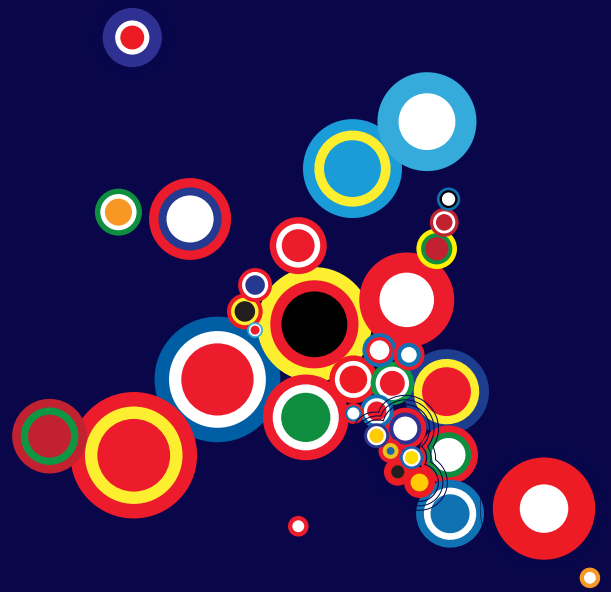




INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) 2014-2020

MULTI-COUNTRY

Civil Society Facility and
Media Programme 2014-
2015



Action Summary

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

A stronger role of civil society and media, as effective and accountable independent actors, will benefit the public institutions in the beneficiaries and facilitate a greater focus on the needs of citizens in policy-making. In addition, the involvement of civil society and media in the pre-accession process can contribute to deepening citizens' understanding of the reforms a country needs to complete in order to qualify for EU membership and support reconciliation in societies still divided by conflict.

Action Identification	
Programme Title	<i>Civil Society Facility and Media 2014-2015</i>
Action Title	<i>Multi-Country Civil Society Facility and Media Action 2014 -2015</i>
Action Reference	<i>IPA /2014/031-605.01/CSF&Media/Multi-country IPA/2015/037-653.01/ CSF&Media/Multi-country</i>
Sector Information	
ELARG Sectors	<i>Democracy and Governance – subsector civil society Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights - subsectors Civil Society and Media</i>
DAC Sector	<i>15150 Democratic participation and civil society 15153 Media and free flow of information 15160 Human Rights</i>
Budget	
Total cost (VAT excluded) ¹	<i>2014: EUR 28.12 million 2015: EUR 5.7 million</i>
EU contribution	<i>2014: EUR 25 million 2015: EUR 5.3 million</i>
Management and Implementation	
Method of implementation	<i>Direct</i>
<i>Direct management:</i> ELARG unit in charge	<i>DG Enlargement, D3, Unit for Regional Cooperation and Programmes</i>
Implementation responsibilities	<i>Sector for civil society, social and territorial cooperation</i>
Location	
Zone benefiting from the action	<i>Western Balkans and Turkey</i>
Specific implementation area(s)	<i>N/A</i>
Timeline	
Deadline for conclusion of the Financing Agreement	<i>N/A</i>
Contracting deadline	<i>IPA 2014: 31 December 2015 IPA 2015: 31 December 2016</i>
End of operational implementation period	<i>IPA 2014: 31 December 2019 IPA 2015: 31 December 2020</i>

¹ The total action cost should be net of VAT and/or of other taxes. Should this not be the case, clearly indicate the amount of VAT and the reasons why it is considered eligible.

1. RATIONALE

The Civil Society Facility, introduced for the first time in 2008², has proven to be a powerful means to strengthen participatory democracies and freedom of media in the Western Balkans and Turkey both at regional and national level. The priorities of the CSF and media action for the period 2014-15 are largely inspired by two sets of Guidelines prepared in coordination with all Delegations and endorsed by DG Enlargement end-2013, beginning 2014: *DG Enlargement Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-20* and *DG Enlargement Guidelines for EU support to media freedom and media integrity in enlargement countries, 2014-20*³. The two documents have been widely consulted with governments, civil society, media and International organisations within the region and in the EU. The guidelines translate the political objectives of the Commission as indicated in the Indicative Strategy Papers (ISPs) and in the Enlargement package into a concrete "results' framework" containing the outcomes to be achieved in the next financing period as well as the indicators to monitor them. The measurement of indicators will provide information for the elaboration of the yearly country progress reports and for the programming of IPA support. The monitoring exercise will also allow for comparison of results achieved by the different countries in the development of enabling and stimulating participatory democracy.

A baseline assessment was conducted at the beginning of 2014 and the baseline situation per country against indicators of the civil society Guidelines were presented at a regional conference held in Tirana on 6-9 May 2014. On that occasion a trilateral discussion kicked off between the Commission, national Governments and CSOs on the definition of targets per country and on the requirements for longer-term sustainability of the monitoring and reporting exercise. The yearly national and regional meetings foreseen for the next years to analyse the progress towards meeting the targets will provide also a forum for further definition of the role of Governments and CSOs in ensuring ownership and sustainability of the entire process.

With regard to freedom of expression, in an effort to have a thorough understanding of the systemic nature of the challenges in the Enlargement zone and to elaborate adequate policy responses to it, the Commission organised two Speak-up! Conferences (2011 and 2013) involving stakeholders from the media community, CSOs and decision makers. These events and the following conclusions have become important reference points in addressing the issues of media freedom and integrity in the context of the enlargement policy and the Guidelines for media offer a long term assistance approach to this end. The monitoring mechanism of the Guidelines for media is at an initial stage and a thorough baseline assessment is planned in 2015.

PROBLEM AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

Effective pluralism implies the respect for human rights, the rule of law and the possibility for political change. Civil society activities - defined as primarily non-state, not-for-profit and non-private activities - mirror this pluralism. They encourage citizens to organise themselves and to collaborate in their common interest. A thriving civil society contributes to a more open, participatory and consequently a more dynamic democratic society.

The enlargement countries face a range of challenges, especially in fields such as the rule of law, corruption, organised crime, the economy and social cohesion. Civil Society actors and organisations can make a substantial contribution to addressing many of these through their lobbying, advocacy and oversight activities at national, regional and local level. When it comes to democratic governance and the rule of law and fundamental rights, including freedom of expression & association and minority rights, they can create demand for enhanced transparency, accountability and effectiveness from public institutions and facilitate a greater focus on the needs of citizens in policy-making. CSOs in the

² COM (2008) 127 – "Western Balkans: Enhancing the European Perspective".

³ See annex 2

region have also demonstrated their ability to initiate effective anti-corruption initiatives, contribute to regional integration and reconciliation processes, support independent media, campaign for gender equality, fight against discrimination, and promote social inclusion and environmentally sustainable policies and practices.

Beyond this civil society can help ensure that accession negotiations between the candidate country institutions and the EU are not merely technical discussions. Accession will only be successful when it is supported by citizens who understand the necessary institutional, political and economic changes.

To this aim it is also essential that the beneficiary countries guarantee open and pluralistic media landscapes which allow for a culture of critical and independent journalism. Without the presence of a fully free media, citizens in these countries are denied the right to factual and reliable information without exposure to bias and propaganda. However the present media situation poses risks to the full transition towards stable transparent democracies and effective institutions. A few years ago the economic crisis hit the Western Balkans hard. It significantly weakened the financial positions of the media and acted as a catalyst to bring to the surface diverse mechanisms used to exercise formal and informal pressure against critical media by political and business circles. The alarming deterioration of the situation advanced freedom of expression to one of the top priorities in the enlargement context and this was subsequently reflected in the annual Enlargement Strategy paper.

The recent assessments conducted at national level by different actors⁴ offer an in depth analysis of the needs of civil society and media in the Western Balkans and Turkey. At regional level the main findings could be summarized as follow:

- The legal environment ensuring the exercise of the freedom of association and expression is formally guaranteed by all countries in the region with the exception of Turkey, but many bureaucratic obstacles still persist, i.e. in the registration process. Inadequate by-laws and limited practical implementation often jeopardize the actual exercise of the fundamental freedoms.
- The lack of a conducive financial environment is one of the main challenges that civil society and media organization are experiencing in the current period of crisis. As indicated in most EU progress reports, CSOs are still largely depending on funding by foreign donors. State funding, which could represent an important alternative support, presents problems of accountability and transparency of the distribution mechanisms. As a consequence CSOs are struggling with insufficient diversification of funds that undermine their sustainability and independence. Implementing systems of tax benefits for CSOs, the development of a philanthropic culture as well as the introduction of better conditions for social entrepreneurship are urgent priorities in order to increase sustainability of the sector and reduce over-dependence on public and external funding.
- Similar problems affect the media. In the Western Balkans few independent media have managed to survive the transition and the current economic crisis. Transparent rules and procedures for the use of public funds in media (e.g. in the form of the so called “government advertisement”) should be implemented to mitigate clientelistic support to pro-government media and unfair competition within the media market.
- Participatory governance is another dimension which is lacking proper implementation. The strategic mechanisms for cooperation between government and civil society are part of the legal framework, but CSOs continue to experience difficulties in consulting draft laws and in participating to public consultations. The offices in charge for the relations with civil society are often under-budgeted or not capable to perform properly their role.
- Civil society and media organizations in the Western Balkans and Turkey are still perceived not completely transparent and accountable to their constituencies. This is partly due to a lack of capacities which undermines the impact of CSOs` activities and their external perception.

⁴ Country baseline reports, TACSO and BCSDN, April 2014; Country Needs Assessments Reports, TACSO http://www.tacso.org/documents/reports/Archive.aspx?template_id=73&langTag=en-US&pageIndex=1 ; Monitoring Matrix on enabling environment for civil society development, BCSDN and ECLN, http://www.balkancsd.net/images/98-9_RR_on_CS_Enabeling_Environment_full_23052014.pdf

Among the main problems emerged from the survey conducted for the baseline assessment, CSOs and media still need support to raise their profile through communication activities; to improve their internal governance and procedure for a transparent financial management and to introduce strategic plan for long-term organizational planning and improved sustainability.

- Last but not least, in several countries of the region, CSOs do not regularly network with other organizations neither at international nor at national and local level and there is a clear need for support to CSOs coalition-building across national and regional boundaries in order to increase their impact in campaigning and advocacy.

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

In 2012 the European Commission proposed an enhanced and more strategic approach in its engagement with local CSOs in partner countries. The communication "The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations"⁵ identifies the importance of CSOs as independent development actors and, for the first time, commits to promote a more conducive environment for their actions, so they can fully play their role and contribute to policy making.

The MCSP 2014-20⁶ endorses the approach proposed in the Communication and considers the support to civil society and media one of the priorities to improve democracy and rule of law through horizontal support:

An empowered civil society is an essential component of a participatory democracy. Although IPA beneficiaries are gradually adopting legislation and strategies more favourable to civil society development, engagement with civil society remains weak. An enabling legal and financial environment should be promoted while also ensuring that the necessary structures and mechanisms are in place for civil society to cooperate effectively with public authorities, including social dialogue. At the same time, to fulfil their role and become credible, civil society organisations (CSOs) need to improve their autonomy, representativeness and accountability. To participate effectively in the political process, they have to strengthen their capacity for analysis, monitoring and advocacy while also becoming better at networking, partnership and coalition building. The enlargement countries must guarantee an open and pluralistic media landscape which allows for a culture of critical and independent journalism. Media politicisation and media cronyism remain the most serious problems affecting the quality of media in the region. The independence of regulatory authorities is constantly challenged and not sufficiently supported by law. The judiciary is far too often used to silence critical media. A recent evaluation of EU support to Civil Society in Western Balkans and Turkey confirms that overall the EU's priority objective has, to a significant extent, been achieved. However, capacity building of Civil Society should be reinforced, with a particular focus on further empowerment of Civil Society Organisations, as well as on enhancing their role in the Enlargement Strategy. There is a need for over-arching regional scale.

The Enlargement Strategy 2013-14 reflects similar priorities to the MCSP and states that:

Civil society and citizens and particularly young people are too often marginalised from day to day politics. Dialogue between decision makers and stakeholders needs to be further developed. An empowered civil society is a crucial component of any democratic system. It enhances political accountability and social cohesion, deepening understanding and inclusiveness of accession-related reforms, as well as supporting reconciliation in societies divided by conflict. And to support this work the Commission will: Increase focus on civil society, including capacity building and encouraging the creation of an enabling environment for its development and greater involvement of stakeholders in reforms, including through greater transparency of government action and spending...⁷

⁵ COM(2012) 492 final: The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in External Actions

⁶ C(2014) 4293 final: Commission Implementing Decision of 30.6.2014 adopting a Multi-country Indicative Strategy Paper for the period 2014-2020

⁷ COM(2013) 700 – "Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2013-14"

To achieve the priorities formulated in the strategic documents, in the period 2014-15 the European Commission will continue its efforts to establish regional networks and associations of CSOs to increase their representativeness and reliability. By promoting long-term partnership with CSOs cross-border thematic platforms the Commission intends to empower the local civil society and to demonstrate that they are reliable partners to inform the local policies and to be engaged in positive dialectic with public authorities as well as to favour the transfer of know-how among different countries of the region.

In addition, the Civil Society Facility will also target the beneficiary governments with a special focus on the offices responsible of the relations with CSOs. The activities to build the capacity in the public administrations and to advice Ministries and subnational Authorities will be implemented mostly through CSF actions at national level and the Technical Assistance for CSOs (TACSO) – both outside the scope of the present action – and in cooperation with International Organizations.

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

Coherence of the proposed approach and complementarity of the action with International organizations and other donors have been discussed during the consultation phase of the media and civil society guidelines and will be carefully monitored during the implementation phase.

LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Under previous projects to support civil society there have been some important achievements. Networks and partnerships have been established and strengthened, and information on the EU acquis has been shared. A recent external thematic evaluation of EU's support to civil society in the Western Balkans and Turkey⁸ concluded that the civil society support has contributed to the strengthening of democracy and reconciliation with special focus on fulfilling the Copenhagen criteria. Some of the findings and recommendations of the evaluation, which constitute a major source of information regarding the lessons learned, are:

1. Strengthen external and internal monitoring of EU support to CS in the WBT, including further building up of EU, regional, national and CSO monitoring capacities is needed. The CSF's overall and specific objectives should be "mainstreamed" in relevant internal and external monitoring carried out by the EU, the beneficiary countries, and civil society itself
2. The support to capacity building of the CSOs is to be pursued and reinforced, with a particular focus on their empowerment and their role in the enlargement strategy and beyond
3. Pursue and diversify thematic (small) grant schemes and introduce more flexibility in their conditions
4. CSOs still need to be further supported to take up their due share of responsibility, both in programming and implementing national socio-economic development initiatives, and in further contributing to regional integration, including reconciliation. A wider and more diversified support to the CSOs would lead to benefits stemming from their ability to transcend national and political boundaries.

In order to follow up on the lessons learned of the evaluation, DG Enlargement decided to introduce the civil society and media guidelines to facilitate the translation of the political priorities into concrete objectives and results with indicators to measure their achievement. This major effort which is

⁸ Thematic Evaluation of EU's Support to Civil Society in the Western Balkans (namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo under UNSCR 1244, Montenegro and Serbia) and Turkey" (2012)

thoroughly reflected in the present document will offer a solid ground to monitoring in the future the contribution of the EU to civil society development in the WBT.

On the other hand the previous financial support to CSOs was based on providing action grants quite limited in time (up to 24 months), via calls for proposals centred on specific themes. With the introduction of Framework Partnership Agreements and Operating Grants the Commissions decided to pay particular attention to cross-sectoral partnerships and networks involving more established and experienced EU and national CSOs as well as more grass-root local CSOs. Nowadays the support to long-term regional networks of CSOs will be further increased up to 4 years.

To reach smaller grassroots organization outside urban areas the present action will put in place the implementation of financial support to third parties (e.g. sub-granting schemes) by regional thematic networks and International organizations. Several other activities to support the capacities of local and community based CSOs are organized regularly by TACSO and the Delegations at country level (e.g. helpdesk, infodays, translation of the guidelines in local languages when new call of proposals are published).

Regarding assistance to media, the involvement of international bodies with a specific mandate has proven to be effective in the realisation of regional activities targeting Public Service Broadcasts (EBU) and self-regulatory bodies (UNESCO) and will be further strengthened according to the recommendations of a recent scoping study on the topics⁹. In the meanwhile the Commission started a stocktaking exercise on the current support to media freedom at regional and national level that, together with the Guidelines for media, has provided useful information in order to better fine-tune a coherent set of actions by the HQ and the Delegations.

⁹ "Western Balkans and Turkey Media and Freedom of Expression Fact-finding and Scoping Study" (2013)

2. INTERVENTION LOGIC

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX¹

OVERALL OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (OVI)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality assessment of existing legislation and policy framework Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for cooperation between CSOs/media and public Institutions 	Independent assessments by I.O. and CSOs Progress reports	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (OVI)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
To enhance the capacities of civil society and media professional organizations to be effective and accountable independent actors on issues relevant to freedom of expression and association, freedom of media and their capability to dialogue with Governments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External perception of importance and impact of CSOs activities and of CSOs` transparency and accountability 	Independent survey Independent assessment	Willingness of relevant governmental bodies to cooperate and to adopt national policies supportive to CSOs initiatives and media freedom Favourable environment for CSOs development and political stability
RESULTS	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (OVI)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS

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

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

Result 1: CSOs regularly network within and outside country borders and make use of coalition-building with an increased impact in campaigning and advocacy

Result 2: The importance of CSOs in improving good governance is recognised by public institutions and CSOs are systematically included in decision making and reform processes

Result 3: The activities of CSOs are guided by strategic long-term organisational planning and have a diverse and sustainable funding base

Component 2 - Media freedom and integrity

Result 4: Parliaments conduct periodic assessments of the state of media freedom and adopt policy and legislative proposals in line with the EU law and international standards

Result 5: Independent and professional regulators preserve media pluralism and prevent unfair competition in media market

Result 6: Judiciary acting in conformity with article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights

Result 7: Reformed and professional Public Service Media ensure content pluralism in an independent and accountable manner

Result 8: Public demand for quality media is increased and citizens are empowered through Media and Information Literacy (MIL) to better understand the role of online and offline media

Result 9: Improved internal governance and transparency within media outlets through the implementation of internal rules, labour standards and enforcement of ethical codes

Result 10: Media accountability towards users increased thanks to efficient and sustainable self-regulation mechanisms and the inclusion of professional standards in the basic education of journalists

Result 11: Representative networks of media and journalist professional organizations take responsibility of media sector relevant issues in dialogue with authorities as well as provide services to their members

Component 3 - Strengthening reconciliation

Results 12: The governments of Post-Yugoslav countries established a RECOM interstate Commission in cooperation and consultation process with their civil societies aimed at reaching a regional consensus about the past. Researching and documenting human losses and detention sites during the Yugoslav wars is completed.

Component 4 – Support to children rights

Result 13: Strengthened capacities of CSOs to better monitor the realisation of children's rights, to promote inclusive and innovative services and increase public support for the protection of children from violence and social inclusion of children with disabilities. Any differences between girls and boys

Indicators for component 1

- Share of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks
- Percentage of laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively consulted with CSOs
- Share of CSOs and media which have developed strategic plans and publishing their governance structure, financial accounts and annual reports

Indicators for component 2

- Annual assessments of existing legislation, other legal acts affecting media and factors influencing freedom of expression conducted (result 4, 5)
- Numbers of judicial staff trained in applying ECtHR case law on freedom of expression (result 6)
- Number of rulings related to media that are consistent with ECtHR case law (result 6)
- Quality assessment of the legislation, financing mechanisms and accountability of PSB (result 7)
- Public programme to promote media and information literacy are in place (result 8)
- Internet remains free and public authorities supports new, online and local media (result 8)
- Presence of representative self-regulatory bodies and effectiveness of their action (results 10)
- Increased share of journalists reporting adequate working conditions (result 9 and 11)

Indicators for component 3

- Independent surveys and assessments

Component 2

- Peer reviews under Ch.10, 23 and 24
- Independent assessment by I.O. and CSOs
- Survey among media, journalists, Unions and CSOs
- Annual report by Supreme Courts and Judicial Academies (result 4)

Component 3

- Minutes and

Willingness of CSOs to work together

Citizens trust and support for the CSOs' work

Commitments from EU organisations to establish partnerships and networks with the counterparts in WB and TK

CSOs from the beneficiaries are willing to cooperate with the EU counterparts

relating to these issues are addressed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities and public recognition of the RECOM interstate Commission • Advancement of researching and documenting about human losses and detention sites during the Yugoslav wars <p>Indicators for components 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanisms for identifying and responding to violence against children and ensuring social inclusion of children with disabilities are in place. 	<p>reports of the RECOM meetings</p> <p>Component 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRC, CRPD, UNICEF and governments reports (component 4) 	
ACTIVITIES	MEANS	OVERALL COST²	ASSUMPTIONS
<p>Activities to achieve results 1, 2 and 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional thematic networks of CSOs operate in the Western Balkans and Turkey to improve the enabling environment, the relations between civil society and governments and the capacities of CSOs. • Regional thematic associations of CSOs active in fields related to EU policies are fully operational in influencing public sector reform processes through analysis, monitoring and advocacy. • Financial support to grass-root and local organisations located in rural areas • Together ca. 24 people2people MB and single-country events organized in one year in the region or in Brussels. <p>Activities to achieve result 4, 5 and 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting activities to Parliaments, regulators and other public Institutions in charge of policy, legislative and regulatory initiatives for media freedom and pluralism • Development of national curricula and training activities on media freedom standards targeted to Judges, Prosecutors and defence Lawyers • Transferring relevant case law from ECtHR (applying Art.10) to national judiciary institutions <p>Activities to achieve result 7:</p>	<p>Means for 1,2 and 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for proposals for long-term grants • 2 and 3 year of Operating Grants • Service contract with SIPU for additional funds for incidental costs to organise P2P events <p>Means for 4,5,6 and 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct grant to international organisations / other organisation holding a de facto or de jure monopoly 	<p>EUR 17.85 million</p> <p>EUR 1.55 million (2014)</p> <p>EUR 1.55 million (2015)</p> <p>EUR 1.1 million (incidental funds for TACSO)</p> <p>EUR 2.75 million (2015)</p>	

² Total costs including cofinancing

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice and training activities to PSM in order to enhance the capacity in news production and in strengthening their programming in favour of pluralistic society • Training and guidance to improve management and governance capacity of PSM including digitalization and archiving • Development and monitoring of long term strategies including voluntary peer-to-peer reviews <p>Activities to achieve result 8:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation of national consultations in target countries to inform the formulation of national Media and Information Literacy (MIL) policies and strategies • Training exercises in schools about the responsible use of social media as part of civic education of quality media in a democratic society. • Activities aimed at strengthening civil society’s knowledge of MIL and support to the development of MIL media programmes <p>Activities to achieve result 9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and advisory activities targeting individual media outlets in order to improve labour standards, enforce of ethical codes and improve transparency and editorial independence <p>Activities to achieve the result 10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support to self-regulatory bodies in the Western Balkans and Turkey to support operating costs • Development of a plan of action, advice and capacity-building activities for long-term sustainability of existing press councils in the region <p>Activities to achieve result 11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Networking activities, training and capacity building to journalist professional organizations and trade unions to improve their effectiveness and financial sustainability as well as their capacity to regularly dialogue with public authorities <p>Activities to achieve result 12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy and institutional support for the establishment of RECOM (advice, secretariat and public events) • Continuation of the investigation and stocktaking of the human losses and places of detention during the Yugoslav wars (implementation of the Coalition for RECOM’s mandate) <p>Activities to achieve result 13:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building and networking activities to put in place system and policy response on violence against children • Provide small-scale grants to national networks of CSOs to promote inclusive services for children with disabilities and victims of violence 	<p>Means for 8, 9 and 10</p> <p>Direct grant to international organisations / other organisation holding a de facto or de jure monopoly</p> <p>Means for 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for proposals for long-term grants (already quoted) <p>Means for 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct grant with international organisations / other organisation holding a de facto or de jure monopoly <p>Means for 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct grant to international organisations/other organisation holding a monopoly 	<p>EUR 1.65 million (2014)</p> <p>Already included in the long-term CfP call above</p> <p>EUR 0.77 million</p>	
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		EUR 6.0 million	
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ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION

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

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

Overall, the EU support under component 1 will be centred around issues that are directly linked with the enlargement policies. Therefore, operating grants would be given to CSOs (working within a network on a multi-country basis) which would monitor policies, provide policy recommendations, defend the rights of vulnerable groups and minorities. Long term grants could be signed with CSOs who are to carry actions that would direct the general public, serve persons with special needs, etc. In short, for projects which are more action geared and which have the capacity to provide grants to smaller CSOs.

By entering into partnerships with CSOs the Commission is demonstrating to the authorities and citizens of the Western Balkans and Turkey that CSOs are essential sources of information and expertise. That they are essential communication channels to obtain feedback on policies as well to identify the main concerns and needs upon which new policies and programmes should be based. As such CSOs are essential for governments to exercise their functions.

By providing Operating Grants to CSOs which do essential work but who are not part of the mainstream the European Union demonstrates that it serves societies that are pluralistic and diverse. As well as societies that open up to their critics, that take the concerns of its opponents into account. In other words, that the EU supports open societies.

The P2P programme managed by TACSO, thanks to the new demand driven approach introduced, will serve the scope of addressing of new topics not foreseen in this action document.

Component 2 - Media freedom and integrity

The activities foreseen under component 2 will be achieved in partnership with relevant institutions of the Beneficiaries (Parliaments, Regulators, etc.), the media community and civil society, including journalist professional organisations, think-tanks and human rights organisations. Moreover the identified tasks are not to be accomplished by ad hoc or insulated assistance actions. The nature of the issues (e.g. establishing a functioning self-regulation, changing the mind-set of judiciary, etc.) requires a long term engagement. In this regard the European Commission commits to cooperate with partners from international institutions as CoE, UNESCO, other European and regional organisations while building on their respective mandates, strengths and expertise in the media area. More specifically:

Activities to achieve result 11 will be implemented with the same modalities foreseen for other civil society organizations under the first component, namely long-term partnership and operational grants.

Activities to achieve result 4, 5, 6 and 7 will be delegated to the Council of Europe with the support of international and local organizations having the required know how – e.g. national Justice Academies, European Broadcasting Union and national Public Service Broadcasts.

In the field of judiciary training the action aims at improving the capacities of local justice academies, or similar bodies, to make use of substantially re-designed and improved training curricula with regard to freedom of expression with a strong focus on sustainability and awareness rising.

Activities to achieve the results 8, 9 and 10 will be realized in partnership with UNESCO, international media CSOs and local self-regulatory bodies which will receive direct operational support to reach financial sustainability. The activities will have a gender mainstreaming approach and will be focused around three main objectives derived from the media guidelines:

- Media accountability towards users will be increased through efficient and sustainable self-regulation mechanisms and the inclusion of professional standards, freedom of expression, and media integrity in the basic education of journalists. (Results 4.1, 4.4 and 2.4 of the Guidelines for EU support to media).

- Internal governance of media organizations will be improved through the implementation of internal rules and good practices that recognise human rights and labour standards, as well as improved levels of transparency in ownership, management and administration, and the enforcement of ethical codes within media outlets. (Results 2.2 and 2.3 of the media Guidelines).
- Public demand for quality media will be augmented and citizens will become empowered through media and information literacy and understanding the role of journalism in a democratic society. (Result 1.5 of the media Guidelines).

Component 3 - Strengthening reconciliation

The activities to achieve result 12 will be implemented by the Coalition for RECOM (a non-political regional gathering of CSOs) and will focus on two main bulks of activities:

- Advocacy and institutional support in order to complete the transition of the Initiative for RECOM from the civil to the political level. To this aim the project will coordinate the functioning of the different bodies of the Initiative (Assembly, RECOM regional Council); facilitate the interstate efforts to participate in the process; support the organization of public debates, press conferences, etc.
- Support for RECOM's core mandate, namely completing the empirical research pertaining to the list of victims, concentration camps and other places of detention.

Component 4 – Strengthening children rights

The activities to achieve result 13 will be implemented in partnership with UNICEF, European and local CSOs representing disabled people with the aim to assure that children rights are dully respected while providing particular attention to disabled children.

The main foreseen activities under this component will be divided in two main blocks:

1) Violence against children

- Intersectoral mechanisms to identify, report and refer cases of violence against children
- Data on violence against children, including gender segregated statistics on victim and perpetrator, is incorporated into sectoral data collection mechanisms
- National and regional networks of civil society organisations on violence against children are established/strengthened to mobilise public support for ending violence against children

2) Children with disabilities

- Improved publicly available data on children with disabilities
- Strengthened CSOs leadership capacities to advocate for effective, quality inclusive services and enhanced regional dialogue and experience sharing
- Increased public support for social inclusion and participation of children with disabilities. Possible differences between girls and boys are addressed.
- Increased opportunities for developing innovation services and solutions to realise the rights and strengthen inclusion of children with disabilities

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. All 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.

3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The main institutional stakeholder involved in the management and implementation process of the Action is DG Enlargement, Unit D.3 as the contracting authority. Unit D.3 will prepare the guidelines for partnership action and operating grants as well as the Terms of Reference for the procurement. DG Enlargement will organise information sessions and the Technical Assistance to Civil Society Organisations (TACSO) will further inform and advise interested CSOs on these calls. As a mean to improve further networking and cooperation DG Enlargement D3 will organise kick-off conferences as well as mid-term events grouping all beneficiaries. These projects can also count on the support of the Technical Assistance to CSOs (TACSO) during its lifetime and its successor(s).

The activities under components 2, 3 and 4 to be realized in agreement with I.O. will be financed with direct grants.

A regional Steering Committee may be set up to coordinate the activities of the I.O. involved in the component dedicated to media freedom.

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

One call for proposal for long-term partnership grants is foreseen at the moment. The long-term actions will be concluded for the maximum period of four years. The Operating Grants will be awarded on an annual basis to the selected organisations but for a maximum duration of four years. Each grant will be awarded following submission and approval of the work programme. The amount awarded will decrease of the years.

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

To conduct monitoring and evaluation activities, at the moment a competitive negotiated procedure or FWC is foreseen for the baseline assessment of the media guidelines, the mid-term evaluation of the Civil Society Facility (2017) and to integrate the incidental money for the organization of p2p events.

The co-financing arrangement at the moment foresees a 90% co-financing both for Call for proposals and for the direct grants to I.O. (with the exception of UNICEF where the EU cofinancing will be 83.4%) .

4. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

METHODOLOGY FOR MONITORING (AND EVALUATION)

The methodology for monitoring the action is based on the *DG Enlargement Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-20* and *DG Enlargement Guidelines for EU support to media freedom and media integrity in enlargement countries, 2014-20*. These documents are formulated in the form of a draft results framework which contains goals and results to be achieved by a combination of political and financial support. Special attention is paid to the aspect of verification: measurable indicators (and benchmarks) are grouped according to particular results to be achieved and possible means of verification (MoV) are identified for each group of indicators. The selection of indicators selected in the logframe and in the indicator measurement table of the present document is derived directly by the Guidelines.

Monitoring of the guidelines is supervised by DG ELARG in collaboration with the EU Delegations in the region, international organisations, TACSO and networks of CSOs already active in media freedom and integrity. The collection of data includes both qualitative and quantitative assessments and is conducted by means of surveys, peer reviews, independent assessment, etc.

The results framework allows for the measurement of progress at country level. The monitoring and evaluation system includes a yearly (or biannual) regional meeting with the involvement of media organisations, CSOs and government offices for civil society to analyse the state of play and advancement towards targets and offers a forum for further definition of the role of Governments and CSOs in ensuring ownership and sustainability of the entire process. As this may serve as input into the annual progress reports, the Commission's political desks are associated with it.

The baseline assessment for the civil society guidelines was conducted beginning 2014 and the baseline situation per country against indicators of the results framework of the civil society Guidelines were presented in a regional conference in Tirana on 6-9 May 2014. A similar exercise is scheduled for the media guidelines in spring 2015.

In addition, a medium term evaluation of the FPAs awarded under the call for proposal Europeaid 132428 is currently undergoing and the results will be available before the signature of the second cycle of the FPAs grants foreseen end-2015. The evaluation will provide useful information in order to fine-tune the project activities including eventual corrective actions and lessons learned for the future call for proposals dedicated to partnership actions.

Finally, considering the entire IPA II financial framework (2014-2020), a mid-term evaluation of the enlargement support to CSOs in the enlargement countries should be carried out mid-way through the period (2017) to assess progress towards objectives and results as well as the continued viability of the strategy and a final evaluation should be commissioned at the end of the period (2020) to provide the necessary inputs for further support after the end of the current financial framework.

INDICATOR MEASUREMENT

Indicator	Description	Baseline 2013	Milestone 2017	Target 2020	Source of information
<i>CSP indicator(s) – if applicable</i>					
Component 1					
<i>Action outcome indicator (Overall Objective)</i>	<i>Quality assessment of existing legislation and policy framework</i>	<i>Cauntry baseline reports 2013</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Independent assessments by CSO or I.O. Progress reports</i>
<i>Action outcome indicator (Overall Objective)</i>	<i>Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for cooperation between CSOs/media and public Institutions</i>	<i>Cauntry baseline reports 2013</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Independent assessments by CSO or I.O. Progress reports</i>
<i>Action outcome indicator (Specific Objective)</i>	<i>External perception of importance and impact of CSOs activities and of CSOs` transparency and accountability</i>	<i>Cauntry baseline reports 2013</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Independent survey</i>
<i>Action output indicator (Results 1, 2 and 3)</i>	<i>Share of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks</i>	<i>Cauntry baseline reports 2013</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Independent assessments by CSO</i>
<i>Action process indicator (Result 1, 2 and 3)</i>	<i>Number of CSOs networks/ Associations awarded a long-term or operating grant</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>20 long-term grants and 6 Operating grants</i>		<i>Independent assessments by CSO or I.O.</i>
Component 2					
<i>Action outcome indicator (Result 4, 5)</i>	<i>Annual assessments of existing legislation, other legal acts affecting media and factors influencing freedom of expression conducted</i>	<i>To be assessed in Q1 2015</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Peer reviews under Ch. 10 Independent assessment by I.O. and CSOs</i>
<i>Action outcome indicator (Result 6)</i>	<i>Number of rulings related to media that are consistent with ECtHR case law</i>	<i>To be assessed in Q1 2015</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Independent assessment by I.O. and annual reports</i>

Indicator	Description	Baseline 2013	Milestone 2017	Target 2020	Source of information
					<i>by Supreme Courts</i>
<i>Action outcome indicator (Result 7)</i>	<i>Quality assessment of the legislation, financing mechanisms and accountability of PSB</i>	<i>To be assessed in Q1 2015</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Peer reviews under Ch. 10 Independent assessment by I.O. and CSOs</i>
<i>Action output indicator (result 8)</i>	<i>Public programme to promote media and information literacy are in place</i>	<i>To be assessed in Q1 2015</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Independent assessment by I.O. and CSOs</i>
<i>Action output indicator (Result 10)</i>	<i>Presence of representative self-regulatory bodies and effectiveness of their action</i>	<i>To be assessed in Q1 2015</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Independent assessment by I.O. and CSOs</i>
<i>Action outcome indicator (Result 9 and 11)</i>	<i>Increased share of journalists reporting adequate working conditions (contracts, social protection, etc.)</i>	<i>To be assessed in Q1 2015</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Independent Survey</i>
Component 3					
<i>Action outcome indicator (Result 12)</i>	<i>Post-Yugoslav countries established a RECOM interstate Commission in cooperation and consultation process with their civil societies</i>	<i>Post-Yugoslav states made their political support to the Civil Initiative for RECOM concrete, in keeping with the proposal of the Coalition for RECOM, by having the heads of states / two members of the BH Presidency appoint their envoys for RECOM who are tasked with analyzing the RECOM Draft Statute in the context of constitutional and legal framework of each state. The third member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, from the Republika Srpska, did not take part in the joint efforts of the official envoys for RECOM. President of Slovenia did not give his envoy either.</i>	<i>Post-Yugoslav states signed an intergovernmental agreement on the establishment of RECOM, on the basis of which the activities of compiling of the list of human losses and detention sites, clarifying the fate of missing persons, creating a joint reparations program, and working on the public recognition of the victims are to be carried out</i>	<i>RECOM will have paid public tribute to the victims of war crimes, issued a report with the names of all the victims and the circumstances of their suffering and loss of life, together with a list of all the camps and other places of detention. In addition to this, RECOM will have created a reparations program, widely accepted by the public.</i>	<i>Independent Assessment</i>

Indicator	Description	Baseline 2013	Milestone 2017	Target 2020	Source of information
<i>Action output indicator (Result 12)</i>	<i>Researching and documenting human losses during the war in Kosovo*; the war in Croatia; in Bosnia and Herzegovina and during the NATO bombing of FR Yugoslavia is completed; Researching and documenting camps and other detention sites is completed</i>	<i>Refer to the baseline assessment provided by Humanitarian Law Center</i>	<i>The research, documentation, narrative-writing and the publication of two or three volumes of the Kosovo Memory Book (involving 11,500 victims who lost their lives in the war in Kosovo from January 1, 1998 until June 15, 1999, and in connection with the war, June 15, 1999 until December 31, 2000) is completed; The research and documentation of at least 12,000 victims who lost their lives in the war in Croatia, from January 1, 1991 until December 31, 1995 is completed; The research and documentation of at least 500 camps and other detention sites of civilians and prisoners of war in the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina is completed; The research and documentation of about 1,200 victims, citizens of Serbia (without Kosovo) and Montenegro who lost their life in the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as during the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia is completed.</i>	<i>RECOM will have established the fact of all war crimes, made an individualized list of 130,000 victims of war in connection with the war in the former Yugoslavia, established the circumstances of their suffering and compiled a list of about 1,500 places of detention of civilians and prisoners of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and about 800 places of detention of civilians, war prisoners and political prisoners during the war in Serbia, Croatia, Kosovo, Slovenia and Macedonia. The Coalition for RECOM will have researched and documented 13,500 victims of war in Kosovo; 18,000 victims of war in Croatia; 1,200 victims, citizens of Serbia and Montenegro, of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and about 500 camps and other places of detention in Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>	<i>Independent Assessment</i>
Component 4					
<i>Action outcome indicator</i>	<i>Mechanisms for identifying and responding to violence against</i>	<i>Tbd</i>	<i>Tbd</i>	<i>Tbd</i>	<i>CRC and CRPD reports</i>

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

Indicator	Description	Baseline 2013	Milestone 2017	Target 2020	Source of information
<i>(Result 13)</i>	<i>children and ensuring social inclusion of children with disabilities are in place</i>				<i>and alternative reports EU Progress Reports</i>
<i>Action output indicator (result 13)</i>	<i>Data on child victims of violence and children with disabilities is available</i>	<i>Tbd</i>	<i>Tbd</i>	<i>Tbd</i>	<i>UNICEF and governments reports</i>

5. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (AND IF RELEVANT DISASTER RESILIENCE)

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

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

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

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND GENDER MAINSTREAMING

The action will promote equal opportunities in all activities covered. Proposals will set out what the current situation is for relevant groups and how the intervention will address issues affecting equal opportunities.

Under component 2, UNESCO will take a two-pronged approach to gender mainstreaming, through equal opportunities for women and men media professionals, and gender-specific activities (e.g. promoting gender-balanced media content, a reduction of the stereotypical portrayal of women in the media, the building of capacities for gender-sensitive reporting, and the use by media organizations of the Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media). It will seek to enhance women's use of ICTs and will promote women's right to information by facilitating their involvement in freedom of information advocacy processes, fostering gender-inclusive information legislation and policies and their use to further women's empowerment. Media organizations in the targeted countries will also be encouraged to join and participate in the Global Alliance on Media and Gender (GAMAG) recently launched by UNESCO and other partners.

MINORITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

The action will include aspects related to public services, legislation and socio-economic development of relevance for intercultural dialogue, rights of minorities and vulnerable groups. Specific attention will be given to project proposals that target the most disadvantaged groups, including women, children, elderly people, persons with mental and/or physical disabilities, LGBT, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities and minorities. Tailored measures/positive actions will be considered to counteract the high level of discrimination these communities are exposed to.

Children subjected to all forms of violence and children with disabilities are the focus and main beneficiaries of the component 4.

6. SUSTAINABILITY

Institutional sustainability

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

The activities implemented in the framework of the action will be designed to develop and strengthen existing local resources and reinforce the expertise and capacity of relevant regional actors. The action will help create the conditions for a self-sustainable free civil society and media environment that will be further maintained by the regional, national and local stakeholders involved in the project's implementation from the start. Action will be tailored to the specific civil society and media context of each target country, thereby fostering local ownership. The planned exchanges of good practices and

approaches will also encourage the replication and scaling up of actions and open avenues for new complementary partnerships. All activities will build on regional and local networks' capacities and expertise, ensuring that the action results will have a long-term impact in the region and that benefits will be sustained beyond the implementation period.

Financial sustainability

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

7. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Communication and visibility will be given high importance during the implementation of the Action.

The implementation of the communication activities shall be the responsibility of the beneficiaries, and shall be funded from the amounts allocated to the Action.

All necessary measures will be taken to publicise the fact that the Action has received funding from the EU in line with the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Actions.

Visibility and communication actions shall demonstrate how the intervention contributes to the agreed programme objectives and the accession process. Actions shall be aimed at strengthening general public awareness and support of interventions financed and the objectives pursued. The actions shall aim at highlighting to the relevant target audiences the added value and impact of the EU's interventions. Visibility actions should also promote transparency and accountability on the use of funds.

It is the responsibility of the beneficiaries to keep the EC / EU Delegation fully informed of the planning and implementation of the specific visibility and communication activities.

The beneficiaries shall report on their visibility and communication actions in the report submitted to the IPA monitoring committee and the sectoral monitoring committees.

Visibility of the action will be ensured through a careful coordination of different communication plans for the different components. The component 2 related to media will help in mobilizing local media, particularly those benefitting from the action, to report on key moments of action implementation. Another key angle will be to maximize outreach through UNESCO's, UNICEF and CoE online media, through their website and social media channels. News and feature articles and audio-visual works will be published on the main website of the I.O. involved.

The EU's support will be acknowledged in all project documents and media products.