

For further information

All Roadmaps that are public can be found on the Capacity 4 Development Platform of the European Commission. Please go to **www.capacity4dev.eu** and search for: Public group Civil Society > Roadmaps.

Join this group (free) to receive updates and news alerts about Roadmaps.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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or visit the website of the EU Delegation in your country.



EU Country Roadmaps for Engagement with Civil Society

*Strengthening Europe's engagement with
Civil Society Organisations to enhance
democracy and promote more inclusive
and effective societies*

EU Country Roadmaps

An empowered Civil Society is a crucial component of any democratic system and is an asset in itself. It represents and fosters pluralism and can contribute to more effective policies, to equitable and sustainable development and inclusive growth.

It is within this framework that the European Commission developed EU Country Roadmaps for engagement with CSOs – a new way of working for EU Delegations and Member States, allowing more structured and strategic cooperation with Civil Society in each of the countries with which the EU works.

With the EU Communication *'Roots of Democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations,'* the European Commission defined three main priorities for EU – Civil Society engagement:

Enhancing efforts to promote a **conductive environment** for CSOs

Promotion of **meaningful and structured participation** of CSOs in the domestic policies of partner countries

Increasing the **capacity of local CSOs** to perform, more effectively, their roles as independent development actors.

WHAT IS THE EU?

The European Union is a unique economic and political partnership between 28 European countries that has delivered half a century of peace, stability and prosperity. It has helped to raise living standards, has launched a single European currency and is progressively building a single Europe-wide market in which people, goods, services and capital move freely among Member States. The EU was created in the aftermath of the Second World War and its first steps were designed to foster economic cooperation and peace. Since then, the EU has evolved into an organisation spanning numerous areas of activity, from development aid to environmental policy.

7 Reasons why Roadmaps matter

Given the fact that the EU and its Member States are among the most important Civil Society donors, one of the purposes of the Roadmaps is to improve the impact, predictability and visibility of EU actions. Roadmaps identify long-term objectives of EU cooperation with Civil Society Organisations and encompass dialogue as well as operational support, taking into account the views and challenges of CSOs.

Since 2013, EU ambassadors and EU Member States have endorsed more than 100 Roadmaps worldwide. These Roadmaps are all contributing to the following results:

1. A more integrated approach to development and democratisation among EU actors
2. Strengthened and more structured and inclusive dialogue with CSOs
3. Moving the promotion of the enabling environment to the heart of the EU agenda with Civil Society Organisations
4. Making the EU a broker facilitating CSO involvement in domestic policies, from their design to their implementation (as partners in the delivery of public services) and their monitoring and evaluation, enhancing accountability and transparency
5. Providing active and more strategic support for the capacity development of Civil Society Organisations, with special emphasis on networking efforts, internal governance systems and the sustainability of CSOs
6. Reinforcing mainstreaming efforts of Civil Society into EU focal sectors of cooperation, to ensure that Civil Society voices are heard and taken into account in EU cooperation
7. Renovation of funding modalities, adapted to the needs of CSOs, and overcoming the instrument-driven approach

