

EVALUATION ROADMAP

Roadmaps aim to inform citizens and stakeholders about the Commission's work to allow them to provide feedback and to participate effectively in future consultation activities. Citizens and stakeholders are in particular invited to provide views on the Commission's understanding of the problem and possible solutions and to share any relevant information that they may have.

TITLE OF THE EVALUATION	Thematic Evaluation of the EU's support to Civil Society in the enlargement and neighbourhood regions over the period 2007-2018
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT	DG NEAR A4
INDICATIVE PLANNING (PLANNED START DATE AND COMPLETION DATE)	Q2– 2018 Q3 - 2019
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/policy/policy-highlights/civil-society_en

The Roadmap is provided for information purposes only. It does not prejudice the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content. All elements of the initiative described by the document, including its timing, are subject to change.

A. Context, purpose and scope of the evaluation

Context

This evaluation is part of DG NEAR's multiannual Evaluation plan and will be launched in 2018. It is to take stock of existing findings on support to Civil Society in the Neighbourhood and Enlargement regions and cover existing gaps. It will inform reflections on past experience since 2007, lessons learnt and future policy and financial assistance.

The EU values a dynamic, pluralistic and competent civil society and recognizes the importance of constructive relations between states and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)¹. With the 2012 communication "The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with civil society in external relations"², the Commission chose a more strategic approach to its engagement with CSOs giving due consideration to country-specificities, particularly in highly volatile political contexts. The communication puts forward three priorities for EU support: (1) increasing CSOs' capacity to perform their roles as independent development actors, (2) promotion of conducive environments for CSOs and (3) promotion of structured participation of CSOs in domestic policies, in EU programming cycles and internationally. With the Neighbourhood Policy (2004) and its subsequent reviews (2011 and 2015), the EU has recognised the evolving role of civil society in the Neighbourhood region, and committed to diversifying outreach to CSOs. In Enlargement countries, the EU has been committed to ensuring the involvement of civil society in the approximation to EU standards and accession negotiations.

Reflecting the evolution in policy frameworks in all three regions³, Enlargement, Neighbourhood South and Neighbourhood East, the EC has enhanced its support to civil society which is provided at both regional and national level. Targeted support has included strengthening CSOs' capacities, support to platforms⁴ and thematic networks. Over time, the Commission has also increasingly introduced the mainstreaming of support to CS within its sectoral assistance, (e.g. in the fields of rule of law, environment, energy, youth). Such civil society engagement can involve anything from improved access to information related to policy-making as well as to civil

¹The EU considers considered CSOs to include "all non-state, not-for-profit structures, non-partisan and non-violent, through which people organise to pursue shared objectives and ideals, whether political, cultural, social or economic. Operating from the local to the national, regional and international levels, they comprise urban and rural, formal and informal organisations. These include membership-based, cause-based and service-oriented CSOs. Among them, community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, faith-based organisations, foundations, research institutions, Gender and LGBT organisations, cooperatives, professional and business associations, and the not-for-profit media. Trade unions and employers' organisations, the so-called social partners, constitute a specific category of CSOs.

²2012 Communication "The Roots of Democracy" (EC, 2012), EC Staff Working Document "Report on EU engagement with Civil Society in External Relations" (EC, 2017), and Council Conclusions adopted on 19 June 2017.

³Ibid and also EC Staff Working Document: A rights based approach, Tool box, and Council Conclusions on a rights-based approach to development cooperation, encompassing all human rights, adopted on 19 May 2014; the 2011 and 2015 Reviews of the European Neighbourhood Policy.

⁴E.g. EaP Civil Society Forum.

society providing input and participating actively in the identification of priorities and implementation of domestic policies and programmes. EU funding for CSOs under sector programmes typically aims at enhancing the role and capacities of CSOs in the respective sector(e.g. the ability to produce evidence-based data) with a view to ensure that domestic policies and EU's support meet people's actual needs. Both geographical instruments and thematic instruments⁵ have been used to fund support to CSOs.

Purpose and scope

The evaluation is to cover the period from 2007-2018 (in terms of Decision years).

The geographical scope will be current IPA II beneficiaries⁶ and ENI partner countries⁷. In that regard, it is to be noted that support to civil society in the Neighbourhood East region has not been the subject of any specific evaluations in recent years, unlike Western Balkans and Turkey and Neighbourhood South.

The evaluation will cover financial assistance provided and non-financial support, ie. policy dialogue, consultations with CSOs, multi-stakeholder dialogue, provided at headquarters and in the field through the Delegations over the entire period.

The assessment will be made against the following evaluation criteria: relevance, effectiveness, impact, coordination, complementarity and coherence, efficiency and EU added value. It will look in particular at

- The proper targeting of assistance, including outreach questions,
- The results and impact of the assistance – in terms of changes supported - over time and against the Commission's strategic objectives in the three regions,
- The extent to which differences in approaches and policy frameworks across the 3 regions (Neighbourhood East, South and candidates and potential candidates for enlargement) influenced those results,
- The level of coherence, coordination and complementarity of instruments(geographical and thematic) available to support to CS, and of delivery at bilateral and regional levels,
- The extent to which certain principles were applied in practice, e.g. mainstreaming.

The evaluation should also produce recommendations for future programming and policy purposes.

B. Better regulation

Consultation of citizens and stakeholders

A broad and inclusive consultation process of relevant stakeholders of this evaluation is required under the EU's Better Regulation guidelines. Considering the subject of the evaluation – support to Civil Society - the evaluation should seek to be inclusive and participatory. This could be done for example by capitalising on the events of CSO platforms / fora to collect data, and including feedback loops to countries visited and stakeholders consulted.

Staff at DG NEAR, DEVCO and the EEAS as well as staff in EU Delegations will be consulted.

External stakeholders for this evaluation include (to be further defined during Inception phase):

- CSO beneficiaries of EU assistance, e.g national, regional thematic networks of CSOs and international platforms (e.g. the EaP Civil Society Forum, the Civikos Platform in Kosovo), the EED, the Anna Lindh Foundation, local community-based CSOs, grass-root organisations, individual Human Rights Defenders, Civil Society Fellows, Business support organizations (BSOs), trade unions, etc.
- National/regional government representatives including: National IPA coordinators (NIPAC), National Coordinating Units in ENI countries, Ministry officials, media and other watchdog representatives etc.
- Relevant international stakeholders, e.g. Council of Europe.

They will be consulted via phone/email/face to face discussions and possibly through a survey. Up to 8 field visits are also foreseen.

Data collection and methodology

The evaluation should build on existing findings on the EU's support to civil society in the Enlargement and Neighbourhood⁸ regions and fill in the gaps⁹.

⁵Thematic instruments EIDHR and NSA-LA and geographical instruments ENPI and IPA over the period 2007-2013 and EIDHR and CSO-LA (DCI) and ENI and IPA II over 2014-2018.

⁶Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo(This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey.

⁷Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Republic of Moldova, Morocco, Palestine (This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue), Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine.

Data will be collected during the Inception, Desk and Field phases of the evaluation. The following sources of information are suggested:

- Strategic documents such as Commission Communications, and operational guidelines,
- Programming documents (Action documents, Decisions, Financing Agreements)
- Reporting documents, e.g. annual reports, Results Orientated Monitoring reports, and evaluations at national, regional and strategic level;
- International sources of information on CS and CSOs;
- relevant performance audits of the European Court of Auditors.

⁸Mid-term Evaluation of the Civil Society Facility for the Western Balkans and Turkey over the period 2011-2016 (for DG NEAR, November 2017); Thematic evaluation of the EU's support to Civil Society in the Western Balkans and Turkey (for DG ELARG, April 2012), Evaluation of the capacity development initiatives in support of Civil Society in the Neighbourhood South over the period 2012- 2016 (for DG NEAR, May 2017), Mid-term review report of the External Financing Instruments and accompanying SWDs and evaluations and Final evaluation of the Programme "Non State Actors and Local Authorities" over the period 2007-2013 (for DEVCO, December 2013).

⁹ Support to civil society in the 'Neighbourhood East' region has not been the subject of any specific evaluations in recent years, unlike other regions.