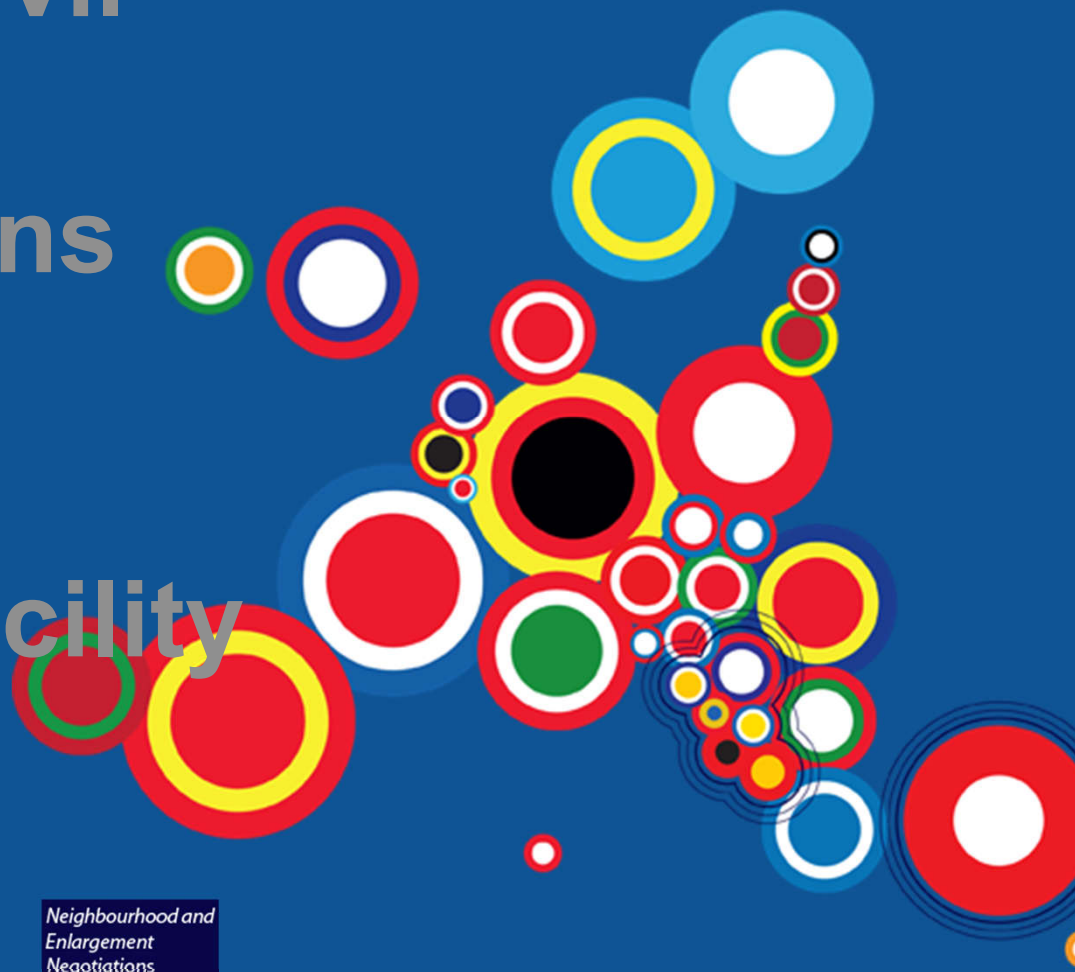




EU support to civil society in the Western Balkans and Turkey

Civil Society Facility beyond 2020

Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations





The EU Civil Society Facility

Aim: To strengthen participatory democracies and the EU integration process, by empowering civil society to take part in decision making and by stimulating an enabling legal and financial environment for them.

- 7 Bilateral and 1 Multi-country envelopes programmed jointly in one single EU financing decision (=>synergetic)*
- Guided by jointly developed EU Guidelines for support to Civil Society (=> strategic)*
- Mix and synergies of implementation modalities (operating and action grants, services/technical assistance, subgranting) (=> efficient)*



Financial Envelopes under IPA II:

Total +/- € 337 million

- *2014-2015 Total programme: €68 million*
 - *Multi country part: €30.3 million; bilateral: €38.3 million*
- *2016-2017 Total programme: €87 million*
 - *Multi country part: €38.5 million; bilateral: €48.5 million*
- *2018-2019 Total programme: €112 million*
 - *Multi country part: €39 million; bilateral: €73 million*
- *2020 Total program - estimation: +/- € 70 million*
 - *Multi country part: € +/- 40 million*



- *Reaching a very large number of CSOs (2011 - 2016)*
 - *600+ in the region,*
 - *130 in the EU*
- *A number of sectors and diverse initiatives linked to EU integration agenda*
- *A range of different implementation modalities*
 - *Action Grants (direct and through calls for proposals)*
 - *Operating Grants*
 - *Subgranting – financial support to third parties*
 - *Technical assistance for capacity building*



CSF Regional-Bilateral division of labour

| Multicountry programme | Bilateral programmes |
|--|--|
| Regional long-term thematic networks of CSOs (incl. re-granting). | Support to national CSOs and networks, incl. re-granting) |
| Regional Technical Assistance (TA) to CSOs (TACSO III), but also support via CSOs (ex gender) | Resource Centres (« central » CSOs) supporting other central and local CSOs) |
| Regranting through specialised thematic agencies/international organisations: (UNWOMEN, UNICEF, UNDP...) | TA to governments for effective relations with CSOs |
| International organisations focussed on regranting – European Endowment for Democracy | |



Mid-term evaluation of the CSF (finalised end 2017)

- ***Global objective: assess the performance of the financial support provided by the CSF in the EU pre-accession assistance and to provide findings and recommendations that assist DG NEAR in the programming and implementation of this support***
- ***Relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, EU added value, coherence, impact and sustainability***



Key conclusions of MTE of CSF

- *Overall, the CSF has been relevant, in strengthening the role of CSOs in relation to reform processes; in terms of accession requirements; and in increasing the level of public support for the enlargement process.*
- *Generally good prospects for results. Particularly strong contributions were noted in relation to building the capacities of civil society and their coalition building, as well as mobilising citizens on thematic issues. Less effective for the creation and sustaining of an enabling environment for CS.*
- *Good efficiency in terms of resource allocation and instruments. But monitoring, internal coherence processes and coordination — between EUDs and between EUDs and DG NEAR — can improve.*
- *Positive indications for impact and sustainability, especially in improvements in the ability of organisations to think, plan and act strategically, and in the use of evidence-based advocacy techniques and approaches. Sustainability and impact are negatively affected by external factors, most notably political instability in the region.*



Key recommendations of MTE CSF

- 1. Promote **shared learning** across the CSF: shared learning events, sharing of effective approaches; linking oversight of CSF projects in a given field directly to EUD staff with relevant sectoral responsibilities.*
- 2. Replicate **innovative approaches** and further develop innovative approaches to sub-granting and local fundraising.*
- 3. Allow for an **inception phase** within grants, to allow for changes to certain aspects of a project's design.*
- 4. Improve **monitoring and evaluation**: strengthen intervention logics and indicators at all levels, and establish systems for consistent monitoring and evaluation of assistance.*
- 5. Insist on full **integration of cross-cutting themes**, such as human rights and gender, and offer support to ensure that CSOs understand and embrace the intent of these.*
- 6. Improve **visibility** of the CSF through introducing a clear visibility plan for the CSF-supported actions*



Extensive consultations and constant evolution....

- *Thematic focus adjustments (responding to new needs)*
- *Longer grants – up to 4 years*
- *Increasing media portfolio*
- *Significant increase in subgranting*
- *Decentralised CSO capacity building (Resource Centres)*
- *More focus on local and grassroots players*
- *Attempts to offer core/operating support*
- *Using CSOs themselves for capacity building – ex gender network*
- *More attention to visibility – work in progress....*



.... and inherent constraints and trade-offs

Decent but yet limited financial and human EU resources dedicated to CS; basic rules for sound financial management; and uneven capacity of CSOs

- *Continuity versus new initiatives*
- *Coalition-building vs competition*
- *Operating support versus funding predictability*
- *New partners versus financial capacity*
- *Central versus local*
- *Outsourcing versus "control" and visibility*



.... Some challenges to address in next phase

- *Ensure CSOs credible players in building democracy and sustainable development*
- *How best work with governments – capacity building and policy dialogue; how prepare and frame indirect management*
- *Building constituency based CSOs*
- *Supporting active citizenship at large*
- *Better supporting local level CSOs and effective activism*
- *Stepping up on building CSOs financial sustainability*
- *Balancing advocacy, service provision and think tanks*
- *Bilateral versus multicountry – division of labour (ex support to govts)*
- *How understand and promote mainstreaming*



Thank you!

