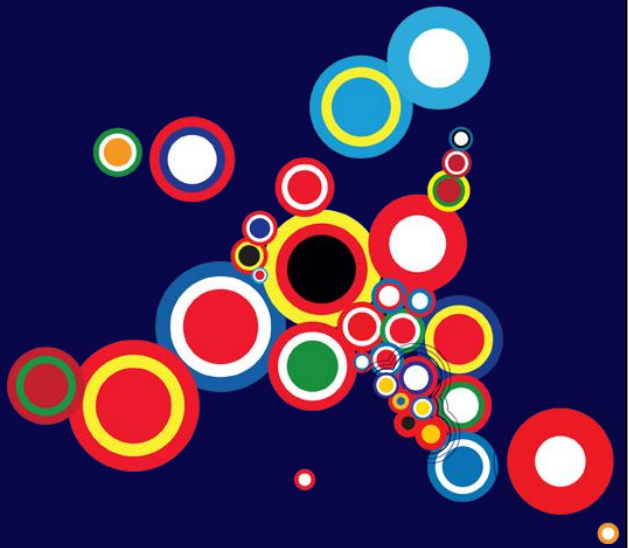




INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) 2014-2020

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Civil Society Facility and
Media Programme 2016-
2017



Action summary

IPA II assistance within Civil Society Facility 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 CSOs capacity to ensure media freedoms 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.

Action Identification	
Action Programme Title	Civil Society Facility and Media 2016-2017
Action Title	Civil Society Facility and Media action for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2016-2017
Action ID	IPA 2016/038-960.03/CSF & Media/ Bosnia and Herzegovina IPA 2017/038-961.03/CSF & Media/ Bosnia and Herzegovina
Sector Information	
IPA II Sector	Democracy and Governance - sub-sector Civil Society Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights – subsectors Civil Society and Media
DAC Sector	15150 Democratic participation and civil society 15153 Media and free flow of information
Budget	
Total cost	2016 = 0 2017 = EUR 4.9 million Total: EUR 4.9 million
EU contribution	IPA 2016: 0 IPA 2017: EUR 4.5 million Total: EUR 4.5 million
Budget line(s)	
Management and Implementation	
Management mode	Direct
Direct management: EU Delegation Indirect management: National authority or other entrusted entity	EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina
Implementation responsibilities	Not applicable.
Location	
Zone benefiting from the action	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Specific implementation area(s)	Not applicable.
Timeline	
Final date for concluding Financing Agreement with IPA II beneficiary	Not applicable.

Final date for concluding delegation agreements under indirect management	N.A.		
Final date for concluding procurement and grant contracts	IPA 2016: 31 December 2017 IPA 2017: 31 December 2018		
Final date for operational implementation	IPA 2016: 31 December 2021 IPA 2017: 31 December 2022		
Final date for implementing the Financing Agreement (date by which this programme should be de-committed and closed)	N.A		
Policy objectives / Markers (DAC form)			
General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade Development	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
Biological diversity	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Combat desertification	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	x	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. RATIONALE

PROBLEM AND STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

The strengths and weaknesses of the Civil Society (CS) in BiH as well as the challenges faced by the CS in the specific context of the European integration have been recurrently analysed since 2008 when the European Commission (EC) set up the 'Civil Society Facility' (CSF) to financially support the development of civil society, while the EC enlargement strategy underlined the “importance of civil society being able to play its role in a participatory democracy”. Gaps and deficiencies in the legal framework both impact on the development of the sector and the prospects for success of interventions. The relationship between government and civil society has yet to be defined and operationalised particularly at higher levels. The engagement of civil society is limited and uneven. The domestic infrastructure to support civil society remains underdeveloped. Public awareness and the image of the sector need to be improved and deepened.

A significant number of professional Civil Society Organisation (CSO)¹ does exist. Yet, due to the inconsistent CSO registration procedures and the absence of a single register of CSOs, the overall number of CSOs operating in BiH can only be estimated (i.e. 21,000 registered CSO)².

The engagement of citizens in the decision-making processes at the state level in BiH is regulated but not implemented in full. At state level, the Agreement on Cooperation between the Council of Ministers of BiH and the Non-Governmental Sector in BiH has not been implemented and the institutional mechanisms provided for in the Agreement, such as the BiH's Office for cooperation with CSOs, have not been established.³

The EC BiH 2015 Progress report states:

*"No progress was made in improving mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation between government and civil society organisations. The legal and financial framework needs to be further improved. An empowered civil society is a crucial component of any democratic system and should be recognised and treated as such by the institutions. There have been no developments towards ensuring formalised policy dialogue between the Council of Ministers and civil society. A national strategy on civil society has yet to be adopted. The State law on the joint registry of non-governmental organisations which would allow for the establishment of a centralised database has not yet been adopted. Public funding for civil society organisations has to be provided in a transparent way following clearly defined criteria. Substantial funding is mostly given to sporting associations and war veterans in a non-transparent and unregulated way."*⁴

A strong Civil Society can also play an important role in social development and in the fight against corruption which continues to be widespread.

Media freedom remains an area of concern in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

¹ “Legal persons may include civil society organisations, such as non-governmental non-profit organisations and independent political foundations, community-based organisations and private-sector non-profit agencies, institutions and organisations and networks thereof at local, national, regional and international level.” – Article 8.1 Regulation (EU) N° 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014. available at: http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/financial_assistance/ipa/2014/236-2014_cir.pdf

² Information provided by the Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina

³ The Council of Ministers of BiH appointed a working group in May 2014 who has been mandated to revise the Agreement for cooperation with civil society, but the Agreement has not been officially adopted yet. It is foreseen that the document in question, once adopted, will be an open document and CSOs will be able to access it and join/sign it.

⁴ Bosnia and Herzegovina 2015 Progress report. Available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2015/20151110_report_bosnia_and_herzegovina.pdf

"There is some level of preparation on the right to freedom of expression. However, the country has been backsliding in this area. Although the legal provisions are generally in place, the institutional and political environment is not conducive to creating the conditions for full freedom of expression. The financial stability of the system of public service broadcasting remains to be addressed. Political pressure and intimidation towards journalists continued during the reporting period. Transparency on media ownership continues to be lacking. Recent legislative developments in Republika Srpska raise concerns over possible limitation of online freedom of expression."⁵

Therefore, the main problems to be addressed with this programme can be summarized as follows:

1. Dialogue between governmental and non-governmental sector is weak and not institutionalized at all levels.
2. Citizens' participation in policy and decision making processes at local level is sporadic and not institutionalized.
3. Capacities of CSOs, particularly at grass-root level, remain low.
4. CSOs should contribute further to fight corruption and support socio-economic development.
5. Media freedoms must be ensured and strengthened.

OUTLINE OF IPA II ASSISTANCE

- 1. Capacity building of Governments to include CSOs into the decision-making.** This assistance will address the problem of weak cooperation and dialogue between governments and civil society in BiH. It will be implemented through twinning with a similar institution from an EU Member State that will allow transfer of knowledge and experience to the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- 2. Support to strengthening capacities of public administration at local level to engage in a dialogue with CSOs.** This assistance will address the problem of weak cooperation and dialogue between municipalities and civil society in BiH and will also seek to improve transparency in municipal funding of CSOs activities. The action will increase the participation of citizens in the definition of local policies and planning at local level. In addition, it will address the issue of transparency of public (municipal) funding to CSOs and overall social development at local level. (This action will be implemented as part of the multi-country action of the CSF and Media programme 2016-2017.)
- 3. Support to the Resource Centre.** This assistance will address the problem of low capacity of CSOs in BiH helping them to become more capable, transparent and accountable. Capacities of CSOs in BiH, particularly at local level, will be increased by providing direct support to the Resource Centre, which is expected to replace TACSO after September 2017.
- 4. Support to CSOs networks in various areas (social inclusion, education, social entrepreneurship, environment and climate change, youth, and anti-corruption).** This assistance will address the problem of weak sector-based cooperation among CSOs and will support CSOs in fighting corruption in BiH. It will be implemented through a grant scheme providing support to CSOs to contribute to social development in particular sectors.
- 5. Support to media freedoms and media integrity.** This assistance will address the problem of limited media freedoms as well as endangered journalists' independence and integrity. It will be implemented through grant support to media associations.

⁵ Bosnia and Herzegovina 2015 Progress report

RELEVANCE WITH THE IPA II STRATEGY PAPER AND OTHER KEY REFERENCES

Over the recent years, the EC has increased focus on civil society as a way to meet the key challenges in establishing functioning democratic institutions.

DG Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiation's "Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014 – 2020" focus on fostering the development of an "*environment that is conducive to civil society activities and building the capacity of CSOs to be effective and accountable independent actors*"⁶.

"Free media come as the principal precondition for freedom of expression. Since the media and their markets are basically national in scope, there is little *acquis* at the EU level. However, in the context of the European Enlargement policy, the European Commission is obliged by the Copenhagen political criteria to make a full assessment and conclude if there is real respect and true commitment to promoting freedom of expression in the given aspiring country."⁷

The CSF 2016-2017 main priorities, which stakeholders have identified for support during the programming exercise, are as follows:

- Institutionalisation of civil society participation in policy and decision making process.
- Further capacity building of CSO in BiH, particularly of grass-root CSOs.
- Continuation of support to issue based networks in the area of social inclusion, education, social entrepreneurship, environment, and youth.

The IPA II Indicative Strategy Paper (ISP) for BiH confirms that "*the Commission wants to ensure that work on the fundamentals of any EU integration process (rule of law, democracy, fundamental rights, economic governance, and the legacy of the past) continues and that civil society, citizens, in particular vulnerable people, and the private sector receive further support. This should contribute to deepening citizens' understanding of the reforms which BiH needs to complete to qualify for EU membership.*"⁸ The preparation of BiH ISP and selection of priorities has involved consultations with the CS including through a series of brainstorming discussions which started early 2013.

BiH ISP is designed to impact on several sectors and/or priorities. The present Action is intended to contribute to the following priorities:

- Inclusion of CSOs into the decision-making at all levels of government: The BiH Indicative Strategy Paper states that: "*The Commission will encourage enlargement countries to make legislation more conducive for civil society. It will also promote the involvement of civil society in the pre-accession process, including in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of sector strategies for EU financial assistance.*" "*Public institutions recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance through CSOs' inclusion in decision making processes.*"

The Action provides capacity building of governments at all levels to include CSOs into the decision-making process as well as to improve transparency of public funding to CSOs. With this component the Action will contribute to the achievement of the following objectives and results of the "Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-2020":

- Objective 2: "An enabling financial environment, which supports sustainability of CSOs",
 - Result 2.4: "Government support to CSOs is available and provided in a transparent, accountable, fair and non-discriminatory manner".

⁶ DG NEAR "Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-2020"

⁷ DG NEAR "Guidelines for EU support to media freedom and media integrity in enlargement countries, 2014-2020"

⁸ BiH Indicative Strategy Paper (2014-2017)

- Objective 3: “Civil society and public institutions work in partnership through dialogue and cooperation, based on willingness, trust and mutual acknowledgment around common interests”,
 - Result 3.1: "Public institutions recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance through CSOs' inclusion in decision making processes".

- Capacity building of CSOs: The Indicative Strategy Paper (ISP) for Bosnia and Herzegovina emphasizes the importance of civil society involvement in policy making process, particularly EU accession process of BiH. The ISP states that the: *“Capacities of civil society organisations to increase their autonomy, representativeness and accountability, as well as their membership base, fundraising and effectiveness, will be strengthened.”*

With this component the Action will contribute to the achievement of the following objectives and results of the "Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-2020":

- Objective 4: “Capable, transparent and accountable CSOs”,
 - Result 4.2: “CSOs are able to communicate the results of their activities to the public” and
 - Result 4.4: “CSOs monitor and evaluate the results and impact of their work”.
- Objective 5: “Effective CSOs”,
 - Result 5.1: “CSO activities are guided by strategic long-term organisational planning.
- Objective 6: “Financially sustainable CSOs”,
 - Result 6.1.: “Fund-raising activities are rooted in CSOs' long-term strategic plans and the core mission of the organisation”.

- Social development and enabling environment: The Action involves support to networking CSOs in areas of social inclusion, education, social entrepreneurship, environment and climate change, and youth. Particular attention will be paid to gender aspects and inclusion of minorities as cross-cutting issues in all identified areas. It will therefore contribute among others to the objectives of the ISP in the sector education, employment and social policies. At the same time, this component will support networking of CSOs for capable, transparent, and accountable CSOs in the listed areas.

With this component the Action will therefore contribute to the achievement of the following objectives and results of the "Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-2020":

- Objective 1: “An enabling legal and policy environment, for the exercise of the rights of freedom, expression, assembly and association”,
 - Result 1.3.: "National and/or local authorities have enabling policies and rules for grass-roots organisations and/or civic initiatives”.
- Objective 4: “Capable, transparent and accountable CSOs“,
 - Result 4.4.: "CSOs monitor and evaluate the results and impact of their work“ and
 - Result 4.2.: "CSOs are able to communicate the results of their activities to the public”.
- Objective 5: “Effective CSOs”,
 - Result 5.3.: "CSOs regularly network within and outside the beneficiary and make use of coalition-building for increased impact in campaigning and advocacy".

- Fight against corruption: *“Corruption remains a serious problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina's public sector. Governments have to strengthen their integrity frameworks to create an effective and*

accountable public sector and to enhance the prevention, detection and repression of corruption via relevant legislation, institutions and civil society partners".⁹ CSOs in the region have demonstrated their ability to initiate effective anti-corruption initiatives¹⁰. The support to CS in BiH will help to strengthen CSO anti-corruption initiatives and enhance the visibility of anti-corruption campaigns, especially in local communities and in particular in the areas of health and education.

With this component the Action will therefore contribute to the achievement of the following objectives and results of the "Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-2020":

- Objective 4: "Capable, transparent and accountable CSO",
 - Result 4.2.: "CSOs are able to communicate the results of their activities to the public".

- Freedom of expression: The ISP for BiH notes with regard to freedom of expression and the media: *"Assistance will support building up technical capacity, and provide training and expertise to the relevant media bodies in order to develop investigative journalism and to improve professional journalistic standards. Support in this respect will be based on the "Guidelines for EU support to media freedom and media integrity in enlargement countries, 2014-2020"*.

With this component the Action will therefore contribute to the achievement of the following objectives and results of the "Guidelines for EU support to media freedom and media integrity in enlargement countries, 2014-2020":

- Objective 3: "Qualitative and trustworthy **investigative journalism** available to citizens".

Result 3.1: Improved conditions for quality investigative journalism including modern/innovative approaches to increase quality and credibility of investigative journalism. Increased cooperation between journalists, their groups and CSOs for benefiting investigative journalism. Training programmes for modern analytical approaches in investigative journalism in place.

LESSONS LEARNED AND LINK TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Considerable IPA 2007 – 2013 funding has been allocated to civil society development, in particular to build the capacities of civil society to actively take part in policy dialogue, reinforce local democracy and strengthen civil society organisations to fight corruption and protect the environment.

The findings and recommendations of the "**Thematic Evaluation of EU's Support to Civil Society in the Western Balkans** (namely Albania, Bosnia And Herzegovina, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo*, Montenegro and Serbia) and Turkey" (2012) constitute a major source of information regarding the lessons learned, i.e.:

- The support to capacity building of CSOs should be pursued and reinforced, with a particular focus on their empowerment and their role in the enlargement strategy and beyond, and bearing in mind the fundamental needs of (i) evolving from "reconstruction" to "reconciliation" and, (ii) developing the CSOs' capacity to fully participate in national development strategy and its implementation, including their role as stakeholders and actors of territorial (local, regional, cross-border) and socio-economic development.
- Pursue and diversify thematic (small) grant schemes and introduce more flexibility in their

⁹ BiH 2014 Progress report available at http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/key_documents/2014/package/ba_rapport_2014.pdf

¹⁰ DG NEAR's "Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-2020"

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the IC J Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

conditions.

- A relative lack of flexibility in order to adapt to evolving CSOs' needs, both in terms of their capacity building per se and towards the needed objective of supporting the stronger involvement of CSOs in effective development.
- Although the EU assistance strategic and programming objectives are accurate and thus realistic, they sporadically lack measurability, a weakness also due to the yet insufficiently developed dialogue between the EU and the national authorities towards developing a more structured and better shared partnership approach to CS support.
- Strengthen monitoring of projects, including the M&E capacity building for CSOs, as well as their accountability and transparency.
- Support more systematic and wider participation of CSOs in the design, preparation and implementation of SWAPs.
- Significantly increase support for stronger participation of CSOs in EU-funded local, regional and socio-economic development programmes.

2. INTERVENTION LOGIC

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX (FIGURES IN BRACKETS REFER TO RESULTS AND INDICATORS OF THE "GUIDELINES FOR EU SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN ENLARGEMENT COUNTRIES, 2014-2020")

OVERALL OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Independent assessments by I.O. and CSOs ✓ Progress reports 	
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
Civil society in BiH is involved in the EU integration process including in the formulation, implementation and monitoring of sector strategies for EU financial assistance and influence policy, decision-making processes and legislation enacting in the areas critical for EU integration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Percentage of laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively consulted with CSOs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Project reports ✓ Competent government institutions` reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Civil society and the governments cooperate in a transparent way based on institutional arrangements
RESULTS	OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS (*)	SOURCES OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <u>INCLUSION OF CSOS INTO THE DECISION-MAKING AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT</u> <p>Result 1 "Government support to CSOs is available and provided in a transparent, accountable, fair and non-discriminatory manner".(2.4) Result 2 "Public institutions recognise the importance of CSOs in improving good governance through CSOs' inclusion in decision making processes". (3.1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Increase of public funding for CSOs" (2.4a) - "Percentage of laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively consulted with CSOs" (3.1.a.) - "Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions" (3.1.b) - "Actual participation of CSO's in dialogues and cooperation mechanisms between government and CSOs" (2.4. and 3.1.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Project reports ✓ Competent government institutions` reports <p>Monitoring missions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Governments implement the outcomes of the cooperation with civil society. ✓ Civil Society responsive to the given opportunities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <u>CAPACITY BUILDING OF CSOs</u> <p>Result 3 "CSOs are able to communicate the results of their activities to the public". (4.2) Result 4 "CSOs monitor and evaluate the results and impact of their work". (4.4) Result 5 "CSO activities are guided by strategic long-term organisational planning", Result 6 "CSOs use research and other forms of evidence to underpin their activities". (5.1) Result 7 "Fund-raising activities are rooted in CSOs' long-term strategic plans and the core mission of the organisation". (6.1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "External perception of importance and impact of CSOs activities" (4.2.a) - "Share of CSOs that monitor and evaluate their projects and programmes using baselines and quality indicators" (4.4.a) - "Share of CSOs which have developed strategic plans including human resources development activities" (5.1.a) - "Number of CSOs' who use adequate argumentation and analysis for achieving advocacy goals" (5.2.a) - "Percentage of CSOs that confirm that they are able to raise funds according to their strategic plans (6.1.a) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Project reports ✓ Competent government institutions` reports <p>Monitoring missions</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <u>SUPPORT TO NETWORKING OF CSOs</u> <p>Result 8 National and/or local authorities have enabling policies and rules for grass-roots organisations and/or civic initiatives. (1.3) Result 9 CSOs are able to communicate the results of their activities to the public". (4.2) Result 10 CSOs monitor and evaluate the results and impact of their work ". (4.4) Result 11 "CSOs regularly network within and outside the beneficiary and make use of coalition-building for increased impact in campaigning and advocacy". (5.3)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "Quality of the enabling environment for grass-roots organisations and/or civic initiatives" (1.3.a) - "Share of CSOs that monitor and evaluate their projects and programmes using baselines and quality indicators" (4.4.a) - "External perception of importance and impact of CSOs activities" (4.2.a) - "Share of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks" (5.3.a) - Number of Strengthened (or established where necessary) networks of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Project reports ✓ Competent government institutions` reports ✓ Monitoring missions 	

	CSOs.		
<p>✓ <u>SUPPORTING CSOs TO COMBAT CORRUPTION</u></p> <p>Result 12 “CSOs are able to communicate the results of their activities to the public”. (4.2)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "External perception of importance and impact of CSOs activities" (4.2.a) - Number of CSOs that contributed to achievement of the objectives of relevant anti-corruption strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Project reports ✓ Competent government institutions' reports Monitoring missions 	
<p>✓ SUPPORT TO MEDIA FREEDOMS AND MEDIA INTEGRITY</p> <p>Result 13 All individuals and legal entities can express themselves freely, assemble peacefully and establish, join and participate in non-formal and/or registered organisations (1.1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality of existing legislation and policy framework (1.1.a) - Progress with the adoption and implementation of relevant legislation (1.1.b) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Project reports ✓ Competent government institutions' reports ✓ Monitoring missions 	

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

- **Capacity building of Governments to include CSOs into the decision-making.** Assistance will be provided in form of a twinning with a similar institution from an EU member state that will transfer its knowledge and experience to the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the inclusion of civil society organisations in policy making processes.
- **Support to strengthening capacities of public administration at local level to engage in a dialogue with CSOs.** This action will be implemented as a part a regional direct grant to UNDP. Activities to be implemented by UNDP will foster the participation of citizens in the definition of local policies and planning at local level. In addition, they will also address the issue of transparency of public (municipal) funding to CSOs and overall social development at local level.
- **Support to the Resource Centre (RC).** The Resource Centre, which is expected to replace TACSO after September 2017 will provide capacity building and ad hoc on site trainings for CSOs especially at local level as per identified needs to help grass-root CSOs improve their work, visibility, and fund-raising. The activity will be contracted via an open call for proposals.
- **Support to CSOs networks in various areas (social inclusion, education, social entrepreneurship, environment and climate change, youth, and anti-corruption).** This assistance will be implemented through a grant scheme which will support CSOs to contribute to social development in several sectors by advocating for positive changes jointly with public institutions. Activities will depend on the concrete proposals selected.
- **Support to media freedoms and media integrity.** Grant support will be provided to media associations in order to address the issue of limited media freedoms and integrity. Activities will be further defined but should include suggestions for legal improvements resulting in more enabling environment for media and journalists' independence and integrity.

RISKS

The main risk is transparency in re-granting process by the successful implementers. The mitigation measure is close follow-up and involvement in monitoring of re-granting process by EU Delegation.

Assumptions:

- Political support and will of BiH government levels to continue with the democratisation and EU integration process in BiH with the involvement of a strong civil society.
- Support and sufficient level of interest by all government levels to cooperate with CSOs and their networks.
- Political support to anti-corruption activities.
- CSOs have interest to cooperate under sectoral networks.

CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

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

3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All levels of governance will be consulted for the implementation via the NIPAC office, in line with constitutional roles and responsibilities along the established practices of BiH.

IMPLEMENTATION METHODS AND TYPES OF FINANCING

One Twinning contract to provide technical assistance to:

- ✓ The government structure in charge of civil society cooperation to support the BiH governments to better include CSOs into the decision and policy-making and improve/develop their strategic documents defining cooperation with CSOs (IPA 2017).

One Call for proposals to provide support to:

- ✓ **CSOs to combat corruption.** One contract with sub-granting is foreseen. (IPA 2017)
- ✓ **Support to media freedoms and media integrity.** One contract with sub-granting is foreseen. (IPA 2017)
- ✓ **Networking CSOs** in areas of social inclusion, education, social entrepreneurship, environment and climate change, and youth. Five contracts with sub-granting are foreseen. (IPA 2017)

One open call for support to the Resource Centre to:

- ✓ Provide tailor made and on-site technical assistance to CSOs. (IPA 2017)

4. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

METHODOLOGY FOR MONITORING (AND EVALUATION)

The European Commission may carry out a mid-term, a final or an ex-post evaluation for this Action or its components via independent consultants, through a joint mission or via an implementing partner. In case a mid-term or final evaluation is not foreseen, the European Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner. The evaluations will be carried out as prescribed by the DG NEAR guidelines for evaluations. In addition, the Action might be subject to external monitoring in line with the European Commission rules and procedures.

In line with the DG NEAR's "Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-2020", the European Commission has developed a set of objectives, results and indicators for EU support to civil society, which will allow for the measurement of progress at country level as well across the enlargement region, including also from a gender perspective. The monitoring and evaluation system includes a yearly regional meeting with the involvement of CSOs to analyse the state of play and advancement towards targets.

The implementation of support to civil society should include monitoring and evaluation systems at different levels:

Activity level: the EU Delegation will be responsible for monitoring and evaluation throughout the implementation phase. TACSO as well as external contractors may assist these efforts.

National/Programme level: CSOs will be involved in the yearly monitoring of indicators and results. Yearly national and regional meetings will analyse the development of the CSOs in all beneficiaries and the advancement towards the targets.

INDICATOR MEASUREMENT (FIGURES IN BRACKETS REFER TO INDICATORS OF THE GUIDELINES FOR EU SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN ENLARGEMENT COUNTRIES 2014-2020)

Indicator	Baseline (2014 (2))	Target 2017 (3)	Final Target (2020) (4)	Source of information
<p>Inclusion of CSOs into the decision making at all levels of government:</p> <p>“Increase of public funding for CSOs.” (2.4.a)</p> <p>”Percentage of laws/bylaws, strategies and policy reforms effectively consulted with CSOs”. (3.1.a)</p> <p>“Quality of structures and mechanisms in place for dialogue and cooperation between CSOs and public institutions”. (3.1.b)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are no state bodies with a clear mandate for allocation and/or monitoring of state funds. Monitoring of fund allocation and spending is the responsibility of the institutions allocating the funds and is dependent on these institutions as well as on the reports of CSOs using the funds. - 59% of CSOs had income from membership fees, 40% had from citizens, 22% from local self-government and/or regional administration, 26% from other foreign private or state resources, 28% from the EU funds, 24% from governments/ministries/state administration bodies, 22% from private companies operating in the country, 11% from public companies. - 34% of CSOs in BiH were consulted in the process of preparation of specific laws, 26% of national strategies, 18% of national action plans, 14% of IPA programming of EU financial support, 17% of policy documents. - There is a lack of strategic documentation at the BiH level that would address and support civil society development with clearly stated goals and measures for implementation, clear allocation of responsibilities and funding available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established BiH bodies with a clear mandate for allocation and monitoring of state funds to CSOs. - 50% of CSOs in BiH are consulted in the process of preparation of specific laws, 35% of national strategies, 25% of national action plans, 30% of IPA programming of EU financial support, 30% of policy documents. - Adopted adequate strategic documentation on the BiH level addressing and supporting civil society development with clearly stated goals and measures for implementation, clear allocation of responsibilities and funding available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BiH bodies with mandate for allocation and monitoring of public funds fully operational. - 70% of CSOs in BiH were consulted in the process of preparation of specific laws, 50% of national strategies, 35% of national action plans, 50% of IPA programming of EU financial support, 50% of policy documents. - Strategic framework for creation of more enabling environment for civil society development adopted at all levels in BiH (state, entities, District Brcko, cantons and minimum 50% of municipalities). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project final report • Independent research • Official Gazette BiH • EC BiH Progress Report
<p>Capacity building of CSOs:</p> <p>“External perception of importance and impact of CSOs activities”(4.2.a)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 49.7% of surveyed trust to CSOs. - 20% of CSOs believe that decision making in CSOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina is in compliance with prescribed rules and laws of the organisation, 56% believe that decisions are made by some individual or top management, 23% that decisions are made with prescribed rules including consultations with the employees and volunteers. - 83% of CSOs believe that CSOs in Bosnia and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 60 % of surveyed trust to CSOs in BiH. - 60% of general population believes that CSOs support dealing with problems in BiH. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 70 % of surveyed trust to CSOs in BiH. - 70% of general population believes that CSOs support dealing with problems in BiH. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project final report • Independent research • Official Gazette BiH • EC BiH Progress Report

<p>“Share of CSOs that monitor and evaluate their projects and programmes using baselines and quality indicators” (4.4.a)</p> <p>“Share of CSOs which have developed strategic plans including human resources development activities” (5.1.a)</p> <p>"Number of CSOs' who use adequate argumentation and analysis for achieving advocacy goals" (5.2.a)</p> <p>“Percentage of CSOs that confirm that they are able to raise funds according to their strategic plans (6.1.a)</p>	<p>Herzegovina mainly adopt to donors' priorities and collect funds also for other activities not in line with their organisational strategic plan, while 17% of CSOs believe that CSOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina mainly stich with their strategic plan and collect funds for activities in line with their strategic plan.</p> <p>26% of CSOs stated that they have a human resources development plan aimed at attacking and keeping talented associates, while 53% stated that they do not have such plan</p> <p>61% of CSOs active in public advocacy, mainly/frequently uses research for their advocacy actions, while 39% of them mainly/very rarely use research</p> <p>– 59% of CSOs had income from membership fees, 40% had from citizens, 22% form local self-government and/or regional administration, 26% from other foreign private or state resources, 28% form the EU funds, 24% from governments/ministries/state administration bodies, 22% from private companies operating in the country, 11% from public companies</p>	<p>– 35% of CSOs use external evaluation for realisation of their projects</p> <p>35% of CSOs have a human resource development plan</p> <p>70% of CSOs active in public advocacy uses research for their advocacy actions while 30% of them mainly/very rarely use research</p> <p>65% of CSOs had income from membership fees, 50% had from citizens, 30% form local self-government and/or regional administration, 30% from other foreign private or state resources, 25% form the EU funds, 30% from governments/ministries/state administration bodies, 30% from private companies operating in the country, 15% from public companies</p>	<p>– 50% of CSOs use external evaluation for realisation of their projects</p> <p>50% of CSOs have a human resource development plan</p> <p>80% of CSOs active in public advocacy uses research for their advocacy actions while 20% of them mainly/very rarely use research</p> <p>70% of CSOs had income from membership fees, 60% had from citizens, 40% form local self-government and/or regional administration, 35% from other foreign private or state resources, 20% form the EU funds, 35% from governments/ministries/state administration bodies, 35% from private companies operating in the country, 20% from public companies</p>	
<p>Support to networking of CSOs:</p> <p>“Quality of the enabling environment for grass-roots organisations and/or civic initiatives.” (1.3.a)</p> <p>“Share of CSOs that monitor and evaluate their projects and programmes using baselines and quality indicators” (4.4.a)</p> <p>"External perception of importance and impact</p>	<p>– 13% of CSOs stated that had a greatest benefit from the network in terms of the exchange of experience/knowledge.</p> <p>– 26% of CSOs use external evaluation for realisation of their projects.</p> <p>– 66% of surveyed believe that CSOs in their country are not active in fighting problems in rural development and employment, 63% believe in the area</p>	<p>– 25 % of CSOs stated that had a greatest benefit from the network in terms of the exchange of experience/knowledge.</p> <p>– 30% of CSOs use external evaluation for realisation of their projects</p> <p>– 60% of surveyed believe that CSOs in their country are not active in fighting problems in rural development and employment,</p>	<p>– 50 % of CSOs stated that had a greatest benefit from the network in terms of the exchange of experience/knowledge.</p> <p>– 40% of CSOs use external evaluation for realisation of their projects</p> <p>– 50% of surveyed believe that CSOs in their country are not active in fighting problems in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project final report • Independent research • Official Gazette BiH • EC BiH Progress Report

<p>of CSOs activities” (4.2.a)</p> <p>“Share of CSOs taking part in local, national, regional and international networks”. (5.3.a)</p>	<p>of safety, and 59% in overseeing government and local government performances and fight against corruption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 47% of CSOs do not find CSO networks efficient, while 53% find them efficient - 33% of CSOs indicated that they do not belong to any national network, 23% stated that belong to one national network, 14% stated that they belong to 2 national networks, 29% belong to more than 3 national networks. 	<p>55% believe in the area of safety, and 50% in overseeing government and local government performances and fight against corruption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 40 % of surveyed believe that CSOs in BiH are active in fighting problems in employment. 	<p>rural development and employment, 45% believe in the area of safety, and 40% in overseeing government and local government performances and fight against corruption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 60 % of surveyed believe that CSOs in BiH are active in fighting problems in employment. 	
<p>Support to combat corruption: External perception of importance and impact of CSOs activities.” (4.2.a)</p>	<p>59% of surveyed believe that CSOs in BiH are not active in fight against corruption.</p>	<p>- 50 % of surveyed believe that CSOs in BiH are active in fight against corruption.</p>	<p>- 70 % of surveyed believe that CSOs in BiH are active in fight against corruption.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project final report • Independent research • Official Gazette BiH • EC BiH Progress Report
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to media freedoms and media integrity: Quality of existing legislation and policy framework (1.1.a.) Progress with the adoption and implementation of relevant legislation (1.1.b) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Media, social networks, the official web platforms of public authorities and a number of CSOs are not fully protected from political and other influences especially at the local level. - In the last two years, cases of social network monitoring, interrogation of CSO activists, tapping of phone lines, and monitoring of the activities and correspondence of online social groups were recorded. CSO activists and journalists expressed distrust towards public authorities and security agencies because of their surveillance of social networks and incidences of phone tapping reported by the media. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved legislative framework for ensuring media freedoms and integrity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved legislative framework for ensuring media freedoms and integrity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project final report • Independent research • Official Gazette BiH • EC BiH Progress Report

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

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

(3) The target year CANNOT be modified.

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

5. SECTOR APPROACH ASSESSMENT

BiH does not have a Country Sector Policy/Strategy regarding civil society development. The 2007 Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and CSOs sets out the objectives, principles and forms of the cooperation while the Action Plan of the Public Administration Reform in BiH (PAR) includes the following measures:

- Part 4. Administrative proceedings and administrative services – §1 Administrative simplification
- Part 5. Institutional communication – §12. Cooperation with civil society

The complex political system of the state reflects in many different approaches to civil society in BiH and does not constitute effective sector policy at the national level. The Ministry of Justice of BiH has a mandate to “cooperate with and ensure the development of civil society” but it lacks resources and proper institutional mechanisms. The Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH manages several grants for CSO (within culture, sport and science thematic areas). Entity and the Brcko District of BiH and particularly municipalities support CSOs registered at (or active in the area under the jurisdiction of) the respective levels of government.

6. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Great challenges remain in Bosnia and Herzegovina to achieve gender equality and to allow equal opportunities for all.

In the Terms of Reference it will be requested that successful candidate use gender-sensitive methodologies, closely monitor gender equality and minorities' rights and make sure that they are addressed properly. Each activity will - to a maximum extent possible - include a perspective on critical gender issues in BiH like: women's low political participation; insufficient resources of the institutional mechanisms for ensuring gender equality; unavailability of gender-related statistical data; financial resources for implementation and awareness of the Action Plan on the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; a low level of participation of women in the workforce; discrimination in employment with regard to maternity rights; harmonization of relevant laws and documents. Gender-related (including sexual orientation and gender identity) hate speech and intolerance will also be tackled. Law on Gender equality in BiH will have to be observed promoting and protecting gender equality and guaranteeing equal opportunities to all.

Collection of gender sensitive data will be upgraded ensuring i) better use of the existing data, ii) better collection of data which exists in the institutions (if any), iii) better procession and cross tabulation of data (i.e. age and sex, sex and education, etc.), iv) better accessibility and timeliness of data (on-line), v) better interpretation of statistical data, vi) organizing some additional surveys, if needed. In general, a gender perspective will be maintained ensuring that the results of the projects impact positively on gender equality as well.

The focus should also be on media attention or critical approach of media to the work of civil society activities in thematic areas dealing with youth and women's rights.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

This Action will be implemented in a non-discriminatory manner and with a view of ensuring equal opportunities to everybody.

Special attention will be given to the needs of vulnerable groups by supporting the work of civil society in areas such as social inclusion, education, social entrepreneurship, environment and climate change, and youth. Emphasis will also be put on gender aspects and inclusion of minorities as cross-cutting issues in all identified areas.

MINORITIES AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

As regards international human rights instruments, Bosnia and Herzegovina has ratified all major UN and international human rights conventions. The principles of the European Convention on Human Rights are entrenched in the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which also guarantees the supremacy of this Convention over national legislation. However, the Constitution fails to guarantee full access to fundamental human rights to so-called "non-constituent peoples" in BiH. The judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the Sejdic-Finci case, which relates to some major constitutional amendments, has yet to be addressed. The Action will seek to mainstream addressing this issue.

In addition to constitutionally inherent political discrimination, Roma minority continue to live in extremely vulnerable conditions regarding health, employment and education. The very slow progress in this area will be also addressed by the Action ensuring alignment with the Roma action strategy and related action plans.

LGBTI persons are one of most marginalized minority groups in BiH and they are regularly suffering discrimination and violence because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity, i.e. constant violation of their human rights. The intervention will also target LGBTI persons to assist furthering their interests and to ensure full respect of human rights for LGBTI persons and to advocate for the full equality of this group in BiH

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

The selection of the priorities for CSF was done based on the consultations organised by the EU with civil society in October 2015, the consultations in the context of ISP preparations, discussions with civil society organized by TACSO in 2015, and DG NEAR "Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-2020".

Other instruments are available to support civil society: the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and the Cross-Border Cooperation programmes. As concerns EIDHR, approximately EUR 10 million were contracted during the programming period 2007-2013 to support LGBTI, women - victims of war, disabled, democratic reforms, etc. From bilateral CBC programmes, approximately EUR 15 million were programmed between 2011 and 2013, focusing mostly on social and territorial cooperation in the areas of environment, natural and cultural heritage, public health, education, and others. Also, a number of on-going IPA projects are providing direct support to the civil society, for example the Local Democracy project implemented by UNDP as well as different grant schemes focused on lifelong learning, anti-corruption, demining, social inclusion, and others.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (AND IF RELEVANT DISASTER RESILIENCE)

There are a number of environmental/ecological CSOs active in BiH who have been instrumental in persuading authorities to take a more pro-active role in dealing with environmental problems at the local level. It is envisaged that continued activities and development in this area towards influencing state, entities, and municipal governments to deal with the country's environmental problems would be covered by the project.

Local authorities have an important role to play in environmental protection and civil society groups have been active in co-operating at local level in order to bring about improved practices. It is anticipated that this project would encourage and "systematise" this development.

Climate action relevant budget allocation: EUR 0.5 million
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7. SUSTAINABILITY

In order to achieve sustainability beyond the implementation period, the design of the assistance takes account of the following:

- Financial assistance will be delivered in an appropriate mix of funding instruments to respond to different types of CSOs and needs in a flexible, transparent, cost-effective and results focused manner.
- Design corresponding to needs/demands shared amongst the key beneficiaries, i.e. key stakeholders such as civil society and public institutions are consulted in the design process.

The focus of the assistance is on the development of strategic documents for BiH by joint efforts of governments and civil society. In the process of developing the documents, governments and civil society will be assisted to build and develop the mechanism for their cooperation as well as to build capacity needed for use of these mechanisms. The three components of the assistance's outcome (BiH strategic documents, mechanisms for cooperation between the governments and civil society, and developed capacities of governments and civil society) support each other, they will be developed by key local stakeholders in accordance with their assessed and confirmed needs, so their ownership will guarantee sustainability.

The Action will seek to have its outcomes enacted in relevant BiH legislation wherever possible with ensured financial resources and implementation mechanisms.

8. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Communication and visibility will be given high importance during the implementation of the Action. The implementation of the communication activities shall be funded from the amounts allocated to the Action; a budget for communication activities will be required. In addition to financial resources, human resources shall be assigned for the implementation and management of the communication activities with the objective to ensure high-quality communication and visibility.

There shall be a communication and visibility plan even before operational activities begin, to clearly highlight to stakeholders and public the impact of EU support.

Communication and visibility activities shall follow the EC rules for the visibility of external actions in force at the time of the activities, laid down in the Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Actions. This may be complemented by additional visibility guidelines provided by the EU Delegation.

EU flag and acknowledgement of the support received under the relevant EU programmes shall be prominently displayed in all communication and promotional material. This includes information given to the press and to the final beneficiaries, as well as all related publicity material, official notices, reports and publications or any kind of supplies purchased.

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