

ANNEX 1

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of the Annual Action Programme 2015 for the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

Action Document for Supporting 110 Calls for Proposals targeting local civil society through Country Based Support Schemes

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Supporting 110 Calls for Proposals targeting local civil society through Country-Based Support Schemes (CBSS) CRIS number: EIDHR		
Total cost	Total estimated cost: EUR 82 750 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 82 750 000		
Aid method / Management mode and type of financing	Project approach Direct management – Call for proposals Direct management – Procurement of services (Support Measures)		
DAC-code	15160	Sector	Human Rights and Democracy

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the actions and its objectives

This Action Document sets out the implementation modalities of the EIDHR Country Based Support Schemes (CBSS), which will be managed at country level by European Union Delegations.

These 110 local calls for proposals will aim to implement the objectives 1, 2 and 3 set out in the annex of the EIDHR regulation 2014-2020 and will target local civil society.

Objective 1 supports Human Rights and Human Rights Defenders in situations where they are most at risk. Objective 2 supports other EU Human Rights Priorities, and objective 3 supports Democracy.

2.2. Context

Any actions under this Action Document shall respect and shall be implemented in accordance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Furthermore, actions shall be in line with all existing EU guidelines on human rights related issues, the EUs Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, and all other relevant human rights policy documents.

The activities under this Action Document are embedded in the EU Human Rights Country Strategies where they exist.

This Action Document is also a key tool to contribute to the implementation of the Democracy Support Agenda for Action, including for the pilot delegations of this agenda.

2.3. Lessons learnt

Country Based Support Schemes policy is a long-established element of the European Union's human rights and democracy policy under its external action and has been built on experience with CBSS under the EIDHR Strategies 2007-2013 and with micro project facilities under the previous European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights. It has been the object of an in-depth evaluation in 2010. The evaluation showed that the CSSS constitutes an important source of funding as it can work in a more flexible way, for example without host country government consent. In this way it manages to target the more difficult issues which can be hard to fund under other instruments.

2.4. Complementary actions

The Delegation ensures the complementarity and synergies with other EU instruments. Other thematic instrument, in particular the Civil Society component of the DCI (CSO-LA) often offers good opportunities for synergies but also risk overlap if complementarity is not safeguarded.

The issue of complementarity between geographic and thematic instruments is of particular importance in the case of CBSS, as EIDHR can often be used to complement support under the geographic instruments. Support for democracy and human rights under the geographic instruments is used mainly to strengthen public institutions, though in a limited manner they also target civil society organisations (CSOs). Under EIDHR, however, the key target group are CSOs and priority is given, whenever possible, to more sensitive issues targeted by civil society organisations, in line with the instruments' added value of not relying on partner governments' consent. For example, in the context of the pre-accession process, the complementarity focus of the EIDHR is on the role of the CSOs with an emphasis on areas linked to the Copenhagen political criteria. This way, EIDHR complements support under other instruments such as for example the structural dialogue. This search for complementarity is fully in line with the Council Conclusions on Democracy Support Agenda for Action.

A specific enhanced operational coordination is essential regarding the CSOs component of the DCI, in particular the pillar in the areas of its support to the enabling environment of civil society actors, mapping of CSO organisation and local call for proposals and CSO roadmaps.

Complementarity with actions funded under the IcSP and in particular Article 4 funded actions aimed at providing support to in-country civil society actors in conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness should be ensured by EU Delegations. Synergies will also be ensured between the EIDHR and ECHO operations, as refugees and other beneficiaries of humanitarian relief are often also victims of human rights violations that need to be documented, registered and treated, while respecting the different mandates of judicial/accountability mechanisms and humanitarian action. There will also be close coordination with ECHO over projects on international humanitarian law (IHL) to ensure complementarity and avoid overlap.

2.5. Donor coordination

The Commission services within Delegations prepare their Calls for Proposals based on consultation with civil society organisations, Member States and other donors, ensuring complementarity and synergies with their actions.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The objective of this action is to support civil society and human rights defenders in third countries in working on human rights (political, civil, economic, social and cultural), and democratisation, so as to:

- i) pursue common agendas for human rights and democratic reform;
- ii) build consensus on disputed or controversial areas of policy;
- iii) enhance political representation and participation;
- iv) enhance the inclusiveness and pluralism of civil society;
- v) increase safety structures for human rights defenders;
- vi) counter the worrying trends of shrinking space for civil society;
- vii) support activities aimed at promoting the issues covered by EU Human Rights guidelines and in the EUs Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy;
- viii) enhance the rule of law and good governance.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The local thematic priority setting under the Human Rights Country Strategies, as agreed by Delegations and Heads of Mission in the various countries, and local civil society consultations will provide guidance for the selection of relevant fields of intervention.

Moreover, three key areas of the new EIDHR need to get further attention from EU Delegations, in order that the aggregated financial support is in line with the Multiannual indicative programming:

- Human Rights Defenders
- Economic and Social Rights
- Democracy support and promotion

Examples of fields of intervention (where and when these match local priorities):

- support, protection and defence of human rights defenders;
- support the fight against impunity, in particular civil society actions ensuring the effective functioning of the International Criminal Court (ICC);
- supporting gender equality (women's rights, women in decision-making, right to participate in peace-building and reconstruction processes, fight against violence and harmful practices, etc.);
 - supporting the rights of indigenous peoples e.g through activities to implement the Outcome document of the United Nations' World Conference on Indigenous Peoples (September 2014)
 - Supporting rights of persons belonging to minorities, people affected by caste based discrimination, Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) people and other vulnerable groups;
- – supporting freedom of expression and freedom of religion or beliefs,
- support to civil society organisations' actions and campaigns against the death penalty, against torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment;

- support for civil society organisations’ activities preparing the ground for elections (e.g. civic and voter education, domestic observation, dialogue and training for political actors) and post-election observation, including following up on the recommendations formulated by the EU or the OSCE/ODIHR Electoral Observation Missions (EOM). In such cases and where applicable, increased consistency with geographic election assistance programmes is needed;
- protection of the social, economic and cultural rights, especially for groups particularly vulnerable to discrimination, such as the poor, women, children, indigenous peoples, migrants and the rights of persons belonging to minorities.
- support for the structure and operation of trade unions, enabling social dialogue between different groups, developing mechanisms for exchange of opinions and democratic dialogue.

Other priorities can be pursued if these are more pertinent to the local situation, and can include getting civil society involved in, and contributing to, stronger regional human rights mechanisms.

Specific outcomes could cover a very wide range of topics, such as (non-exhaustive list):

- i) parliamentary agreements and government decisions, following concerted CSO campaigns, to legislate on gender equality, on rights for indigenous peoples, on the abolition of the death penalty, on prevention of torture, on new constitutional provisions for oversight of the military, on the enforcement of provisions on child labour and/or violence against children, or on the independent composition of the electoral commission; integration in the law and enforcement of economic, social and cultural rights ;
- ii) regular reporting from local civil society and indigenous peoples’ organisations on the country’s international commitments on human rights, e.g. regular reports by a consortia of civil society bodies on the Universal Periodical Review of countries at UN level, and on the implementation of European Neighbourhood Policy action plans; an independent detailed diagnosis of challenges to human rights and democracy, endorsed by leading civil society stakeholders, monitoring and reporting of rights pertaining the UN Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, reporting on the implementation of the International human rights instruments that the country has ratified, including on economic, social and cultural rights;;
- iii) broad consensus between groups with opposing interests on directions for legislation on land reform and compensation, on the terms of reference and resources for a truth and reconciliation commission; regular dialogues between CSOs divided on religious or ethnic grounds and certain common activities launched; regular dialogues between CSOs, the general public, government agencies, armed groups and other parties to conflict and certain common activities launched;
- iv) multi-party agreements and draft legislation, after CSO dialogues, for boosting women’s participation in political life; party platforms that include commitments to enhance transparency on electoral legislation; changes in the penal code; creation of an ombudsman function; combating discrimination on any grounds; greater decentralisation;
- v) new CSOs formed, membership development and activities driven on by the target group itself. For example: AIDS orphans organising and playing an active role in subject CSO

umbrella bodies; special women's officer and women's section created within main trade union, liaising with women NGOs and the media; strengthened participation of people with disabilities in CSOs; national level coalitions of indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, campaigns for promoting anti-discrimination legislation, founding and strengthening of CSOs engaging for the rights of LGBTI persons (this is a non-exhaustive list of examples);

vi) setting up and strengthening social partner organisations (trade unions, etc.).

3.3. Risks and assumptions

Some projects implemented under this Action, take place in extremely difficult, dangerous and volatile contexts. They are confronted with various political and physical risks that must not be underestimated.

Given the sensitivity of the implementation of this Action in some countries and to guarantee the security of local partners/applicants, special attention will be paid to the requirements for confidentiality and security when needed.

3.4. Cross-cutting issues

Cross-cutting issues for the implementation of this Action include: promotion of human rights, gender equality, democracy, good governance, conflict prevention, children's rights and indigenous peoples, environmental sustainability and combating HIV/AIDS, non-discrimination, the rights of persons belonging to minorities, the rights of persons affected by caste based discrimination, the rights of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.

Delegations are encouraged to launch, as much as possible, at least the publication of the call for proposals itself in local languages.

3.5. Stakeholders

The Country Based Support Schemes (CBSS) are managed at country level by the Commission through EU Delegations. The relevant section in each EU Delegation is asked to define the most appropriate objectives within the areas described in the EIDHR regulation and the appropriate eligibility criteria, and to formulate guidelines for local calls for proposals.

The applicants will be primarily civil society organisations with no geographical requirements set *a priori*. Given the nature of the objectives, however, the actions' focus will be preferably on in-country civil society organisations, which may wish to cooperate with regional, European or other organisations and national public-sector institutions¹.

Natural persons, entities without legal personality and, in exceptional and duly justified cases, other bodies or actors not identified in this paragraph, are eligible for funding under the CBSS when this is necessary to achieve the objectives of the instrument, as per article 11 of the Common Implementation Regulation.

Projects will preferably be based on partnerships of civil society organisations or, where justified, may require the close involvement of a range of in-country organisations and stakeholders. Independent political foundations and national parliamentary bodies will likewise be judged eligible to achieve the objectives of the EIDHR.

¹ National public-sector institutions include National Human Rights Institutions.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

4.2. Indicative operational implementing period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in sections 3.2. and 4.3. will be carried out, is 60 months from the adoption of this Action Document, subject to modifications to be agreed by the responsible authorising officer in the relevant agreements. The European Parliament and the relevant Committee shall be informed of the extension of the operational implementation period within one month of that extension being granted.

4.3. Implementation components and modules

4.3.1. Grants: call for proposal (direct management)

4.3.1.1. Objectives of the grants, fields of intervention, priorities of the year and expected results

The objective of this action is to support civil society and human rights defenders in third countries in working on human rights (political, civil, economic, social and cultural), and democratisation, as further explained in 3.1.

The local thematic priority setting under the Human Rights Country Strategies, as agreed by Delegations and Heads of Mission in the various countries, and local civil society consultations will provide guidance for the selection of relevant fields of intervention for the specific local calls, as further explained in 3.2.

The expected result is a civil society that is strengthened in its work on promoting human rights and democratisation. Examples of possible specific outcomes are further explained in 3.2.

The detailed specific objectives, fields of intervention, priorities and expected results will be fixed in the Guidelines for each individual country call for proposal.

Grants awarded under the CBSS scheme are not expected to fall below EUR 50.000, except in duly justified cases.

CBSS implementation should be done using to the maximum extent existing flexibilities as well as use pragmatic modalities such as re-granting, program approaches, use of suspensive clause in duly justified cases (as *inter alia* the need to make efficient use of procedures, biannual rhythm of calls and allocations, pooling of funds, targeted project, direct grant and or follow-up grants.

4.3.1.2. Eligibility conditions

The eligibility criteria for applicants are the one defined in the Article 11.2 of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 on common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action (CIR).

4.3.1.3. Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection criteria are the financial and operational capacity of the applicant, as well as the expertise of the applicant in the field of the call.

The essential award criteria are relevance of the proposed action to the objectives of the call; design, effectiveness, feasibility, sustainability and cost-effectiveness of the action.

4.3.1.4. Maximum rate of co-financing

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under this call is 95%.

The maximum possible rate of co-financing may be up to 100 % in accordance with Articles 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 if full funding is essential for the action to be carried out. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the responsible authorising officer in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

4.3.1.5. Indicative trimester to launch calls is the 3rd trimester of 2015.

Under the responsibility of the authorising officer by delegation, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified under Art. 6c(ii) CIR (direct award under the EIDHR). In addition, direct grants may be awarded if a target country is in a crisis situation referred to in Article 190(2) RAP; other exceptional and duly justified situations as per Article 190(1) RAP.

4.3.2. *Procurement (direct management) – Support Measures*

The Commission, through EU Delegations, will be able to spend up to 10 % of the respective annual operational country allocation on support measures accompanying the implementation of country-based support schemes (to ensure information, outreach, evaluations, audits, visibility of projects, exchanges of best practices, trainings including on Right Based Approach to Development, actions to ensure the sustainability of projects). This 10% can also be used to support the advocacy by Human Rights activists or defenders including their capacity to attend and provide input to meetings out of the country as well as to support non-EIDHR human right related activities. It is expected an average of 4 contracts per delegation for a total of 110 countries.

The relevant section of EU Delegations should also use part of allocations for Support Measures to publish the beneficiaries of the local calls for proposals and increase visibility of the instrument.

4.4. **Scope of geographical eligibility**

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act shall apply.

4.5. **Indicative budget**

The total indicative amount for 2015 is **EUR 82,750,000**.

The tentative list of countries and allocations for the CBSS 201 are in appendix of this Action Document. This list can be adapted pending the results of call of proposals or the evolution of third countries situations. Any remaining balance from one country allocation may be reallocated to another country, preferably within the same region.

Module	Amount in EUR thousands
4.3.1. – Call for proposals (direct management)	74,475
4.3.2. – Support Measures (direct management)	8,275
Totals	82,750

4.6. Performance monitoring

The project will be monitored according to standard procedures. Project monitoring and evaluation will be based on periodic assessment of progress on delivery of specified project results and towards achievement of project objectives. Clear indicators will be identified.

Reporting will be done in accordance to the requirements set in the General Conditions. Progress reports will be prepared every six months during the period of implementation of the tasks. They will be provided along with the corresponding invoice, the financial report and an expenditure verification report, if foreseen, defined in the General Conditions. There must be a final report, a final invoice and the financial report accompanied by an expenditure verification report, if foreseen, at the end of the period of implementation of the tasks.

Each report shall consist of a narrative section and a financial section. The financial section will contain details of the time inputs of the experts, of the incidental expenditure and of the provision for expenditure verification, if foreseen.

4.7. Evaluation and audit

Where provided for in the applicable General Conditions, expenditure verification will have to be submitted as part of the contract requirements. Evaluations of the results achieved may be done by external experts hired by the European Commission as well as external audits at the initiative of the Commission, if necessary.

4.8. Communication and visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated before the start of implementation and supported with the budget of a particular project and/or with the budget of Support Measures indicated in section 4.3.2 above.

The measures shall be implemented (a) by the Commission, and/or (b) by the contractor in close cooperation with partner countries, grant beneficiaries and entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in procurement contracts.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

Appendix to Action Document 1

Region	Country	Proposed Allocation 2015
Western Balkans & Candidate countries	Albania	500,000
Western Balkans & Candidate countries	Bosnia Herzegovina	1,000,000
Western Balkans & Candidate countries	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	600,000
Western Balkans & Candidate countries	Kosovo*	500,000
Western Balkans & Candidate countries	Montenegro	600,000
Western Balkans & Candidate countries	Serbia	1,000,000
Western Balkans & Candidate countries	Turkey	3,000,000
8	SUB TOTAL WB&CC	7,200,000
	Sub total % of total CBSS	9%
ENPI	Algeria	600,000
ENPI	Armenia	900,000
ENPI	Azerbaijan	1,100,000
ENPI	Belarus	1,000,000
ENPI	Egypt	1,500,000
ENPI	Georgia	800,000
ENPI	Israel	1,200,000
ENPI	Jordan	700,000
ENPI	Lebanon	600,000
ENPI	Libya	500,000

ENPI	Moldova	700,000
ENPI	Morocco	1,000,000
ENPI	Russia	3,000,000
ENPI	Syria	2,000,000
ENPI	Tunisia	1,200,000
ENPI	Ukraine	1,000,000
ENPI	West Bank & Gaza	1,500,000
19	SUB TOTAL ENP	19,300,000
	Sub total % of total CBSS	23%
Central & Latin America	Argentina	500,000
Central & Latin America	Belize	100,000
Central & Latin America	Bolivia	500,000
Central & Latin America	Brazil	800,000
Central & Latin America	Chile	300,000
Central & Latin America	Colombia	900,000
Central & Latin America	Costa Rica	300,000
Central & Latin America	Ecuador	400,000
Central & Latin America	Guatemala	700,000
Central & Latin America	Honduras	700,000
Central & Latin America	Mexico	1,000,000
Central & Latin America	Nicaragua	800,000
Central & Latin America	Panama	300,000
Central & Latin America	Paraguay	400,000

Central & Latin America	Peru	600,000
Central & Latin America	Salvador	700,000
Central & Latin America	Uruguay	500,000
20	SUB TOTAL	9,500,000
	Sub total % of total CBSS	11%
ACP Caribbean	Cuba	300,000
ACP Caribbean	Dominican Republic	700,000
ACP Caribbean	Guyana	300,000
ACP Caribbean	Haiti	500,000
ACP Caribbean	Jamaica	400,000
ACP Caribbean	Trinidad and Tobago	100,000
	Sub SUB TOTAL ACP Caribbean	2,300,000
	Sub total % of total CBSS	4%
ACP	Angola	800,000
ACP	Benin	900,000
ACP	Burkina Faso	1,000,000
ACP	Burundi	1,000,000
ACP	Cameroun	900,000
ACP	Cap Verde	300,000
ACP	Comores	300,000
ACP	Cote d'Ivoire	1,000,000
ACP	Congo Brazzaville	700,000
ACP	Djibouti	300,000
ACP	DRC	1,500,000
ACP	Eritrea	300,000
ACP	Gabon	600,000
ACP	Guinea	300,000
ACP	Guinea Equatoriale	300,000
ACP	Kenya	900,000
ACP	Lesotho	1,000,000
ACP	Liberia	800,000
ACP	Madagascar	1,300,000
ACP	Mali	1,000,000
ACP	Malawi	450,000
ACP	Mauritanie	500,000
ACP	Mauritius	100,000

ACP	Mozambique	900,000
ACP	Namibia	600,000
ACP	Nigeria	600,000
ACP	Papua New Guinea	300,000
ACP	RCA	600,000
ACP	Rwanda	600,000
ACP	Sao Tome-et-Principe	100,000
ACP	Senegal	600,000
ACP	Seychelles	100,000
ACP	Sierra Leone	600,000
ACP	Solomon	300,000
ACP	Somalia	1,000,000
ACP	South Africa	600,000
ACP	South Sudan	1,000,000
ACP	Sudan	1,000,000
ACP	Tanzania	600,000
ACP	Timor Leste	600,000
ACP	Togo	500,000
ACP	Uganda	1,000,000
ACP	Zambia	600,000
ACP	Zimbabwe	900,000
	SUB TOTAL ACP	31,650,000
	sub total % of total CBSS	38%
Asia & Central Asia	Afghanistan	800,000
Asia & Central Asia	Bangladesh	800,000
Asia & Central Asia	Burma/ Myanmar	800,000
Asia & Central Asia	Cambodia	800,000
Asia & Central Asia	China	1,000,000
Asia & Central Asia	India	900,000
Asia & Central Asia	Indonesia	800,000
Asia & Central Asia	Kazakhstan	600,000
Asia & Central Asia	Kyrgyzstan	800,000
Asia & Central Asia	Laos	800,000
Asia & Central Asia	Mongolia	300,000
Asia & Central Asia	Nepal	500,000
Asia & Central Asia	Pakistan	800,000

Asia & Central Asia	Philippines	900,000
Asia & Central Asia	Sri Lanka	1,000,000
Asia & Central Asia	Tajikistan	1,000,000
Asia & Central Asia	Thailand	300,000
Asia & Central Asia	Uzbekistan	400,000
Asia & Central Asia	Vietnam	900,000
ENPI	Yemen	900,000
	SUB TOTAL ASIA	15,100,000
	sub total % of total CBSS	18%
All regions	TOTAL	82,750,000

* This designation is without prejudice on status, and is in line with the UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence