

## Cultural and social analysis

### Question grid elaborated for an expert panel

#### Example

This example is taken from the tool's testing mission in Armenia.

#### Context of the example

The general topics to be developed in the cultural and social analysis tool have been settled as a result of this testing mission. This can explain why the topics presented in this document do not correspond to the ones presented in the final version of the tool.



### ***Relations between the political sphere and civil society***

<b>Questions or points</b>	<b>Examples of indicators</b>	<b>Sources</b>
Is the concept of civil society acknowledged in the country? What does it imply? What sort of legal framework do civil society organisations benefit from? Is the political system multi-party or one party?	<b>Public expression</b> by means of the press or other ways, by means of opinions from interest groups, about national challenge	Sociologists NGOs Historians The Press
<b>Electoral system:</b> is there universal suffrage? In what kind of elections?		Legal experts Texts of law
Are some origins (geographical, ethnic, social) favoured for the recruitment of ministers? What role do women play in political life? What role do minorities play in political life?		Political experts Sociologists
What is the basic political and administrative unit? How are local councillors elected?		Political experts Sociologists Regulation texts
Does association life exist? Under which legal regime? Which section of the population does it affect? Do political authorities consult associations or NGOs? In which case?		Sociologists NGOs Senior officials
Is economic activity determined by professional associations and/or trade unions? Are they legal? Do the political and economic authorities consider them as legitimate interlocutors?		Sociologists NGOs Senior officials Trade unions

### ***The development of the law in society***

<b>Questions or points</b>	<b>Examples of indicators</b>	<b>Sources</b>
Can the evolution of the law be considered as a sign of progress? Is the law imposed from outside, and is it accepted as such without real discussion? Is the law correctly published and sufficiently explained? Or, conversely, is it complicated and hardly understandable to the non-specialists?	Implementation of the law	Legal experts Sociologists Women's associations Minority representatives Reports from associations of Human Rights Legal texts NGOs Leaders of peasant organisations Reports and research
What are the rights of women? of children? of ethnic and religious minorities? of handicapped people? Where are they codified? How rigorously are they respected? What are the principal denials of justice?	The place of the women, minorities and handicapped people in the working world, the political field, the association field, etc.	Legal experts Sociologists Women's associations Minority representatives Reports from associations of Human Rights Legal texts
What are the terms of the land law? Is land ownership individual or collective? Has the country experienced a land reform? When? What are the consequences of the reform on farm production? On the peasantry?		Legal experts Sociologists NGOs Agronomists Geographers Leaders of peasant organisations Legal texts Reports and works in research

Are civil and religious laws distinct from each other, or do they overlap or conflict?		Legal experts Religious leaders
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### ***Social organisation***

Questions or points	Examples of indicators	Sources
Characteristics of the family: Is there a system of single or extended families? By which familial obligations is life in society ruled?		Anthropologists
Are there familial connections in Civil Services? In land ownership systems? In industry? In trade?		Anthropologists Senior officials Economic actors
Are specific social groups (ethnic, gender or religious) specialised in specific professions? Are specific social groups forced to undertake specific economic activities?		Anthropologists Sociologists Economists
Female and male functions: What are the dominant perceptions on the gender partition of activities in the domestic and professional area?		Sociologists People's associations Women associations

### ***The historical background***

Questions or points	Examples of indicators	Sources
<b>Contemporary presence and weight of history:</b> find out whether facts from the past are usually recalled to praise the Nation or to rationalise contemporary issues <i>a posteriori</i> <b>Example:</b> issues of under-development, poverty, suffering	References to meaningful historical facts in the press and in informal talks	The press Journalists Historians
Date of the country's independence if it has been colonised Nature and relations with the former colonial power	Languages spoken Administrative system	History books Historians Legal experts Economists International trade actors
Are there territorial disputes or modifications of frontiers in the country's history which could have a strong meaning for its citizens?		Historians Journalists

### ***Beliefs, customs and cultural expressions***

Questions or points	Examples of indicators	Sources
<b>Religions in the country:</b> What are the majority and minority religions? Are there religious persecutions? Are there ethnic conflicts? Religious conflicts?	The visibility of religious buildings The use of religious references in official speeches	Anthropologists Sociologists Religious leaders
Where do religious practices and economic activities interfere?	The content of religious prohibitions	Anthropologists Sociologists
Do national days have religious connotations?		Anthropologists

		Sociologists Religious leaders
<p><b>Cultural activities</b> What are the areas of development, and the creators' social and geographical origins? What popular cultural expressions are there? What reputation do they have?</p> <p><b>Traditional skills:</b> In which areas are they commonly carried out? What is their place in the economic field?</p>		Anthropologists Sociologists Artists Museums Street arts Lists of economic activities
Are civil and religious laws clearly distinguished from each other or do they overlap or conflict?		Legal experts Religious leaders