

12 January 2015

Feedback to the European Commission proposal to a multi-annual approach to programming for the thematic programme "Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities" for the years 2015/16 and 2017

(requested by DG for Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid (DEVCO) Unit B2 - Civil Society and Local Authorities, Email from 19.12.2014)

ENoP welcomes the suggested approach towards a multi-annual action programming for the Thematic Programme CSO-LA.

The suggested procedure would allow medium to long-term planning for national and international actors. ENoP would like to draw special attention to the importance for CSOs and LAs at country level to be informed well in advance about project funding possibilities. In order to enable timely planning and application for CSOs and LAs the EC should include any relevant information on funding opportunities in their organisational planning cycles.

Furthermore, ENoP welcomes the use of an appropriate mix of funding modalities, such as calls for proposals, direct grants etc. in the implementation of the CSO-LA Programme, so as to respond to the widest possible range of actors, needs and country contexts - according to the possibilities granted by the Financial Regulation. Moreover, we encourage the Commission to continue publishing the envisaged calls for proposals as action grants with different funding modalities in order to reach out to the widest range of CSOs possible.

Despite the advantages of a multiannual approach, the risks should also be taken into consideration: a multiannual programming allows for less flexibility. Therefore, ENoP recommends reserving approximately 10% of the allocated annual budget, which could be used in a flexible way in order to react to significant incidents and changes of the local, regional or global political, social and environmental situation.

Furthermore, an appropriate percentage of funds should be used for information and capacity building sessions of CSOs and LAs at country level.

Rebecca Wagner, Heinrich-Böll Foundation
Alba Cako, Friedrich-Naumann Foundation
Anne Schley, Hanns-Seidel Foundation
Johanna Lutz, Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation

**ENoP – EUROPEAN NETWORK OF POLITICAL FOUNDATIONS
 INDEPENDENT ACTORS IN DEMOCRACY PROMOTION, DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND POLITICAL DIALOGUE**

Rue d'Arlon 15, B-1050 Brussels • Tel: +32 2 23 000 29 • Email: info@enop.eu • www.enop.eu

Project Director: Mrs Sabina Wölkner, Network Coordinator: Mrs Andrea E. Ostheimer • Deputy Network Coordinator: Mrs Ulrika Lång

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