

Session 3 - The Enabling environment

Looking back into the SD recommendations



NOW THIS IS NOT THE **END**
IT IS NOT EVEN
THE **BEGINNING** OF THE **END**
BUT IT IS, PERHAPS
THE **END** OF THE **BEGINNING**

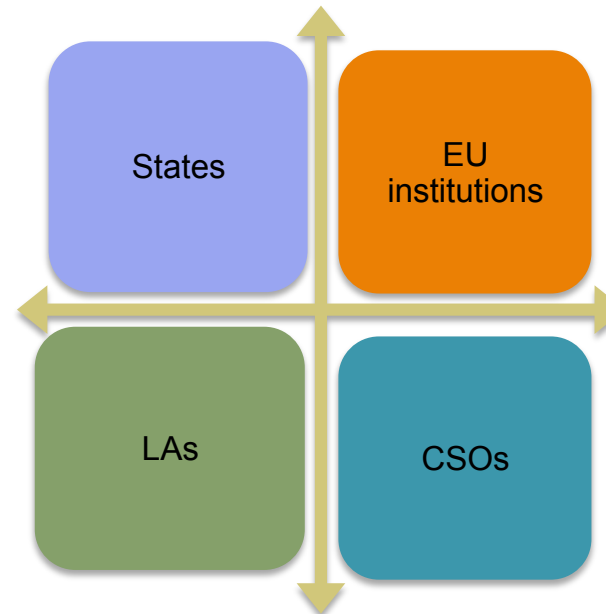
Winston Churchill

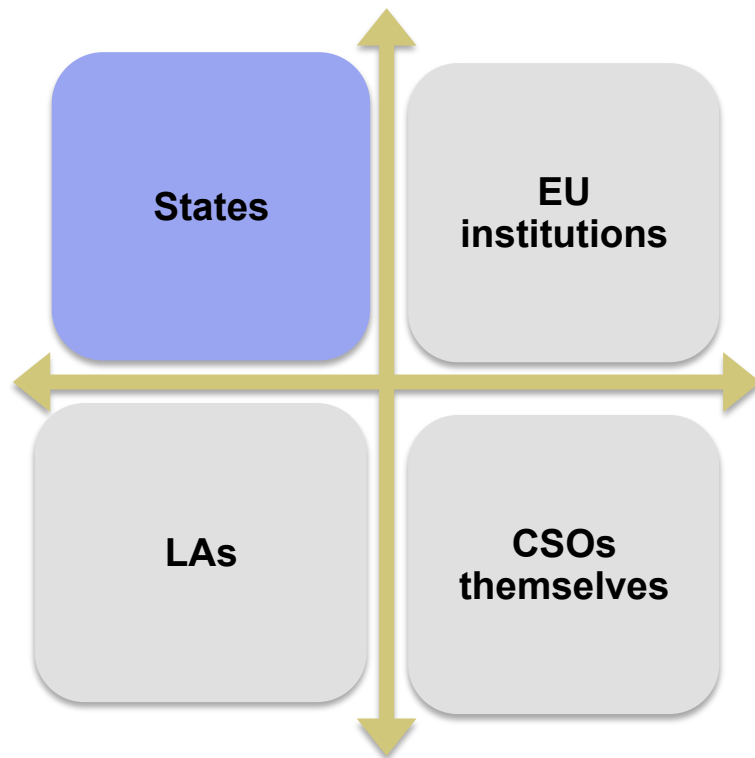


Key premise:

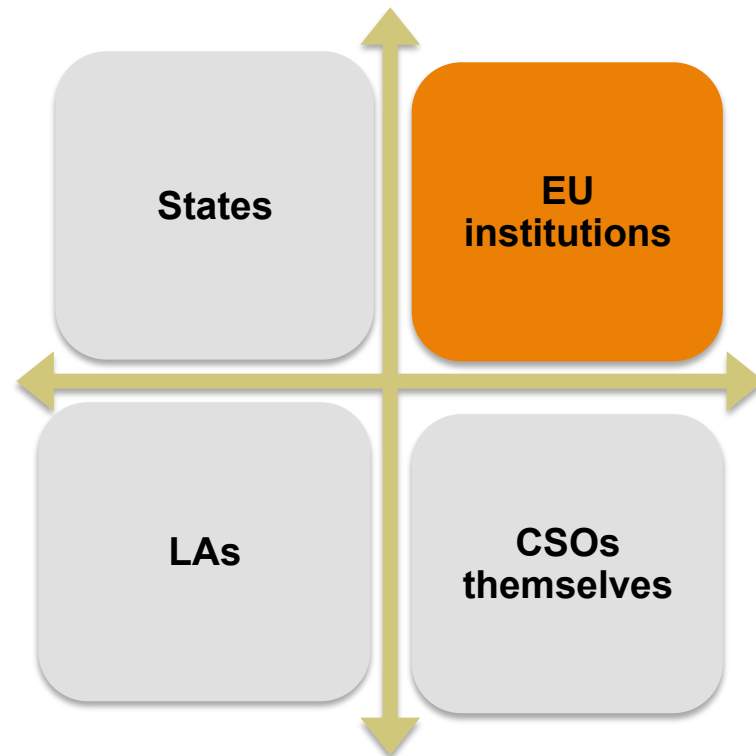
The promotion of an enabling environment is a **multi-stakeholder** endeavour.

The primary responsibility **lies with the States** (partner governments) but other actors also play a relevant role





- Respect **international principles embedded in international law**(i.e. on the right to organise, to expression and information, to assembly and international affiliation, etc.) States should not only withdraw coercive and restrictive laws but also adopt explicit policies for CSOs and strive for a democratic functional, legal and judicial system
- Respect **local autonomy** and deepen decentralisation efforts
- Acknowledge and respect CSOs and LAs **“Right of Initiative”** (i.e. not interference)
- Institutionalise **opportunities for regular inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue**
- Make resources accessible to LAs and CSOs

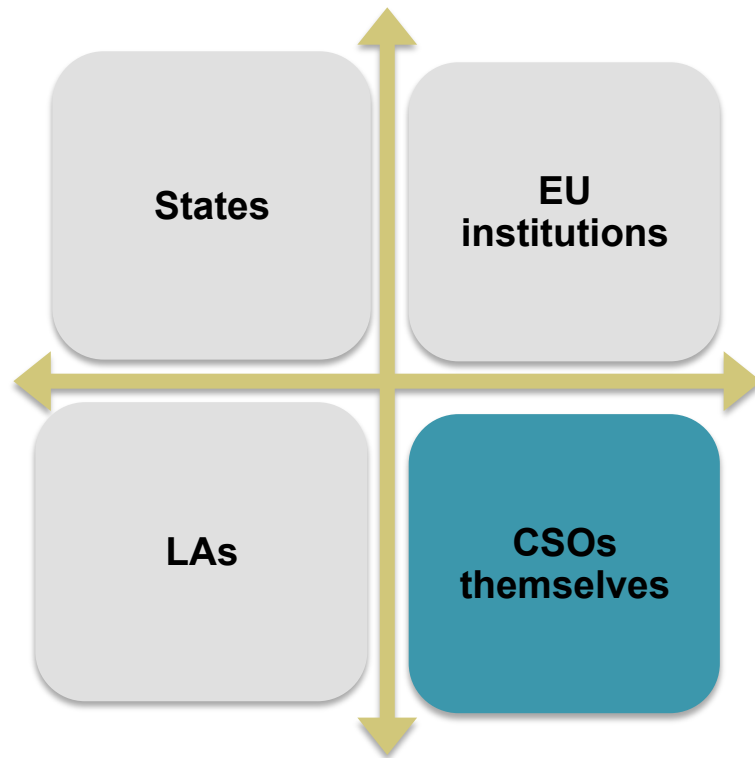


- Commit to and promote an **EE for CSOs & LAs as development actors in their own right**
- Promote the **right of initiative of CSOs & LAs** avoiding unwarranted governmental interference
- **Promote decentralization & local autonomy** as an important building block for good governance and local development
- **Endorse a human rights-based approach to development**, ensuring policy coherence
- Promote and support regular, structured and **inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogues at national level**, where all relevant actors (CSOs and LAs) are taken on board

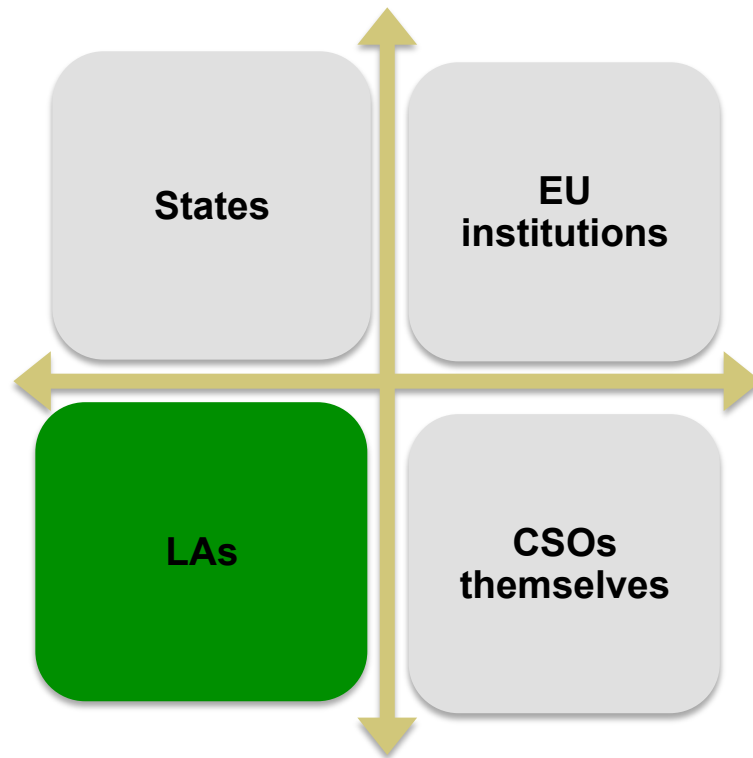
How the EE is defined

From the 2012 Comm. on CSOs: *“The ability of CSOs to participate in different domains of public life depends on **a set of preconditions commonly referred to as the CSO enabling environment**, for which **different actors carry responsibility**. To operate, CSOs need a functioning democratic legal and judicial system – giving them the de jure and de facto right to associate and secure funding, coupled with freedom of expression, access to information and participation in public life. The primary responsibility to ensure these basic conditions lies with the state (...) Indirectly, CSOs also have a role to play, particularly in ensuring their independence from the State, their representativeness and internal governance, transparency and accountability (...).*

From the 2013 Comm. on LAs: *“The quality of local governance is primarily linked to the political willingness of central governments **to create a conducive environment at local level**, through legal and regulatory instruments, (E.g. institutional arrangements, separation of powers, electoral and party systems, appropriate decentralisation policies, intergovernmental fiscal systems, respect of the rule of law) allowing LAs to benefit from a sufficient level of autonomy in exercising power and acquire specific capabilities.”*



- Act as **legitimate and independent development actors**
- Strengthen efforts to implement and monitor self-regulatory standards **to ensure multiple accountability, transparency and integrity in their operations**



- Contribute to a **clear division of labour** at the local level based on complementarities
- Invest in **meaningful dialogue with citizens**
- Contribute to good governance through **more transparent and predictable decision-making and management processes**