



Civil Society Thematic programme (2021-2027)

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Civil Society and Local Authorities thematic programme

- 1400 individual projects implemented since 2014 for a total budget of EUR 1,9 billion
 - 76% of the whole budget for CSOs

At global level

- 25 Framework Partnership agreements (FPAs) with networks of CSOs
- Policy Forum on Development (PFD)
- various initiatives: inequalities, youth, CSO platforms (Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding , International Budget Partnership, Asia Europe People Forum)

At country level

- 5 priorities (2018-2021): climate change; gender equality; youth; root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement; and crisis and fragility.



Evaluation of the programme (2020) – preliminary findings

- Relevant especially given the shrinking space for civil society and the tendency for declining levels of local democracy ;
- Contributed towards enhancing the enabling environment for civil society
- Capacity development of CSOs strong in terms of programme, project and financial management,
- Improved service delivery and local economic development, especially for reaching remote, vulnerable, and marginalized groups.
- In general CSO roadmaps were found to have triggered a valuable process of consultation (joint problem analysis, and a tailoring of the programme to the country needs and context)



However:

- Ambition level of the programme too high given the scale and nature of the challenges:
→ gap between the ambition of the programme and what could be achieved in reality, given the timescale and resources available
- Projects tended to focus more on capacity and service delivery than on increasing the space for civil society and participation in democratic governance. Besides, service delivery used as an entry point to promote change but not always designed to promote better policies and better government accountability
- Capacity development was weaker on internal governance, analysis and advocacy, and sector-specific
- Still primarily cooperates with a limited spectrum of international, traditional CSOs
- Only a limited amount to local CSOs
- programme was highly dependent, for its ambition, on complementarity with EU, member states, and other actions



Civil Society and Local Authorities thematic programme

Evaluation: Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) programme

- Unique in its scope, explicitly connecting global development issues and actions aimed at EU citizens
- Worked through a highly complementary set of modalities
- CSOs and LAs are well placed to work on DEAR issues
- Projects funded under DEAR component have contributed to a better integration of development issues into formal and non-formal education in EU MS and increasing citizens' engagement and behaviour change

However:

- Absence of a theory of change and a results and monitoring framework at the Programme level
- Programming decisions should be more reflective of the stakeholders' feedback
- The size of the DEAR consortia led to trade-offs in terms of efficiency, effectiveness and accountability for results.



Civil Society Thematic programme (2021-2027)

- NDICI : Commission proposal of EUR 1,5 billion (including DEAR), final amount to be decided between the European Parliament and the Council

- a) *a dedicated focus on contributing to an enabling environment for civil society,*
- b) *increased efforts for a more inclusive CSO participation in the dialogue on development policy and domestic policies in partner countries and*
- c) *a comprehensive approach to capacity building to strengthen CSO partner capacities*

→ Global initiatives restricted to support for organizations, networks, platforms and hubs with a distinct global advantage (complementary to national level)

→ Engage with a wider range of CSOs



Proposed approach

- An enabling environment for civil society = stand-alone priority :

→ A new EU Monitoring and Engagement system for Enabling Environment

- Tools for monitoring as well as for response
- Early signs of shrinking space and flexible preventive response to threats
- Short term and long-term support for civil society on all levels
Eg: Support for digital security (infrastructure, training, etc.)
- Complementary to other EU, MS, other donors and civil society initiatives
- Upcoming specific consultations: Build on expertise and best practice



Proposed approach

- Comprehensive Capacity Building for CSOs (global and country level).
 - Not only to participate in calls for proposals and manage EU programmes including (Organisation and Structure ; Programme and Project Management; Research and Advocacy; Transparency and Accountability; Access to Funding, Digital Skills)
 - Capacity to participate in the implementation of the Commission 5 priorities



Proposed approach

- Comprehensive Capacity Building for CSOs (global and country level).
 - Maintain the support to CSOs through the Framework Partnership Agreements
 - Mostly global networks, with a limited number of regional networks
 - Trickle-down effect of resources and information to national and local levels
 - Bottom-up approach where members can bring their perspectives at a higher level
 - A specific attention to counter inequalities and address the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized populations



Proposed approach

- Policy Forum for Development 2.0
 - Yearly global and regional PFD + a virtual platform for continuous, moderated discussions and online-consultations
 - Thematic working groups to cover the European Commission priorities
= DEVCO flagship Forum
- Service delivery under certain circumstances but the exception rather than the norm
 - Prioritize strengthening CSOs as actors of governance
- EU Country Roadmap for Engagement with CSOs
 - Strategic tool to ensure complementarity between CSO thematic and bilateral programmes.
 - Shared analysis of the civil society landscape and a strategy for Team Europe
 - de facto space for dialogue with CSOs to support Delegations and inform their analysis and programming



Proposed approach

Development Education and Awareness Raising

- More strategic and focused, better linked with Commission's priorities for international partnerships
- Clarifying the Programme's assumptions & better monitoring
- Targeting in particular (but not exclusively) youth
- Increased exchange with stakeholders

Dedicated [survey](https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/Stakeholders_consultation) about the future of the EU DEAR Programme:
https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/Stakeholders_consultation
open until Friday 11th December 2020.

Commissioner Urpilainen mission letter calls for a “*dedicated focus on supporting civil society around the world*. As experts on the ground, they often lead the way on sustainable development. The EU should ensure they have a far greater role in designing and implementing European policies, programmes and projects”.

- Strengthened cooperation with civil society at all levels
 - => Key role of GEO programming





Geographic cooperation with CSOs= nearly half of the total contracted with civil society in 2014-19

Priorities to be taken into consideration:

- Increased focus on, and funding for, local civil society and engagement with a wider range of actors, including foundations
- Strengthened dialogue with civil society on the EU programming, implementation and monitoring of overall cooperation
- Mainstreaming civil society in programming in five priority areas



Thank you