

EU Results Framework Indicator Methodology Note

1. Name of indicator
Number of government policies developed or revised with civil society organisation participation through EU support
2. Associated EU Results Framework statement and primary SDG
SDG 16 – Peace, justice and strong institutions EU RF statement - Support accountable and transparent institutions, inclusive, transparent and credible elections and a pluralist democratic system
3. Technical Definition
<p>This indicator refers to the number of government policies and strategies developed with Civil Society Organisation (CSO) participation through EU support.</p> <p>The definition of CSO follows the 2012 EU Communication on Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations. The EU considers CSOs to include all non-State, not-for-profit structures, non-partisan and non-violent, through which people organise to pursue shared objectives and ideals, whether political, cultural, social or economic. Operating from the local to the national, regional and international levels, they comprise urban and rural, formal and informal organisations. The EU values CSOs' diversity and specificities; it engages with accountable and transparent CSOs which share its commitment to social progress and to the fundamental values of peace, freedom, equal rights and human dignity.</p> <p>Public participation can be defined as a process through which the government actively seeks the opinions of CSOs (interested and affected groups) for a policy initiative¹. Public participation process comprises the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it is an integral part of the policy making system, meaning that it is not something spontaneous, or a decision made on the spot by public institutions but is included in the routine processes of the institution; • the goal of public participation is better public policy, in the sense of more responsive policies to real citizen needs and with a higher degree of public support; • participants have a certain degree of influence on the final decision. <p>For this indicator, participation of CSOs is defined as including at least one element of the following aspects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) A written public consultation has been carried out allowing sufficient time for CSOs to provide comments and comments were made by at least one organisation; b) CSOs have been part of working groups set up by the public institutions to draft policies; c) The lead ministry has reported on the outcome of CSO participation; d) The views of participants in the consultation process have been made public;

¹ **Public policies** include sector or crosscutting reform strategies (including the Government Programme), annual and multi-annual budget and primary and secondary legislation.

- e) A report was produced on the outcome of the public consultation including explanations of how comments by CSOs have been taken into account.

Public policies for this indicator are understood in a broad manner, including Government programme, strategies and legislations at national or sub-national levels. Policies on migration management or forced displacement are excluded from this indicator as they contribute towards another EU RF indicator.

EU interventions that support national or sub-national government with policy-making or support to CSOs to participate in policy or decision making can be considered for this indicator.

At central level developed/revised policies are counted for this indicator once they are endorsed by the Government.

At the local level developed/revised policies are counted for this indicator once they are endorsed by the relevant authorities.

4. Rationale (including policy priorities and links to this indicator)

The indicator is linked to the common priorities outlined in the new European Consensus on Development, **Peace – Peaceful and inclusive societies, democracy, effective and accountable institutions, rule of law and human rights for all** as it will contribute to foster participatory decision-making and public access to information.

In addition, democratic governance, of which public administration is a key component, is central for achieving the SDGs. Goal 16 is specifically dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and **inclusive societies**, the provision of access to justice for all, and building **effective, accountable institutions** at all levels.

Finally, this indicator is in line with the better regulation agenda (**development of policies and legislation in an inclusive and evidence-based process**). One of the aspects of the better regulation agenda is that there must be effective institutionalised mechanisms to ensure wide stakeholder consultations with various businesses and civil society. This has been one of the key initiatives proposed under the Juncker Commission to improve the quality of policy- and law-making, in order to ensure that legislation better serves the people it affects.

The importance of civil society as a crucial component of any democratic system is reflected in the **2012 Commission communication on civil society in external relations**. CSO's participation in policy and legislative processes is key to ensure inclusive and effective policies and CSOs contribute to building more accountable and legitimate states.

5. Level of disaggregation and other reporting requirements

The figures should be disaggregated according to the category below:

- Sector or crosscutting reform strategies, annual and multi-annual budget and primary and secondary legislation developed/revised with EU support

6. Data Sources (including issues on different definitions by source and level of availability of the data)

EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: annual and final reports from implementing

organisations (e.g. governments, international organisations, non-state actors), ROM reviews, and evaluations.
7. Data calculation (including any assumptions made)
<p>Number of policies developed with CSO participation supported by the EU – according to the definitions given in section 3. At least one of the aspects should be satisfied.</p> <p>In order to avoid double counting, this indicator will disregard 'migration management or forced displacement strategies and policies' developed/ revised with EU support, covered under indicator EU RF 2.18, number of migration management or forced displacement strategies or policies a) developed/ revised, or b) under implementation with EU support.</p>
8. Worked examples
<p>In a given country, an EU intervention is supporting the national government to revise its education policy with, among other, CSO involvement. For the education policy, the ministry of education has carried out a public consultation and reported receiving several written comments from different CSOs and individuals. The written comments are made public immediately.</p> <p>In the same country, an EU intervention is supporting CSOs role and involvement in the education sector, and in particular, in policy-decision making. Some of the supported CSOs have responded to the public consultation and have provided written comments to the same education policy, including recommendations on improvements to be made for the revised policy.</p> <p><i>The number of government policies and strategies developed with civil society organisation (CSO) participation through EU support is 1 as the policy is only one, that of education.</i></p> <p>In the framework of a regional programme, 2 countries are supported to revise or develop their national migration and forced displacement policies and strategies with involvement of CSOs.</p> <p><i>The number of government policies and strategies developed with civil society organisation (CSO) participation through EU support is 0 as migration and forced displacement strategies and policies should not be taken into account in this indicator.</i></p>
9. Is it used by another organisation or in the framework of international initiatives, conventions, etc? If so, which?
<p>Such indicator is not used by other organisations or in international frameworks, but other similar or related indicators exist, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECD Better life index – Level of formal stakeholder engagement built in the development of primary laws and subordinate regulations; • Economist Intelligence Unit Democracy Index – Degree of openness to citizen participation and engagement in policymaking and governance, including basic protections for civil liberties; • OECD/SIGMA indicator used in its baseline assessments/monitoring reports against the Principles of Public Administration – Public consultation on public policy.
10. Other issues

The quality and effectiveness of the consultations should be closely monitored at intervention level, e.g. whether views from the consultations are taken up by the government, or whether the written public consultations are of relevant nature, etc.