



Introduction to the new EU policies on Civil Society and Local Authorities

**Policy Forum on Development
Brussels, 18 June 2013**

**European Commission
DG EuropeAid
Unit B2 'Civil Society, Local Authorities'**

Milestones in the European policy framework

Cotonou Agreement, 2000

- First major EU policy document which legally committed the EC to civil society participation

“Participation of non-state actors in EC development policy”,
2002

“EU Consensus on Development”, 2005

- the EC recognizes the vital role of civil society in particular as promoters of democracy, social justice and human rights

“Local Authorities: actors for development”, 2008

Lisbon Treaty, 2009

- reinforces EU's long-term objective to eradicate poverty and actively promote an open, transparent and regular dialogue with civil society to ensure consistency and transparency of EU policies.

Structured Dialogue, 2010-2011

"Agenda for Change", 2011

Other policies including on budget support, neighborhood policies, "A Decent Life for All" (2013)....

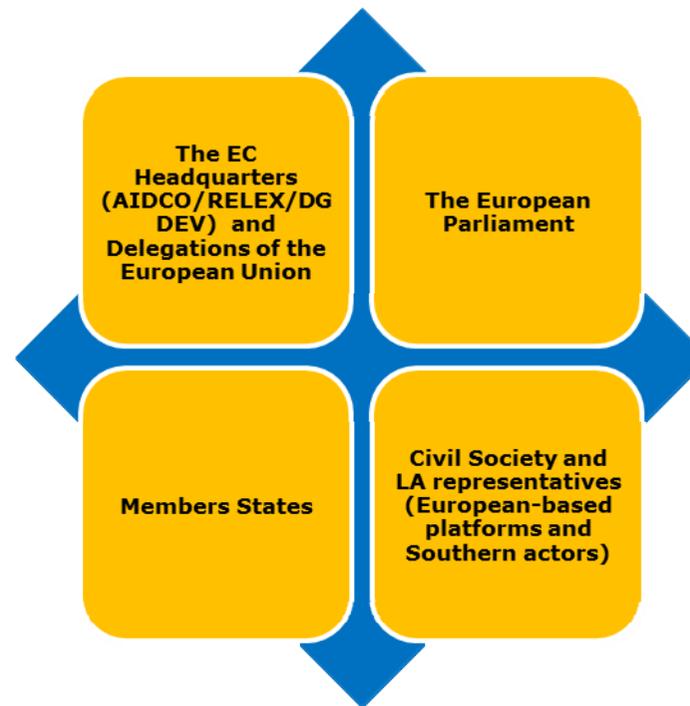
Structured Dialogue for an efficient partnership in development (2010-11)

- March 2010 – May 2011
- Objective: **Increasing effectiveness of all stakeholders involved** by:
 - o Building consensus on the role to be played by CSOs & LAs;
 - o Finding ways to improve the effectiveness of CSO & LAs involved in EU cooperation and;
 - o Exploring ways to adapt EC Programmes.

Stakeholders involved:

- More than 700 organizations from 65 countries;
- 51 EU Delegations;
- Member States;
- European Parliament.

Focus on the Global South:
Inclusion of CSOs and LAs from partner countries - **high priority**



**Budapest (2011)
Recommendations of
the Structured Dialogue**

Recognition of the value added and different roles, calls for a differentiated strategy for CSOs and LAs.

EU Member States and EC to reinforce their strategies for Development Education and Awareness Raising

EU to promote/support regular, structured inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogues



EU Policy Framework

"The Roots of Democracy and Sustainable Development : Europe's engagement with CS in External Relations" (2012)

"Empowering Local Authorities in partner countries for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes" (2013)

Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) in Europe(2012)

The Agenda for Change (2011):

- **1 st pillar: human rights, democracy and governance**
 - Political and policy dialogue with **all stakeholders**
 - In cases where a country loosen its commitment to human rights and democracy, **strengthened cooperation with Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities**
- **2nd pillar: inclusive growth**
 - Need to include new actors in development, such as CSOs, LAs and their Associations in promoting innovative models/practices

The EU to :

- **“Strengthen links with civil society organisations, social partners and local authorities**, through regular dialogue and use of best practices”
- **“Support the emergence of an organised local civil society** able to act as a watchdog and partner in dialogue with national governments”
- **“Consider ways of mobilising local authorities’ expertise**, e.g. through networks of excellence or twinning exercises”.



“The Roots of Democracy and Sustainable Development: Europe's Engagement with CS in External Relations” (September 2012)



Topics in the Structured Dialogue – Concluding Document (2011)



Public Consultation (2012)

More than 300 contributions mainly from CSOs (all regions)
Collect views from local CSOs in Partner Countries

Focus on “how” EU can support

- Enabling environment in different context
- CSO in governance: *CSO as 'partner in dialogue' , in accountability and oversight functions*
- Capacity development
- Strategic approach at country level

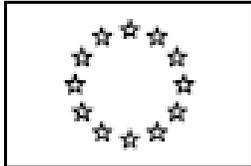
Results:

...broadly confirm the outcomes of the Structured Dialogue

stressing the need for the EU to promote Enabling Environment

Modality/conditions/risks relating to CSOs in policy making and accountability.

Focus on capacity development and internal governance



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 12.9.2012
COM(2012) 492 final

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

**The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil
Society in external relations**

Vision, scope and focus....

One vision: « An empowered and competent civil society is a crucial component of any democratic system and is an asset itself »

Focus on CSO-State relations and on CSO action in governance

All regions and instruments concerned

Local CSO at the forefront

The policy - 3 priorities in all regions

Facilitate constructive relations between states CSOs in partner countries

1) Promoting a conducive environment for CSOs

2) Promoting meaningful and structured participation of CSOs in:

- Domestic policy making
- EU programming cycle;
- International processes and debates.

3) Increasing the capacity of local CSOs to perform their roles more effectively

EU support - the enabling environment

- Through peer pressure, advocacy, diplomacy and political dialogue;
- active monitoring and support to CSO led monitoring initiatives,
- actions and measures against HR violations
- capacity development of all actors
- media
- CSO internal governance

EU support - inclusive policy making

- Structured dialogue mechanisms, national and local
- Multi-stakeholder, country, sector and actor specific dialogues (tripartite social dialogue)
- Quality of dialogue: timely, predictable & result oriented
- CSO: independent, representative and competent

EU support - Domestic transparency and accountability

- Role for CSOs alongside parliaments and other oversight bodies
- participatory budgeting, budget analysis & literacy, social accountability
- anti-corruption
- Long term support at central, local level
- Link with budget support

EU support – CSO in social services

CSO in partnerships for service delivery fostering sustainability, coordination, complementarity and disenfranchised groups to access basic services

Direct support to complement actions of underperforming/absent public authorities (fragile/conflict contexts)

EU support - CSOs action in inclusive growth

Social economy, initiatives and partnerships combining social & economic ambitions,

Focus on job creation & entrepreneurship,

Access to financial services

Promotion and monitoring of corporate social responsibility, new business models, PPP, decent work agenda, access to land and natural resources,

CSOs in regional and global settings

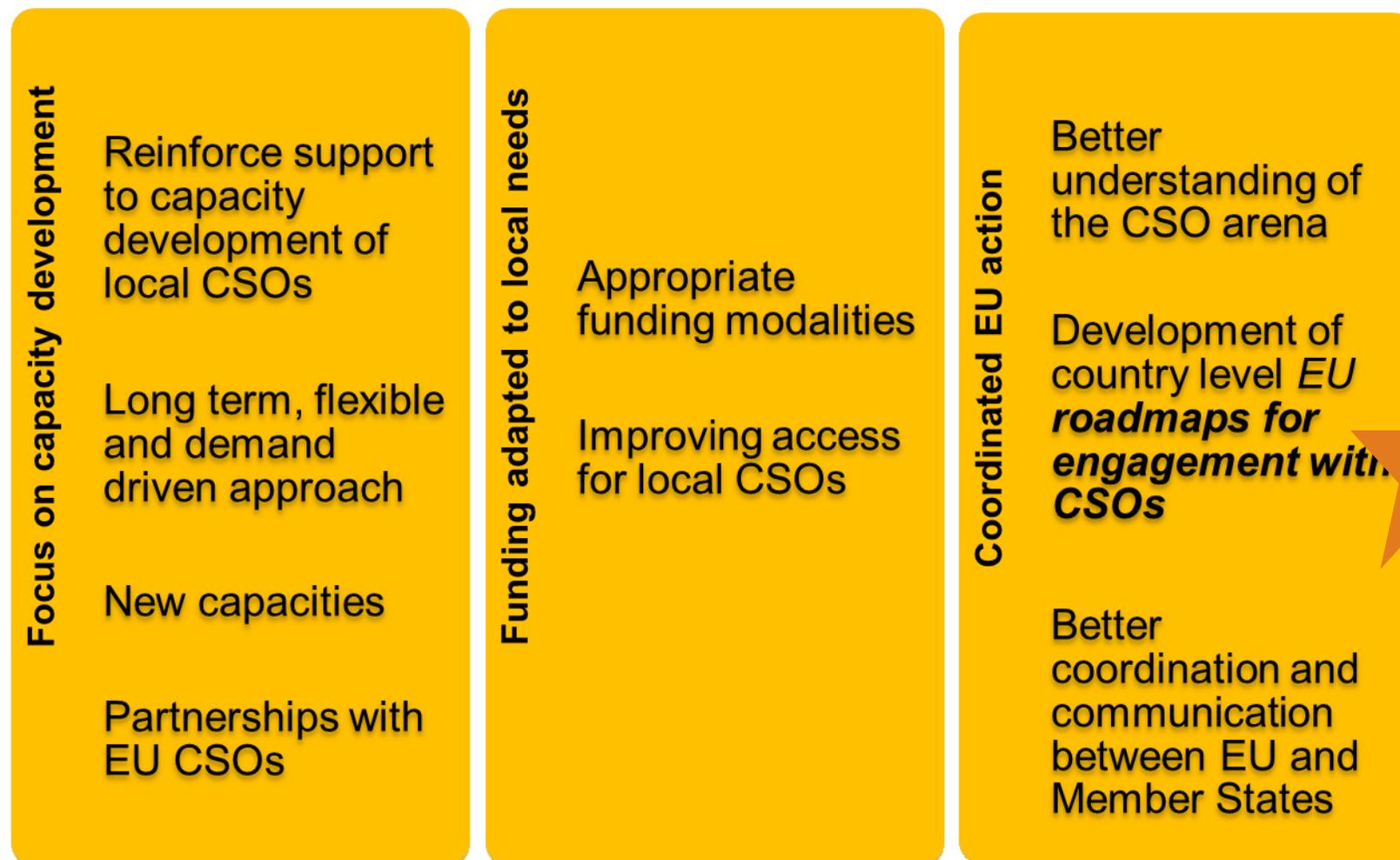
CSO participation in multilateral processes & arrangements

Support in the area of Policy Coherence for Development

Global citizenship + Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR)

Dialogue with European institutions → Policy Forum

Shaping EU Support



Council Conclusions

15th October 2012

The Council welcomes the policy and puts forward a :

....."renewed and more ambitious policy in support of civil society, with a focus on CSOs from partner countries and an emphasis on CSOs' engagement to strengthening democratic processes and accountability systems and achieving better development outcomes"



Your feedback

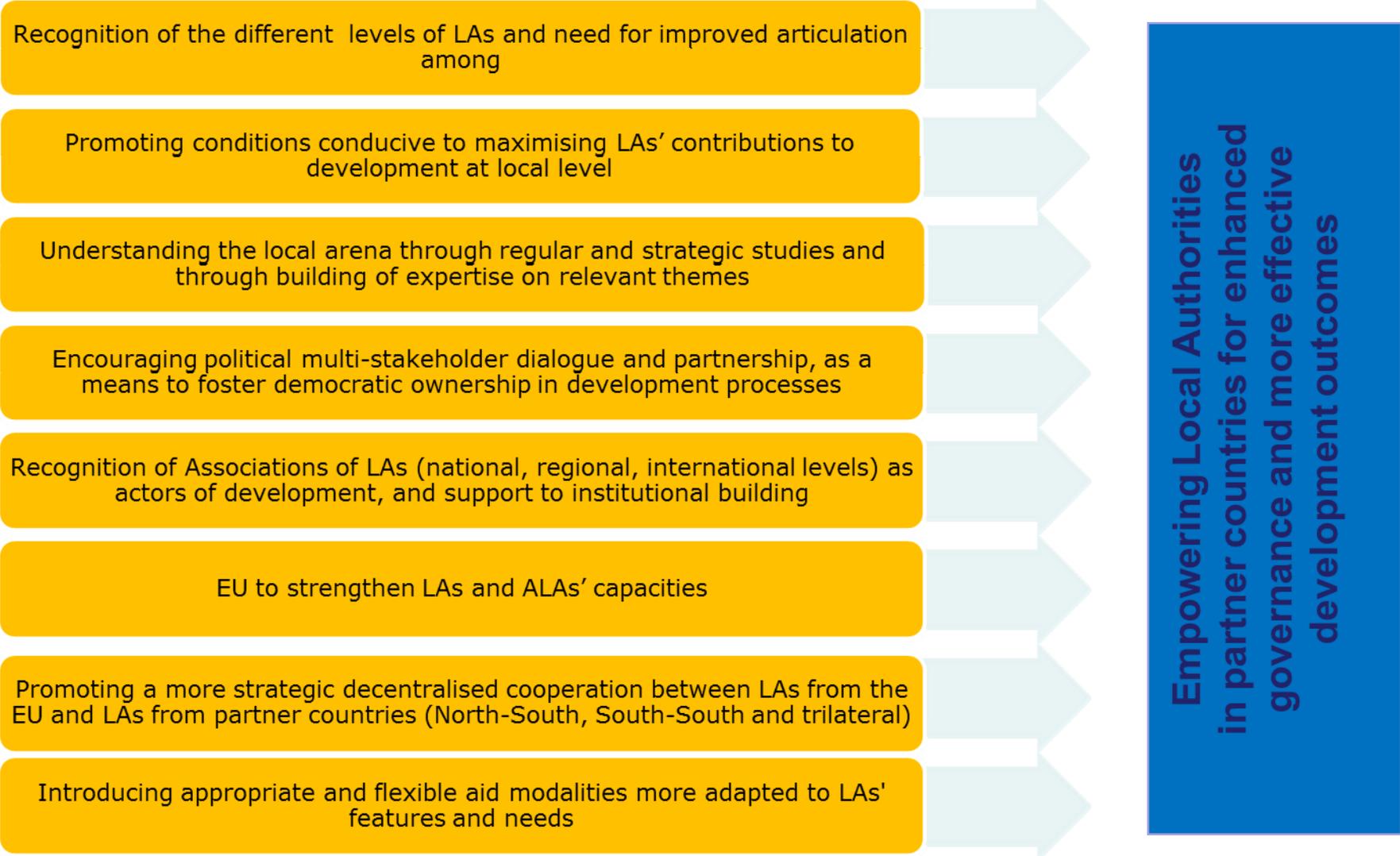


COM on LAs

“Empowering Local Authorities in partner countries for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes” (May 2013)



From the Structured Dialogue to COM LAs



Stakeholders' consultation

...was carried out between the end of August and mid-December 2012...
...mainly to collect the views of stakeholders from EU partner countries...
...conducted on the basis of the Issue Paper, structured in 8 topics and 27 questions, available in English, French and Spanish...
...consultation process involved 320 actors including LAs and ALAs, particularly from partner countries, CSOs; EU Institutions and Development Partners including EU Member States...
...consultation events took place at 4 different levels: (i) at country, (ii) regional (with the support of PLATFORMA), (iii), European and (iv) international...
...14 events including 10 regional seminars were organised and 55 written contributions submitted to the Commission...

Results:

*...the results of the consultation **broadly confirmed the outcomes of the Structured Dialogue:***

Necessity of building a **coherent, multi-level and multi-sector international development architecture**

LAs to be considered as co-producers of development

Support to bypass the **major obstacles** affecting decentralisation reforms

Urban governance

WHY FOCUSING ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES?

- Centrally led, top-down policies cannot alone succeed in addressing the complexities of sustainable development
- As level of public institution closest to citizens, LA's have a critical role to play alongside with central governments and civil society organisations:
 - ✓ in achieving democratic empowerment and good governance,
 - ✓ in providing citizens with services,
 - ✓ in promoting sustainable solutions to development and inclusive growth at the local level

BUT

Certain conditions have to be met for unlocking LAs' full development potential:

- Restricted conducive environment in the execution of their mandates and in the power of initiative at local level (e.g. frozen decentralisation processes, no conducive legislative environment);
- Limited financial resources (i.e. scarce intergovernmental transfers, difficulties in raising revenues at local level);
- Negative LAs political and institutional factors (i.e. weak local leadership, corruption, limited institutional organisation, criminal economy, etc...).

Brussels, 15.5.2013
COM(2013) 280 final

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

**Empowering Local Authorities in partner countries
for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes**

Slide 27

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Modify the cover with COM on LAs! Mercii :-)

1; 13/06/2013

Core Messages (i)

In line with the Principle of Subsidiarity: Recognition of the core role of LA's in development

Promote a **more strategic EU engagement with Local Authorities and Associations of Local Authorities (ALAs)** in partner countries, also in crisis and risk-prone situations;

Give emphasis to **good governance** (a human right based approach including the rule of law, human rights, gender equality) and **participatory decision-making** related to sustainable development and inclusive growth, in order to reinforce local political processes, transparency and boost democratic ownership of development;

Enhance **LAs accountability** toward central authorities and citizens, via a continuous monitoring of progress towards sustainability.

Core Messages (ii)

Make LAs delivery of basic services more efficient and effective, to better respond to citizens' needs;

Foster dialogue among different actors operating at local level → multi-stakeholder partnerships approach;

Support the definition of plans and implementation of socio-economic development strategies according to the territorial characteristics and needs → multi-stakeholder participation + multi-sector approach

Territorial Approach to Development

3 Main Strategic Priorities for Action

Enhanced political, administrative and fiscal autonomy of Local Authorities through decentralisation reforms or in the frame of sector budget support;

Strengthen LAs' capacity and institutional development;

Smart solutions in front of rapid urbanisation, to ensure sustainable urban development

a 4th one

Recognition of the importance of Associations of LAs

In supporting their members in achieving good governance and more effective development outcomes, at three different levels:

- *National,*
- *Regional,*
- *International*

In advocating and raising awareness about local and urban development issues in national policy contexts and in shaping the international development agenda with a focus on the interests of local communities, particularly in view of the definition of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the preparation of Habitat III.

Take-away messages: a more strategic engagement with Local Authorities

Empowerment of Local Authorities

- Promotion of a conducive environment at national and local levels
- Reinforce capacity of LAs and ALAs in partner countries through long-term, flexible and demand-driven approaches for capacity development
- Support to partnerships with EU LAs for exchange experience and transfer know-how
- Support the role of LAs/ALAs play in shaping the international agenda.

Funding adapted to local contexts

- Innovative funding modalities facilitating transparent and cost effective access to resources at local level in the different EU programmes
- Flexibility of funds to support LAs/ALAs' own initiatives.
- During the implementation of budget support, monitoring the extent that funds are transferred from central treasure to the most adequate level of administration to satisfy citizens' needs.

Coordinated action

- Understanding of institutional organisation and decentralisation processes at country level
- Policy coordination, complementarity and coherence between national authorities and sub-national authorities
- Coordination between Commission, EU Member States
- Improved cooperation of EU LAs/ALAs with counterparts in partner countries.



**MANY THANKS
FOR THE ATTENTION and FEEDBACKS!**