and monitoring of various sectorial policy reforms.

###### For the applicants

To be an International Organisation or an EU Member State public body.

- c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.
- d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.
- f) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 1.0 million (2016) and 0.5 million (2017)
- g) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q3 2016

**Grant – Call for proposals 2 and 3 (Reinforcing CSOs and Media capacities):**

There will be indicatively 2 to 4 CfPs. The calls might include a lot related to support to CSOs and a lot related to support to media.

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

Objectives lot 1

Civil society and public institutions work in partnership through dialogue and cooperation, based on willingness, trust and mutual acknowledgment around common interests and through an enabling financial environment which supports sustainability of CSOs. CSOs becoming more capable, transparent and accountable, effective and financially sustainable.

Objectives lot 2

Representative media and journalist professional organisations capable of taking responsibility of sector relevant issues, in dialogue with authorities, as well as providing services to their members.

Results lot 1:

Public institutions recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance through CSO inclusion in decision-making processes; CSOs' internal governance structures are transparent and accountable to members / constituents / beneficiaries; CSO activities are guided by strategic long-term organisational planning; Fund-raising activities are rooted in CSOs' long-term strategic plans and the core mission of the organisation.

Results lot 2:

Regular dialogue within the media community on issue of press freedom and integrity and regular dialogue with the authorities on labour standards is established and increased membership of the media associations..

b) The essential eligibility criteria:

For the actions lot 1

Eligible actions will include support to third parties through mechanism of sub-granting and/or financial support. The activities will aim at reinforce the capacity of the CSOs to work in a more professional and sustainable way.

For the actions lot 2

Actions in the media sector will be targeted to support media professional associations.

For the applicants lot 1



Applicants to the first lot to be considered eligible must:

- be legal persons and
- be non-profit-making and
- be a civil society organisation, such as non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and be established in Albania or in a Member State of the European Union, in a candidate country as recognised by the European Union or in Member State of the European Economic Area,

For the applicants lot 2

Applicants to the first activity of the second lot to be considered eligible must:

- be legal persons and
- be non-profit-making and
- be a media association established in Albania

Applicants to the second and third activity of the second lot to be considered eligible must:

- be legal persons and
- be non-profit-making and
- be a mandated body of Member States

c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.

f) Indicative amount of the call: 1st call 2.8 MEUR (2016); 2nd call 2.6 MEUR (2017)

g) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: 1<sup>st</sup> call Q3 2016; 2<sup>nd</sup> call Q3 2017

**Grant – Open Call for proposals 4 (Resource Centre):**

It is proposed to launch an open call for proposals for the selection of the organization or consortium that can run the Resource Centre. The use of an open procedure instead of the restricted one is done on the basis of article 6.4.1.2. of the PRAG and is justified by the particular technical nature of the call and the limited number of proposals expected. The applicants will need to have experience and know-how in a particular area given that the future Resource Centre will have to take over and replace the services offered by the TACSO national office. The requirement for such technical expertise and management capacity is expected to result in a limited number of proposals submitted.

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

## Objectives

CSOs becoming more capable, transparent and accountable, effective and financially sustainable.

## Results

CSOs' internal governance structures are transparent and accountable to members/constituents/beneficiaries; CSOs are able to communicate the results of their activities to the public; CSOs are transparent about their programme activities and financial management; CSOs monitor and evaluate the results and impact of their work; CSO activities are guided by strategic long-term organisational planning; CSOs regularly network within and outside the beneficiary and make use of coalition-building for increased impact in campaigning and advocacy; Fund-raising activities are rooted in CSOs' long-term strategic plans and the core mission of the organisation; CSOs have a diversified funding base, including membership fees, corporate/individual giving and social entrepreneurship.

### b) The essential eligibility criteria:

#### For the applicants

To be considered eligible, applicants must:

- be legal persons and
- be non-profit-making and
- be a civil society organisation, such as non-governmental organisations (NGOs), or a consortium<sup>6</sup> and be established in Albania and
- be free of any political affiliations or membership. Providing equal treatment to all future CSOs beneficiaries is a requirement.

#### For the actions

Actions such as help-desk services, training, information events, support for monitoring and guidance of individual projects, advocacy, cross-border events, partner-matching, as well as civil society PR and visibility will be eligible for financing.

- c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.
- d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.
- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 100 % of the eligible cost of the action. Full financing is essential for the action to be carried out because the Resource Centre will not have any other source of financing than the EU contribution.
- f) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 0.5 million (IPA 2017)

Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q1 2017

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<sup>6</sup> In case a consortium is formed one organisation shall be appointed as lead organisation and assume all rights and responsibilities on behalf of the consortium. A consortium should have a maximum of five members, including the lead organisation, and must be based in the beneficiary concerned.

<b>PRIORITY 1</b>		
<b>Action 3</b>	<b><i>Civil Society Facility and media Bosnia and Herzegovina 2016-2017</i></b>	<b><i>EU 2016: EUR 0 million EU 2017: EUR 4.5 million</i></b>

***(1) Description of the Action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators***

**Description of the action and objective**

IPA II assistance within CSF 2016-2017 will encourage sector based networking and cooperation among CSOs in areas of social inclusion, education, social entrepreneurship, environment and climate change, and youth. Gender and inclusion of minorities will be a cross cutting issue. The assistance will increase domestic CSO capacity to ensure media freedom and protect journalists' integrity, as well as combat corruption. Assistance will also be provided to the Governments at different levels to build their capacities for more effective inclusion of CSOs in policy and decision-making and to improve transparency of public funding to CSOs.

**Expected results**

- Public institutions recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance through CSO inclusion in decision-making processes;
- Capacities of CSOs are strengthened (internal governance structures, strategic long-term organisational planning, fund-raising activities);
- CSOs regularly network with increased impact in advocacy in various areas (social inclusion, education, social entrepreneurship, environment and climate change, youth, and anti-corruption);
- CSOs are able to communicate the results of their activities to the public;
- Improved environment for freedom of expression and association.

**Key performance indicators**

- Percentage of laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively consulted with CSOs;
- Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions;
- External perception of importance and impact of CSO activities;
- Share of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks;
- Quality of the enabling environment for grass-roots organisations and/or civic initiatives.

***(2) Assumptions and conditions***

Among the preconditions for the achievement of the objective of the action civil society and the governments should cooperate in a transparent way based on institutional arrangements; the Governments should implement the outcomes of the cooperation with civil society and the Governments and CSOs have to appoint competent representatives to participate in the common project activities. Failure to comply with the requirements

set out above may lead to a partial recovery of funds under this programme and/or the re-allocation of future funding.

### ***(3) Essential elements of the action***

#### **Grant – Call for proposals: Support to CSOs networks in various areas**

##### **a) Objectives and foreseen results:**

**Objective:** Strengthen the capacity of CSOs to contribute to social development in particular sectors

**Foreseen results:** CSOs are able to communicate the results of their activities to the public; National and/or local authorities have enabling policies and rules for grass-roots organisations and/or civic initiatives; CSOs monitor and evaluate the results and impact of their work; CSOs regularly network within and outside the beneficiary; Government support to CSOs is available and provided in a transparent, accountable, fair and non-discriminatory manner; public institutions recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance; Fund-raising activities are rooted in CSOs' long-term strategic plans and the core mission of the organisation; all individuals and legal entities can express themselves freely, assemble peacefully and establish, join and participate in non-formal and/or registered organisations.

##### **b) The essential eligibility criteria:**

###### **For the applicants:**

- be legal persons and
- be non-profit-making and
- be non-governmental organisations, and
- be established in Bosnia and Herzegovina (main applicant). Co-applicants can be established in a Member State of the European Union or another IPA II beneficiary; countries for which reciprocal access to external assistance is established by the Commission and
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary.

In addition to the categories referred to above, the following are however also eligible: educational institutions including secondary schools and universities and other certified educational institutions. The educational institutions must be registered and acknowledged by relevant authority as an institution providing education and training and must be non-profit making.

###### **For the actions:**

Actions such as sector based networking and advocacy for policy reforms that contribute to achieving the objectives and foreseen results of this call for proposals, and comply with the requirements of the Financial Regulation, will be eligible for financing.

- ##### **c) The essential selection criteria** are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

- d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.
- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing: the maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.
- f) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 3.5 million (IPA 2017)
- g) Indicative date for launching the selection procedure: Q2 2017

**Grant - Twinning – Call for Proposals "Capacity building of Governments to include CSOs into the decision-making"**

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:

Objective:

Strengthen the cooperation and dialogue between governments and civil society in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Foreseen results:

- Government support to CSOs is available and provided in a transparent, accountable, fair and non-discriminatory manner”.

- Public institutions recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance through CSO inclusion in decision making processes”.

- b) The essential eligibility criteria: applicants must be EU Member State administrations or mandated bodies.
- c) The essential selection criterion is the operational capacity of the applicant.
- d) The essential award criteria are technical expertise of the applicant, and the relevance, methodology and sustainability of the proposed action.
- e) The maximum possible rate of EU financing may be up to 100% of the total cost of the action in accordance with Article 192 of Financial Regulation being that full funding is essential for the action to be carried out. The necessity for full EU funding will be justified by the responsible authorising officer in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.
- f) Indicative amount of Twinning contract: EUR 0.5 million (IPA 2017)
- g) Indicative date for launching the selection procedure: Q3 2017

**Grant – Call for proposals: Support to the Resource Centre (action grant)**

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:

Objective: Strengthen the capacities of CSOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to allow them to become capable, transparent and accountable.

Results: Improved quality of activities, visibility and fund-raising of CSOs.

- b) The essential eligibility criteria:

For the applicants:

To be considered eligible, applicants must:

- be legal persons and
- be non-profit-making and

- be a civil society organisation or a consortium<sup>7</sup> established in Bosnia and Herzegovina and
- be free of any political affiliations or membership. Providing equal treatment to all future CSOs beneficiaries is a requirement.

For the actions

Actions such as help-desk services, training, information events, support for monitoring and guidance of individual projects, advocacy, cross-border events, partner-matching, as well as civil society PR and visibility will be eligible for financing.

- c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

The award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

- d) indicative amount of the grant: EUR 0.5 million (IPA 2017)

- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:

The maximum possible rate of EU financing will be 100% of the total cost of the action. Full financing of the action is essential for the action to be carried out because the Resource Centre will not have any other financial income than the EU financing. The Resource Centre will continue TACSO activities at national level beyond September 2017.

- f) Indicative date for launching the selection procedure: Q2 2017

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<sup>7</sup> In case a consortium is formed one organisation shall be appointed as lead organisation and assume all rights and responsibilities on behalf of the consortium. A consortium should have a maximum of five members, including the lead organisation, and must be based in the beneficiary concerned.

<b>PRIORITY 1</b>		
<b>Action 4</b>	<i>Civil Society Facility and media the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 2016-2017</i>	<i>EU 2016: EUR 2.65 million EU 2017: EUR 3.65 million</i>

***(1) Description of the Action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators***

**Description of the action and objective**

The action aims at supporting civil society in the country, in line with the EU guidelines to support civil society and media freedom. Firstly, it addresses strengthening of the civil society as actor through grants and support to National Resource Centre. Secondly, it supports work of organisations in key reforms identified in recent European Commission policy documents (freedom of expression, fight against corruption, Roma) as well as civil society networking mechanism. Thirdly, it provides for supporting measures to the calls for proposals.

**Expected results**

- National and local authorities adopted enabling policies for grass-root organisations;
- Public financial support to CSOs is provided in a transparent and accountable manner;
- Media outlets voluntarily adhere to principles of transparency. Professional associations of media owners/publishers established;
- Improved conditions for quality investigative journalism;
- Public institutions collaborate with CSOs in the implementation and monitoring of public policies;
- CSOs regularly network within and outside the beneficiary for increased impact in advocacy.

**Key performance indicators**

- Funding mechanisms for CSO's further strengthened;
- Mechanisms for permanent dialogue with civil society are operational;
- Implementation of EU standards in the area of freedom of expression and opinion;
- Share of CSOs that monitor and evaluate the implementation of their strategies and make this information publicly available/accessible;
- Number of CSOs which take part in monitoring policies, EU and other donor funding and negotiation process.

## ***(2) Assumptions and conditions***

The development of a civil society culture in the region requires political stability and a favourable environment for the enhancement of CSOs and civil society dialogue. Consequently, CSOs, governments, media and other stakeholders should work together to establish alliances and coalitions to help strengthen advocacy, etc. These efforts will fail if the authorities implement policies and actions that are counterproductive to achieving a civil society culture. The main risks involve horizontal support provided by bodies or institutions without a sufficiently clear mandate and experience, or support that it is not tailored clearly to the national needs and priorities. These risks are addressed through a rigorous selection mechanism privileging long standing partnerships which have already demonstrated a clear added value. Another element is to ensure that the horizontal support is based on a clear national needs assessment done in close collaboration with both the IPA II beneficiaries and the EU Delegations and geographical units

## ***(3) Essential elements of the action***

### **Procurement:**

#### a) the global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement:

Total EU allocation for both years is EUR 0.3 million: for 2016: EUR 0.15 million and for 2017: EUR 0.15 million.

#### b) the indicative number and type of contracts:

The EUD will launch not more than 2 framework contracts for supporting measures related to the management and evaluation of the various calls for proposals.

#### c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q1/Q2 2017

**Grant – Calls for proposals (2):** Support to enabling environment for civil society under the Civil Society Facility and Media Programme 2016-2017

#### a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The main objectives of both restricted call for proposals (for 2016 and for 2017) is to enhance the impact of civil society through their involvement in public policies whose implementation require further development and upgrading of civil dialogue, stronger and active contribution in policy and watchdog initiatives, improved CSO effectiveness, transparency and accountability, enhanced freedom of opinion and expression, strengthened fight against corruption and cooperation of municipalities and CSOs in addressing the needs of Roma community. The project will also aim to develop a strong regional partnership dialogue between CSOs from the region and their EU counterparts, public authorities and other stakeholders.

#### b) The essential eligibility criteria:

##### For the applicants

In order to be eligible for a grant, the potential beneficiaries should be: legal persons registered at least two years before the call is launched, be non-profit making, non-governmental organisations, established in a Member State of the European Union or of an IPA II beneficiary, be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant and affiliated entities, not acting as an intermediary and be experienced and able to demonstrate their capacity to manage larger scale activities corresponding to the size and type of the project for which a



grant is being requested. However, for all calls for proposals under this action the lead applicant should be registered or accredited in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

For the actions

The following types of actions, inter alia, are likely to be supported:

- Priority 1: Actions supporting the enabling environment for Civil Society;
  - Priority 2: Actions to promote Freedom of Expression and Opinion;
  - Priority 3: Actions supporting civil society in fight against corruption;
  - Priority 4: Actions supporting cooperation of local self-governments and civil society in addressing needs of Roma communities.
- c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.
- d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.
- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing:  
The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.
- f) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 2 million(IPA 2016) and EUR 3 million (IPA 2017)
- g) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals:  
Q1 2017 and Q1 2018  
Possibility to launch both of the calls (2016 and 2017) in one procedure in Q1 2017, to be decided at a later stage.

**Grant – Open Call for proposals - Support to Civil Society Networking Mechanism**

a) Objectives and foreseen results

The overall objective of the open call for proposals is strengthening the civil society impact in public policies and decision making, and in the civil and political dialogue, to influence key reforms for further support of the country in the EU accession processes.

The specific objective is to support CSOs' sectorial network mechanism for consultations in the country, including structuring of the coordination and cooperation between CSOs, governmental institutions and the European Commission/EU Delegation. The focus of this network would be to enhance the sector policy dialogue and IPA II programming and implementation (2014-2020). This would also include regular sectorial consultations, capacity building for public participation in policy making, policy analysis, inclusive sectorial programming through the eight sectorial working groups<sup>[1]</sup>.

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<sup>[1]</sup> Democracy and Governance; Rule of law and fundamental rights; Environment, Transport; Competitiveness and Innovation; Education, employment and social policies, and; Agriculture and Rural Development

### Expected Results of the Action

The results foreseen for this period under all of the priorities are linked to the Country Specific Priorities matrix identified in the Guidelines for civil society cooperation and are linked to the four objectives of the Guidelines mentioned above.

#### b) The essential eligibility criteria

##### For the applicants

In order to be eligible for a grant, the potential beneficiaries should be: legal persons registered at least two years before the call is launched, non-profit, non-governmental organisations, established in a Member State of the European Union or in an IPA II beneficiary, be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant and affiliated entities, not acting as an intermediary and be experienced and able to demonstrate their capacity to manage larger scale activities corresponding to the size and type of the project for which a grant is being requested. Under this action the lead applicant should be registered or accredited in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

##### For the actions

The following types of actions, inter alia, are likely to be supported:

- Actions for increased capacity of CSOs and grass rooting organisations through a sector networking approach to improve their impact in public policies and decision making, and in the civil and political dialogue, to influence key reforms for further support to the beneficiary in the EU accession process. This will include also improved capacities of CSOs for Sectoral Policy Analysis and to contribute programming and monitoring of IPA II;
- Actions for further development of civil dialogue, stronger and active contribution in policy and watchdog initiatives, policy monitoring, public advocacy through the involvement of media and enhanced participatory democracy;
- Actions for improved regional partnership dialogue among civil society organisations from the IPA region, their EU counterparts and the public authorities, and providing possibilities for further synergies and complementarities with other initiatives.

c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing: chose one of the following options:

The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.

f) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 0.5 million (IPA 2017)

g) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q1 2018

This CfP will be launched in Q1 2018 because some members of these IPA Civil Society Networking Mechanisms were already awarded a grant under the CSF 2014. It would therefore be sensible to wait for the current grants to be implemented before launching a new call to support these CSO mechanism structures.

**Grant – Open call for proposals:** Support to the National Resource Centre for CSOs (action grant)

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The main objective of the open call for proposals is to select an organisation or a consortium that can run the National Resource Centre for civil society organisations and provide services to CSOs for their capacity building, trainings, information and generally to contribute to the improvement of their working standards and environment.

b) Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals:

The use of an open procedure instead of the restricted one is in line with article 6.4.1.2. of the PRAG and is justified by the particular technical nature of the call and the limited number of proposals expected. The applicants will need to have experience and know-how in a particular area given that the future Resource Centre will have to take over and replace the services offered by the TACSO national office. More precisely, the Resource Centre is supposed to provide information, capacity-building and trainings for local and national CSOs in order to enable them to become capable, transparent and accountable in the country. The requirement for such technical expertise and management capacity is expected to result in a limited number of proposals submitted.

c) The essential eligibility criteria

For the applicants

To be considered eligible, applicants must:

- be legal persons and
- be non-profit-making and
- be a civil society organisation or a consortium<sup>8</sup> established in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and
- be free of any political affiliations or membership. Providing equal treatment to all future CSOs beneficiaries is a requirement.

For the actions

Actions such as help-desk services, training, information events, support for monitoring and guidance of individual projects, advocacy, cross-border events, partner-matching, as well as civil society PR and visibility will be eligible for financing.

d) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant. The award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

e) Indicative amount of the grant:

2016 allocation EUR 0.5 million

f) Maximum rate of EU co-financing: The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants may be up to 100% of the total cost of the action in accordance with Article 192 of Financial Regulation because full funding is essential for the action to be carried out as the Resource Centre will not receive any other funding except from the EU.

g) Indicative date for signing the grant agreement: Q4 2017

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<sup>8</sup> In case a consortium is formed one organisation shall be appointed as lead organisation and assume all rights and responsibilities on behalf of the consortium. A consortium should have a maximum of five members, including the lead organisation, and must be based in the beneficiary concerned.

<b>PRIORITY 1</b>		
<b>Action 5</b>	<b><i>Civil Society Facility and media Kosovo 2016-2017</i></b>	<b><i>EU 2016: EUR 3.36 million EU 2017: EUR 5.16 million</i></b>

***(1) Description of the Action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators***

**Description of the action and objective**

The action will promote an enabling environment for civic engagement by strengthening capacities of civil society and media for their active participation in Kosovo's reforms. Through broadening and deepening the basis for civic engagement, these reforms can be better understood and supported by society as a whole. Ongoing efforts strengthening capacities for policy dialogue and cooperation between government and civil society will be expanded to the grassroots to involve also municipalities and local authorities. A particular focus is given to representative organisations promoting empowerment and inclusion of specific vulnerable or disadvantaged groups with gender equality and environmental protection as cross-cutting priority themes.

**Expected results**

Result 1 – Partnership and policy dialogue: More and stronger partnerships between civil society and public institutions, especially at the grass-roots, for development and execution of public policies; and civil society and media monitoring of performance of public institutions, fulfilling their roles as independent watchdogs;

Result 2 – Capacities: Strengthened capacities of civil society, promoting a competent, transparent, effective sector that is accountable; and activating new initiatives and actors for broader civic engagement, volunteerism and self-organisation on social, environment or governance related issues, especially at municipal level and at the grassroots.

**Key performance indicators**

- Percentage of laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively consulted with CSOs;
- Public perception of importance and impact of CSO activities;
- Share of CSOs which have developed strategic plans and evaluate the results and impact of their work.

***(2) Assumptions and conditions***

Conditions for implementation include that the political and policy environment continues to enable civil society engagement in policy making and further development of the civil society sector, including at municipal level. This will be monitored by the European Union in close collaboration with civil society. A risk is that capacity of civil society sector is not strong enough to absorb this substantial two year programme, but mitigating measures have been including in the programme through overall technical assistance to the civil society sector and specific technical assistance to the organisations that are receiving operating grants. In the latter case independent reviews will support

the EU Office to identify if capacity of the grantees is sufficient to deal with this relatively innovative approach (core funding) to CSO funding.

### ***(3) Essential elements of the action***

#### **Procurement:**

a) the global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 0.14 million (IPA 2016)

b) the indicative number and type of contracts:

Cca 1-3 FWC or small service contracts for support measures identified as per appropriate procedure.

c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedures: Q2 2017

**Renewal of Operating Grants** (years 2 and 3) – of the beneficiaries awarded following the call for proposals EuropeAid/137-409/DD/OPR/XK managed by the EU Office in 2015.

As stipulated in the financing decision no. 2015/037-653, through a call for proposals, "cca. 5-10 operating grants will be awarded to CSOs to enable advocacy activities and coalition-building. The grants will be awarded on an annual basis to the selected organisations but for a maximum duration of four years".

Operating grants for years 2 and 3 will be awarded in 2017 and respectively 2018 respectively. The beneficiaries will be invited to submit the annual Work Programmes, which will have to comply with the objectives and requirements set by this Action (6 NGOs, work-programmes 2017 and 2018).

The operating grants are focusing on supporting specific vulnerable groups, inter-community dialogue and environment. Technical quality support and monitoring will be provided through designated technical assistance that was identified and contracted already under 2015 funds.

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

Objectives: To build the capacities of CSOs for increasing accountability and transparency in political decision making processes; to stimulate a participatory democracy in Kosovo by promoting partnership and dialogue between civil society and public institutions.

Foreseen results: Strengthened capacities of civil society, promoting a competent, transparent, effective sector that is accountable; and activating new initiatives and actors for broader civic engagement, volunteerism and self-organisation especially at municipal level and at the grassroots.

b) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

c) Maximum rate of EU co-financing for operating grants:

The maximum rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 85% of the eligible cost of the action for the first renewal and 80% for the second renewal.

e) Indicative amount of the Calls: EUR 0.36 million from IPA 2016 and EUR 0.36 million from IPA 2017;

f) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: awards foreseen in Q1 2017 and Q1 2018;

**Grant – Call for Proposals: Action grants to support capacity building for cultural operators and directly finance their cultural activities.**

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

Objectives: To build the capacities of CSOs for increasing accountability and transparency in political decision making processes; to stimulate a participatory democracy in Kosovo by promoting partnership and dialogue between civil society and public institutions.

Foreseen results: Strengthened capacities of civil society, promoting a competent, transparent, effective sector that is accountable; and activating new initiatives and actors for broader civic engagement, volunteerism and self-organisation especially at municipal level and at the grassroots.

b) The essential eligibility criteria:

For the applicants

- be legal persons and
- be non-profit-making and
- be a civil society organisation, and be established in Kosovo

For the actions

The actions to be implemented through these Calls for Proposals should lead to the following results:

- to enhance the capacities of CSOs especially at the grassroots, their advocacy activities, networking and coalition-building;
- to promote a more competent, transparent and effective CS sector that is accountable;
- to increase and improve the capacity and actions of CSOs as well as to strengthen the role of CSOs in a participatory democracy;
- to enhance the active participation of CSOs in the development and monitoring of public policies and to strengthen the cooperation between CSOs and public institutions.

c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing for action grants:

The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for action grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.

The maximum possible rate of EU financing may be up to 100% of the total cost of the action in accordance with Article 192 of Financial Regulation if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out. The necessity for full EU funding will be justified by the responsible authorising officer in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

e) Indicative amount of the Calls: EUR 0.7 million (IPA 2016)

f) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q1 2017

**Grant – Call for Proposals with 2 Lots to award cca. 2-4 action grants with the main purpose of sub-granting to support a) CSO and b) media initiatives at the grass-root, to promote efforts of these local organisations to feed into decision-making processes, and thereby enhance their capacities related to internal governance, strategic planning, communication, financial management, results monitoring and impact evaluation, networking and coalition-building, and advocacy. In total there will be cca. 2-4 action grants with the main purpose of sub-granting and for a maximum duration of 4 years.**

**a) Objectives and foreseen results:**

**Objectives:** To build the capacities of CSOs for increasing accountability and transparency in political decision making processes; to stimulate a participatory democracy in Kosovo by promoting partnership and dialogue between civil society and public institutions.

**Foreseen results:** 1) More and stronger partnerships between civil society and public institutions, especially at the grass-roots, for development and execution of public policies; and civil society and media monitoring of performance of public institutions, fulfilling their roles as independent watchdogs; 2) Strengthened capacities of civil society, promoting a competent, transparent, effective sector that is accountable; and activating new initiatives and actors for broader civic engagement, volunteerism and self-organisation on social, environment or governance related issues, especially at municipal level and at the grassroots.

**b) The essential eligibility criteria:**

**For the applicants**

- be legal persons and
- be non-profit-making and
- be a civil society organisation, and be established in Kosovo

**For the actions**

The activities to be implemented through these calls for proposals should lead to the following results:

- to enhance the capacities of CSOs especially of grassroots, their advocacy activities, networking and coalition-building;
- to promote a more competent, transparent and effective CS sector that is accountable;
- to increase and improve the capacity and actions of CSOs as well as to strengthen the role of CSOs in a participatory democracy;
- to enhance the active participation of CSOs in the development and monitoring of public policies and to strengthen the cooperation between CSOs and public institutions.

**c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.**

**d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.**

**e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing for action grants:**

The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for action grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.

**f) Indicative amount of the Calls: EUR 2 million (IPA 2016).**

g) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q1 2017.

**Grant – Call for Proposals** to award cca. 4-8 **action grants to Strategic CSO Coalitions** in order to: 1) enhance CSOs inclusion in decision making processes related to at least 2 priority areas of the Strategy Paper for Kosovo; 2) support advocacy efforts for gender equality and promote political participation of women (notably from vulnerable groups), a sub-granting of approximately 60% of funds to CSOs working in this area should be foreseen; and 3) support social service decentralisation and promote cooperation between municipalities and CSOs. In total there will be cca. 4-8 action grants with a maximum duration of 4 years.

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

Objectives: To build the capacities of CSOs for increasing accountability and transparency in political decision making processes; to stimulate a participatory democracy in Kosovo by promoting partnership and dialogue between civil society and public institutions.

Foreseen results: More and stronger partnerships between civil society and public institutions, for development and execution of public policies; and civil society and media monitoring of performance of public institutions, fulfilling their role as independent watchdogs.

b) The essential eligibility criteria:

For the applicants

- be legal persons and
- be non-profit-making and
- be a civil society organisation, and be established in Kosovo

For the actions

The activities to be implemented through these calls for proposals should lead to the following results:

- to promote a more competent, transparent and effective CS sector that is accountable;
- to increase and improve the capacity and actions of CSOs as well as to strengthen the role of CSOs in a participatory democracy;
- to enhance the active participation of CSOs in the development and monitoring of public policies and to strengthen the cooperation between CSOs and public institutions.

c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing for action grants:

The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for action grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.

e) Indicative amount of the Calls: EUR 4.64 million (IPA 2017)

f) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q1 2018



**Grant – Open call for Proposals** (action grant) to award one grant to provide comprehensive support services for a maximum period of 4 years as CSO Resource Centre from late 2017 onwards after TACSO operations have phased out in order to ensure continued support to civil society organisations and also to continue support for structured cooperation between civil society and the donor community, especially in the EU.

**a) Objectives and foreseen results:**

**Objectives:** To build the capacities of CSOs for increasing accountability and transparency in political decision making processes; to stimulate a participatory democracy in Kosovo by promoting partnership and dialogue between civil society and public institutions

**Foreseen results:** Strengthened capacities of civil society, promoting a competent, transparent, effective sector that is accountable; and activating new initiatives and actors for broader civic engagement, volunteerism and self-organisation on social, environment or governance related issues, especially at municipal level and at the grassroots.

**b) Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals:**

It is proposed to launch an open call for proposals to select an organisation or a consortium that can take on the role of Resource Centre for Civil Society. The use of an open procedure instead of the restricted one is done on the basis of article 6.4.1.2. of the PRAG and is justified by the particular technical nature of the call and the limited number of proposals expected. The applicants will need to have experience and know-how in a particular area given that the future Resource Centre will have to take over and replace the services offered by the TACSO national office. The requirement for such technical expertise and management capacity is expected to result in a limited number of proposals submitted.

**c) The essential eligibility criteria:**

**For the applicants**

- be legal persons and
- be non-profit-making and
- be a civil society organisation, or a consortium<sup>9</sup> and be established in Kosovo
- be free of any political affiliations or membership. Providing equal treatment to all future CSOs beneficiaries is a requirement.

**For the actions**

The activities to be implemented through these calls for proposals should lead to the following results:

- to enhance the capacities of CSOs especially of grassroots, their advocacy activities, networking and coalition-building;
- to promote a more competent, transparent and effective CS sector that is accountable;

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<sup>9</sup> In case a consortium is formed one organisation shall be appointed as lead organisation and assume all rights and responsibilities on behalf of the consortium. A consortium should have a maximum of five members, including the lead organisation, and must be based in the beneficiary concerned.

- to increase and improve the capacity and actions of CSOs as well as to strengthen the role of CSOs in a participatory democracy;
- to enhance the active participation of CSOs in the development and monitoring of public policies and to strengthen the cooperation between CSOs and public institutions

d) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

e) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

f) Maximum rate of EU co-financing for action grants:

The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants may be up to 100% of the total cost of the action in accordance with Article 192 of Financial Regulation because full funding is essential for the action to be carried out as the Resource Centre will not receive any other funding except from the EU.

g) Indicative amount of the Calls: EUR 0.32 million (0.16 million from IPA 2016 and 0.16 million from IPA 2017).

h) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q2 2017.

<b>PRIORITY 1</b>		
<b>Action 6</b>	<i>Civil Society Facility and media Montenegro 2016-2017</i>	<i>EU 2016: EUR 2.5 million EU 2017: EUR 1.5 million</i>

**(1) Description of the Action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators**

**Description of the action and objective**

This action will improve the level and quality of participation of CSOs throughout the Montenegrin policy-making processes. This will be achieved through the promotion of an enabling environment that is conducive to civil society activities and building their capacity to be credible, effective, accountable and independent actors.

The action shall contribute to strengthening civil society organisations' long-term strategic development and fund-raising abilities outside the framework of EU accession funding. The intervention will also improve the cooperation and dialogue between the civil society and the government, as well as reinforce civic participation in public policy processes. It will also give incentives toward fostering stable and transparent procedures in the area of decentralised management and give rise to improved conducive financial environment in the area of public funding.

**Expected results**

1. CSOs and media are recognised by the government and citizens as reliable partners in improving good governance, rule of law, human rights, environmental affairs, policy-making procedures and social service implementation;
2. CSOs strengthened their strategic organisational development, as well as their long-term financial and institutional sustainability;
3. Sufficient public funding to CSOs is available and provided in a regular, transparent, accountable and fair manner;
4. A foundation-like entity is established to administer the decentralised management of the CSF;
5. Improved quality and independence of information delivered by traditional and social media.

**Key performance indicators**

- Number, size and duration of public grants to CSOs across all sectors;
- External perception of importance of CSO activities;
- Assessment of effective implementation of NGO law and by-laws governing public funding;
- Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions.

## ***(2) Assumptions and conditions***

A vital risk to this programme is a lack of pro-active collaboration and passive behaviour amongst the sector stakeholders, which would inevitably lead to partial or complete failure of envisaged capacity development gains. With regard to Government authorities, this implies continued political will and progress on the various related strategies and policies. With regard to civil society organisation, this implies continued will to strengthen capacities in the various sectors of intervention. Collectively, all stakeholders need to establish, within their own policy fields and sectors, a spirit of cooperation where they recognise the advantages of mutually benefiting relationships. The programme in subject is about achieving this objective and although all envisaged activities will support the process, pro-active efforts from all stakeholders are vital to a successful implementation.

## ***(3) Essential elements of the action***

### ***Procurement***

- a) the **global** budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 0.186 million IPA 2016).
- b) the indicative number and type of contracts: extension of an existing contract 2016 / 373-104 "Technical cooperation for the development of institutional mechanisms for the cooperation between the government and non-governmental organisations in Montenegro" in order to continue providing technical assistance to the Office for Cooperation between NGOs and the government as well as to the Council for cooperation between NGOs and the government.
- c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q4 2017

### **Action Grants – Call for Proposals (IPA Civil Society Facility 2016-2017 Montenegro Programme):**

a) Objectives and foreseen results: Improved quality and independence of information delivered by traditional and social media. Increased trust and cooperation between national authorities and media.

b) The essential eligibility criteria:

#### For the applicants

- be legal persons and
- be non-profit-making and
- be civil society organisations based in Montenegro.

#### For the actions

Actions, such as advocacy, participation in public consultations, networking, that contribute to achieving the objectives and foreseen results of this call for proposals and comply with the requirements of the Financial Regulation will be eligible for financing.

c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing: 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.
- f) Indicative amount of the grant: EUR 1.814 million (IPA 2016) and EUR 1.0 million (IPA 2017).
- g) Indicative date for signing the grant agreement: Q2 2017.

**Action Grant Media – Call for Proposals (IPA Civil Society Facility 2016-2017 Montenegro Programme):**

- a) Objectives and foreseen results: to strengthen participatory democracies and the EU integration process in Montenegro by empowering and stimulating an enabling professional and financial environment for pluralistic media.
- b) The essential eligibility criteria: legal persons, media sector organisations including media outlets, media regulators as well as NGOs.  
 Actions, such as advocacy, participation in public consultations, that contribute to achieving the objectives and foreseen results of this call for proposals and comply with the requirements of the Financial Regulation will be eligible for financing.
- c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.
- d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.
- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing: 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.
- f) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 0.5 million (IPA 2016)
- g) Indicative date for launching the call: Q1 2017

**Grant – Open Call for Proposals for the Resource Centre (action grant):**

- a) Objectives and foreseen results: the main objective is to support the development of civil society by providing capacity building, training, awareness and information to grass root and other CSO in need. It will also address needs related to state and civil society dialogue and cooperation.
- b) Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals:

It is proposed to launch an open call for proposals to select an organisation or a consortium that can take on the role of Resource Centre for Civil Society. The use of an open procedure instead of the restricted one is done on the basis of article 6.4.1.2. of the PRAG and is justified by the particular technical nature of the call and the limited number of proposals expected. The applicants will need to have experience and know-how in a particular area given that the future Resource Centre will have to take over and replace the services offered by the TACSO national office. The requirement for such technical expertise and management capacity is expected to result in a limited number of proposals submitted.

- c) The essential eligibility criteria:

For the applicants

To be considered eligible, applicants must:

- be legal persons and
- be non-profit-making and

- be a civil society organisation or a consortium<sup>10</sup> established in Montenegro and
- be free of any political affiliations or membership. Providing equal treatment to all future CSOs beneficiaries is a requirement.

For the actions

Actions such as help-desk services, training, information events, support for monitoring and guidance of individual projects, advocacy, cross-border events, partner-matching, as well as civil society PR and visibility will be eligible for financing.

- d) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.
- e) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.
- f) The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing: The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing will be 100 % of the total cost of the action. Full financing of the action is essential for the action to be carried out because the Resource Center is supposed to take over the services offered by the EU technical assistance office and could not get funds from any other sources than the EU.
- g) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 0.5 million (IPA 2017)
- h) Indicative date for launching the call: Q1 2017

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<sup>10</sup> In case a consortium is formed one organisation shall be appointed as lead organisation and assume all rights and responsibilities on behalf of the consortium. A consortium should have a maximum of five members, including the lead organisation, and must be based in the beneficiary concerned.

<b>PRIORITY 1</b>		
<b>Action 7</b>	<b>Civil Society Facility and media Serbia 2016-17</b>	<b>EU 2016: EUR 3 million EU 2017: EUR 3.5 million</b>

***(1) Description of the Action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators***

**Description of the action and objective**

The action aims at supporting civil society and media sector in Serbia in line with the "EU Guidelines for support to civil society and media freedom in enlargement countries".

Support to civil society will focus on achieving an environment that is conducive to civil society activities, including the development of mechanism for permanent dialogue with civil society. Support in the form of long term grants, will be provided to increase the effectiveness of the Serbian CSOs.

Support to media will focus on enabling regulatory and policy environment for media freedom and media pluralism. Support in the form of long term grants will be provided for media productions and trainings of journalists.

**Expected results**

- Public institutions recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance through CSO inclusion in decision-making processes;
- Increased capacities of the Serbian CSOs to address reform processes;
- Improved conditions for quality investigative journalism including modern/innovative approaches to increase quality and credibility of investigative journalism;
- Increase in media literacy and understanding of role of public broadcasting services, professional and ethical journalism.

**Key performance indicators**

- Civil society and public institutions work in partnership through dialogue and cooperation based on trust and mutual acknowledgment of common interests;
- Mechanism for permanent dialogue with civil society developed and operational;
- Improved legal, regulatory and policy environment for free expression and media;
- Media legislation harmonised in line with EU standards and AVMS Directive.

***(2) Assumptions and conditions***

Two main conditions for the implementation of the activities will be the adoption of the Strategy for enabling environment for development of CSOs in Serbia 2015 – 2019 and the adoption of the new Media Strategy and related action plan which is to replace the current Strategy for the Development of the Public Information System in the Republic of Serbia which expired at the end of 2015. The drafting of both documents is not yet finalized: At the moment, the creation of the Strategy for CSO development and its

supporting documents has reached the final stage and the adoption by the Government is expected by the end of 2015. On the other hand a methodology for design of the media strategy was developed by the IPA 2012 Strengthening Media Freedom project.

### ***(3) Essential elements of the action***

#### **Procurement:**

- a) the global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 1.4 million:
- b) the indicative number and type of contracts:  
2 service contracts. The service contracts include a technical assistance for the government addressing the relation with civil society (EUR 0.7 million in IPA 2017) and one service contract for assisting the media sector (EUR 0.7 million in IPA 2016).
- c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure:  
1 service (media) Q2 2016; 1 service (TA for government) Q1 2017

#### **Grant – Call for proposals**

##### ***Lot 1 Support to Media:***

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:  
The programme aims at strengthening the freedom of expression and investigative reporting.
- b) The essential eligibility criteria  
For the applicants
  - be legal persons and
  - be non-profit-making and
  - be a media and/or media association established in Serbia.For the actions  
The actions to be implemented through this call for proposals should lead to the following results:
  - Media content produced on issues of public interest;
  - Increased professional capacities of media and journalists.
- c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.
- d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.
- e) The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 90% of the eligible cost of the action.
- f) Indicative amount of the Lot 1 call: EUR 2.3 million (IPA 2016)
- g) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q1 2017

##### ***Lot 2 Support to Civil Society***

- a) Objectives and foreseen results:  
Objectives: Civil society and public institutions work in partnership through dialogue and cooperation based on willingness, trust and mutual acknowledgment of common interests.



Results: Increased capacities of the Serbian CSOs in reform processes.

b) The essential eligibility criteria

For the applicants:

- be legal persons and
- be non-profit-making and
- be a civil society organisation, and be established in Serbia.

For the actions:

The actions to be implemented through this call for proposals should lead to the following results: increase the effectiveness of the Serbian CSOs in the area of rule of law, environmental protection, youth education, culture, etc.

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

- c) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.
- d) The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing for grants under this call is 90 % of the eligible cost of the action.
- e) Indicative amount of the Call Lot 2: EUR 2.3 million (IPA 2017)
- f) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q1 2017

**Grant – Open Call for Proposals: Support to Resource Centre (action grant)**

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

Objectives: The objective is to strengthen the overall capacity and accountability of CSOs in Serbia.

Results: Quality of services of CSOs enhanced.

b) Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals:

It is proposed to launch an open call for proposals to select an organisation or a consortium that can take on the role of Resource Centre for Civil Society. The use of an open procedure instead of the restricted one is done on the basis of article 6.4.1.2. of the PRAG and is justified by the particular technical nature of the call and the limited number of proposals expected. The applicants will need to have experience and know-how in a particular area given that the future Resource Centre will have to take over and replace the services offered by the TACSO national office. The requirement for such technical expertise and management capacity is expected to result in a limited number of proposals submitted.

c) The essential eligibility criteria

For the applicants

To be considered eligible, applicants must:

- be legal persons and
- be non-profit-making and
- be a civil society organisation or a consortium<sup>11</sup> established in Serbia and

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<sup>11</sup> In case a consortium is formed one organisation shall be appointed as lead organisation and assume all rights and responsibilities on behalf of the consortium. A consortium should have a maximum of five members, including the lead organisation, and must be based in the beneficiary concerned.

- be free of any political affiliations or membership. Providing equal treatment to all future CSOs beneficiaries is a requirement.

For the actions

Actions such as help-desk services, training, information events, support for monitoring and guidance of individual projects, advocacy, cross-border events, partner-matching, as well as civil society PR and visibility will be eligible for financing.

- d) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.
- e) The award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.
- f) indicative amount of the grant: EUR 0.5 million (IPA 2017)

The maximum possible rate of EU co-financing may be up to 100% of the total cost of the action in accordance with Article 192 of Financial Regulation. Full financing of the action is essential for the action to be carried out because the Resource Center is supposed to take over the services offered by the EU technical assistance office and could not get funds from any other sources than the EU.

- g) Indicative date for signing the grant agreement: Q4 2017

<b>PRIORITY 1</b>		
<b>Action 8</b>	<i>Civil Society Facility and media Turkey 2016-17</i>	<i>EU 2016: EUR 10 million EU 2017: EUR 16 million</i>

***(1) Description of the Action, objective, expected results and key performance indicators***

**Description of the action and objective**

The Civil Society Facility Turkey includes two separate packages of activities. Under the 2016 allocation, the action aims to improve the environment for active citizenship and to strengthen the capacity of organised active citizens. The action will contribute to an improvement in the freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association; to an enhanced capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs) to benefit from public and private funding mechanisms; to a more effective mobilisation of support from citizens and decision-makers by organised citizens; and to more effective civil society networks, information sharing, and collaboration.

Under the 2017 allocation, considering the evolving context in which civil society organisations are operating in Turkey, the action will focus on the promotion of active citizenship, capacity-building of and support to civil society organisations for the promotion and protection of human rights. It is composed of four intertwined activities targeting various categories of civil society organisations, including independent media, at the local, regional and national levels.

Overall, the action proposes innovative and flexible tools to answer the needs of civil society. It ensures high visibility for the EU and shows its repeated commitment to support civil society, including at a grass-root level.

**Expected results**

The expected results to be achieved under 2016 allocation are the following:

1. Freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association are enjoyed fully and effectively, especially by rights-based CSOs, networks & platforms and activists, in particular those working on what are today more politically sensitive matters;
2. Improved capacity of CSOs to benefit from public and private funding mechanisms;
3. Organised citizens are more often supported by citizens and decision-makers and use this support more effectively;
4. Organised citizens network share information and collaborate more effectively.

The expected results to be achieved under 2017 allocation are the following:

1. Improved capacities of human rights CSOs to implement their strategic plan and to sustainably carry out their missions, including improving awareness of citizens on issues related to freedom of expression, dialogue and tolerance in a politically difficult environment;
2. Improved civil society monitoring on fundamental rights and strengthened cooperation for the promotion of human rights;

3. Improved support of Human Rights Defenders;
4. Improved independent media watchdog capacities.

### **Key performance indicators**

For 2016 allocation:

1. Law on associations and law on collecting aid are amended addressing existing obstacles;
2. Quality assessment of existing legislation and policy framework;
3. Number of employees in CSO (permanent and part-time);
4. Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions;
5. Share of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks.

For 2017 allocation:

1. Number of human rights CSOs benefiting from core funding that are able to implement their own strategic plan and number of citizens benefiting from activities organised in the framework of supported projects;
2. Number of civil monitoring actions / number of advocacy actions using civil monitoring;
3. Number of Human Rights Defenders supported by the EU, sex disaggregated data, who improved their capacity to carry out their work;
4. Number of capacity-building supports provided of improve media pluralism.

### ***(2) Assumptions and conditions***

All necessary conditions for the successful implementation of the proposed action are already in place.

### ***(3) Essential elements of the action (for direct management)***

#### **ALLOCATION 2016**

#### **Procurement (EUR 5 million):**

- a) the global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 5 million (IPA 2016)
- b) the indicative number and type of contracts:

One (1) service contract contracted via negotiated procedure as foreseen under the service tender with reference EuropeAid/136900/DH/SER/TR " Civil Society Facility (Sivil Düşün II), as per item 10 of the Contract Notice under reference: "The Contracting Authority may, at its own discretion, extend the project in duration and/or scope subject to the availability of funding up to a maximum not exceeding the length and value of the initial contract. Any extension of the contract would be subject to satisfactory performance by the Contractor". In case the winning consortium is not delivering as per contract, the EU reserves its right to disregard the negotiated procedure and re-launch the service tender.

- c) indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure:

Following an assessment of the contract signed under EuropeAid/136900/DH/SER/TR, the tender could be launched during Q1 2017, with

contract signature during the Q4 2017. Alternatively, if the Contracting Authority opts for a contract renewal (possibility foreseen at point 10 of the Contract Notice, see above), a simple negotiated procedure should be launched during Q2 2017 with contract signature during Q4 2017.

**Grant – Call for proposals (EUR 2 million): Networks and Platforms**

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The objective of this call for proposals will be to contribute to the strengthening of capacities of existing or new national, regional (in the sense of regions within Turkey), local and/or thematic platforms and networks of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to give citizens a voice and influence public sector reform processes through their activities.

Though the outcome of the call will contribute to all four results, it will mainly concentrate on Result 4. This grant scheme is designed to support rights-based activities and rights-based work of networks and platforms. It will give priority to more "politically sensitive" issues (e.g. minority rights, gender, cultural rights, freedom of media and expression etc.). An effort will be made to encourage a wide geographical coverage, as well as different scopes and topics to be considered. As a result, it is expected that the voice of CSOs organised as networks and platforms, will be reinforced in different fields, hence strengthening their influence in policy-making at local, regional and national level.

b) The essential eligibility criteria:

For the applicants:

To be considered eligible, applicants must:

- be legal persons and
- be non-profit-making and
- be civil society organisations established in a Member State of the European Union or in a Beneficiary under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (i.e. including Turkey) or in a member state of the European Economic Area (EEA) or in a Beneficiary under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI).

For the actions: actions will have to take place in Turkey, except for specific, occasional actions as long as they contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the call.

- c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.
- d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.
- e) Maximum rate of EU co-financing: the maximum possible rate of EU financing will be 100% of the total cost of the action.

Full financing of the action is essential for the action to be carried out because of a multi-annual approach that moves away from the traditional project co-financing approach. One of the main reasons is that coordination of a network/platform requires that an organisation/some organisations of the group take(s) over the secretary and coordination tasks. However, it/they should not bare the financial burden related to these additional tasks that go beyond pure content related activities. Hence, the grants under this call for proposals will be financed in full as made possible by Art. 192 of the Financial Regulation.

- f) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 2 million (IPA 2016)

- g) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q4 2016

**Grant - Direct grant award (EUR 3 million): Support to the Resource Centre**

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The objective of the support to the Resource Centre is to increase the capacity of CSOs, to promote freedom of association in Turkey, to contribute to the monitoring of the EU Guidelines to support civil society in Turkey and more generally to facilitate the civil society's contribution to decision-making processes and in particular those linked to the EU accession process.

b) Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals:

As per Article 190 (1) of the RAP paragraph c), may be awarded a grant without a call for proposals to bodies with a de jure or de facto monopoly, duly substantiated in the award decision.

To-date Civil Society Development Centre Association (STGM) is the only organisation capable of effectively operating in the field of activity and geographical area to which the grant relates by virtue of consideration of the following facts:

STGM has specialized exclusively in providing support to civil society organisations and it is still to date the only civil society actor capable of effectively delivering tailor-made and help-desk support to grassroots CSOs all over the country, from a rights-based perspective.

STGM is also widely recognized as having a leading role regarding capacity building of CSOs at national level. This technical expertise has proven to be crucial, particularly taking into consideration that the current legal framework regulating CSO operations in Turkey is complex, restrictive, and very bureaucratic. Especially regulations regarding state inspections on CSOs are mainly focused on limitations, defining penalties and sanctions that do not seem to meet the principle of proportionality.

Despite legal limitations related to the creation of networks and platforms in Turkey, STGM is the only organisation that manages to operate as a quasi NGO umbrella organisation, giving it the strategic advantage of covering a wide range of policy sectors (the founding members (and board members) of STGM are prominent representatives of CSOs working on environment, gender, children, culture, human rights, disaster preparedness, education etc.).

It is important to underline that Turkey's current political context for CSOs, particularly for those that are right-based, is significantly different than the one in Western Balkans.

As underlined in the 2015 Progress Report, there have been growing pressures on freedom of expression, as well as increasing restrictions in the sphere of freedom of association based on security concerns and the need of combating terrorism.

- c) The name of the beneficiary: The Civil Society Development Centre Association (in Turkish Sivil Toplum Geliştirme Merkezi Derneği – STGM).
- d) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant. The award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.
- e) Indicative amount of the grant: EUR 3 million (IPA 2016).
- f) The maximum possible rate of EU financing will be 100% of the total cost of the action. Full financing of the action is essential for the action to be carried out because STGM will be the direct beneficiary of a grant agreement with full contractual

responsibility (both financial and technical). The final beneficiaries will be civil society organisations as STGM has specialised in providing capacity-building services for CSOs. It will take over, as described in TACSO sustainability strategy, the implementation of services to CSOs that were formerly carried out by TACSO. In the current ever challenging context for civil society work, STGM, as the only civil society organisation capable of carrying out Resource Centre activities in an impartial manner in Turkey at all levels and geographical scopes, will be preserved from uncertainties and legal environment related risks thanks to a financing in full. That is how and why STGM will be able to implement those specific activities related to its CSO support role in a flexible and timely way. Art 192 of the financial regulations that allows for financing in full will be applied.

g) Indicative date for signing the grant agreement: Q4 2017

## **ALLOCATION 2017**

### **Procurement (EUR 4 million):**

- a) the global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement: EUR 4 million (IPA 2017)
- b) the indicative number and type of contracts:
- One service contract for Activity 2 Monitoring human rights situation and advocating for compliance with international human rights framework
  - Several Framework Contracts for final or ex-post evaluations of the various components of the Action.
- c) indicative time frame for launching the procurement procedure: Q1 2018 for the service contact and Q2 2018 for the frameworks contracts.

### **Grants – Call for proposal (EUR 5 million): Activity 1 - Supporting core functions of civil society organisations**

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

Two grant contracts will be awarded through a call for proposals. These grant contracts primary aim will be to provide financial support to third parties: support to around 50 organisations is expected to be provided.

The main objective of activity 1 is to support the core functions of human rights CSOs, including those tackling specifically dialogue and tolerance and media freedom and freedom of expression, through financial support to third parties. This core funding will allow organisations to operate independently and to sustain their operations while being organisationally and institutionally strengthened.

b) The essential eligibility criteria:

For the applicants:

To be considered eligible, applicants must:

- be legal persons and
- be non-profit-making and
- be civil society organisations established in one of the following eligible countries/territories/beneficiaries: EU Member States, Beneficiaries of the IPA II, European Economic Area

For the actions:

To be considered eligible, the actions will have to take place in Turkey, except for specific, occasional actions as long as they contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the call. Activities supported include but are not limited to capacity building, awareness-raising campaigns, advocacy activities, networking and field monitoring, etc.

- c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant. In particular, applicants will be requested to demonstrate past experiences in managing financial support to third parties. Proposals submitted by various applicants (one main applicant and co-applicants) will be encouraged.
- d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.
- e) The maximum possible rate of EU financing will be 100% of the total cost of the action. Full financing of the action is essential for the action to be carried out as it aims to protect fundamental rights of people and it is in the interest of the Union to be the sole donor for the action.
- f) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 5 million (IPA 2017)
- g) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q1 2018

**Grant - Call for proposals (EUR 3.5 million): for Activity 3 - Supporting Human Rights Defenders**

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

One grant contract will be awarded through a call for proposals for Human Rights organisations. The primary aim will be to set up a mechanism to support Human Rights Defenders via, among other tools, financial support to third parties.

The main objective of this activity is to contribute to the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms by supporting human rights defenders in their efforts to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms.

b) The essential eligibility criteria:

To be considered eligible, applicants must:

- be legal persons and
- be non-profit-making and
- be civil society organisations established in one of the following eligible countries/territories/beneficiaries: EU Member States, Beneficiaries of the IPA II, European Economic Area.
- And be organisations acting in human rights area

For the actions:

The supported activities can include but will not be limited to: actions for enhancing technical knowledge, skills and capacities of human rights defenders for carrying out their activities, including expertise building for legal professionals and improving access to justice, financial support to third parties, etc.



- c) The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant. In particular, applicants will be requested to demonstrate past experiences in Human Rights field and more particularly in providing support to Human Rights Defenders.
- d) The essential award criteria are relevance, effectiveness and feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.
- e) The maximum possible rate of EU financing will be 100% of the total cost of the action. Full financing of the action is essential for the action to be carried out as it aims to protect fundamental rights of people and it is in the interest of the Union to be the sole donor for the action.
- f) Indicative amount of the call: EUR 3.5 million
- g) Indicative date for launch of the call for proposals: Q1 2018

**Grant - Direct grants award (EUR 3.5 million): Activity 4 - Enabling media pluralism and support to freedom of expression**

a) Objectives and foreseen results:

The objective of the action is to strengthen freedom of expression and media pluralism by way of supporting media professionals, investigative journalists, bloggers and social media outlets outside mainstream media, mainly TVs and radios, while carrying out their watchdog functions.

b) Justification for the use of an exception to calls for proposals:

Two grants are awarded to two different organisations

Direct grant for an indicative amount of EUR 1 750 000 awarded to the organisation Türkiye Gazeteciler Sendikası, TGS. Direct grant for an indicative amount of EUR 1 750 000 awarded to the organisation Gazeteciler Cemiyeti, GC. Both organisations are in a situation of a de facto monopoly as they are the only two organisations capable of operating in the field of activity and geographical area to which the grant relates. Their memberships gather the largest population of journalists across Turkey.

More particularly, based in Ankara, the Journalists Association (Gazeteciler Cemiyeti - GC) is the main journalists' association in the country with around 4,500 members. It was founded in 1946 and has been active since then. It has its own code of ethics.

Furthermore, based in Istanbul, the Journalists union of Turkey (Türkiye Gazeteciler Sendikası – TGS) has currently five local branches around the country with over 1.000 members working for over 100 different media companies in Turkey. TGS is affiliated to Türk-İs Confederation of workers union in Turkey, the biggest confederation in the country with over 800.000 members.

Both organisations have a wide network in the country, the required expertise, technical/financial/staff capacity for the award of such a direct grant. They also have EU grants implementation capacity and proven records in the fields of media freedom and freedom of expression.

- c) the name of the beneficiaries: *Journalists Association (Gazeteciler Cemiyeti - GC) and Journalists union of Turkey (Türkiye Gazeteciler Sendikası – TGS)*

- d) indicative amount of the grants: EUR 1.75 million for GC and EUR 1.75 million for TGS
- e) The maximum possible rate of EU financing will be 100% of the total cost of the action. Full financing of the action is essential for the action to be carried out as it aims to protect fundamental rights of people and it is in the interest of the Union to be the sole donor for the action.
- f) Indicative date for signing the grant agreements: Q2 2018

2.3 INDICATIVE BUDGET TABLE  
CSF AND MEDIA 2016-2017 PROGRAMME

2016					2017				
	EU Contribution (EUR)	Co-financing by grant benef. and IOs (EUR)	Total expenditure (EUR)		EU Contribution (EUR)	Co-financing by grant benef. and IOs (EUR)	Total expenditure (EUR)		Total EU contribution (EUR)
Priority 1 Horizontal support to sector policies and reforms				Priority 1 Horizontal support to sector policies and reforms					
Action 1 CSF and media multi-country <sup>12</sup>	23,500,000	n/a	23,500,000	Action 1 CSF and media multi-country	21,000,000	n/a	21,000,000		44,500,000
Action 2 Albania CSF and media	4,000,000	n/a	4,000,000	Action 2 Albania CSF	5,000,000	n/a	7,500,000		9,000,000
Action 3 Bosnia and Herzegovina CSF and media		n/a		Action 3 Bosnia and Herzegovina CSF and media	4,500,000	n/a	4,500,000		4,500,000
Action 4 the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia CSF and media	2,650,000	n/a	2,650,000	Action 4 the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia CSF and media	3,650,000	n/a	3,650,000		6,300,000
Action 5 Kosovo CSF and media	3,360,000	n/a	3,360,000	Action 5 Kosovo CSF and media	5,160,000	n/a	5,160,000		8,520,000
Action 6 Montenegro CSF and media	2,500,000	n/a	2,500,000	Action 6 Montenegro CSF and media	1,500,000	n/a	1,500,000		4,000,000
Action 7 Serbia CSF and media	3,000,000	n/a	3,000,000	Action 7 Serbia CSF and media	3,500,000	n/a	3,500,000		6,500,000
Action 8 Turkey CSF and media	10,000,000	n/a	10,000,000	Action 8 Turkey CSF and media	16,000,000	n/a	16,000,000		26,000,000
<b>TOTAL 2016</b>	<b>49,010,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>49,010,000</b>	<b>TOTAL 2017</b>	<b>60,310,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>60,310,000</b>		<b>109,320,000</b>

<sup>12</sup> The sum includes EUR 3 million from Bosnia and Herzegovina and EUR 0.5 million from Albania envelopes for 2016 and EUR 2 million from Turkey envelope for 2017

### **3 IMPLEMENTATION MODALITIES AND GENERAL RULES FOR PROCUREMENT AND GRANT AWARD PROCEDURES**

#### **DIRECT MANAGEMENT:**

This programme shall be implemented by direct management by the Commission / by the European Union Delegations /EU Office in Kosovo in accordance with article 58(1)(a) of the Financial Regulation and the corresponding provisions of its Rules of Application.

Procurement shall follow the provisions of Part Two, Title IV Chapter 3 of the Financial Regulation No 966/2012 and Part Two, Title II, Chapter 3 of its Rules of Application.

Grant award procedures shall follow the provisions of Part Two Title IV Chapter 4 of the Financial Regulation No 966/2012 and Part Two Title II Chapter 4 of its Rules of Application.

Under the Financial Regulation, Parts One and Three of the Financial Regulation apply to external actions except as otherwise provided in Part Two.

The European Commission will also use services of Framework Contracts concluded by other Directorates General of the European Commission following Part One of the Financial Regulation.

#### **Twinning:**

Twinning projects shall be set up in the form of a grant agreement, whereby the selected Member State administrations agree to provide the requested public sector expertise against the reimbursement of the expenses thus incurred.

The contract may in particular provide for the long-term secondment of an official assigned to provide full-time advice to the administration of the IPA II Beneficiary as resident twinning advisor.

The twinning grant agreement shall be established in accordance with relevant provisions of Part Two Title IV Chapter 4 of the Financial Regulation and Part Two Title II Chapter 4 of its Rules of Application. Parts One and Three of the Financial Regulation and its Rules of Application shall apply to external actions except as otherwise provided in Part Two, Title IV.

### **4 PERFORMANCE MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS**

As part of its performance measurement framework, the European Commission shall monitor and assess progress towards achievement of the specific objectives set out in the IPA II Regulation on the basis of pre-defined, clear, transparent measurable indicators. The progress reports referred to in Article 4 of the IPA II Regulation shall be taken as a point of reference in the assessment of the results of IPA II assistance.

The European Commission will collect performance data (process, output and outcome indicators) from all sources, which will be aggregated and analysed in terms of tracking the progress versus the targets and milestones established for each of the actions of this programme, as well as the IPA II beneficiaries' Strategy Papers.

In the specific context of indirect management by IPA II beneficiaries, National IPA Coordinators (NIPACs) will collect information on the performance of the actions and programmes (process, output and outcome indicators) and coordinate the collection and production of indicators coming from national sources.

The overall progress will be monitored through the following means: a) Result Orientated Monitoring (ROM) system; b) IPA II Beneficiaries' own monitoring; c) self-monitoring performed by the EU Delegations; d) joint monitoring by DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement negotiations and the IPA II Beneficiaries, whereby the compliance, coherence,

effectiveness, efficiency and coordination in implementation of financial assistance will be regularly monitored by an IPA II Monitoring committee, supported by Sectoral Monitoring committees, which will ensure a monitoring process at sector level.

