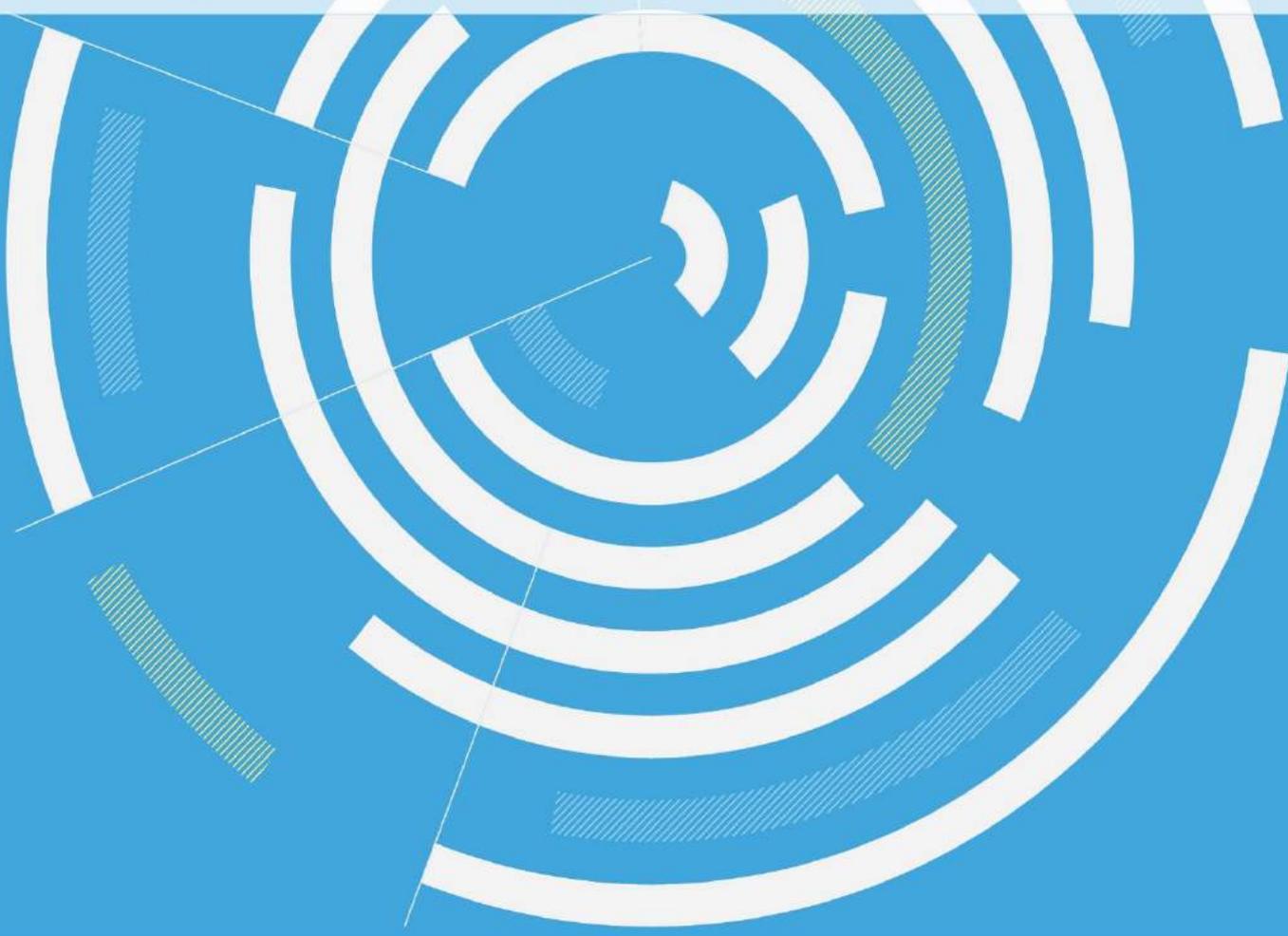




EU TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS
IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

**COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS
FEBRUARY-MARCH 2021
EVENT REPORTS**

**Guidelines for EU Support
to Civil Society in the
Enlargement region, 2021-2027**





GUIDELINES FOR EU SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN ENLARGEMENT REGION (EUCSG) FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2027 COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS ALBANIA

2 MARCH, 2021
Short report

BACKGROUND

For the needs of the European Commission, the Director General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) and in cooperation with the Delegation of the EU to Albania, EU TACSO 3 project organized an on-line country consultation meeting regarding the EU Guidelines for Support to Civil Society Enlargement Region for the Period 2021-2027 on Tuesday, 2 March 2021 from 10:00 - 12:30hrs CET.

The Consultation concerned the revision and updating of the Guidelines that have already been in place and used during 2014 – 2020 and aimed to discuss the working version of the Guidelines with representatives of civil society, public institutions, donors and other local stakeholders in Albania.

The Guidelines explain how the EU will support civil society in the region in 2021 -2027, mainly through its Civil Society Facility (CSF). They are intended for a three-fold audience:

- For **EU staff**: to assist them in preparing and implementing EU support to civil society in the Western Balkans and Turkey; in monitoring the effectiveness of the support; and in analyzing the evolution of the IPA beneficiary state of affairs concerning civil society;
- For **policy-makers and administrators in the Western Balkans and Turkey**: to understand the standards towards which DG NEAR is aspiring in terms of IPA beneficiaries own support to civil society in the context of the EU enlargement – notably in terms of the enabling environment for stimulating participatory democracy and civil society involvement in public policymaking and the EU integration process;
- For **civil society in the region**: to know the standards towards which DG NEAR is working in their capacity, effectiveness, resilience, independence, and accountability.

Furthermore, the Guidelines, and in particular their results framework, provide concrete objectives, targets, indicators, and benchmarks in support of these efforts.

The revision of the Guidelines has been carried out in a participatory way. The previous version of the Guidelines and the first draft of the revised Guidelines' result framework is available on www.tacso.eu. In December 2020, TACSO issued a call for written inputs for the revision from CSOs. In January 2020, a regional consultation for civil society and public authorities took place in Skopje. Consultations have been organized in each IPA beneficiary country to present and discuss the Guidelines with civil society organizations, public institutions, donors, and others to receive feedback for their finalization. Moreover, all interested stakeholder were available to submit any further written comments by Friday, 12 March at consultations@tacso.eu.



A Call for Participation was launched on 19 February to invite CSOs in Albania to register and participate in the consultation event. As a result, 58 CSOs registered. Public institutions and donors were invited through a direct invitation. In total, 65 representatives of CSOs, public institutions, donors and other stakeholders operating in Albania have confirmed participation, while 38 representatives attended in full or in part (See detailed list in Annex 2: List of participants).

INTRODUCTION SESSION

At the beginning, **Tanja Hafner Ademi, EU TACSO 3 Team Leader** provided information about the event's purpose. She addressed the audience by informing the participants that this meeting was organized by EU TACSO 3 project and Delegation of the EU to Albania. Additionally, instructions about language translation and other administrative modalities were provided. The event was held in English, but participants could use Albanian language translation as well.

Liselotte Isaksson, Head of Section, Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes Civil Society and Social Inclusion (D.5), DG NEAR, emphasized the importance of the Guidelines and the development and prospect of the civil society as key priority for the EU. Civil society is considered an important actor that actively promotes and supports the fundamental rights that are at the heart of the EU, such as freedom of expression, rule of law, democracy and respect for human rights including the minority rights. Active civil society represents the views and aspirations of the citizens and holds the institutions accountable. In addition, she talked about the important role civil society plays in service provision to the communities and the recent very specific role of supporting the communities in emergencies. CSOs are important partners also in proposing a vision for the society and in testing and promoting innovative solutions to sustainable development challenges. With regard to the Enlargement process, she emphasized the importance of civil society in deepening the understanding of citizens about the reforms that are needed to qualify for the membership. EU needs CSOs that are capable, professional and resilient, but also public institutions that will put in place the enabling environment for work of civil society. In addition, there should be also good systems to facilitate the cooperation and exchange between civil society and government. She explained that Civil Society Facility (CSF) established since 2009 with the role to channel both the bilateral support to Albania as well as the support at the regional level. In the previous period, approximately 3% of the budget of IPA I and II have been allocated for civil society whereas the average annual amount is around 80 million EUR. This orientation of EU to support civil society will remain at the same level in the future period through IPA III. She reflected on the importance of the Guidelines in this new financing period 2021 – 2027 and the need to revise them in participatory manner and with active participation and understanding of the all stakeholders such as public institutions and civil society. She emphasized the three-fold purpose of the Guidelines. First for EU to plan, monitor and analyze the support provided to the civil society, second to the policy makers and public officials to understand the standards and expectations that the EU has in terms of enabling environment for civil society and involvement of the civil society in public policy making. In addition, the Guidelines are seen as assisting in the development of the strategies for cooperation between the governments and civil society. The third purpose of the Guidelines is for the CSOs in order to know the standards towards which they should work in terms of their own capacities. She shortly reflected on the structure and the results framework that also includes indicators to measure the progress and that are anchored in the international standards and legal framework.

Alessandro Angius, Programme Manager, Delegation of the EU to Albania, initially thanked all participants that joined the consultation, being from the public institutions, CSOs and partners and donors. He wanted to reinforce few messages on the importance of having quality Guidelines and good framework around which to operate, work and monitor of what is done. In Albania, the previous



Guidelines were used as strategic reference to develop the document of the national Road Map for Enabling Civil Society Development. Moreover, the proper implementation and monitoring of this important document will improve drastically the life of CSOs and also the quality of the democratic processes in Albania. This is particularly important at this very moment in time with the opening of the negotiation for the accession in which civil society will have a well-defined role and they have to be prepared to be active actor in this exercise.

The Guidelines are important for the EU to monitor the development of the sector as well as also to programme the funds for supporting civil society development. EU in Albania is investing considerable resources with up to around 5 million EUR per year through various instruments. Two years ago, the Delegation of the EU to Albania started the Financial Support to Third Parties to stimulate active citizenship and citizens' participation. However, the financial support is not a goal in itself, but a means to develop civil society and raise their profile and participation in democratic processes.

Furthermore, the Delegation of the EU to Albania is trying to increase the cooperation with civil society and various tools are being used to improve the communication such as frequent meetings etc. Also, the Delegation wants to facilitate the policy dialog between civil society and the government at local and national level.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Session 1: EU Civil Society Guidelines for the Enlargement region, 2021-2027

This session was composed of two parts: the background and the structure of the document, as well as the detailed presentation of the results framework. Tanja Hafner Ademi, Team Leader, EU TACSO 3, presented main changes in the Guidelines, common objectives and goals, structure of the result framework, monitoring methodology and Area 2: CSO Capacities and Resilience. Emina Nuredinoska, P2P Manager, EU TACSO 3 who also worked on the update of the result framework, presented in detailed Area 1: Conducive Environment and Area 2: Changing relations CSOs and IPA beneficiary authorities.

The presentation noted that "Guidelines are the result and monitoring framework guiding assessment of progress via the EC Annual Reports and directing financial assistance, mainly through the Civil Society Facility. They are developed in 2013 via an inclusive process (CSOs, public authorities, stakeholders). EU TACSO 3 project role is to monitor, consult and document progress under the Guidelines and does this through various assessment means. The basis for the new are the old Guidelines for the period 2014-2020. Guidelines document is composed of introduction and result framework". Result framework was the focus of this presentation. The consultation process was ongoing throughout 2020, and the review process was composed of three parts: structure of the results framework, methodology, and operationalization.

The main upgrades of the Guidelines are based on the requests from contributors, such as issues related to money laundering, public consultations, etc. Additionally, in terms of the structure of the framework, the table/Logframe and its contents were explained in details. Benchmarks and Regional Standards is a new column added to the result framework to highlight the link of the specific objectives with the existing standards within the international and regional human rights framework.

All three areas, strategic objectives with relevant benchmarks and indicators were presented in detail.

Area 1: A conducive environment for civil society

- An enabling legal and policy environment, for the exercise of fundamental freedoms and rights, with a focus on the association, assembly, and expression;

- An enabling financial environment, which supports sustainability of CSOs, with adequate funding of the sector.

Area 2: Strengthened relations between CSOs and IPA beneficiary authorities/institutions

Civil society and public institutions are working in partnership through dialogue and cooperation, based on willingness, trust, and mutual acknowledgment around common interests.

Area 3: Reinforced CSO resilience and capacity

- Capable, transparent, and accountable CSOs;
- Strategically-led and supported CSOs;
- Resource-based CSOs.

All changes and new additions to the framework were presented in detail, including the reasoning behind these changes.

EU TACSO 3 prepares the monitoring reports annually, and the one for 2020 is in the pipeline. The current methodology focuses on qualitative and quantitative data, data gathering through legislation and practice review, a survey with CSOs, focus groups, and interview with stakeholders. Improvements are needed in data collection by public institutions. The same methodological approach in monitoring for the period 2021-27 will be undertaken.

Session 2: Discussion

In this session, Natasha Mazari, EU TACSO 3 Country Coordinator for Albania, as the facilitator of this part of the event, provided the ground rules for discussion and asked participants to present their questions in writing in the Chat or verbally by raising their hand. Chat was managed by Afërdita Pustina, EU TACSO 3 Country Coordinator for Kosovo. All questions and comments made by different participants are presented below in consecutive order:

Juliana Hoxha, Partners Albania

The revised Guidelines provides the substance for the actors that are part of the process. She expressed concern how to use this instrument at the country level with political actors and the Government. The Guidelines assumes that the political actors and the Government will reflect on the Guidelines and will implement them accordingly. This may not be the reality in Albania.

Furth on, she thanked EU TACSO 3 team for organizing the process of the consultation and recognizing recent legal frameworks such as MONEYVAL. She expressed disappointment since the revised version does not have the “teeth” that was expected to have. In terms of literally providing the guidelines for the actors, it does that clearly.

She expressed doubt at the expectation that Government and political actors use the Guidelines as a self-reflection where they are in terms of enabling environment and then take initiatives based on these. She did not share the expectation that the Government can do this on her own. She went on to elaborate on the contradicting situation at the moment with regard to the enabling environment: The EC has always been rewarding liberties, and rewarding Governments that comply with human rights, etc. However, in the last two years, MONEYVAL has been a reason for any action of the Government here. It is clear that the Council of Europe has requested countries to comply with certain standards. MONEYVAL does not care how this is restrictive for civil society. The MONEYVAL requirements imposes a restrictive environment and this is concerning, since the Government Institutions for the last 30 years had a hard time to understand the non-profit business model of CSOs in other areas and translating it



to an appropriate legal framework. With latest translation of MONEYVAL requirements, she stressed that it is becoming bizarre.

The Guidelines indicators related to conducive environment in Albania show regression. In the last 9 years, her organization has been preparing an annual Monitoring Matrix report and all related indicators (under 1.1) show regression. She posed a simple question: “What is our space to use in this situation to fight for the conducive environment, when we know we are between these two powers: international actors and – governmental institutions, talking about standards but with very little communication between them and very little communication about the sector. So, in this case we do not know who and how to address these issues.” Having objectives and indicators is useful, but they do not translate into an opportunity for the sector to join forces with these international institutions and bring these standards to the sector.

Nertil Jole, Director for Policies and Priorities for Development, Prime Minister Office (PMO)

The EU- funded project on the implementation of the Road Map for government policies towards a more enabling environment for CSOs is very much in harmony with the drafted Guidelines. The Roadmap document in Albania was approved in 2015 and it was revised in 2019. The PMO is responsible for monitoring the process of its implementation by line institutions.

The focus of the Roadmap is to create an enabling environment for CSOs and to create a dialogue and cooperation with the state authorities and also to have a functioning CSOs and implement the policies and standards that have to be in compliance with the EU. She expressed belief that the TA results are going to create a mechanism and this framework will be an additional guarantee that this pathway will be consolidated further on. Collaboration will be strengthened between the Government and CSOs and this will be the progress that citizens also expect in terms of communication, etc.

Daniela Tako, Coordinator for CSOs, Directorate for Policies and Priorities for Development, PMO

He reported that the Albanian Government is showing good progress thanks to the Road Map. He informed that they are in the process of adopting a law, which will clarify the registration and will provide registration facilities for CSOs through creating governmental platform for the registration for CSOs. Additionally, there is support to the National Council for CSOs. This indicates a good start, but they we are aware there is room for improvement.

Liselotte Isaksson, DG NEAR

It is useful to hear from the PMO on how they see the situation and to know that they use the Guidelines in defining their own work. Coming back to Juliana’s comment on the “teeth” as she put it. The DG is not changing the concept, as the Guidelines were already very helpful. The aim is to make certain things more explicit and more transparent. No additional formality to the cooperation with the IPA Beneficiaries will be added, but will be making more effective what is already in place. Additionally, the DG appreciates comments that would contribute to the process and that are useful, such as issues related to MONEYVAL. Do provide further details in writing after the meeting.

Elga Mitre, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Tirana

In November, the EU adopted the Action Plan for Human Rights. An independent civil society enabling civic space and support and protection for human rights defenders are acknowledged as key players in the process.

The changes in the Law of Registration that require CSOs to register on-line will bring them to a totally new system. Previous experiences have shown that transitory periods are crucial for landing into a new



setting. Is it time to reflect this change in the Road MAP, and how this will be translated into financial terms for implementation?

Klotilda Kosta, Partners Albania

Provided concrete suggestions on indicators for all areas: To include more indicators that relate to participation of CSOs in the process of policy- and decision-making process. Effective consultation is of crucial importance. The Guidelines should have the power to influence the Governments to take actions in implementing the same. Additionally, it should intervene on data disclosure in order to enable monitoring of indicators.

Due to the regression noted in Albania at the moment, especially all Guidelines indicators 1.1 should provide a comprehensive method on how CSOs could use the space for conducive environment. The sector needs an address to whom it could address its concerns. Otherwise, the Guidelines provides a list of listed objectives that will be measured for monitoring purposes and leave aside the real problems. In terms of perception of CSOs, this should be reformulated to “opinion based on experience”. With regards to indicators where CSOs are compared to business sector, this should be removed, especially for Albania, as it legitimates the treatment of CSOs by the Government that CSO should and can continue to be treated as business (for-profit) entities.

Nertil Jole, Director for Policies and Priorities for Development, Prime Minister’s Office

One of the outputs defined under the EU-funded project is the establishment of a transparent framework for the registration of CSOs. This is in line with standards on transparent publication of data. With regards to the Law, certain significant changes were proposed, but after it is approved, the Road Map will need to be updated.

Alessandro Angius, EUD Albania

The EUD is monitoring developments very closely. The adoption of the Law took an unexpected acceleration and is now in the Parliament in fast-track procedure. There is a TA team that is working in the area of registration. The experts did not assist in the drafting of the Law, but provided a legal opinion, which suggests that improvements to the Law are needed. The frustration of civil society is understandable due to the way in which the consultation was conducted. In spite of the consultations, the text of the Law has not changed, which is already an indication that the consultation was not very successful and productive. This Law may have consequences also related to EUDs own programming of civil society support. There is hope that more time will be allocated for discussion on the Law. All efforts, including from the PMO, should be to take time, allow to provide comments and not end the deliberation of the Law through a speedy procedure.

Nertil Jole, Director for Policies and Priorities for Development, Prime Minister’s Office

Not been closely involved in the Parliamentary commissions, but he assured that in the early stages when the process was initiated in the Ministry of Justice consultations with CSOs took place. Most comments were accommodated from that session. Perhaps others comments have been put forward in the processes since.

Juliana Hoxha, Partners Albania

In terms of the consultative process and the meeting in the Ministry of Justice, she expressed confusion since the process is not in line with the rules about public participation and the fact that +30 substantive comments were submitted. She drew attention to key challenges that the proposed draft Law puts forward. First, penalty is to be imposed in case of no registration. The legal framework, even the last version expects that the registering will be on-line in at least 3 months. Changes to the source of funding have put this under question. If the on-line registration is delayed, it will means that civil



society will cease to exist and function. Finally, this will stop the process of funding by donors, including the EU.

Furthermore, the discussion is really hurting the sector and is based on MONEYVAL, because the message is that the Sector does not want this law because they are laundering money. So it is very important how the Government articulate themselves and how we present this to the public. If there are certain standards such as these Guidelines, that is good, but if there is no accountability requested from the Government, then we do not need the EU institutions and international bodies.

Emina Nuredinoska, P2P Manager, EU TACSO 3

Apart from MONEYVAL, there are also other standards that define what is a non-profit, therefore this allows for detecting CSOs that are problematic, but not by targeting the whole sector. With regards to comment on no-profits and businesses, she explained that this was added this because in some IPA Beneficiaries, CSOs are treated stricter than the businesses.

Sotirag Hroni, Institute for Democracy and Mediation

In terms of the general consultations there are several indications that things are not going in the right direction. He offered advice the Government representative to take note, and to use the time left to deliberate on the draft Law and take under consideration the inputs from CSOs. The monitoring and implementation of Guidelines is really important to consider in order to ensure good governance.

Tanja Hafner Ademi, Team Leader EU TACSO 3

Reiterated the call to submit additional written inputs in the context on how to capture informal civil society in the Guidelines. In this regard, indicators can be further adapted. The second thing we were asked whether these include local level organizations in public consultation and funding as some of them do not have activities or even budget. Also, any additional comment and suggestion would be welcome.

Ariola Agolli, National Resource Center

She informed about the public statement of 120 CSOs that recommend to the Albanian Assembly to request to the Venice Commission a Legal Opinion for the draft law “On the Registration of Non for-Profit Organizations” and to avoid its approval in urgent conditions. The statement is available here: <https://resourcecentre.al/2021/03/02/public-statement/>

Juliana Hoxha, Partners Albania

With regards to being a CSO without a budget this is not possible in Albania. A registered organization should have at list one full-time staff, otherwise you get ejected by the Tax Administration and the Court.

CONCLUSIONS & NEXT STEPS

In the last session, it was concluded that the consultation event was useful in exchanging constructive feedback from different actors and with the DG NEAR and the Delegation of the EU to Albania. After the consultation event, participants were invited to submit written contributions to EU TACSO 3 at consultations@tacso.eu until Friday, 12 March 2021. Organizations were informed that contributions could be in the form of a comment, suggestion, useful study or report, etc. Further consultation information are available on EU TACSO 3 website www.tacso.eu.



Annex 1. Agenda

GUIDELINES FOR EU SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN ENLARGEMENT REGION (EUCSG) FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2027 COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS

ALBANIA
2 MARCH, 2021

On-line public consultation process
AGENDA

Tuesday, 2 March, 2021

10:00 – 10:15	Introduction, objectives of the process <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liselotte Isaksson, Head of Section, Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes - Civil Society and Social Inclusion (D.5), DG NEAR• Alessandro Angius, Programme Manager, EUD Albania• Tanja Hafner Ademi, Team Leader, EU TACSO 3
10:15 – 10:45	EU Civil Society Guidelines for the Enlargement region, 2021-2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of the draft framework• Q&A
10:45 – 12:15	Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderated by Natasha Mazari, Country Coordinator for Albania, EU TACSO 3
12:15 – 12:30	Conclusions & next steps



Annex 2: List of participants

No.	Name	Surname	Organization/ Institution
1	Klotilda	Kosta	Partners Albania
2	Mimoza	Ikonomi	Youth for Social Changes
3	Juliana	Hoxha	Partners Albania
4	Sotiraq	Hroni	IDM
5	Nevila	Jahaj	Qendra epoka e re
6	Kostandina	Keruti	Partners Albania
7	Armela	Pengili	ACT for SOCIETY
8	Jonida	Alite	Shoqata NdiHmoni Jeten/Help the Life Association
9	Marjana	Dedaj	SIFD (Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform)
10	Vjola	Goda	CSSP Berlin for Integrative Mediation
11	Aferdita	Gjoni	Mary Ward Loreto Foundation
12	Vasilika	Laska	Social Inclusion for Development
13	Xhorxhina	Sargoja	AlbContact Center
14	Xhina	Cekkani	Mandarina Project
15	Franceska	Korance	Build Green Group
16	Astrit	Metaliaj	Shoqata Alpin
17	Holta	Koçi	Albania Community Assist
18	Alma	Lahe	Together for Life
19	Klodian	Seferaj	Fondacioni Shoqeria e Hapur per Shqiperine
20	Manjola	Shehi	Shoqata e Restoranteve Turistike
21	Tefta	Demeti	Shoqata Kombetare e Grave Sipermarrese,
22	Anisa	Xaka	ENGIM
23	Ariola	Agolli	National resource Center for CS Albania
24	Soela	Kurti	Forumi i Gruas Elbasan
25	Xhoana	Zeqo	National resource Center for CS Albania
26	Nertil	Jole	Prime Miinister's Office
27	Daniela	Tako	Prime Minister's Office
28	Aida	Cacaj	Association of Albanian Municipalities
29	Saimir	Plaku	Agency for Support of Local Self-Governance
30	Desareta	Lomeborshi	Agency for Supporting CS
31	Robert	Gajda	Commissioner for Protection against Discrimination
32	Kejsi	Rizo	Albanian People's Advocate
33	Elga	Mitre	Dutch Embassy
34	Aida	Lahi	Dutch Embassy
35	Victor	Dragutan	DG NEAR
36	Misela	Dervishi	UNDP
37	Lorena	Gjergji	UNDP Albania
38	Jetmir	Ziba	Int



GUIDELINES FOR EU SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN ENLARGEMENT REGION FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2027 COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

22 FEBRUARY, 2021

Short report

BACKGROUND

In the framework of the EU-funded Technical Assistance to Civil Society Organizations in Western Balkans and Turkey (EU TACSO 3) project facilitated public consultations for **Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement Region for the period 2021-2027** that were organised in Bosnia and Herzegovina on Monday, 22 February, 2021. The consultation concerns the revision and updating of the Guidelines that have already been in place and used in the period 2014 - 2020.

The Guidelines explain how the EU will support civil society in the region in the period of 2021 -2027, in particular through its Civil Society Facility. They are intended for a three-fold audience:

- For **EU staff**: to assist them in preparing and implementing EU support to civil society in the Western Balkans and Turkey; in monitoring the effectiveness of the support; and in analysing the evolution of the IPA beneficiary state of affairs concerning civil society;
- For **policy-makers and administrators in the Western Balkans and Turkey**: to understand the standards towards which DG NEAR is aspiring in terms of IPA beneficiaries' own support to civil society in the context of the EU enlargement – notably in terms of the enabling environment for stimulating participatory democracy and civil society involvement in public-policy making and the EU integration process;
- For **civil society in the region**: to know the standards towards which DG NEAR is working in terms of their capacity, effectiveness, resilience, independence and accountability.

The Guidelines, and in particular their results framework, provide concrete objectives, targets, indicators and benchmark in support of these efforts.

The revision of the Guidelines has been carried out in a participatory way. In December 2020, TACSO issued a call for written inputs for the revision from civil society organisations. In January 2020, a regional consultation for civil society and public authorities took place in Skopje. Consultations were now being organised in each IPA beneficiary, to present and discuss the Guidelines with civil society organisations, public institutions, donors and others, with a view to receiving feedback for their finalisation. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was held on-line and while the official language of the event was English the simultaneous translation to Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian language were provided.

The event aimed to present the Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement Region for the period 2021-2027 and to enable public audience to provide feedback, comments and raise questions. Public consultations remain open and there is still a possibility to send comments in written by Friday, 12 March 2021.



A Call for Participation was launched on 12 February to invite CSOs in BiH to register and participate in the consultation event. As a result, 38 CSOs registered. Eleven (11) public institutions representatives and eight (8) donors' representatives were invited by direct invitation. In total, 51 representatives of CSOs, public institutions, donors and other stakeholders operating in BiH have confirmed participation, while forty-six (46) representatives attended in full or in part (See detailed list in Annex 2: List of participants).

INTRODUCTION SESSION

In the beginning, **Tanja Hafner Ademi, EU TACSO 3 Team Leader**, provided information about the purpose of the event. She addressed the audience by informing the participants that this meeting was organised by EU TACSO 3 project and the Delegation of EU to BiH in the framework of the consultation on the Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement Region for the period 2021-2027. She explained the structure of the event and presented the agenda of the event (See details in Annex 1: Agenda). Katerina Boncheva, EU TACSO 3 Event Manager explained technical details for the use of translation and other basic rules to enable effective participation and discussion. Ms Hafner Ademi also introduced EU TACSO 3 Country Coordinator in BiH and explained that she will moderate the discussion part of the event.

Liselotte Isaksson, Head of Section, Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes Civil Society and Social Inclusion (D.5), DG NEAR, emphasized the importance of the Guidelines and the development and prospect of the civil society as key priority for the EU. Civil society is considered an important actor that actively promotes and supports the fundamental rights that are at the heart of the EU, such as freedom of expression, rule of law, democracy and respect for human rights including the minority rights. Active civil society represents the views and aspirations of the citizens and holds the institutions accountable. In addition, she talked about the important role civil society plays in service provision to the communities and the recent very specific role of supporting the communities in emergencies. CSOs are important partners also in proposing a vision for the society and in testing and promoting innovative solutions to sustainable development challenges. With regard to the Enlargement process, she emphasized the importance of civil society in deepening the understanding of citizens about the reforms that are needed to qualify for the membership. EU needs CSOs that are capable, professional and resilient, but also public institutions that will put in place the enabling environment for work of civil society. In addition, there should be also good systems to facilitate the cooperation and exchange between civil society and government. She explained that Civil Society Facility (CSF) established since 2009 with the role to channel both the bilateral support to Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the support at the regional level. In the previous period, approximately 3% of the budget of IPA I and II have been allocated for civil society whereas the average annual amount is around 80 million EUR. This orientation of EU to support civil society will remain at the same level in the future period through IPA III. She reflected on the importance of the Guidelines in this new financing period 2021 – 2027 and the need to revise them in participatory manner and with active participation and understanding of the all stakeholders such as public institutions and civil society. She emphasized the three-fold purpose of the Guidelines. First for EU to plan, monitor and analyze the support provided to the civil society, second to the policy makers and public officials to understand the standards and expectations that the EU has in terms of enabling environment for civil society and involvement of the civil society in public policy making. In addition, the Guidelines are seen as assisting in the development of the strategies for cooperation between the governments and civil society. The third purpose of the Guidelines is for the CSOs in order to know the standards towards which they should work in terms of their own capacities. She shortly reflected on the structure and the results framework that also includes indicators to measure the progress and that are anchored in the international standards and legal framework.



PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Session 1: EU Civil Society Guidelines for the Enlargement Region, 2021-2027, Presentation of the draft framework

In December 2020, the first version of Guidelines result framework was published and all organisations were invited to participate and provide their feedback. Just recently, as of this morning, DG NEAR made available the last version of the Guideline together with the previously published result framework, which is available on EU TACSO 3 website and the link was provide to participants in chat. This is a very important document, as it presents EU's effort to have more strategic guide and a road map to support CSOs in the Enlargement region. The consultation process is organised so that everybody can provide contributions.

Hafner Ademi explained the role of EU TACSO 3 in revision of the Guidelines which was similar on what had been developed for previous Guidelines. She presented the overall framework, aims and purpose, the structure of Guidelines which has two parts, introduction and the result framework. Result framework includes specific objective, indicators and regional standards/benchmarks, sources of verification etc.. The result framework includes (specific) objectives against, which the success is to be measured in each IPA Beneficiary.

Emina Nuredinoska, EU TACSO 3 P2P Manager then presented the first two areas of the result framework: conducive environment and CSO and IPA Beneficiary authorities/institution relations. She presented the specific objectives, indicators and relevant regional benchmarks. Presentation of third area, the CSO resilience and capacity included presentation of the new conceptualization and approach including focus on capable, transparent and accountable CSOs, resource based CSOs, strategically led and supported CSOs. Finally, the methodology for monitoring is based on the current approach. Importance of triangulation and validation of findings was stressed.

Session 2: Discussion

In this session, Nina Brankovic, EU TACSO 3 Country Coordinator for BiH, as the moderator of this part of the event, asked participants to present their questions in writing in the Chator orally by raising their hand. All questions and comments made by different participants are presented below in consecutive order:

Dragana Dardic, Helsinki Citizen Assembly Banja Luka

Ms Dardic pointed out that Gender Action Plan 3 should be included into the referenced Benchmarks. She also explained that it is important to include protection of human rights defenders as a reference as well. It is also important to use diversification of CSOs in terms of funding received and, therefore, to be clear what type and kind of CSOs received funds from public funding resources.

Short comments were offered. Liselotte Isaksson stressed that a lot of progress has been made to define indicators that would be available and collected in all courtiers. Tanja Hafner Ademi added information on how indicators were defined and elements they include. Gender indicators have been included so far only to the extent that it is possible to obtain data for them.

Aida Daguda, CPCD/ Council of Ministers BiH, Advisory Body of the Council of Ministers of BiH for Cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations, Chair (representative of civil society)

Different representatives of CSO suggested some improvements of indicators and CPCD provided its comments in writing already in January. Additionally, it was suggested that some indicators should be merged while others should be divided to provide more concise and accurate measurement of the



successful implementation of the result framework. For example, she pointed out that indicators on freedom of assembly and association and the freedom of expression should be divided. She also added that indicators mainly focus on legal environment, while it would be beneficial to focus on policy environment as well.

Tanja Hafner Ademi informed that all receive comments will be processed by experts once the consultation process is finalised, based on which the DG NEAR will finalize the Guidelines. The comments received by CPCD and other CSOs so far will be useful for the improvement of the framework. EU TACSO 3 is looking forward to work with the newly established Council for Civil Society at the Councils of Ministers BiH.

Samir Omerefendic, UNDP/ReLOaD

He explained that they are aware of different kinds of frameworks and was interested if there will a bit more pressure on government to take more responsibility. Also, ReLOaD will look at the new working version of the Guidelines and submit written comments.

In response Liselotte Isaksson pointed out that the work with government is a continuous process and is also part of the support to Guidelines implementation.

Dusko Vucic, Resource Center BiH

He highlighted that they appreciate the Guidelines and are willing to provide support to translation of the Guidelines so that interested audience in BiH can participate and provide comments. They can also offer to put the translated version of the Guidelines on their website.

CONCLUSIONS & NEXT STEPS

In the last session, it was concluded that the consultation event was useful in exchanging constructive feedback from different actors. After the consultation event, participants were invited to submit written contributions to EU TACSO 3 at consultations@tacso.eu. Organizations were informed that contributions can be in form of a comment and suggestion. Written contributions could be submitted both in English, Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian language by Friday, 12 March, 2021. Consultation information are available on EU TACSO 3 website www.tacso.eu.

Ms Hafner Ademi explained at the final session the finalisation of the Guidelines result framework and work on the methodology and operationalization will be done in March. She also added that the regional even on the final Guidelines document would be held in April 2021. After that it is expected that the promotion of the document be organised.



Annex 1. Agenda

GUIDELINES FOR EU SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN ENLARGEMENT REGION FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2027 COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
22 FEBRUARY, 2021

On-line public consultation process
AGENDA

Monday, 22. 02. 2021

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14:00 – 14:15 | Introduction, objectives of the process <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liselotte Isaksson, Head of Section, Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes - Civil Society and Social Inclusion (D.5), DG NEAR• Vladimir Pandurevic, Task Manager for Civil Society, Delegation of the EU to Bosnia and Herzegovina• Tanja Hafner Ademi, Team Leader, EU TACSO 3 |
| 14:15 – 14:45 | EU Civil Society Guidelines for the Enlargement Region, 2021-2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of the draft framework• Q&A |
| 14:45 – 16:15 | Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderated by Nina Brankovic, Country Coordinator for Bosnia and Herzegovina, EU TACSO 3 |
| 16:15 – 16:30 | Conclusions & next steps |



Annex 2: List of participants

No.	Name	Surname	Organization
1	Dejan	Rađen	PRONI Centar za omladinski razvoj
2	Dusko	Vucic	ACED - Agencija za saradnju, edukaciju i razvoj
3	Ivica	Sivrić	Asocijacija za ekonomski razvoj REDAH
4	Tomo	Nagradić	KUDM „Bosiljak" Derventa
5	Dragana	Dardic	Helsinski parlament gradjana Banja Luka
6	Olivera	Mastikosa	Humanitarna organizacija PARTNER BANJALUKA
7	Esad	Bećirović	Centar za razvoj civilnog društva u Bosni i Hercegovini
8	Natasa	Djordjic	UG Tolerancijom protiv različitosti
9	Nedim	Alibegović	Vijeće mladih Federacije BiH
10	Lejla	Čaušević-Sučeska	Savez samostalnih sindikata BiH
11	Branka	Ivanovic	IN fondacija
12	Larisa	Kovačević	Udruženje žena Romkinja "Bolja budućnost" grada Tuzla
13	Sabina	Lizde	Fondacija CURE
14	Mirsada	Hodžić	Udruženje "Radosti druženja" roditelja djece i mladih sa poteškoćama u razvoju
15	Ferida	Mešković	Omladinski centar "Vermont"
16	Tomas	Bingas	NERDA
17	Damir	Radenković	Omladinski centar "Vermont"
18	Armina	Cerkic	Udruženje za sistemsku praksu i terapiju
19	Adis	Muhović	Centar za politike i upravljanje
20	Samir	Husić	Inicijativa za šumarstvo i okoliš - FEA
21	Tomislav	Majić	Udruženje za poduzetništvo i posao LiNK
22	Dajana	Bakić	Sarajevski otvoreni centar
23	Draženko	Budimir	ERRDO
24	Aleksandra	Tomic Cato	UFUBiH
25	Milenko	Vujinović	Udruženje za pomoć djeci i omladini sa posebnim potrebama "Sunce"
26	Tarik	Nalbantić	Inicijativa za šumarstvo i okoliš - fea
27	Anisija	Radenković	Hope and Homes for Children in BiH
28	Julijana	Petrovic	Savez za povratak izbjeglih i raseljenih Bosanske Posavine
29	Tifa	Tučić	Udruženje građana oštećenog vida Tuzla
30	Amina	Trle	Inicijativa za šumarstvo i okoliš - FEA
31	Lejla	Hukić	Inicijativa za šumarstvo i okoliš - FEA
32	Željka	Katanić	Udruženje roditelja hendikepirane djece i omladine „Leptir„Srebrenica
33	Milan	Mirić	Inicijativa i civilna akcija - ICVA
34	Selma	Džihanović-Gratz	Ministry for Justice of BiH
35	Nedim	Hamzabegovic	Government of Brcko District
36	Midhat	Džemić	Directorate For European Integration
37	Naida	Dilic	Directorate For European Integration
38	Aida	Daguda	Council of Ministers BiH, Advisory Body of the Council of Ministers of BiH for Cooperation with Non-



			Governmental Organizations, Chair (representative of civil society)
39	Muamer	Hodžić	Council of Ministers BiH, Advisory Body of the Council of Ministers of BiH for Cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations, Vice Chair
40	Ilija	Trninić	Council of Ministers BiH, Advisory Body of the Council of Ministers of BiH for Cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations, Member
41	Tomislav	Majić	Council of Ministers BiH, Advisory Body of the Council of Ministers of BiH for Cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations, Member
42	Dusko	Vucic	NRC
43	Samir	Omerefendic	UNDP/ReLOad
44	Sanja	Bokun	UNDP/ReLOad
45	Lisa	Curman	SIDA
46	Nedim	Bukvic	SIDA



GUIDELINES FOR EU SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN ENLARGEMENT REGION FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2027 CONSULTATION KOSOVO*

24 FEBRUARY, 2021
Short report

BACKGROUND

For the needs of the European Commission, the Directorate-General Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), and in cooperation EU Office in Kosovo (EUOK), EU TACSO 3 project organized an online meeting to launch the Consultation regarding the EU Guidelines for Support to Civil Society Enlargement Region for the Period 2021-2027 for Kosovo on Tuesday, 24 February 2021, from 10:00-12:30hrs CET.

The Consultation concerned the revision and updating of the Guidelines that have already been in place and used in 2014 - 2020. The Guidelines explain how the EU will support civil society in the region in 2021 -2027, mainly through its Civil Society Facility. They are intended for a three-fold audience:

- For **EU staff**: to assist them in preparing and implementing EU support to civil society in the Western Balkans and Turkey; in monitoring the effectiveness of the support; and in analyzing the evolution of the IPA beneficiary state of affairs concerning civil society;
- For **policy-makers and administrators in the Western Balkans and Turkey**: to understand the standards towards which DG NEAR is aspiring in terms of IPA beneficiaries own support to civil society in the context of the EU enlargement – notably in terms of the enabling environment for stimulating participatory democracy and civil society involvement in public policymaking and the EU integration process;
- For **civil society in the region**: to know the standards towards which DG NEAR is working in their capacity, effectiveness, resilience, independence, and accountability.

Furthermore, the Guidelines, particularly their results framework, provide concrete objectives, targets, indicators, and benchmarks in support of these efforts.

The revision of the Guidelines has been carried out in a participatory way. The previous version of the Guidelines and the first draft of the revised Guidelines results framework is available on www.tacso.eu. In December 2020, TACSO issued a call for written inputs for the revision from civil society organizations. In January 2020, a regional consultation for civil society and public authorities took place in Skopje. Consultations have been organized in each IPA Beneficiary country to present and discuss the Guidelines with civil society organizations, public institutions, donors, and others to receive feedback for their finalization.

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



A Call for Participation was launched on 16 February to invite CSOs in Kosovo to register and participate in the consultation event. As a result, fifty-three (53) CSOs were registered. Public institutions representatives and donors' representatives were invited by direct invitation. In total, seventy-eight (78) representatives of CSOs, public institutions, donors, and other stakeholders operating in Kosovo have confirmed participation, while forty-four (44) representatives attended in full or in part (See detailed list in Annex 2: List of participants).

INTRODUCTION SESSION

In the beginning, **Tanja Hafner Ademi, EU TACSO 3 Team Leader**, provided information about the event's purpose. She addressed the audience by informing the participants that this meeting was organized by the EU TACSO 3 project and EU Office in Kosovo. Instructions about language translation and other administrative modalities were provided. The event was held in English, but participants could use either Albanian or Serbian language translation.

Liselotte Isaksson, Head of Section, Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes Civil Society and Social Inclusion (D.5), DG NEAR, emphasized the importance of the Guidelines and the development and prospect of the civil society as key priority for the EU. Civil society is considered an important actor that actively promotes and supports the fundamental rights that are at the heart of the EU, such as freedom of expression, rule of law, democracy and respect for human rights including the minority rights. Active civil society represents the views and aspirations of the citizens and holds the institutions accountable. In addition, she talked about the important role civil society plays in service provision to the communities and the recent very specific role of supporting the communities in emergencies. CSOs are important partners also in proposing a vision for the society and in testing and promoting innovative solutions to sustainable development challenges. With regard to the Enlargement process, she emphasized the importance of civil society in deepening the understanding of citizens about the reforms that are needed to qualify for the membership. EU needs CSOs that are capable, professional and resilient, but also public institutions that will put in place the enabling environment for work of civil society. In addition, there should be also good systems to facilitate the cooperation and exchange between civil society and government. She explained that Civil Society Facility (CSF) established since 2009 with the role to channel both the bilateral support to Kosovo as well as the support at the regional level. In the previous period, approximately 3% of the budget of IPA I and II have been allocated for civil society whereas the average annual amount is around 80 million EUR. This orientation of EU to support civil society will remain at the same level in the future period through IPA III. She reflected on the importance of the Guidelines in this new financing period 2021 – 2027 and the need to revise them in participatory manner and with active participation and understanding of the all stakeholders such as public institutions and civil society. She emphasized the three-fold purpose of the Guidelines. First for EU to plan, monitor and analyze the support provided to the civil society, second to the policy makers and public officials to understand the standards and expectations that the EU has in terms of enabling environment for civil society and involvement of the civil society in public policy making. In addition, the Guidelines are seen as assisting in the development of the strategies for cooperation between the governments and civil society. The third purpose of the Guidelines is for the CSOs in order to know the standards towards which they should work in terms of their own capacities. She shortly reflected on the structure and the results framework that also includes indicators to measure the progress and that are anchored in the international standards and legal framework.

Dario di Benedetto, Team Leader, Cooperation, EU Office, noted that the Guidelines is a product of an extensive consultation process. Additionally, the Guidelines assisted in drafting much clearer indicators and enabled a shared vision of the region for wider interventions. This was useful for



structuring dialogue in the region between CSOs and public institutions. Through these Guidelines, apart from many other reports, it is important to mention the EC Country Report, which receives a structured input as a result of these Guidelines. In Kosovo, there is a Strategy and the Action Plan for cooperation with CSOs, and this is the Government mechanism for cooperation with CSOs. Additionally, there is a Council, which also included representatives of CSOs, which have a role in cooperating with the Government. In terms of capacities, CSOs in Kosovo are uneven in terms of professional standards. However, compared to other IPA Beneficiaries, there is a positive trend for CSO enabling environment in Kosovo. So, there are positive signs for the sector, as this is a sector that delivers.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Session 1: EU Civil Society Guidelines for the Enlargement region, 2021-2027

This session was composed of two parts: the background and the structure of the document, as well as the detailed presentation of the results framework. Tanja Hafner Ademi, Team Leader, EU TACSO 3, presented main changes in the Guidelines, common objectives and goals, the structure of the result framework, monitoring methodology, and Area 2: CSO Capacities and Resilience. Emina Nuredinosa, P2P Manager, EU TACSO 3 who also worked on the update of the result framework, presented in detail Area 1: Conducive Environment and Area 2: Changing relations CSOs and IPA beneficiary authorities.

The presentation noted that "Guidelines are the result and monitoring framework guiding assessment of progress via the EC Annual Reports and directing financial assistance, mainly through the Civil Society Facility. They are developed in 2013 via an inclusive process (CSOs, public authorities, stakeholders). EU TACSO 3 project role is to monitor, consult and document progress under the Guidelines and does this through various assessment means. The basis for the new is the old Guidelines for the period 2014-2020. Guidelines document is composed of introduction and result framework". Result framework was the focus of this presentation. The consultation process was ongoing throughout 2020, and the review process was composed of three parts: structure of the results framework, methodology, and operationalization.

The main upgrades of the Guidelines are based on the requests from contributors, such as issues related to money laundering, public consultations, etc. Additionally, in terms of the structure of the framework, the table/Logframe and its contents were explained in detail. Benchmarks and Regional Standards is a new column added to the result framework to highlight the link of the specific objectives with the existing standards within the international and regional human rights framework. In all three areas, strategic objectives with relevant benchmarks and indicators were presented in detail.

Area 1: A conducive environment for civil society

- An enabling legal and policy environment, for the exercise of fundamental freedoms and rights, with a focus on the association, assembly, and expression;
- An enabling financial environment, which supports sustainability of CSOs, with adequate funding of the sector.

Area 2: Strengthened relations between CSOs and IPA beneficiary authorities/institutions

- Civil society and public institutions are working in partnership through dialogue and cooperation, based on willingness, trust, and mutual acknowledgment around common interests.

Area 3: Reinforced CSO resilience and capacity

- Capable, transparent, and accountable CSOs;
- Strategically-led and supported CSOs;

- Resource-based CSOs.

All changes and new additions to the framework were presented in detail, including the reasoning behind these changes.

EU TACSO 3 prepares the monitoring reports annually, and the one for 2020 is in the pipeline. The current methodology focuses on qualitative and quantitative data, data gathering through legislation and practice review, a survey with CSOs, focus groups, and interview with stakeholders. Improvements are needed in data collection by public institutions. The same methodological approach in monitoring for the period 2021-27 will be undertaken.

Session 2: Discussion

In this session, Aferdita Pustina, EU TACSO 3 Country Coordinator for Kosovo, as the facilitator of this part of the event, provided the ground rules for discussion and asked participants to present their questions in writing in the Chat or verbally by raising their hand. Chat was managed by Natasha Mazari, EU TACSO 3 Country Coordinator for Albania, for the Albanian language, and Aleksandra Gligorovic, EU TACSO 3 Country Coordinator for Montenegro, for the Serbian language. All questions and comments made by different participants are presented below in consecutive order:

Dren Puka, Kosovo Civil Society Foundation

Raised two general comments and informed that he would send written comments on more specific issues in writing: First, we are observing a deterioration of the environment in which civil society generally operates in the region. We have very severe cases in Serbia with money laundering issues, but that is not the case in Kosovo. He noticed that the indicators on money laundering had been involved. Second, regarding the definition of civil society, there are various definitions, so he suggested that even organizations/groups that are not officially registered should be considered as equal players in public life.

Halil Kurmehaj, Iniciativa e Pavarur e të Verbërve te Kosovës

Offered more general comment on how to access the funds available for the civil society through IPA: First, he was interested to know the available ways to apply for IPA funds because there is a lack information in this regard. Funding options for formal and informal CSOs should clearly define how unregistered organizations can be beneficiaries of these funds, for example, for individuals, to define who is considered physical persons, and that should be based on the national legislation. In addition, the way of monitoring the funds given to CSOs should be added. In relation to the indicators measuring the impact, something should be added to measure the impact of the fund that was given. For example, if an advocacy campaign is supported, after the finalization of the campaign, the impacts should be measured, what has changed, what regulations have been approved or what legal structure has changed. Second, to add a part in terms of training provision for registered and unregistered NGOs on how they can benefit from IPA, as we do not know how to use this instrument, especially the organization he belongs to.

Boris Sekulic, OSCE

Was happy to see several OSCE documents are used as a baseline for developing some aspects of the Guidelines and asked to know details on the OSCE documents that have been used as a reference. EU TACSO 3 experts offered more information on the Joint Guidelines for Freedom of Association (Venice Commission) linked in the Guidelines result framework.

Milica Jakic, New Social Initiative in North Kosovo

Offered concrete feedback on specific indicators:



Indicator 2.4 - financial benefits are available for CSOs. Within this indicator, it should be assessed to what measure are these benefits are easily accessible. There are tax exemption policies, but how clear and easily accessible are these procedures.

Indicator 2.5 - The law on youth empowerment should be taken into account here with the analysis of the framework indicator.

Indicator 4.2 – CSOs in the Enlargement region are able to communicate the result of their activities to the public – here, add other specific indicators or put as a means of gathering data within this indicator. In general, it is not difficult for CSOs to communicate their activities to draw the attention of the public, but it is difficult to communicate clear messages to the audience. The audience remains uninterested regarding what CSOs are doing. This is also because CSOs have weak communication strategies, or their messages are too complicated, or some of the issues they are dealing with do not relate to a larger population.

Egzon Krasniqi, PhD scholar

Asked if there any opportunities for individuals and researchers that are not part of any organizations to apply and receive funds in order to contribute in different ways to the development of Kosovo? Can you enable in the Guidelines such opportunity for people that are not members of any organizations to apply for funds?

In the presentation, it was mentioned that one way of measuring the indicators was to ask CSOs what opportunities they have to access funds and to get support from the institutions. This is good in a way, but that requires triangulation. He suggested that EU TACSO 3 should have another mechanism in place to measure their abilities and not just leave that to their ability because that can be subjective and can impact the trustworthiness of the data being collected for the monitoring reports.

Saranda Cana, Swiss Embassy in Kosovo

Considered the Guidelines a very comprehensive framework. She is more interested in area 3 and found all aspects such as public trust in CSOs, networking, internal governance of CSOs, transparency and accountability, and constituency for legitimacy very important. Some specific indicators are very interesting for their monitoring purposes and most probably will be included in the result framework of their new cooperation strategy. She offered to be in contact bilaterally to see the opportunity to align some indicators and their source of verification.

CONCLUSIONS & NEXT STEPS

In the last session, it was concluded that the consultation event was useful in exchanging constructive feedback from different actors and with EUOK. After the consultation event, participants were invited to submit written contributions to EU TACSO 3 at consultations@tacso.eu until Friday, 12 March 2021. Organizations were informed that contributions could be in the form of a comment, suggestion, useful study or report, etc. Consultation information are available on EU TACSO 3 website www.tacso.eu.



Annex 1. Agenda

**GUIDELINES FOR EU SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN ENLARGEMENT
REGION FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2027
CONSULTATION**

**KOSOVO
24 FEBRUARY, 2021**

**Online public Consultation
AGENDA**

Wednesday, 24 February 2021

10:00 – 10:15	Introduction, objectives of the process <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liselotte Isaksson, Head of Section, Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes - Civil Society and Social Inclusion (D.5), DG NEAR• Dario di Benedetto, Team Leader, Cooperation, EU Office• Tanja Hafner Ademi, Team Leader, EU TACSO 3
10:15 – 10:45	EU Civil Society Guidelines for the Enlargement region, 2021-2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of the 1st draft framework• Q&A
10:45 – 12:15	Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderated by Afërdita Pustina, Country Coordinator for Kosovo, EU TACSO 3
12:15 – 12:30	Conclusions & next steps

Annex 2: List of participants

No.	Name	Surname	Organization
1	Trim	Kabashi	Sbunker
2	Shpat	Ejupi	Instituti i Pavarur i Ushqimit
3	Aurora	Xhorxhi	Austrian Institute of Excellence
4	Rinor	Qehaja	Instituti EdGuard
5	Regjë	Mulaj	OJQ,,VISION 02"
6	Fatbardha	Restelica	Instituti për Politika Zhvillimore (INDEP)
7	Aida	Topanica	AUTIZMI
8	Halil	Kurmehaj	Iniciativa e Pavarur e të Verbërve e Kosovës
9	Egzon	Krasniqi	Make A Difference
10	Rinor	Ahmeti	Network of Organizations for Rural Development of Kosovo
11	Jehona	Jashari	Ura sociale
12	Shykran	Berisha	Asociacioni i Gruas Feminae
13	Syzan	Xhekoviç	Shoqata per perkujdesjen e te moshuarve"Shtepia ime"
14	Ekrem	Citaku	Radio Vala Rinore
15	Reshat	Reshiti	Shoqata ekologjike „Ambienti,, (SHEA)
16	Vlora	Shabiu	IPKO Foundation
17	Dren	Puka	Fondacioni Kosovar per Shoqeri Civile (KCSF)
18	Pranvera	Selimi	Balkan Green Foundation
19	Asllan	Qyqalla	SHOQATA E KRIJUESVE, ARTISTEVE E LETRAREVE
20	Dardan	Kryeziu	Civikos Platform
21	Milica	Andrić Rakić	New Social Initiative
22	Miloš	Vukadinović	Institute for Development of Civil Society "Innovate"
23	Luljeta	Gjonbalaj	USAID Kosovo
24	Anna	Kuznetsova	USAID Kosovo
25	Vladislav	Stevanovic	German Embassy Pristina
26	Saranda	Cana	Swiss Development Cooperation SDC
27	Vlora	Nushi	UN Women
28	Erol	Arduc	UNHCR
29	Shkelqim	Shehu	UNHCR
30	Drita	Gorcaj - Mumxhiu	UNHCR
31	Bardha	Keqa	UNHCR
32	Milena	Tasevska	UNHCR
33	Cécilia	Marronier	French Embassy
34	Liridon	Blakaj	Italian Embassy
35	Juraj	Melioris	Czech Liaison Office
36	Boris	Sekulic	OSCE Mission in Kosovo
37	Gurjeta	Zeka	Office of Prime Minister/Development Cooperation Office
38	Vjosa	Shehu	Ministry of Local Government Administration
39	Edi	Gusia	Agency for Gender Equality



**EU TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS
IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY**

40	Art	Jashari	Ministry of Finance
41	Linda	Sanaja	UN Women
42	Jean	Baptiste-Kastel	DG NEAR
43	Rexep	Vasolli	MoF
44	Victor	Dragutan	DG NEAR



GUIDELINES FOR EU SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN ENLARGEMENT REGION FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2027 COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS MONTENEGRO

25 FEBRUARY, 2021
Short report

BACKGROUND

Mandated by the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), the EU TACSO 3 project has been entrusted to support the review and organize the consultation process for the Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement Region for the period 2021-2027. The consultation concerns the revision and updating of the Guidelines that have already been in place and used in the period 2014 - 2020.

Country consultation meeting for stakeholders in Montenegro was organised in cooperation with the Delegation of the EU to Montenegro on-line, on Thursday, 25 February, 2021.

The specific objectives of the event were:

- To present the Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement Region for the period 2021-2027
- To enable public audience to provide feedback, comments and raise questions.

Call for participants to take part in the consultation was published on 17 February on EU TACSO 3 website and social media and sent directly via mailing lists of CSOs and media organizations in Montenegro. Additionally, direct invitations were sent by EU TACSO 3 Country Coordinator to: National Resource Centre, TA to Government of Montenegro, National Council for Cooperation between State Administration Bodies and NGOs, donor and international organisations representatives, including relevant EU funded projects providing subgrating to CSOs such as ReLOaD and newly contracted project “CSOs Montenegro – from basic services to policy shapers (M’BASE) project under which, around 2,750,000 EUR will be distributed as sub-grants for CSO projects throughout Montenegro.

Delegation of the EU to Montenegro sent invitation to public institutions representatives (Cabinet of the Prime Minister of Montenegro - Office for European Integration, Ministry of Public Administration, Digital Society and Media, Ministry of Finance and Social Welfare, and Office of Ombudsperson).

In total, ninety-six (96) representatives of CSOs, media organizations, public institutions, international organisations and donors, and other stakeholders from Montenegro have confirmed participation, while sixty-nine (69) of them have participated at the event. (See details in Annex 2: List of participants).



INTRODUCTION SESSION

Introduction, objectives, expectations

In the beginning, **Tanja Hafner Ademi, EU TACSO 3 Team Leader**, provided information about the purpose, explained the structure of the event and presented the agenda of the event (See Annex 1: Agenda). **Katerina Boncheva, EU TACSO 3 Event Manager** explained technical details related to translation since the official language of the event was English, but the participants could have a translation from/to Montenegrin.

Mr Colin Wolfe, Head of Unit, Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes - Civil Society and Social Inclusion (D.5), DG NEAR welcomed the consultation process and highlighted that accession to the European Union is not just a government-led exercise, but it's also based on a genuine civic participation. He mentioned that policy makers and officials in the region and in Montenegro, are also to understand the international standards, the expectations, and particularly to work on the way in which the interaction between civil society and authorities can be facilitated and can be made a feature which last and works well, and that civil society voices are really, genuinely heard. He also said that they want to support the civil society and civil society as actors to have the opportunity to be as capable and as professional, as resilient as possible. "And that's whether you are civil society actors yourselves or whether you're working for the public authorities in Montenegro to put in place a system that facilitates the participation of civil society and making sure that indeed there is good interchange at all levels, whether it's between the citizens and the Montenegrin authorities or between citizens and EU authorities." In relation to what is available in terms of that support, he mentioned that on the EU side they have put in place since 2009 the Civil Society Facility (CSF), which supports the development in the region and in Montenegro in particular. There is a considerable resource base for that with 80 million EUR per year. EU is very much committed to continue this support, now, going forward, they have a new programming period and want to make sure that supports of 80 million EUR a year is maintained, maybe even increased. He said that Guidelines are intended to structure this support to all the aspects of the work with civil society in the period 2021-2027. DG is updating these guidelines to make sure that they're going to do the best job possible. The idea of the Guidelines and this process is that it is very important part to make sure that all stakeholders have a big part to play in, in preparing them and developing them; and that they all have a clear understanding of what they want to do with the EU support and make sure that there's a sense of working together, to make sure that we work on the same objectives and we work in the most effective way possible.

He mentioned that the overall objective is the same, i.e. it is to strengthen the democratic process, to strengthen the EU approximation process, and it is the same three areas from the previous Guidelines: the environment for the work of civil society organizations, the cooperation between civil society and the authorities and institutions, and thirdly, the capacity and resilience of the civil society organizations. He added that he has confidence that these Guidelines, as there were before, will play a very central and useful role for all stakeholders in the coming period.

Ana Lorentzen, Programme Manager from EU Delegation to Montenegro said that it is a pleasure to see how big interest this consultation generated among CSOs, cooperation partners and institutions in Montenegro. She said that these Guidelines were very important for the Delegation to report in its usual Annual Report, but also provided very clear benchmarks and indicators for achieving the main objective of the Delegation in support to civil society, which is to strengthen participatory democracy in countries such as Montenegro that is accession country to the EU. This framework has always helped to shape and monitor Delegation's support for civil society, as mentioned, around three main areas: the conducive environment for civil society to operate, the cooperation between civil society and the public institutions, and to also strengthen the capacity and resilience of civil society. In the past seven



years, they have provided different support in a range of sectors from civil society development, local democracy, social inclusion, good governance, the rule of law to media and freedom of expression, and also although to a lesser extent support in environment and rural development. She highlighted that at the same time as the EU provides support for CSOs, they have also provided support to the government institutions and to the public authorities to strengthen the environment in which the civil society operates in the country by providing technical assistance that has helped in improving the legislative framework for civil society and also in, for instance, in supporting the functioning of the Council for Cooperation with NGOs, which is a very important structure of dialogue between the government and the civil society in Montenegro. She believed that these Guidelines will be very important to guide them in the future support and hoped that Guidelines can be used by the government to shape their future strategy for civil society in the country.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Session 1: EU Civil Society Guidelines for the Enlargement Region, 2021-2027, Presentation of the draft framework

The presentation of the Guidelines result framework was divided into two parts. The Guidelines are the overarching strategic framework for the Commission to assess and to divert support, both political and financial. The first Guidelines was developed in 2013 through a very inclusive process, that is being replicated through country consultations. In December 2020, the first version of this new Guidelines has been completed and published on the EU TACSO 3 website and all stakeholders have been invited to provide their feedback. Recently, the Commission introduced the last version of the Guidelines together with the result framework, which is available on EU TACSO 3 website³.

The overall framework, aims and purpose of the Guidelines and structure of Guidelines, which has two parts - introduction and the framework – was presented. Main issues that were focus of the update of the Guidelines was: civil society shift to on-line activities, anti-terrorism measures, anti-corruption measures, regulatory frameworks that also started to affect civil society in a negative way, growing number of informal initiatives and grassroots initiatives, not just formal civil society in how this was captured in this framework, the need to have more quality indicators. This new version was made to clearly communicate that these are not new objectives, expectations in terms of conducive environment dialogue and civil society development. On the contrary, most of objectives and principles that are found in the Guidelines already exist in obligations or recommendations from regional human rights standards for the Council of Europe and other inter-governmental institutions. It is a comprehensive document that brings together in one place all of the existing requirements and clearly communicates them in the area of conducive environment dialogue and civil society development.

Emina Nuredinoska, EU TACSO 3 P2P Manager presented first two areas of the result framework: conducive environment and CSO and IPA beneficiary authorities/institution relations. She was focusing on explanation on methodology and how to monitor requested data and make the Guidelines operational. The beneficiary (country) wishing to join the EU needs to have in place an appropriate, appropriate legal, judicial, judicial and administrative environment for exercising the fundamental freedoms and rights, which focus of three and thus the specific objectives and indicators are formulated in this direction. Some of the specific objectives has been proposed aiming to provide the CSOs free without interference on the basis of the principle of equality, space for operation and work. There is a newly added objectives related to the equality among CSOs and other entities such as

³ <http://tacso.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Draft-EU-CS-Guidelines-and-Strategic-Directions-2021-27-19-02-21-for-publication.pdf>



business entities, especially in terms of benefits and policies that support some aspects of their work. The objective is that authorities treat all civil society equally with regards to their cooperation and equitably with business entities, meaning that CSOs are not subject to stricter administrative or operational requirement than business entities and that they can receive benefits and compete in public procurement or unequal places such as business entities. On the other side, equal treatment for registered and not registered organization is required in terms of the standards, the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of European Union, and European Convention for Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms have been considered, especially articles that are regulate freedoms of assembly, association expression and non-discrimination. In terms of enabling financial environment, this should support the ability and ensure that CSOs are adequately funded to express their rights in practice, mentioning that in the majority of the European Union countries, there is in place legislation that provide benefits for CSOs, to implement their activities, especially those that are related to the to the public interest. This can be achieved through different measures, such as the favorable tax rules for private donations or membership fees, then philanthropy or other means such as public funding in these directions. The indicator to look at is whether legislation stimulates and practice allows all kinds of donations, including from abroad, cash and in-kind donations from all sources, then possibility for funding from public bodies, possibility for funding from institution corporates or individuals, no obstacles for funding from other states or multilateral agencies etc. Public funding for CSOs should be available and provided in transparent, accountable and fair and non-discriminatory manner.

She also mentioned that according to the Guidelines, authorities, policies, the legislation environment, needs to stimulate and facilitate volunteering and employment in CSOs. Three indicators have been proposed for this area: the number of employees in civil society organizations, permanent and part-time and number of volunteers in organization; the number of type of incentives of the states to support those programmes for the development and promotion of volunteering; quality of legislative framework for employment and volunteering in terms of supportive employment policies.

Area 3 on CSO resilience and capacity aims to have CSOs resource-based, strategically-led and supported and capable, transparent and accountable. The approach is focused on support to civil society development and their own resilience and capacity, while previously this area was focused on and called (only) CSOs capacity. The aim is to look beyond whether, for example, CSO has a three-year strategic plan in place and checking the boxes of whether they have tools and employees and volunteers, but actually going a step further in understanding, is the strategy following the vision and mission of the organization and linked to its constituency, its members. There are a lot of challenges associated with how this is going to be measured, but the main point is that this area has underwent a conceptual shift. Secondly, this approach allows going beyond understanding CSOs as fixed category, as something static, as CSOs are only able to develop as much as they are able to react and interact with its environment - so since its environment is developing, CSOs need to be able to develop better, faster, most effective, and react in relation to its environment.

The methodology for monitoring is a challenge as it includes both quantitative and qualitative indicators and in reality, you cannot find readily-available data about, but in essence the same methodological approach as so far is to be maintained.

Session 2: Discussion

At the beginning, **Ms Aleksandra Gligorovic, the EU TACSO 3 Country Coordinator for Montenegro**, as the moderator of this part of the event, presented the basic rule for discussion, and invited participants to present their questions regarding the Guidelines, in writing in the Chat or orally by raising their hand.

Sanda Rakocevic, Executive Director of Association for democratic prosperity - Zid (ADP – Zid) commented on the specific objective that IPA Beneficiaries authorities' policies and legal environment stimulate and facilitate volunteering and employment in CSOs. She explained that working on developing a professional staff in an organization is really important and one must understand the major differences between professional staff and volunteers. She said that objectives are in line with their recommendation they put forward in previous years when talking about employment policy, specially related to CSOs as well as tax policy, because there is a big difference in function between institutions and civil society.

It is important to understand the differences between part time, full time, experts, and stressed that when talking about realization of EU-funded project e.g. through CFC - Directorate for Financing and Contracting of EU Aid Funds, in the part of the staff costs, they insist that you have full time employees or part time employees working on the project. This is applicable for bigger organizations, but for a smaller organization it is huge problem. She also said that they use to receive official data related to the number of employees in civil society organization previous years (from 2011- to 2017) from the Tax Office, but today, there are no publicly available data of this type, because it would be very visible how much CSOs invest in budget trough taxes comparing to SMEs and other sectors. She mentioned that her organisation is leading development of volunteering policy in Montenegro since 2000. She recognizes that it is good to have statistic, but statistic it's not always real. It would be good that we have some system of structural support to volunteering and to support development of volunteering program on national level, the new Strategy of Volunteering, and further development on volunteering on national level and measurement of economic value of volunteering on a national level. In 2011, ADP - Zid translated and adopted a manual for measurement of economic value and volunteering for Montenegro (Manual on the Measurement of Volunteer Work (International Labour Organization), but since then it's not implemented by the state. She also mentioned in terms of tax benefits being available for CSOs and individuals, i.e. this law is not implemented in Montenegro for the last 15 years, and when you are supporting actions in community you cannot have it tax free.

So actually, the question she posed was: how we plan to measure all these areas? Do you have a plan to know how to measure, and how you have planned to support this kind of initiatives? Because in this moment, we don't have adopted new legislation for volunteering in Montenegro, we only have legislation which is related to voluntary "work".

Ana Lorentzen, Programme Manager, EU Delegation to Montenegro asked a question to the civil society, about the inclusion of grassroots organizations - is this relevant for Montenegro? Is it the appropriate terminology? How do they feel about the grass roots concept that now it's going to be introduced in the Guidelines?

Ivana Smolovic, National Resource Centre for CSOs answered that law doesn't recognize grassroots. This was discussed many times in the previous years and she believes that something should be done in order to recognize them, e.g. just to put this term into law, explanation to be included maybe in the Law on NGOs on what kind of organization is this (grassroot). And for her, the biggest problem now is that when they start to work, in one year they get registered as NGO, so there are little examples of such organizations in Montenegro (e.g. "Sacuvajmo Sinjajevinu").

Emina Nuredinoska, EU TACSO 3 P2P Manager reflected on this topic and explained that the document reflects that this smaller community organizations are recognized by the law or in case they are not, they can operate freely without registration. So, the first step here is that there is no prohibition, not to be allowed to work, to join a group of individuals, to work together and that the



institutions and the state does not prohibit this group with their operations. Then the next level, is how these organizations are funded or how this form of organizations can be a part of the of the policy-making process.

The moderator, Aleksandra Gligorovic added that what is the legal fact and how groups of people are overcoming it, i.e. if they want to be recognized, usually they register, which is very easy and they continue work as an NGO. But also, there are a lot of groups that are not registered, but still work, but are not maybe so visible. Fund or Active Citizenship (FAKT) has a system, for example, to support grassroots organizations of such kind, but this always consists of smaller grants.

She invited representatives of the Ministry of Public Administration, Digital Society and Media if they could tell what was the system so far, what are the trends now in this area.

Marija Jankovic, Head of Department for cooperation with NGOs at the Ministry of Public Administration, Digital Society and Media said that Guidelines are generally very important for them, not only from the aspect of European integration process, but as strategic landmarked they need to harmonize with to some extent. Also, the previous strategic document was harmonized with the previous version of the Guidelines and now the Ministry has the new Guidelines at the right moment since the new strategy is being developed. This event is the first opportunity for CSOs to share more info about their needs and what they see as open questions and challenges. So, for that purpose, she shared that they implemented the evaluation of previous strategic document. In terms of results achieved, they improved model for financing NGO projects and programmes, so every year they allocate more than 0.5 percent of current state budgets to for financing CSOs projects and programmes. There is also quite new legislative framework for public consultations implemented, intersectoral communication is intensified, especially through the work of Council for cooperation between state administration and NGOs.

When it comes to open questions, beside already mentioned volunteering, social entrepreneurship, philanthropy and criteria for allocating state property to NGOs are important questions.

When it comes to implementation and evaluation of strategic framework so far, there are reports published on the website so anyone who is interested can download it. On the other side, there are some challenges when defining indicators (they should be more precisely set) and also when it comes to budget planning. After findings of external evaluations, the Ministry conducted preliminary consultations for the new strategic document, working group was formed, but due to pre-election and post-election situation now the dynamic of preparing this document is slowed down. What they expect is to adopt the internal rulebooks of organisation of the Ministry, when they will know who is dealing with specific tasks and then they can continue working on the strategic document. She used the opportunity to say that every CSO at any time can submit any comment, idea, proposal to the Ministry. She also mentioned that the Ministry conducted consultations about implementation of Law on NGOs, especially when it comes to financing NGO projects and programmes and they expect that the working group will finish official conclusions on this by the second quarter of this year. Information will serve as the baseline to start the process of amending the Law.

Ivana Vujošević, Adviser of the Chief Negotiator at the Office for European Integration said that cooperation with CSOs is very important in general for the country, but especially for the European accession process that they coordinate. She believes that so far they have demonstrated the goodwill for cooperation with and have involved CSOs in negotiating working groups and also working groups for preparation of important programmes. Could it be done better? Of course, it could, and added that it is now the right time for CSOs to give suggestions on how these two processes could be improved.

On the other hand, they are now changing the negotiating structure due to the changes in the Government, and on the other hand, also preparing for the new perspective 2021 - 2027. She mentioned recent consultation organized by their Office when new chief negotiator met with CSOs. Also, she reminded about the fact that in the European Integration Office, they are also coordinating programmes, both national as well as those that are of cross-border cooperation nature and organize regular consultations with CSOs on these topics. She is certain that this will continue in the forthcoming period.

Regarding the Guidelines, she thinks that they are very important for the overall development of the civil society and the Enlargement countries. They are general, which is understandable as they need to cover all Enlargement countries. It is good to have this kind of consultations to hear to what extent these Guidelines could be adjusted to the national context. In this regard, she suggested to involve the Ministry of Finance, because the Guidelines touches on tax benefits. As regards to indicators, it might be better to have quantitative indicators since they are easy to measure. Descriptive indicators or qualitative indicators are always difficult to measure due to perception bias.

Ana Lorentzen, Programme Manager, EU Delegation to Montenegro answered that the suggestion is a very good one. The Office for European Integration has more time to submit comments and involve Ministry of Finance. If they wish, the Delegation can also organise a short meeting on this topic.

Tanja Hafner Ademi, EU TACSO 3 Team Leader informed there will be a possibility to convey written feedback as EU TACSO 3 will be collecting any additional input until Friday, 12 March. Input can be sent in Montenegrin or in English. Related to the indicators, she highlighted that it is easy with the quantitative indicators, but on such a topic as civil society development there is a need to have qualitative indicators as, because the Guideline aims to detect the bottlenecks on tax incentive, public funding, on consultation, on capacities and only with qualitative indicators we can measure these. It is hard to collect data and it can be prone to subjectivity, but it is crucial in this area as it provides a basis to develop a response and recommendation.

Dzenana Scekic, Project Manager at UNDP – ReLOAD said that from their experience, Montenegro have really extensive and very good legal and strategic framework for allocating funds to CSOs at the local level. And at the beginning of the first phase of ReLOAD project, they conducted research and collected data for each municipality on how much money they are giving to CSOs and in which way, how transparently, so there are some baseline data available. Each municipality in Montenegro has adopted legal regulation for allocating funds to CSOs stating how much money would be allocated and in which way, so this could be measured in Montenegro. But for other issue at the local level is really hard to measure and we have to find really sensitive indicators.

She also shared opinion and experience with regards to grass-roots organizations and said that they are actually working with similar organizations at the local level. This is really important to prioritise in order to hear the voice and involve as much as possible similar organizations in policy development, in funding, in all aspects and at the local level. She suggested to work more on the concept how to involve these grass-roots organizations, who are not registered as it is not regulated by the law. On the other side, there are regulations that prescribe that, for example, citizens, academia and other stakeholders could be involved in policy development. Through this modality grass-roots organizations who are not registered, could be involved in decision-making.

Sanda Rakocevic, Executive director of Association for democratic prosperity - Zid (ADP – Zid) added that from her point of view, we are wasting a lot of money and a lot of time when all ministries have to open different calls and have to publish different invitations for different expert groups and etc. and



she thinks this type of national public calls have to be centralized. This comment is related to the national Law on NGOs. She came back again to the topic of grass-root organisations and proposed that it's important when creating programmes such as Civil Society Facility or similar, to request evaluators to recognize possibility (potential) of grass-roots and know-how to evaluate this type of the partnerships through different calls of proposals.

Ana Lorentzen, Programme Manager, EU Delegation to Montenegro answered that through CSF subgranting, the Delegation try to give possibility for support to smaller organizations. It was even made a compulsory requirement in a lot of criteria of their calls, and this was exactly to try to target organizations that, of course, have less capacity to apply and to comply with all the requirements that we do for the main proposal.

CONCLUSIONS & NEXT STEPS

Participants were invited that they could submit any further comment, information or idea in the form of written contributions to EU TACSO 3 until Friday, 12 March at consultations@tacso.eu. When EU TACSO 3 receives all comments and once the consultation process is finalised, they will be discussed with DG NEAR and taken seriously into account. Written contributions could be submitted both in English or Montenegrin language.

Consultation information are available on EU TACSO 3 website www.tacso.eu and Background Information on Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement Region, 2021-2027 Country Consultations Stage via direct link: <https://bit.ly/38w3S62>



Annex 1. Agenda

**GUIDELINES FOR EU SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN ENLARGEMENT
REGION FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2027
COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS**

**MONTENEGRO
25 FEBRUARY, 2021**

**On-line public consultation process
AGENDA**

Thursday, 25. 02. 2021

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:00 – 10:15 | Introduction, objectives of the process <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Colin Wolfe, Head of Unit, Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes (D5), DG NEAR• Ana Lorentzen, Programme Manager, EU Delegation to Montenegro• Tanja Hafner Ademi, Team Leader, EU TACSO 3 |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | EU Civil Society Guidelines for the Enlargement region, 2021-2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of the draft framework• Q&A |
| 10:45 – 12:15 | Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderated by Aleksandra Gligorovic, Country Coordinator for Montenegro, EU TACSO 3 |
| 12:15 – 12:30 | Conclusions & next steps |

Annex 2: List of participants

No.	Name	Surname	Organization
1	Jasenska	Perovic	EU Technical Assistance to Government of Montenegro
2	Ivana	Smolovic	Resource centre for civil society organizations in Montenegro
3	Dzenana	Scekic	UNDP – ReLOAD
4	Budimir	Raičković	Association of Managers, Member of the Council for Cooperation between State Administration Bodies and NGOs
5	Anđela	Radosavović	Association of Managers
6	Marija	Jankovic	Ministry of Public Administration, Digital Society and Media
7	Ana	Gojković	Ministry of Public Administration, Digital Society and Media
8	Bojana	Jovetic	Ministry of Public Administration, Digital Society and Media
9	Ivana	Vujošević	Office for European Integration
10	Tatjana	Bulajić Vučinić	Office for European Integration
11	Milica	Abramovic Radivojkov	Office for European Integration
12	Anita	Kurgaš	Office for European Integration
13	Nerma	Dobardžić	Office of Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro (Ombudsperson)
14	Darko	Mrvaljevic	Union of Municipalities of Montenegro
15	Ivana	Vujovic	OSCE Mission to Montenegro
16	Juan	Santander	UNICEF
17	Michaela	Bauer	UNICEF
18	Nada	Djurovic Martinovic	UNICEF
19	Mensur	Bajramspahic	UNHCR
20	Arta	Hoxha	UNDP
21	Zlatko	Ivanovic	US embassy
22	Vasil	Durev	Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria to Montenegro
23	Thomas	Meindl	Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany to Montenegro
24	Virginia	Pina	Embassy of Portugal
25	Evgenia	Giakoumopoulou	Council of Europe Programme Office in Podgorica
26	Edin	Koljenović	RYCO - Local Branch Office, Podgorica
27	Gjergj	Murra	Western Balkans Fund
28	Ksenija	Vukmirović	Western Balkans Fund
29	Dafina	Beqiri	Western Balkans Fund
30	Ognjen	Markovic	Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)
31	Radoš	Mušović	European Endowment for Democracy
32	Dijana	Andjelic	HELP
33	Anica	Boljevic	Fond za aktivno gradjanstvo fAKT



34	Hristina	Hristina Bošković	Udruženje likovnih umjetnika Crne Gore
35	Visnja	Cipcic	SPORT SPAJA
36	Branka	Ćalasan	PORTRET
37	Dijana	Andjelic	HELP
38	Nina	Pantovic	Organizacija KOD
39	Kristina	Mihailovic	Udruženje Roditelji
40	Željko	Tomović	Centar za zaštitu potrošača - CEZAP
41	Mehdina	Šutković	Građanska Alijansa
42	Darko	Žugić	NVO Biznis Centar
43	Vuk	Vučeraković	Zero Waste Montenegro
44	Bojana	Jokić	LGBT Forum Progres
45	Nina	Vuksanović	NVO UZPD Nikšić
46	Jadranka	Vojvodić	Agencija za elektronske medije
47	Vuk	Koljenšić	NVO Naša Akcija
48	Hristina	Bošković	NVO Zona kulture
49	Petar	Đukanović	Centar za građansko obrazovanje
50	Dejan	Bešović	NVO Naša Akcija
51	Natalija	Đaletić	Edukativni centar Montenesoft
52	Katarina	Bigović	Savez slijepih Crne Gore
53	Ivana	Martinović	Udruženje likovnih umjetnika Crne Gore
54	Bojana	Gašić	Sos telefon za žene i djecu žrtve nasilja Podgorica
55	Vladica	Đurović	JP Sportski centar Nikšić
56	Mina	Tomašević	JP Sportski centar Nikšić
57	Nevenka	Kapičić	Romska organizacija mladih Koračajte sa nama- Phiren Amenca
58	Sanda	Rakocevic	ADP-Zid
59	Vladimir	Pavicevic	NVO Ruka Ruci
60	Biljana	Babić	UNHCR
61	Maja	Markovic	Juventas
62	Isabel	Rubiales	Embassy of Spain
63	Jelena	Miljanic	UNDP
64	Vesna	Vujošević	DES "Scena", Bar
65	Jovana	Đurović	Office of Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro (Ombudsperson)
66	Bojana	Bjelic	SOS Podgorica
67	Istvan	Lakatos	Ministry of Human and Minority Rights of Montenegro
68	Petra	Gradišek	Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia
69	Victor	Dragutin	DG NEAR



GUIDELINES FOR EU SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE ENLARGEMENT REGION FOR THE PERIOD 2021 – 2027 COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS NORTH MACEDONIA

1 March, 2021
Short Report

BACKGROUND

For the needs of the European Commission, the Director General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) and in cooperation with the Delegation of the EU to North Macedonia, EU TACSO 3 organized on-line consultation event on the Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement Region for the period 2021 – 2027 on Monday, 1 March 2021. The general aim of the event was to present the Guidelines and the integral results framework to the representatives of and civil society, public institutions, donors and other stakeholders and consult them about the content and potential improvements.

The Consultation concerned the revision and updating of the Guidelines that have already been in place and used during 2014 – 2020 and aimed to discuss the working version of the Guidelines with representatives of civil society, public institutions, donors and other local stakeholders in Albania.

The Guidelines explain how the EU will support civil society in the region in 2021 -2027, mainly through its Civil Society Facility (CSF). They are intended for a three-fold audience:

- For **EU staff**: to assist them in preparing and implementing EU support to civil society in the Western Balkans and Turkey; in monitoring the effectiveness of the support; and in analyzing the evolution of the IPA beneficiary state of affairs concerning civil society;
- For **policy-makers and administrators in the Western Balkans and Turkey**: to understand the standards towards which DG NEAR is aspiring in terms of IPA beneficiaries own support to civil society in the context of the EU enlargement – notably in terms of the enabling environment for stimulating participatory democracy and civil society involvement in public policymaking and the EU integration process;
- For **civil society in the region**: to know the standards towards which DG NEAR is working in their capacity, effectiveness, resilience, independence, and accountability.

Furthermore, the Guidelines, and in particular their results framework, provide concrete objectives, targets, indicators, and benchmarks in support of these efforts.

The revision of the Guidelines has been carried out in a participatory way. The previous version of the Guidelines and the first draft of the revised Guidelines' result framework is available on www.tacso.eu. In December 2020, TACSO issued a call for written inputs for the revision from CSOs. In January 2020, a regional consultation for civil society and public authorities took place in Skopje. Consultations have been organized each IPA beneficiary country to present and discuss the Guidelines with civil society organizations, public institutions, donors, and others to receive feedback for their finalization.



Moreover, all interested stakeholder were available to submit any further written comments by Friday, 12 March at consultations@tacso.eu.

A Call for Participation was launched on 19 February to invite CSOs in North Macedonia to register and participate in the consultation event. As a result, 68 CSOs registered. Public institutions and donors were invited through a direct invitation. In total, 79 representatives of CSOs, public institutions, donors and other stakeholders operating in North Macedonia were registered, while 34 of these - 23 representatives of CSOs, 6 from public institutions, 3 from donors and 2 other stakeholders attended the event in full or in part (See detailed list in Annex 2: List of participants).

INTRODUCTION SESSION

Tanja Hafner Ademi, EU TACSO 3 Team Leader provided information about the event's purpose and gave instructions about language translation and other administrative modalities were provided. The event was held in English, but participants could use Macedonian language translation as well.

Liselotte Isaksson, Head of Section, Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes Civil Society and Social Inclusion (D.5), DG NEAR, emphasized the importance of the Guidelines and the development and prospect of the civil society as key priority for the EU. Civil society is considered an important actor that actively promotes and supports the fundamental rights that are at the heart of the EU, such as freedom of expression, rule of law, democracy and respect for human rights including the minority rights. Active civil society represents the views and aspirations of the citizens and holds the institutions accountable. In addition, she talked about the important role civil society plays in service provision to the communities and the recent very specific role of supporting the communities in emergencies. CSOs are important partners also in proposing a vision for the society and in testing and promoting innovative solutions to sustainable development challenges. With regard to the Enlargement process, she emphasized the importance of civil society in deepening the understanding of citizens about the reforms that are needed to qualify for the membership. EU needs CSOs that are capable, professional and resilient, but also public institutions that will put in place the enabling environment for work of civil society. In addition, there should be also good systems to facilitate the cooperation and exchange between civil society and government. She explained that Civil Society Facility (CSF) established since 2009 with the role to channel both the bilateral support to North Macedonia as well as the support at the regional level. In the previous period, approximately 3% of the budget of IPA I and II have been allocated for civil society whereas the average annual amount is around 80 million EUR. This orientation of EU to support civil society will remain at the same level in the future period through IPA III. She reflected on the importance of the Guidelines in this new financing period 2021 – 2027 and the need to revise them in participatory manner and with active participation and understanding of the all stakeholders such as public institutions and civil society. She emphasized the three-fold purpose of the Guidelines. First for EU to plan, monitor and analyze the support provided to the civil society, second to the policy makers and public officials to understand the standards and expectations that the EU has in terms of enabling environment for civil society and involvement of the civil society in public policy making. In addition, the Guidelines are seen as assisting in the development of the strategies for cooperation between the governments and civil society. The third purpose of the Guidelines is for the CSOs in order to know the standards towards which they should work in terms of their own capacities. She shortly reflected on the structure and the results framework that also includes indicators to measure the progress and that are anchored in the international standards and legal framework.



Nicola Bertolini Head of the Cooperation Sector, the Delegation of the EU to North Macedonia reflected on four key elements relevant for the Guidelines. First, he reflected back on history of the Guidelines which started in 2013. At that time, there was no guiding document for the support provided to civil society and it was widely understood that the support is good for democracy. However, the guiding principles included within the Guidelines provided much more direction and framework for support. The second important element he mentioned was the Strategy for the development of civil society in North Macedonia, which at that time served as one of the basis for the Guidelines. Although very progressive at that time, still the problem was that nothing substantial happened once the Strategy was adopted. The new Guidelines will serve the new strategy and to design and implement an Action plan. It is important to understand that civil society is key to democracy and CSOs can work freely with citizens in developing new ways and inclusiveness of the society. The fourth element he referred to was that it is time to move from civil society being the center of the first Guidelines to the beneficiaries and linking to the constituencies and their needs as a new focus of the Guidelines in the period 2021 – 2027.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Tanja Hafner Ademi, EU TACSO 3 Team Leader and Emina Nuredinoska, EU TACSO 3 P2P Manager presented the process of development of the new version of the Guidelines and the results framework as integral part of the document. The starting point for development was the Regional Civil Society Forum organized by EU TACSO 3 in January 2020, continuing with the call for written input issued in December 2020 and the consultation caravan that is being currently conducted in all seven countries of the Western Balkan Region and Turkey. Both experts provided information about the content of the Guidelines and explained in details the structure of the results framework. The three aspects covered with the Guidelines were presented: conducive environment, Changing relations between CSOs and IPA Beneficiary authorities/institutions and CSO resilience and capacities. Conducive environment includes fundamental freedoms and enabling financial environment as main areas. The fundamental freedoms are represented through the right of CSOs for free association and assembly, right of protection of CSOs from interference, equal treatment of CSOs with the businesses and the policies for small organizations and initiatives. The area of financial environment is represented through the freedom of CSOs to solicit and receive funding, public funding to CSOs, tax benefits and volunteers and employment. The changing relations between the CSOs and IPA Beneficiary authorities are presented through the inclusion of the civil society in the decision – making processes in the country and secondly through the mainstream of the civil society and acknowledging the importance of the development and cooperation. The indicators in this part refer to the consultation mechanisms and structural dialogue with the civil society. Within the CSOs resilience and capacities area, three important aspects have been presented including: 1) Capable, transparent and accountable CSOs; 2) Strategically-led and supported CSOs and 3) Resource-Based CSOs. In the conclusion of the presentation, information about the monitoring methodology and limitations in data collection process were provided. Participants were invited to submit further written input until Friday, 12 March, 2021.

Irena Ivanova, Programme Manager in the Delegation of the EU to North Macedonia provided a short reflection on the importance of the Guidelines and contribution of civil society and public institutions in finalizing this important framework. She called for openness in the discussion with regard to the results achieved so far, but also the shortcomings in the implementation of the Guidelines. In addition, she reflected on the shared ownership on the Guidelines not just as a document of the EU and that of the Delegation, but also as guidance for the public institutions and CSOs. The presence of the representatives of the Council for Cooperation with and Development of the Civil Society on one side, the State Secretary of the Secretariat for European Affairs and representatives of the public institutions confirm that things are moving towards increased cooperation and strengthened liability. She



informed that the support by the EU provided through the CSF to North Macedonia starting from 2014 on is more than 20 million EUR, whereas on the other hand, the EU also supported also the creation of 71 regional networks. She also informed participants that there have been around 80 grants implemented in North Macedonia so far. She expressed her observation on the participation to this consultation, which does not really represent a balance between the participants present from the civil society on the event and number of grants awarded. She invited colleagues from civil society to further disseminate the standards prescribed with the Guidelines, especially with CSOs working at the local level and include them in their work as minimum standards of cooperation. She recommended that the conclusion from this event should be further disseminated to colleagues who are not present at the event and call them to provide their written input. She emphasized the importance of cooperation, but also continuous improvement on the side of civil society in terms of capacity development to improve the relations with citizens and improve their wellbeing.

In the discussion part, the moderator Ms. Elizabeta Markovska Spasenoska, EU TACSO 3 Country Coordinator for North Macedonia briefly explained the ground rules for discussion and opened the floor. Comments and discussion by different participants are presented below.

Kalinka Gaber, State Secretary in the Secretariat for European Affairs expressed her belief about the importance of this kind of consultation for inclusion of civil society in these important processes and for the development of the society itself and in light of the EU reform agenda. She divided the process of cooperation in two stages: the first stage is characterized with setting the principles of cooperation, the environment and the communication between the government and the civil society. Many structural forums have been established dedicated to hearing and integrating CSO voices in the policy-making processes. She reflected also on the establishment of the Council for Cooperation with and the Development of the Civil Sector expressing expectation that the Council would strengthen its role and work within the next mandate and composition. She shared her personal position that there is expertise in the civil society in the country. What comes as future obligations is wrapping up of the regulatory framework related with the functioning of the sector and financial environment in order to secure sustainability of the processes and organizations. She affirmed the Guidelines and called the Council for Cooperation with and the Development of the Civil Society to integrate the Guidelines in the development of the new Strategy on Cooperation with the Civil Society. She also emphasized the importance of integrating the Guidelines in design of the amendments to the Law on Associations and Foundations as well as in the creation of the Fund for support to civil society. She also supported the importance of increased promotion of the work of CSOs and well as increased linkage with constituencies and their needs.

Eli Cakar, the representative of the Council for Cooperation with and the Development of the Civil Society from the Ministry of the Local Self Government emphasized the need to have better picture what the sector does for the public good, because then the public funding will be clearer with a better insight. There should be minimum standards for cooperation and transparency at the local level between the civil society and municipal authorities.

Irena Cvetkovik, member of the Council for Cooperation with and Development of the Civil Society and representative of Coalition Margini talked about the support to women organizations as important considering the possibilities to open larger sub-granting schemes, introduce long-term granting and provide funds for capacity development. In addition, both Irena Cvetkovik as well as **Bekim Asani from LGBTI United Tetovo** reflected on the importance of the grassroots organisations discussing the need to find a way to support the non-registered local movements.

Jasna Ercegovic from the Resource Center for Parents of Children with Special Needs discussed the position of CSOs that are working with people with disabilities. Funding is not enough for the sector to have the power to represent the citizens. There should always be a balance between the donor, the beneficiaries and the organization itself. If there is strong/stable financial support, it will be easier to communicate with the authorities and react to specific problems.

Tome Krstevski from CSO Global discussed the importance of having a stable financial support for organizations and especially the local level organizations. It is difficult for CSOs to deliver public goods without funding. Municipalities have a selective approach in allocating funds to the CSOs, so at the local level, CSOs will have to stop working because of the funding.

Valentina Atanasovska from the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation and Coordinator of the National Resource Centre proposed a number of additional indicators relating to the capacities for advocacy, resource mobilization and internal documents for long-term planning of the capacity development. She reflected on the indicator 4.4. proposing additional indicator on M&E on organizational level, then indicator 5.3 proposing additional indicator on number of networks initiated by EU funding, indicator 5.4 that should be related to the tax and legislation, indicator for percentage of CSOs that have fundraising strategies also to be added. In addition, she discussed the importance of constituency-building that is not clearly included in the document and the importance to focus on the internal capacity building and include indicator on the percentage of CSOs, which have an internal capacity building action plan.

Biljana Kotevska, representative of the European Policy Institute addressed the issue of human rights defenders and support for human rights defenders which could be more mainstreamed through the Guidelines. She emphasized that they consider that the issue of women human rights defenders and defenders of the rights of marginalized groups should be fully considered within this. Based on the research conducted, the results show that the human rights defenders are working without support, are vulnerable, excluded, not recognized as a particular category under the law, and so on. A focus on human rights does not necessarily mean a focus on human rights defenders. In addition, she also reflected on indicator 5.3 and the need for CSOs to have enough resources to identify the root causes of the problems through their research and advocacy activities. Sometimes to address root causes CSOs need to do things which the citizens do not necessarily perceive as important since deep systemic issues are not always so straightforward.

Natasha Chavdarovska from CSO Forum 16 reflected on the effectiveness of the sub-granting mechanisms. While on one hand, the sub-granting opened more possibilities for financing of the smaller CSOs, on the other hand, it contributed to making these organizations co-dependent of the bigger organization and created so-called “elite” of grant givers among bigger CSOs.

Liselotte Isaksson considered the comments on regional networking as something that might be revised in the results framework. The importance of the regional networks should be measured not just by the number of established networks, but also how large they are and what is the cooperation inside. In regard to the financial support, she reflected on the importance of the sub-granting not just for support to the less experienced organizations, but also as a mechanism to instigate capacity development.

Tanja Hafner Ademi spoke about the issue of public financing, accountability and accessibility to funds as very important. Such issues have been also raised in consultations in other countries. The enabling environment, work and operation of the smaller organizations is captured in this version of the framework as especially relevant, both at the level of basic rights and freedoms and at the level of access to public funding. She shared the existing dilemma with regard to Area 3, i.e. whether to focus



on monitoring the situation of the civil society on country level and regional level or to go more in depth and focus only capacity built with EU financing. The intention is that the indicators will speak to both the local level organizations and those who are more developed and based on national level. In addition, the indicators will address the gender aspects as well as the human rights defenders issue, although there is still dilemma how to measure all these specifics. In addition, in terms of attempts to collect data on public funding at the local level. The results roughly showed that the public funding at the local level is twice bigger than what is available on national level and this is the situations in other countries too.

Emina Nuredinoska, EU TACSO 3 P2P Manager explained that the number 71 regional networks that are identified with the research are not just formally registered but also those who are informal and work jointly to support specific issues. With regards to the public funding, she explained that numerous indicators included in the results framework will monitor different aspects of public funding not just the amount but also the quality of process. The public benefits status is covered by the Guidelines however, there is still possibility to reflect this further.

CONCLUSIONS

In the conclusion of the event participants were informed about the possibility to send written inputs to consultations@tacso.eu until Friday, 12 March, 2021. The finalization of the Guidelines result framework and work on methodology, operationalization is foreseen in March. The Regional launching event on the final Guidelines document is going to be held in April 2021 and the promotion of the new framework, implementation and monitoring is to follow thereafter.



Annex 1. Agenda

GUIDELINES FOR EU SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN ENLARGEMENT REGION FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2027 COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS

NORTH MACEDONIA

1 MARCH, 2021

On-line public consultation process

AGENDA

01. 03. 2021

CONSULTATION SESSION

11:30 – 11:45

Introduction, objectives of the process

- Liselotte Isaksson, Head of Section, Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes - Civil Society and Social Inclusion (D.5), DG NEAR
- Nicola Bertolini, Head of the Cooperation Sector, EU Delegation in the Republic of North Macedonia
- Tanja Hafner Ademi, Team Leader, EU TACSO3

11:45 – 12:15

EU Civil Society Guidelines for the Enlargement region, 2021-2027

- Presentation of the 1st draft framework of the EUCSG by EU TACSO 3 experts, Tanja Hafner Ademi and Emina Nuredinoska
- Reflection on the EUCSG, Irena Ivanova, Programme Manager, EU Delegation in the Republic of North Macedonia
- Q&A

12:15 – 13:45

Discussion

- Moderated by Elizabeta Markovska Spasenoska, EU TACSO 3 Country Coordinator for North Macedonia

13:45 – 14:00

Conclusions & next steps

Annex 2: List of participants



Nr.	Name	Surname	Organization/ Institution
1	Ana	Dajovska	GET Inovacija Bitola
2	Bekim	Asani	Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People LGBT United Tetovo
3	Biljana	Kovachevikj	University Goce Delchev
4	Biljana	Kotevska	EPI Skopje
5	Biljana	Trajkovska	Ministry of Education and Science
6	Biljana	Georgievska	UNDP, Reload project
7	Bogdan	Kolev	HOPS
8	Dushan	Tomshikj	Ministry of Labor and Social Policy
9	Eli	Cakar	Ministry of Local Self-Government
10	Goran	Lazarov	Foundation Open Society Macedonia
11	Gordana	Klincharova	Macedonia 2025
12	Gordana	Gapikj Dimitrovska	Ministry of Information Society and Administration
13	Irena	Cvetkovikj	Coalition MARGINI
14	Ivana	Popovska	Ministry of Education and Science
15	Jasminka	K.	Association for single-parenting
16	Jasna	Ercegovich	Resursen Center na roditeli na deca so posebni potrebi
17	Jean- Baptiste	Kastel	European Commission
18	Kalinka	Gaber	The Secretariat for European Affairs
19	Kristina	Kolozova	The Embassy of Switzerland - SDC
20	Katerina	Klimovska	ISLAA
21	Katerina	Partinova	AGORA Center
22	Klime	Babunski	Zdruzenie PRO MEDIA Skopje
23	Liljana	Jonoski	Rural Coalition
24	Maja	Smilevska	SOS Children Village Skopje
25	Julie	Maraval	French Embassy
26	Natasha	Chavdarovska	FORUM 16
27	Neda	Petkovska	REACTOR - Research in Action
28	Suzana	Nikodijevic Filipovska	The Unit for Cooperation with CSOs
29	Tania	Ivanova	REACTOR - Research in Action
30	Tatjana	Stoimenovska	HOPS
31	Tome	Krstevski	Zdruzenie Global Bitola
32	Valentina	Atanasovska	Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation
33	Venera	Hajrulahu	Technical Assistance for Improving the Enabling Environment for Civil Society Organizations in the Republic of North Macedonia
34	Natasa	Petrovic	GMF Balkan Trust for Democracy



GUIDELINES FOR EU SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN ENLARGEMENT REGION FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2027 COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS SERBIA

26 February 2021
Short report

BACKGROUND

For the needs of DG NEAR and in cooperation with the Delegation of the EU to Serbia, EU TACSO 3 project organized an on-line consultation on the Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement Region for the period 2021-2027. The consultation concerns the revision and updating of the Guidelines that have already been in place and used in the period 2014 – 2020. The consultation took place on Friday, 26 February 2021 from 9:30 till 12:00hrs CET.

The event aimed to present and discuss the Guidelines with civil society organisations, public institutions, international donors and others, with a view to receiving feedback for their finalisation. Call for participants to take part in the consultation event was published on EU TACSO 3 website and sent directly to 47 persons in public administration, 15 in donor community and approximately 1550 CSOs and CSO networks. The event was organised on-line. Sixty-eight (68) people in total, of which 49 representatives of CSOs, 11 from public institutions and 8 from donors, attended in full or in part (See details in Annex 2: List of participants). The contribution to the discussion was recorded and noted both throughout discussion as well as through the chat. Agenda of the event is provided in Annex 1.

INTRODUCTION SESSION

Tanja Hafner Ademi, EU TACSO 3 Team Leader, provided information about the purpose of the event, as well as technical details regarding the participation list and recording of the event.

Alessandra Viezzer, Deputy Head of Unit, Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes, DG NEAR explained that the development of prosperous civil society is priority for EU as it is a key to build democracy, support accountability of public administration and express the views and aspirations of citizens. Civil society is a key partner for providing vision of where the society is headed in many areas (environmental, social inclusion etc.). In Enlargement context, they can also play the role they help citizens understand the aspects of accession. They are an actor in achieving societal change. That is why, the EU need civil society that is capable, professional, accountable and resilient and the public authorities that are putting environment that is enabling its development, as well as development of cooperation between civil society and public institutions. EU is supporting this objective through its key tool – the Civil Society Facility that brings together actions of bilateral and regional support, managed both by the Delegations and DG NEAR. Under the previous multiannual financial frameworks, in IPA 1 and IPA 2, approximately 3% allocated funds were for support to civil society and this will continue in IPA III. Now, its good time to revisit the Guidelines to see if they are fit for purpose and what should be changed. The Guidelines will support the Enlargement process and the negation on the fundamentals. Enabling environment and relation of civil society and public authorities is important element of fundamentals. Specific objective and three focus areas are the same as they were in the previous Guidelines. One important novelty is more specific results framework as there is



the need to be sharpen in how they measure in short and medium terms the impact of EU interventions. And in the results framework is where we need most inputs to see if they are calibrated correctly. Indicators are drawn based on international standards, important international conventions and other documents and in the domain of resilience are based on Global Standards for CSO Accountability and CIVICUS Civil Society Index. She reiterated that they look forward to fruitful discussion to betterment of Guidelines.

Yngve Engström, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to Serbia welcomed the participants and reminded of the idea of the Guidelines; that is putting the framework on EU support to civil society. The Delegation sees work as extremely important for development of society. They are always available to listen to civil society and provide support. Recently, the focus is on the grass-root organizations in support of monitoring decision on local and national level. Guidelines can be always better, but for Serbia, number of things are not achieved yet even in the scope of previous Guidelines. New Ministry in Serbia is formed that encompasses the former Office for Cooperation with Civil Society and they are very keen to cooperate with the Delegation. However, there has to be clear ambition from the Government on changing things that would make environment for civil society better (e.g. VAT exemption, financial tools, financing from public sector, dialogue tools, possibility to make difference through policy dialogue with government). He invited participants to provide inputs on how to support civil society and improve accession process.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Session: EU Civil Society Guidelines for the Enlargement region, 2021-2027

In this part of the event, Tanja Hafner Ademi and Emina Nuredinoska, EU TACSO 3 P2P Manager presented in detail background of the Guidelines, process timeline of review and review approach. This session was composed of two parts: the background and the structure of the document, and the detailed presentation of the results framework.

Tanja Hafner Ademi, Team Leader, EU TACSO 3, presented main changes in the Guidelines, common objectives and goals, structure of the result framework, monitoring methodology and Area 2: CSO Capacities and Resilience. Emina Nuredinoska, P2P Manager, EU TACSO 3 presented in details Area 1: Conducive Environment and Area 2: Changing relations CSOs and IPA beneficiary authorities.

The presentation noted that "Guidelines are the result and monitoring framework guiding assessment of progress via the EC Annual Reports and directing financial assistance, mainly through the Civil Society Facility. The first Guidelines were developed in 2013 through a participation of different stakeholders. Previous Guidelines for the period 2014-2020 presented the basis for the new Guidelines for period 2021-27.

EU TACSO 3 project role is to monitor, consult and document progress under the Guidelines and does this through various assessment means. The consultation process was ongoing throughout 2020, and the review process comprised of three parts: structure of the results framework, methodology, and operationalization.

All three areas, strategic objectives with relevant benchmarks and indicators were presented in detail. Area 1: A conducive environment for civil society encompass: an enabling legal and policy environment, for the exercise of fundamental freedoms and rights (association, assembly, and expression) and enabling financial environment, which supports sustainability of CSOs, with adequate funding of the sector.

Area 2: Strengthened relations between CSOs and IPA beneficiary authorities/institutions entitles that civil society and public institutions are working in partnership through dialogue and cooperation, based on willingness, trust, and mutual acknowledgment around common interests.

Area 3: Reinforced CSO resilience and capacity covers the aspects related to capable, transparent, and accountable CSOs; strategically led and supported CSOs; resource based CSOs.

All changes and new additions to the framework were presented in detail, including the reasoning behind these changes.

The current methodology focuses on qualitative and quantitative data, data gathering through legislation and practice review, a survey with CSOs, focus groups, and interview with stakeholders. Improvements are needed in data collection by public institutions.

Session 2: Discussion

In this session, Jelena Pajovic Van Reenen, EU TACSO 3 Country Coordinator for Serbia, as the facilitator of this part of the event, welcomed the participants and asked them to present their comments or questions regarding the presented draft Guidelines, in writing in the Chat or orally by raising their hand.

Jelena Avramovic Nikolic (USAID) asked how frequently monitoring report on the Guidelines will be published. It was explained that the expectation is that Monitoring reports will be published on an annual basis.

Vanja Dolapčev (European Policy Centar) stressed that it is particularly important to see the goal related to the relation between civil society and IPA beneficiary authorities/decision makers. It is good to see indicators related not only to participation but also the quality of participation.

Bojana Selakovic (Civic Initiatives, National Resource Centar) raised following points:

- More political ownership over the Guidelines from the EU side. In terms of recognizing the Guidelines as regular tool for comprehensive monitoring of the states and providing more space for civil society in the Progress (Enlargement) Reports. We need to compare it to similar processes and mechanisms that had impact such as PAR and regional cooperation. Since the first Guidelines were brought about, some aspects especially cooperation, is even worse than at beginning of the process, so we need external push from the Commission, because this seems to work in some other areas;
- Possible synergies with other tools such as PAR monitoring (measuring state capacity and impact of CSO work);
- Need to spread the information about the Guidelines further and make it regular tool for Ministries. They can use them as their monitoring tool for cooperation with civil society. There is misunderstanding sometimes on the side of the Government what should be the role of civil society in public policy- and decision-making and some government official recognize their opinions based on research as acts of political opposition.
- Regular monitoring of the Guidelines is crucial; i.e. make sustainable framework who will monitor, what is the timeline dynamics and especially for the 3 area of the Guidelines- what is relevant sample of CSOs for research (in previous monitoring it was very narrow sample in the entire region). It is important to know what is the scope of monitoring (having in mind that there are new actors on civil society scene) and to know how the trends will be monitored.

Biljana Dakic Đorđević, Trag Foundation, member of NRC and SIGN network

- Qualitative indicators are well noted change in comparison to the previous period. It important to go beyond legal framework, as the laws are good in most of the region, but we need to have insights in their implementation;



- We will see the consequences of the COVID-19 situation, where CSOs were very much limited in the obtaining funding from state and companies. In situation where everything was channelled towards the state institutions and Government took additional measures to make privileged giving to state institutions. For example, VAT exemption was for the first time introduced, but only for the philanthropy toward public institutions. She shared following documents:
- <https://tragfondacija.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Filantropska-agenda.pdf>
- <https://tragfondacija.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Izvestaj-Srbija-daruje-neprofitnom-sektoru-2019.pdf>
- Dialogue and influence part: Qualitative indicators and case studies (i.e., Council on philanthropy activity or case or Directorate Prevention of Money Laundering) shows that implementation of laws can be very problematic;
- In revised Guidelines, the focus is on capacities of central institutions to take part on dialogues and the question is how the local authorities will be monitored to take same role;
- Resilience –indicators are very detailed and reflect new needs, but it is not sufficiently noted in terms of the need for more flexible approach and support to CSOs, especially when it comes to support to networks (although networks are recognized as indicator). There is a room to introduce strategic support to development of networks and longer-term institutional support;
- Digital gap in capacity of CSO and age gap are visible especially as consequence of COVID-19;
- Public trust: there is an increased trust on the local level and decreased trust on the national level and it is an open question how to measure those two levels.

Biljana Djusic (SDC) noted that it is good to see that additional focus is put on “organizations being led and rooted by its members/constituency”. What might be added is CSO role in mobilization of citizens for participation in decision-making process (local and national).

Slobodan Martinović (Center for Policy Research Argument)

In addition to dialogue between government and civil society, there is a lack of dialogue within civil society itself. Because civil society is divided into organizations that receive grants and organizations that point out problems in the community. An imbalance has been created, which has led to activism from an individual perspective being a pure luxury practiced only by well-paid individuals and organizations. The EU itself contributes to this imbalance through bureaucratic procedures. The price of change has become money, not a vision of a more just and better society. The Guidelines should help CSOs develop their services in the community. This is how we are constantly in the advocacy process without clear changes. Research and analysis services in particular need to be strengthened, as it is essential to strengthen expertise in the development of society.

Reflection on the issues raised in the first part of the discussion:

Quality indicators in the part of inclusion of CSOs in policy-making are very important. It is very important to detect extraordinary procedures by public institutions (sometimes EU flagged) as well as the information available prior to public consultations, right to information throughout the process as well as feedback to comments that are received, so it can be consider ad dialogue. It is important that not only policy, laws, bylaws, but also local regulations that influence the life of local communities are included as indicators.

In terms of monitoring approach and sample for Area 3, the biggest dilemma is should it aim to measure the state of overall civil society or focusing narrower on CSO funded by the EU. Between those two extremes, what the current approach ensures is that gathering of data is done through civil society, but complement with practice from public institution and donors. Validation of findings and recommendations with all stakeholders is performed currently to ensure the assessment reflects the facts and facilitates taking appropriate steps to improve the situation.

For local level, in most of cases, the data is within public institutions and in some cases, there are limitations to get this data. The proposal is to remain flexible so that data on the local level can be collected in cases where they are available.

Alessandra Viezzer underlined that the Guidelines bring together in coherent manner standards that are already binding, and that oblige IPA Beneficiaries, although the Guidelines itself are not binding. The focus is on the indicators as they are allowing measurement of how far the IPA Beneficiaries are progressing toward those standards. So political dimension is there, they will be used to see how much progress has been made and since they are not formally adopted, they bring flexibility and allow change over the next seven years period. She also stresses importance of inclusion of all actors, civil society and public institutions, and the inclusion of all type and size of CSOs. They all have a role to play. The Commission is aware of complexity of EU funding and do not want to turn all civil society actors into project managers. That is why sub-granting mechanism has been introduced and it has to be used to the fullest, so no one is excluded.

Goran Nikolic (People's Parliament) said that the Guidelines bring many good points and offer some solutions. Two suggestions:

- Specific objective 3.1 Area 2- Central authorities need to include but also enable CSOs- this is important for local organisations that have practical obstacles to participate in decision-making. Enabling would mean that working groups are formed and except applications from CSO, but demanding experience in previous working groups that in many cases exclude CSOs that didn't have chance to participate previously;
- Area 3, Resilience and capacity Indicator 6.1.b Donors: Donors never asked for example CSOs in Southern Serbia what is needed even if they plan program for Southern Serbia. Word decentralization in particular of EU funds, which are centralized and most of the funds intended to CSO support goes to Belgrade-based CSO. Overcoming might be re-granting, but it's not a perfect solution.

Milena Nedeljkov, Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Societal dialogue stated that the Guidelines are important, not only for planning, but for overviewing on what has been achieved. Indicators are detailed and particularly good, and in Serbia there is good legal framework, but its implementation need further improvement. She gave an overview of the status in regard to the following areas:

- Indicator 3.1 – All strategies that were adopted during 2020 were in accordance with the Law on Planning System and involved consultative process. In 2020, the implementation of the Guidelines for inclusion of CSOs Working groups through public calls has started and the Ministry is preparing report on the implementation of this Guidelines and recommendations for improvement of process. Ministry will post all relevant reports on their website;
- Ministry as its priority envisage preparing Strategy for enabling environment for civil society in wide participatory process;
- When it comes to the area of public funding, former Office was preparing the Annual Reports. This activity was taken by the new Ministry. Application is being developed that will allow tracking of public funding, both of public calls on all three levels of government (local, provincial and national), as well as the results of the calls, which will allow that during the same year it can be monitored what of public funds have been spent;
- Consultations- the Ministry plans to publish the report on the process of consultations that will include qualitative dimension.



Milica Bulajic, Office for Combating Drugs stressed that they have very good cooperation with CSO and open invitation to CSOs to sign memorandum of cooperation with the Office is on the website. Representatives of CSOs are included in the Action Plan for combating the misuse of drugs and this cooperation is on a rising trend. The Office will further work on developing criteria for including CSOs in development of relevant laws.

Vladimir Stojic (Young Farmers of Serbia) noticed that Serbia has heavily centralized power and local “barons” that are kept to enable central power, but their cities they are running are left without freedom to information, journalism, activism and CSOs are struggling to get even the basic information. The human factor is falling behind the legislation that is pretty good.

Slobodan Martinović, (Center for Policy Research Argument) added that the Guidelines should also deal with political participation from which many of people have been excluded, i.e. including possibility to through election change the government.

Stanka Parac Damjanovic (Local Democracy Agency Subotica, BNLD) stated that it is good also to see the rephrased concept of local community initiatives, instead of using the grass-root organisations. However, it would be important to emphasize the role of civil society in communicating and in deepened understanding of the EU integration reform process. There is also a missing link - the role of CSO in education for active citizenship with particular focus on local level as part of getting back to fundamentals.

Dragiša Mijačić (InTER) wrote in Chat that methodologically it is important to make a typology of CSOs, since they can't be considered homogeneous entity. There is a huge difference between community-based organisations and think tanks, between advocacy-based and value-based organisations, humanitarian/charity organisations and social service providers, member-based and non-member-based organisations. Putting all of them in the same basket methodologically will not lead to comprehensive results.

Sasa Kovacevic, Office for IT and e-Government Serbia informed that the Office for Information Technology and Electronic Administration is working on the development of the e-Participation Portal. The Portal is in the finalization phase and is expected to be launched soon. The e-Participation Portal will be the central place for publishing all information related to the consultative process of law-making or public policy, and the implementation of the electronic consultation process. In addition, the Portal will support the collection of initiatives by the economy and by citizens to amend already adopted regulations. This will allow visitors to the portal to be able to point out difficulties, unnecessary administrative procedures or unnecessary costs to the authors of the regulations.

Reflection on the issues raised in the second part of the discussion.

Alessandra Viezzer thanked for all inputs and stressed the importance of result framework to measure the progress in the region. New Enlargement methodology stresses the importance of fundamentals and the state of civil society is part of fundamentals. When it comes to EU funding, it is public money and in the moment of big crisis it is going to increase for IPA Beneficiaries. But with money comes the need for strong accountability. Civil society is not monolith and there is a work being done and more should be done to support civil society in all its diversity. She invited all actors to contribute to the Guidelines through inputs and make the Guidelines fit for purpose.

Ekmel Cizmecioglu, Program Manager for civil society and human rights in the Delegation of EU to Serbia thanked for all inputs. He especially thanked for inputs related to the funding as it is important to make funding flexible and transparent. Financial support to third parties allows support to local



CSOs, but also informal groups. There is always room for improvement, and he invited all civil society actors to provide inputs on programming of the CSF 2021-23 for Serbia.

CONCLUSIONS & NEXT STEPS

It was concluded that the consultation event was useful in exchanging constructive feedback from different actors. After the consultation event, participants were invited to submit written contributions to EU TACSO 3 at consultations@tacso.eu till Friday, 12 March 2021. Organizations were informed that contributions can be in form of a comment, suggestion, useful study or report etc. to draft Guidelines. Written contributions can be submitted both in English and Serbian language. Final version of the document is expected to be presented and promoted it in April 2021.



Annex 1. Agenda

GUIDELINES FOR EU SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN ENLARGEMENT REGION FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2027

SERBIA
26 FEBRUARY, 2021

Online public consultation process AGENDA

Friday, 26 February 2021

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:30 – 09:45 | Introduction, objectives of the process <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alessandra Viezzer, Deputy Head of Unit, Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes (D5), DG NEAR• Yngve Engström, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to Serbia• Tanja Hafner Ademi, Team Leader, EU TACSO 3 |
| 09:45 – 10:15 | EU Civil Society Guidelines for the Enlargement region, 2021-2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of the draft framework• Q&A |
| 10:15 – 11:45 | Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderated by Jelena Pajovic Van Reenen, Country Coordinator for Serbia, EU TACSO 3 |
| 11:45 – 12:00 | Conclusions & next steps |

Annex 2: List of participants

No.	First Name	Last Name	Organization Name
1	Jelena	Ankić	Caritas Serbia
2	Tamara	Bosic	Renewables and Environmental Regulatory Institute – “RERI”
3	Biljana	Dakić Đorđević	Trag Foundation
4	Irena	Damjanovic	Center for youth work
5	Sara	Dereta	Belgrade Center for Human Rights
6	Bojan	Elek	Belgrade Centar for Security Policy
7	Tamara	Filipovic Stevanovic	Independent journalist association Serbia
8	Nataša	Gligorijević	Center for sustainable development of Serbia
9	Marina	Grnja Klaić	Novi Sad School of Journalism
10	Ivana	Jelaca	Media Diversity Institute Western Balkans
11	Milica	Joković	Ethnicity Research Center
12	Sladjana	Jovanović	Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization
13	Vanja	Kalaba	Center for youth work
14	Nataša	Konstantinović	Trag foundation
15	Vladimir	M. Pavlović	Belgrade Open School
16	Iva	Marković	Right to water / Polekol
17	Slobodan	Martinović	Centar for research in policies Argument
18	Dragisa	Mijacic	Institute for territorial economic development- InTER
19	Snežana	Milošević	Ecological society Bujanovac
20	Jelena	Milutinovic	Youth initiative for human rights mladih
21	Goran	Mitrovic	People’s Parliament
22	Tanja	Mrkalj	Junior Achievement Serbia
23	Stanka	Parac Damjanovic	Local Democracy Agency , LDA Subotica
24	Slavka	Popić	Association for assistance to persons with mental disabilities "Pearl"
25	Aleksandar	Popovic	Association Independent Cultural Scene of Serbia
26	Mirko	Popovic	Renewables and Environmental Regulatory Institute – “RERI”
27	Nataša	Rašković	Pro.Tok21
28	Svetlana	Radosavljevic	Trag foundation
29	Marijana	Radovanovic	Ceves
30	Dragan	Roganovic	IDA
31	Aleksandra	Šanjević	Open Society Foundation Serbia
32	Bojana	Selakovic	Civic Initiatives
33	Ana	Toskić Cvetinović	Partners Serbia
34	Jelena	Unijat	Group 484
35	Ljiljana	Vasic	Children and Youth Support Organization CYSO
36	Aleksandra	Vesic	Catalyst Balkans
37	Maja	Vranic	Foundation Ana and Vlade Divac
38	Milica	Zaric	Municipality Srbobran
39	Ivan	Živkov	Citizens upheaval
40	Žaklina	Živković	Right to water / Polekol



41	Jelena	Zlatkova	Association "World of words"
42	Ivona	Gvozdenovic	National Convention on the EU
43	Tanja	Mrkalj	Junior Achievement Serbia
44	Marija	Vujković	Civic Initiatives, NRC Serbia
45	Dejana	Stevkovski	Civic Initiatives, NRC Serbia
46	Slavka	Popić	Association for assistance to persons with mental disabilities "Pearl"
47	Marinela	Sabo	Association for assistance to persons with mental disabilities "Pearl"
48	Vladimir	Stojcic	Young farmers of Serbia
49	Ivana	Lazarević	National Convention on the European Union
50	Vladimir	Vukicevic	Ministry of Justice
51	Bojan	Šarenac	Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications
52	Milica	Bulajić	Office for Combating Drugs
53	Marija	Bojic	Commissariat for Refugees and Migration
54	Bogdan	Banjac	Commissioner for Protection of Equality
55	Milena	Nedeljkov	Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Societal Dialogue
56	Sasa	Kovačević	Office for Information Technologies and E-Government
57	Jelena	Todorović	Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and Societal Dialogue
58	Tina	Janjatovic	Ministry of Environmental Protection
59	Jovan	Dragumilo	Public Policy Secretariat of the Republic of Serbia
60	Vladimir	Vukicevic	Ministry of Justice
61	Brian	Ebel	Embassy of Canada
62	Nenad	Petkovic	UNDP RELOAD
63	Valdete	Osmani	OSCE
64	Biljana	Đušić Radmilović	Embassy of Switzerland /SDC
65	Aleksandra	Kalinić	Embassy of the Netherlands
66	Grégoire	Soria-Metais	Embassy of France
67	Bertrand	Millet	Embassy of France
68	Jelena	Avramovic	USAID



GUIDELINES FOR EU SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN ENLARGEMENT REGION (EUCSG) FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2027 COUNTRY CONSULTATION TURKEY

25 FEBRUARY, 2021
Short report

BACKGROUND

For the needs of the European Commission, the Director General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) and in cooperation with the Delegation of the EU to Turkey, EU TACSO 3 organized an on-line consultation meeting on *Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement Region for the period 2021-2027* on Thursday, 25 February, 2021, between 15:30-18:00hrs (Turkey time).

The consultation meeting aimed at presenting the latest draft of the Guidelines and holding a discussion session, with the participation of civil society organizations and other stakeholders, for the updating of the Guidelines that have already been in place and used in the period 2014 – 2020.

The call for applications for CSOs to take part in the consultation meeting on *Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement Region for the period 2021-2027* was launched on Monday, 15 February and the deadline for application was set as Thursday, 18 February. In addition to the open call for application for CSOs, direct invitations for participation were sent to the related public institutions and donor organisations simultaneously. Within the scope of the call for applications for CSOs, sixty-five (65) representatives of CSOs applied to participate into the event. During the evaluation of the applications priority was given to CSOs who have been conducting any monitoring, advocacy and/or capacity development activity in one of the result areas mentioned in the EU Civil Society Guidelines and the ones who have implemented/still implementing any EU funded project. 36 CSOs and individuals were shortlisted to attend the meeting. In total 46 representatives, 26 from CSOs, 6 from donor organisations, 9 public institution representatives and 5 from other stakeholders, attended the event fully or in part. (Annex 2: List of participants).

INTRODUCTION SESSION

Introduction, objectives, opening speeches

Tanja Hafner Ademi, EU TACSO 3 Team Leader, as the facilitator of the introduction session, provided information about the purpose of the event, language translation and other technical details for smooth conduct of the event. The event was held in English, but participants could also use Turkish language translation. Furthermore, the agenda of the event was presented (See Annex 1: Agenda).

André Lys, Delegation of the EU to Turkey opened the event reminding the EU support to civil society organisations in the IPA Beneficiaries countries and the Guidelines introduced in the IPA II period. The Guidelines provide guiding principles on how to support CSOs for the Commission and Delegations and for all government counterparts during policy planning and support. He underlined that the Guidelines have been an important reference for all actors and are a useful instrument to measure progress and to set target for the IPA Beneficiaries. He also explained that in Turkey, the EU has coherently directed

the use of EU financial resources in accordance with the objectives defined in the Guidelines and in particular invested to support the third objective of the Guidelines, which is the strengthening of CSOs capacities. In addition to that, he underlined how a number of innovative interventions such as those based on “financial support to third parties” also helped to outreach to a wider number of beneficiaries, who previously had difficulties in accessing the EU supports because of language barriers and complexity of procedures.

Furthermore, he mentioned the role of the National Resource Centre (NRC) which - being the outcome of previous phases of the TACSO project - provided a very solid base for supporting civil society in the country. Lastly, he emphasized that it is really timely to discuss the Guidelines again to see what has worked well, what needs to be improved. Based on the consultations already undertaken, the overall structure of the Guidelines is confirmed being very valid, as not so many changes are being proposed and now what needs to be done is fine-tuning for the future.

Liselotte Isaksson, Head of Section, Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes Civil Society and Social Inclusion (D.5), DG NEAR, emphasized the importance of the Guidelines and the development and prospect of the civil society as key priority for the EU. Civil society is considered an important actor that actively promotes and supports the fundamental rights that are at the heart of the EU, such as freedom of expression, rule of law, democracy and respect for human rights including the minority rights. Active civil society represents the views and aspirations of the citizens and holds the institutions accountable. In addition, she talked about the important role civil society plays in service provision to the communities and the recent very specific role of supporting the communities in emergencies. CSOs are important partners also in proposing a vision for the society and in testing and promoting innovative solutions to sustainable development challenges. With regard to the Enlargement process, she emphasized the importance of civil society in deepening the understanding of citizens about the reforms that are needed to qualify for the membership. EU needs CSOs that are capable, professional and resilient, but also public institutions that will put in place the enabling environment for work of civil society. In addition, there should be also good systems to facilitate the cooperation and exchange between civil society and government. She explained that Civil Society Facility (CSF) established since 2009 with the role to channel both the bilateral support to Turkey as well as the support at the regional level. In the previous period, approximately 3% of the budget of IPA I and II have been allocated for civil society whereas the average annual amount is around 80 million EUR. This orientation of EU to support civil society will remain at the same level in the future period through IPA III. She reflected on the importance of the Guidelines in this new financing period 2021 – 2027 and the need to revise them in participatory manner and with active participation and understanding of the all stakeholders such as public institutions and civil society. She emphasized the three-fold purpose of the Guidelines. First for EU to plan, monitor and analyze the support provided to the civil society, second to the policy makers and public officials to understand the standards and expectations that the EU has in terms of enabling environment for civil society and involvement of the civil society in public policy making. In addition, the Guidelines are seen as assisting in the development of the strategies for cooperation between the governments and civil society. The third purpose of the Guidelines is for the CSOs in order to know the standards towards which they should work in terms of their own capacities. She shortly reflected on the structure and the results framework that also includes indicators to measure the progress and that are anchored in the international standards and legal framework.

Lastly, she underlined that the overall objective of the Guidelines and the three focus areas (conducive environment, the relationship between CSOs and public institutions and CSO resilience and capacities) are the same from the beginning and have not changed since the previous version. The second part of the Guidelines includes the “Results Framework”, that provides the details of specific objectives and



outcomes and also presents the indicators that are being used to measure the progress. She informed that objectives and indicators are not newly invented by the Commission, but are anchored in international and regional standards and human rights framework. What EU is trying to do, is to make a clear link between the work proposed by the EU and already existing obligations stemming from the mentioned international and regional human rights covenants. The novelty proposed in the recent version of the Guidelines is that the focus is put on monitoring. EU put quite a lot of efforts into this part which refers to monitoring and picking indicators. Here is where comments are especially welcomed.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Session 1: Presentation of the EU Civil Society Guidelines for the Enlargement region, 2021-2027

Tanja Hafner Ademi and Emina Nuredinoska, EU TACSO 3 P2P Manager presented the Guidelines Result Framework. The presentation included information about the review process of the Guidelines, which were originally developed in 2013, with an inclusive approach and participation of CSOs, public authorities and other stakeholders. It was underlined that the presentation was about the second component of the Guidelines, that is the “Result and monitoring framework” for assessing the progress in the civil society-related policies. This is conceived also for providing inputs to the EC Annual Reports and for directing EU financial assistance, mainly through CSF. The presentation included detailed information on the changes in the structure (e.g. added column with regional benchmarks) and overview of specific objectives and indicators under each of the three Areas: conducive environment; dialogue between civil society and IPA beneficiary institutions/authorities; and CSO resilience and capacities.

After the presentation, **Bülent Özcan from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs** added his reflection on the civil society support and the Guidelines in Turkey. The guidance prepared by the Commission, especially at the beginning of each new fiscal year, has always guided candidate countries in the field of civil society and helped public institutions on which issues to be prioritized. The Guidelines are also important in terms of developing a common language and developing a common network, in which both public institutions and civil society organizations can work together. In Turkey, since 2014, civil society was identified as a priority area and as a sector in consultation with the Commission and the Guidelines guided the Directorate for EU Affairs (former Ministry of European Union) while preparing civil society strategy in this process. However, not only while preparing the sector document, but also in the preparation of the 11th Development Plan, the elements specified in the Guidelines were tried to be integrated and reflected in the preparations. He underlined that Directorate for EU Affairs has worked in cooperation with the Commission in the previous periods, particularly in terms of participation of public institutions into the process, and this cooperation mainly took place within the framework of the previous TACSO project. While there was a more participatory approach with the inclusion of all institutions in the previous periods, in the new period, in the implementation of the EU TACSO 3 project, there is a slightly more difficult structure in terms of participation or inclusiveness. Additionally, he stated that the Directorate for EU Affairs is always ready to host studies as continuation of this consultation work with the participation of other candidate countries and stakeholders. Lastly, he underlined that with regards to consultations with public institutions and the contribution of the public to this process, in the upcoming period, the Directorate for EU Affairs would be glad to work more closely with the EU TACSO 3 project and the Delegation.

Session 2: Discussion

Özge Konuralp, EU TACSO 3 Country Coordinator for Turkey, as the facilitator of the discussion session, gave instructions about the main objective of the session and presented the ground rules to be followed during the discussion session. Mrs Konuralp asked the participants to present their



questions regarding the presented draft, in writing in the chat or orally by raising their hand. All questions and comments made by different participants are presented below in consecutive order:

Murat Özçelebi, Directorate for EU Affairs discussed the legal status of the Guidelines that was discussed since 2014. After 2018, we have seen its integration in country reports and progress reports, albeit partially. He asked if this trend will continue and about the approach to its dissemination at the policy level and mainstreaming. He also asked about the missing reference to the Guidelines in the programming framework that they received. The second question was about the one-stop shop regarding monitoring processes and what details are available. The monitoring of capacity issues, especially in Turkey, for example, requires a remarkable effort. There was also a comment in the presentation regarding the fact that public institutions produce more data, which is an area we have had difficulties for 4-5 years, in the sense of public sharing or facilitating data. Finally, he asked if the EU make an effort to strengthen public institutions' role in this.

Mrs Isaksson responded that in terms of the formality, the Guidelines are not a formal document and they won't be binding in the sense of adding some additional formality that is already in place. They are a guidance document. But regardless of whether this is formally adopted or not, it is important to underline that the standards that are included here in most cases are already legally binding. We will use these indicators that are specified in the Results Framework when assessing how effective our support is and as a tool helping the assessment on the situation in relation to the Copenhagen Criteria. Therefore, this is also how these issues are addressed, how they will be elaborated in the context of the annual Enlargement Package of reports and our intention with this Guidelines is of having more transparency and perhaps more coherence.

Mrs Hafner Ademi added that, in terms of methodology, this has been improved and now includes more focus on qualitative indicators. Basically, a comprehensive methodological guide has been prepared, with which indicators are transformed into concrete questions, which are then put into a survey to civil society to detect the practice. This is very much focused on the Area 3, but also in terms of the practice for Area 1 and 2. Additionally, the data are gathered in focus groups and interviews with a unified methodological approach. Interviews in all cases are mixed, meaning that all stakeholders are included. The report now composes both county briefs and a regional overview and assessment. In terms of the question about public institutions gathering data concerning public funding, consultations and other aspects that related to the monitoring, cooperation and exchange in this field would be greatly appreciated and useful.

Seda Akço, Humanist Bureau talked about the issue of resource allocation for the humanitarian aid field especially in Turkey being quite problematic. First of all, CSOs fill an important gap in service delivery where these services cannot be provided by the public institutions. On the other hand, organisations are not subject to the same laws and rules in service delivery where private sector and public institutions are binded with certain laws and regulations. Therefore, if these activities are to be carried out by organisations, how is the effectiveness, inclusiveness and the equality of these organisations going to be monitored? In addition, there is a remarkable amount of resource allocated in this field and there is a considerable amount of globalizing civil society activities which dominates the field and create an unfair competition between the local CSOs and international organisations. This situation also jeopardises the resilience of local CSOs. These multi-dimensional facts should also be taken into consideration in the design of the supports for CSOs and strengthening capacities of CSOs, particularly working in the field of humanitarian aid.

Feray Salman, Human Rights Joint Platform does not see the civil society as a "sector", but it is an integral part of everything and each sector. In this respect, the result framework provides a holistic



approach in terms of monitoring the freedom of association and well describes free acts of CSOs within this frame. On the other hand, the new law adopted in Turkey in the end of December 2020 (Law on Preventing Financing of Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction) concerning fight against terrorism has a structure that is extremely restrictive and jeopardises rights and freedoms. In the first section of the Guidelines related to conducive environment, within the result indicators, there is, of course, a reference on not restricting the legitimate activities of civil society through alleged issues such as combating terrorism and money laundering. However in the following chapters, there is no reference to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights related to anti-terrorism and the protection of human rights and freedoms. The indicators that are initially considered under “conductive environment” section are not reflected in the following sections of the Guidelines related to the CSO resilience and CSO capacities. This is actually a considerable risk for CSOs. She was interested to know whether the result framework will be used as only guiding principles or will be considered a binding document.

Feridun Ekmekçi, Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection Association discussed that in terms of strengthening economic and operational capacity of associations, some local municipalities in Turkey offers campuses, which provide space for offices and meetings/activities of CSOs. I believe that this type of campus services and public funding for CSOs are quite important particularly for the small organisations with low capacity to develop projects and lack space for office and/or meeting. Municipalities’ investment in such spaces is also crucial in terms of strengthening cooperation among public institutions and civil society. This kind of needs can also be reflected in the Guidelines result framework.

Tezcan Eralp Abay, Association for Civil Society Development Centre (STGM)/ National Resource Center (NRC) stated that the Guidelines offer a rich frame of reference for civil society and for EU-Turkey relations in Turkey and have a great potential for CSOs. In order for these Guidelines to make sense and realize their potential, the norms and standards mentioned in the Guidelines must be followed by a wider segment of civil society and integrated into their own sectoral work. In terms of the norms-standards-goals, the Guidelines offer a tripartite structure: a tool for the Commission, a tool for civil society and a tool for public administration. Here, this triple structure, namely, the objectives set by the Commission in terms of integration with EU; legal improvements that should be undertaken by the public institutions and CSOs capacities as well as the benchmarks mentioned in the Guidelines should be taken into consideration by the public institutions while determining national targets. Therefore, in order for these national targets to be determined and be guiding for the public administration, they should be adopted and integrated into sectoral policies. Second, when it comes to the methodology of monitoring of civil society capacities, it becomes difficult to monitor the progress due to the complicated nature of chain of results, which is related with the development of civil society as well as legal framework and legislations that CSOs are subject to. For instance, according to the Competition Law, a non-for-profit organisation is closed down since it does not make “profit” based on the fact that in Turkey only associations, foundations, federations, confederations, unions, associations and cooperatives are regarded as non-for-profit organisations while non-profit companies, social enterprises and networks were excluded from this definition. This is one of the challenges CSOs face and these challenges needs to be addressed in the Guidelines result framework.

Sinem Sefa Akay, Flying Broom Women Communication and Research Association reported that in terms of CSO resilience and capacities, monitoring and evaluation activities, these are usually not considered as an integral part of the projects by the funding for organisations. CSOs usually cannot ask the costs of a monitoring and evaluation expert and/or legal consultants, lawyers and psycho-social support, which is quite crucial where there are multiple vulnerable groups, there are violations of

rights, there are risks of violations during the implementation of the projects. These needs might better be reflected under CSO resilience and capacities section of the Guidelines Result Framework.

Burcu Miraç Diraor Aydın, Directorate of Strategy and Budget of the Presidency emphasized that the involvement of public institutions into the consultation processes for the updating of the Guidelines is quite crucial in terms of setting the priorities, goals and monitoring tools, as none of the actors (neither CSOs nor public institutions) are alone in this field. She believes that the envisaged goals in the Guidelines will be realized in cooperation and interaction with public institutions. Setting up more exchanges with public institutions and sharing more information with the public institutions would be useful. In addition, some of the priority areas reflected in the Guidelines, such as improvement of the legal framework regarding the participation of civil society into the decision-making and legislative processes, tax regulations and volunteering, are also considered among the national priorities within the scope of our 11th National Development Plan in Turkey. There were plenty of projects, those developed by Ministry of National Education; Ministry of Interior, General Directorate of Relations with Civil Society; General Directorate of Foundations, Directorate of EU Affairs and Turkish Grand National Assembly and submitted to EC within the scope of 2021 Action Documents for Turkey that included all the topics mentioned in the Guidelines. The responses of the Commission to the Action Documents came in January, and we saw that all the related projects under the headings you have identified as priority areas have been eliminated. Civil society area is a priority within IPA and there have been good gains on behalf of the country in this area and they want it to continue. Therefore, they expect that such valuable projects to be emphasize and mentioned in the annual Guidelines assessments prepared by EU TACSO 3.

A short reflection session followed to offer response to questions and comments presented by participants.

Mrs Hafner Ademi: The issue of methodology is refined as with each annual monitoring and for the new result framework is going to be reflected once this is complete. There is also always the issue of availability of data and different perceptions of stakeholders in terms of experiences in practice under the specific objectives and can also differ from one to another contexts. The whole aim of the exercise in the Guidelines and assessment report is to be able to bring all stakeholders together, to sit at the same table, to seek, to identify through this assessment, through these reports what are the bottlenecks. This is then the basis for all stakeholders to discuss what they can do about it, what can public institutions do about it, what can civil society do about it, how can the Commission and the Delegations help. The whole exercise and preparation of the report is about bring all stakeholders together, especially civil society and public institution.

In terms of non-financial support or space support to organizations, this is very important issue to civil society, especially small organizations, which don't have a lot financing resources, but might have an office or space to meet. This is maybe an area which was not reflected in details yet in the Guidelines. There is a mention on financial support in one of the specific objectives under Area 2, 1.4 and 1.5., but refinement of indicators on this aspect could be useful.

In reference to new anti-terrorism legislation and regulation, this was not in place during previous Guidelines and is something newly introduced. The standards that these Guidelines bring forward is that it requests the institutions applying such legislation to be proportional. There was a case of not anti-terrorism but money laundering in Serbia, where an institution conducted an investigation without concrete proof. In the context of Council of Europe's Greco and MONEYVAL mechanisms, it was found that this was not duly justified. Yes, there are cases where public institutions would willingly or knowingly or unknowingly use those mechanisms, but then organizations were in position to take

protective measures at the international or regional level. The Guidelines transpose the Greco and MONEYVAL mechanisms and standards in this area.

In terms on comments on civil society capacity and indicators under Area 3: The specific objectives in this area might sound very demanding as their aim is to lead the way forward. It might be really hard to achieve that situation by an organization in a particular given time, but this is the direction that one should work towards.

EU TACSO 3 has provided information and a written response to Directorate of Strategy and Budget of the Presidency after the Validation Meeting (that was held on 9 July 2020 in Turkey, on-line) in response to the additional information provided by the Directorate of Strategy and Budget regarding the specific projects planned for civil society by the Directorate within the scope of multi-annual budgeting. While information provided were noted, specific projects were not mentioned in the EU TACSO 3 Assessment Report for 2018-2019, because the report does not list activities or implemented projects in Turkey or other IPA Beneficiaries. It is aimed to show what is the given situation, what is the given state of affairs in an area. Since the projects per se are not an improvement on the legal or practical situation, therefore this is the reason why they were not directly mentioned in our report. But of course, if these projects are helping improve the situation in a given area, this is noted. In the future, when projects are being implemented in a given specific objective and contribute to the improvement of the situation, this will be noted in the assessment report.

Stefano Calabretta, Delegation of the EU to Turkey: There was a good mix of comments on the monitoring framework itself, and on the other side, comments on the situation in Turkey and what should be in the center of the attention. The monitoring framework as such is just an instrument to look at the reality, is not in itself an instrument to change the reality. It is a knowledge base, to see where we are. With this more detailed and defined set of indicators, this should work better in the future. From this perspective, the comments raised confirm the areas of the Guidelines are well focused and are touching upon what is relevant for civil society. As for the question raised by the Humanist Bureau about the standards for humanitarian aid, we cannot provide a thorough feedback here, also because the Guidelines are more oriented to long term development better than to emergency situations. However, let me recall that other sets of standards specifically designed for emergency situations are existing, such those of the SPHERE Project.

He underlined that STGM, in the frame of the NRC project, and other projects dealing with financial support to third parties, are under constant effort to elaborate on all the areas of capacity building that is related to the third Area of specific objectives. And also, to better define and measure the result of Delegation's funding to their activities in making CSOs more capable. This is exactly what Mr Lys mentioned at the beginning as the focus of the third Area of specific objective of the Guidelines that is still fully and even more relevant now. If there is anything that cannot be answered today, there is still the possibility to provide additional written comments to the Result Framework in the coming days.

Mrs Isaksson: This discussion is taking place as we think that civil society is an essential component of democracy. Therefore, the Commission is putting very substantial resources in supporting civil society in doing their work, but it also seeks to work with public institutions to enable civil society to put in place the right framework so that society can operate. That is the background. Now we have something in place with the existing Guidelines that has been quite effective and efficient. What we are doing now is to fine tune this further. There are new challenges facing civil society in the region and the Commission wants to make sure that these Guidelines capture these challenges. She underlined that these Guidelines are not invented by one single player, but they really drawn from existing international and regional commitments. She reiterated that this guideline will continue to be a tool



for the Commission, to target its support and a tool for the Commission to assess how effective it is. Then it is also a tool to ensure that we get information that we can use in more overarching assessments, including in the preparations of annual country reports, where these elements are always taken into account. In sum, it is a two-way street, the Commission is trying to be clearer on what is expected and what it wants to support and also have the necessary feedback from all partners on the framework being used.

Mr Lys: He thanked all participants for staying until the end of the meeting and added that they should have more time to go in detail since there was a lot of interesting questions, comments and dialogue on these Guidelines that should continue in the format that has been mentioned. He underlined that this dialogue has to continue, and they need to find a proper way to continue empowering civil society to make sure that the government and the authorities give a proper and conducive environment for civil society. He also stressed that set of standards for coordination should be set between the government and entities which was also pretty much reflected in the interventions of Mrs Miraç Diraor Aydın from Directorate of Strategy and Budget of the Presidency and colleagues from Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We should all be clear in the context of the assessment that Commission is doing on the environment for civil society which still definitely needs to be improved and the Guidelines provide a framework on how to go about that. In terms of the projects and programmes mentioned by the public institutions, he underlined that there are different channels in programming actions. The Commission is trying to make sure that, on the one hand, the framework, the Guidelines and the objectives are jointly discussed while, in different instances, it is also considered how to support the Guidelines through projects and programmes. Debates on this issue should continue. He concluded that the Guidelines are not only important for the IPA beneficiary countries but also EU itself to do better.

CONCLUSIONS & NEXT STEPS

It was concluded that the consultation event was useful in exchanging constructive feedback from different actors. After the consultation launch event, participants were invited to submit written contributions to EU TACSO 3 at consultation@tacso.eu. Organizations were informed that contributions can be in form of a comment, suggestion, useful study or report etc. to draft EU CS Guidelines 2021-2027 and additional follow-up meetings can be held with the participation of CSOs if needed. Written contributions can be submitted both in English and Turkish language by Friday, 12 March 2021. The latest version of EU CS Guidelines 2021-2027 is available on EU TACSO 3 website www.tacso.eu.

Additional Consultation Meeting that was held on Wednesday, 10 March, 2021 with the participation of Humanist Bureau and Yuva Association

There were several participants that asked to provide comments during the consultation meeting, but due to time constraints, this was not possible. EU TACSO 3 organized an additional meeting to collect their comments:

Seda Akço, Humanist Bureau and Erdem Vardar, Yuva Association

Four important point were highlighted by the Humanist Bureau and Yuva Association regarding the allocation and the disbursement of the funds in the field of humanitarian aid. First, while the international organisations as well as particular national organisations have a certain level of economic and political advantage, this situation creates an unfair competition between the local CSOs and international/national organisations. Together with the huge number of resources allocated to the humanitarian aid field, in the case of Turkey this is particularly for refugees, the humanitarian aid field



has become a sector in which urban, educated people largely employed participate. However, no strategic approach has been adopted in terms of the results and impacts of projects developed within this new sector. Second, the ratio and amount disbursed annually through public funding should be taken into consideration together with the shrinking space for CSOs in Turkey, where local and grassroots organisations can hardly benefit from the public funding and where there is an apparent monopoly of international and national organisations that qualify as public institutions working in the field of refugees. Third, activities undertaken by organisations who are active in the humanitarian aid field should be monitored in terms of the relation between the resources allocated into this field and the outcome and impact of the disbursed funds. It was underlined that there is a considerable ambiguity in terms of the transparency and accountability of CSOs active in the field and the majority of them can hardly be defined as organizations that adopt a rights-based approach in their activities. Last but not least, it was emphasized that in terms of the final impact of the projects conducted especially for increasing the quality of life and/or employment level of the refugees, there is a considerable imbalance between the resources used to this end and the improvement of the life quality and employment level.



Annex 1. Agenda

**GUIDELINES EU SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN ENLARGEMENT
REGION (EUCSG) FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2027
TURKEY COUNTRY CONSULTATION**

**TURKEY
25 FEBRUARY, 2021**

**On-line public consultation
15:30hrs Turkish time (13:30hrs CET)
AGENDA**

	Introduction, objectives of the process
15:30 – 15:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• André Lys, Head of Cooperation Unit – European Union Delegation to Turkey• Liselotte Isaksson, Head of Section, Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes - Civil Society and Social Inclusion (D.5), DG NEAR• Tanja Hafner Ademi, Team Leader, EU TACSO 3
	EU Civil Society Guidelines for the Enlargement region, 2021-2027
15:45 – 16:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of the 1st draft framework• Bülent Özcan, Director-General for Financial Cooperation and Project Implementation, Directorate for EU Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs• Q&A (Session led by EU TACSO 3 experts for the EUCSG – Tanja Hafner Ademi/ Emina Nuredinoska)
	Discussion
16:15 – 17:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderated by Özge Konuralp, Country Coordinator for Turkey, EU TACSO 3
	Conclusions & next steps
17:45 – 18:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU and TACSO

Annex 2: List of participants

No.	First Name	Last Name	Organization Name
1	Nazlı	Türker	Third Sector Foundation of Turkey
2	Feray	Salman	Human Rights Joint Platform
3	Hayriye	Atas	Checks and Balances Network
4	Murat	Köylü	KAOS GL
5	Özge	Gökpınar	17 May Association
6	Ezgi	Yılmaz	İstanbul Culture and Art Foundation
7	Tezcan Eralp	Abay	Association of Civil Society Development Centre (STGM)
8	Ezgi Can	Koçak	Association of Civil Society Development Centre (STGM)
9	Seda	Akço	Humanist Bureau
10	Sinem Sefa	Akay	Flying Broom Association
11	Erdem	Vardar	Yuva Association
12	Serhat	Kaçan	Civil Society Association in the Penal System
13	Feridun	Ekmekci	Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection Association
14	Melisa	Demirkıran	Pi Youth Association
15	Cana	Türk	İstanbul Policy Center
16	Murat	Kenanoğlu	The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey
17	Cem	Arslan	Empathy Association
18	Petek	Shehrin	Monitoring and Evaluation Senior Expert
19	Behrooz	Motamed-Afshari	Monitoring and Evaluation Senior Expert
20	Olçay	Özer	Truth, Justice and Memory Center
21	Serpil	Sancar	Association for Monitoring of Gender Equality
22	Yusuf	Kanlı	Association of Journalists, Media for Democracy (M4D)
23	Merve	Nebioğlu	Hrant Dink Foundation
24	Bülent	Özcan	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs
25	Mustafa Murat	Özçelebi	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs
26	Hakan	Atik	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs
27	Bilge	Özer	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs
28	Dina	Erad	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate for EU Affairs
29	Burcu	Miraç Diraor	Directorate of Strategy and Budget
30	Melda	Melleş	Directorate of Strategy and Budget
31	Sercan	Yavuz	Ministry of Interior
32	İsmail	Yaman	Central Finance and Contract Unit
33	Burçin	Kahveci	Union of Municipalities
34	Tuğba	Ereken	Union of Municipalities
35	Gokmen	Argun	UNDP - Small Grants Programme
36	Malin	Malin	SIDA
37	Irmak İnan	Çınar	UN Women
38	Miresi	Busana	German GIZ
39	Büşra	Karakuş	EU Monitoring Network - Türkiye Avrupa Vakfı
40	Çiğdem Nas	Nas	Economic Development Foundation IKV
41	Cafer	Yazıcıoğlu	Türkiye Emekliler Derneği
42	İsmail	Avcı	Laz Enstitüsü



**EU TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS
IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY**

43	Çisel	İleri	Economic Development Foundation IKV
44	Eser	Canaliogly	EUD Turkey
45	Friewderika	Wuenschman	EUD Turkey
46	Nurhan	Yentürk	İstanbul Bilgi University