



REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

**EU COUNTRY ROADMAP FOR
ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY**

2014- 2017

Approved by: EU Member States on 22nd July 2014 and by Head of the EU Delegation, Mr Pirkka Tapiola, on 24th July 2014

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INTRODUCTION

THE POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Agenda for Change Communication (October 2011, Council Conclusions in May 2012) sets out a strategic EU approach to reducing poverty. It provides the policy direction for EU development cooperation by proposing a concentration of development cooperation around two main pillars: i) human rights, democracy and good governance; and ii) inclusive and sustainable growth for human development.

Support to and enhanced participation of civil society organisations in pursuit of internationally agreed goals and development effectiveness is acknowledged as a core EU policy orientation. The September 2012 Communication ‘The Roots of Democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with civil society in external relations’, adopted in September 2012 and endorsed by the Council of the European Union in October 2012, recommends an enhanced and more strategic EU engagement with CSOs in developing, enlargement and neighborhood countries, with a particular focus on local civil society organisations.

An empowered civil society is valued as a crucial component of any democratic system and as an asset in itself, but civil society organisations are also considered as fundamental actors of change. The Communication envisages the elaboration of Roadmaps at country level. Conceived as a joint initiative between the European Union and Member States, the Roadmap aims to strengthen the strategic engagement with civil society.

The October 2012 Council Conclusions welcome this initiative, stressing that it shall be developed taking into account the views of local civil society and existing coordination structures.

The European Parliament has also expressed its support to the process in its October 2013 Resolution on local authorities and civil society, by welcoming the envisaged more ambitious partnership with civil society organisations.

THE OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Roadmaps is to develop a common strategic framework for the engagement of EU Delegations and Member States with civil society at country level, with a view to improving the impact, predictability and visibility of EU actions.

Roadmaps are also intended to improve the consistency of EU cooperation vis-à-vis civil society, across sectors and instruments, and to progressively promote better coordination within EU Delegations, Member States and other relevant actors.

THE FIRST GENERATION OF ROADMAPS

This first generation EU Country Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society in the Republic of Moldova covers the period 2014-2017. The Roadmap is a continuous process and it should be updated each year in January as well as when major changes in the context take place.

A second generation of Roadmaps will cover the period 2018-2020.

1 STATE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

1.1 ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

In September 2012, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova* approved the Civil Society Development Strategy 2012-2015 and an Action Plan for its implementation. The strategy is an important step in creating an enabling environment. It is an ambitious strategy that aims to 'ensure a favourable environment for the development of an active civil society, able to contribute progressively to democratic development of the Republic of Moldova, social cohesion, and social capital".

Despite the significant increase in political will to develop a favourable legislative framework for CSOs participation, many of these legislative provisions and implementation of these laws and plans that should facilitate participation, have not been materialized yet. Civil Society Strategy is expiring in 2015 and currently only about 20% of it has been implemented. Stronger political will and strengthened collaboration between the parliament, involved ministries and the civil society is now needed to assist the implementation. It proves to be most difficult to develop needed legislative provisions to facilitate fiscal benefits for CSOs. One Tax Code modification was done in July 2012, which extends the income tax exemptions to all non-commercial organisations and not just organisation with public utility status. The new strategy is in drafting process.

In Transnistria, civil society development has remained limited. Activities of civil society organisations are tolerated in some fields (environment, social rights) and even encouraged in some others (social affairs, vulnerable people). The work of local CSOs – in particular the ones receiving external funding - remains however tightly controlled both by the so called Committee for Humanitarian Assistance, depending from the authorities in Tiraspol, and by the security services.

Today there is an act forbidding foreign funding for an organisation registered as a Public Association, which has election campaigns as a mission in their statutes. Non-commercial partnerships can receive

external funds, as¹ long as the funds are registered. A draft law on CSOs in the region has seemingly been put on hold. This on-going legislative initiative (presented in May 2013, public hearing is planned to be held) aims to prohibit external funding for CSOs in Transnistria, if the CSO has influence on the public sphere, independently of the organisations legal form. This is a much broader definition that will be up for interpretation and can provide difficulties for CSOs active in Transnistria.

In Transnistria, access to public media and participation in decision-making process are in this respect limited and subject to a centralised control. It has been reported lately that access to many popular websites has been blocked for Transnistrian users by the authorities. It has been also reported lately that registrations of CSOs or authorizations for organizing CSO events have been rejected by authorities because of their political nature (even if the applicants have explained [with evidence] that events were related to social issues only).

1.2 PARTICIPATION AND ROLES

There are about 7000 registered CSOs in Moldova, but only about a quarter have carried any projects in the past three years. The biggest areas of activity are education and training, social services related activities and community development.

The Government introduced significant improvements in consultations with civil society on policy matters. A central pillar for this reform was the establishment of the National Participation Council in December 2009 that aims to facilitate and promote strategic partnership between public authorities and CSOs that aims to strengthen participatory democracy. It allows civil society participate more actively in the decision making process. The Council consists of 30 members from different CSOs who are elected on a two-year basis. CNP aims to enable development stakeholders' participation in implementation, monitoring and evaluations. Its mission is to contribute to public policy decisions, by providing recommendations in the interest of the society and to promote

* Hereinafter to be referred to as "Moldova".

partnerships between public authorities, civil society and the private sector to strengthen the participation of the reform processes in the country. In addition to serving as a consultative organ, the chairperson of the council also attends the sittings of the Government, which improves transparency.

Also in order to strengthen coordinated cooperation between the government and civil society, a special civil society coordination unit was established in the Ministry of Sports and Youth.

The NGO Council is the National Representative body of the CSOs, elected by organisations in the country with nine to ten members. It has the possibility to comment on draft laws and other legal acts. Its objectives include monitoring the adoption and implementation processes of the Civil Society Development Strategy, and enable collaboration between the NGOs and public authorities.

According to the Law on Regional Development of the Republic of Moldova and the Regulation of Regional Development Council (RDC), RDCs consists of chairs of *raions*, mayors and representatives of private sector and civil society based on equal number of seats for each category. CSOs and private sector's representatives are selected according to the procedure established by the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction (MRDC).

According to the Regulation of RDCs, the major responsibilities are as following: co-ordinating and monitoring the process of Regional Development Strategy elaboration; mobilizing regional endogenous resources; defining objectives and priorities of the socio-economic development of the respective development region; coordinating the process of regional development planning and implementation of established objectives. In reality, a major responsibility of RDCs' members is to participate at RDCS' meetings (at least four times in one year). Four such meetings have been organized in the Development Region North and five in other regions during 2013-2014.

Nevertheless, CSOs complain about a lack of transparency in public administration. CSOs have for example complained about the Government and Parliamentary activities, including the fact that draft

legislation are not published early enough on websites, and that it is not clear how certain job vacancies are filled. CSOs complain also about the lack of transparency in budget monitoring, sector reforms as well as reforms within state institutions. CSOs active in more sensitive topics such as traditional marriage, sexual rights, especially LGBT rights and CSOs protecting sex workers or HIV positive people, have complained about a lack of enabling environment.

According to the CSO sustainability index, the level of activism, dialogue and co-operation between Moldovan CSOs and public authorities have increased significantly since 2012. Some Ministries have indeed been involving CSOs more actively in reforms (for example Social and Health sectors) while in some other sectors a participation of CSOs has been very complicated and authorities have been reported to be uncooperative (for example the difficulties that Transparency International has reported related to monitoring the implementation of an anticorruption strategy, financial flows and drafting new laws).

In the Autonomous Region of Gagauzia, CSOs are not officially involved in monitoring and in policy or decision making.

In Transnistria, there are occasionally Public Councils, a formal entity in which the civil society can meet with local administration to discuss certain issues, although little of substance have come out or been implemented.

1.3 CAPACITY

Moldovan CSOs are heavily depending on international donors as domestic financing remains very limited. In 2011, 92% of the support given to Moldovan CSOs came from foreign donors while income services accounted for 6% of CSOs budgets. European Union, EU Member States and USAID are the biggest donors. Due to the fact that the perception of CSOs is vague in the Moldovan society, the possibility to attract private or local funds is very slim. CSOs claim that pursuing local funds is highly labour intensive with higher costs than revenues. In 2012 the ministries' of Ecology, Youth and Sports and of Culture launched their first small grants programs. Despite the limited domestic

financing of civil society organisations, political parties seem to be able to find domestic support, but transparency in political party and campaign contributions is still a concern.

For CSOs registered in Transnistria there are two ways to receive funding; the first is to register the grant at the Coordinating Council (Coordinating council of NGOs and political parties from Transnistria) or the second to register the grant as a currency transaction and movement of capital at the Transnistrian Republican Bank. The latter model proves easier and is more often used. CSOs active in Transnistria in many cases are also registered as CSO's on the right bank of Nistru, which also allows for donors to forward funds to a bank on the right side of the river. The CSO then either pays costs directly from the right side of the Nistru or uses the second model to transfer the currency to their bank in Transnistria.

CSOs sustainability in the Republic of Moldova has been increasing and the sector has undergone improvements due to significant legislative reforms, the strengthening of technical skills and advocacy capacity. However, Moldovan CSOs are still facing a number of challenges, such as on the one hand a lack of technical capacity and organizational constraints in CSO field, and on the other hand, the lack of genuine will on the part of the Government to increase the role of civil society in the development process of the country. There is a lack of capacity in very basic technical project management skills like financial management, planning strategies and priorities, writing reports or strategies, fundraising and issues of internal governance.

CSOs are centralised in Chisinau and Tiraspol while in other regions a number of larger CSOs remains quite low. Between CSOs the capacity gap is significant when comparing with Chisinau and other regions. There are large discrepancies especially between organisational capacity of CSOs in the right bank Moldova and the Transnistrian region, although this gap decreased slightly in recent years.

According to a recently published EU funded Mapping study *"Civil Society Organizations from the Republic of Moldova: development, sustainability and participation to the policy dialogue"* interviewed CSOs stated that their main challenges are:

- Financial sustainability, limited social confidence ;
- Professional staff and other human resources challenges such as high staff turnover;
- Difficulties cooperating with public administration and other partners, including NGOs;
- Citizens' indifference and difficulties in mobilizing community; NGOs are sometime far away from citizens needs;
- Discrimination and violation of the rights of different categories of people;
- Infrastructure problems (their own office) and technical equipment which directly depends on the financial resources available;
- Political factors (political instability, political pressure, favouring a person depending on their political preferences, lack of continuity of activities after elections in case the LPA leadership is changed, etc.);
- The area of activity and/or target group is not a priority for the state and/or the donors.

2 CURRENT EU ENGAGEMENT

The European Union actively supports Moldovan civil society organisations and local public authorities through numerous grant programmes such as European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities (former Non-State-Actors and Local Authorities) and Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility, but also through Confidence Building Measures and as a part of budget support operations in the future.

Ongoing civil society projects managed by the EU Delegation to Moldova

The EU Delegation has 10 European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), 1 Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility (CSF) and 2 Non-State Actors and Local Authorities (NSA-LA) ongoing action grant projects. Themes: Protecting most vulnerable from torture (particularly psychiatric institutions), inclusive participation and promoting equality, activities against ill treatment of children, enhancing freedom of assembly, empowering youth, conflict prevention, rights of people with disabilities, civil society contributing for MDGs, monitoring justice sector reform and combating elder abuse.

Confidence Building Measures (CBMs): Annual Action Programme 2013; 12 MEUR, Annual Action Programme 2014 (2014-2018); 28 MEUR (8.5 MEUR for civil society). CBMs aim at fostering cooperation and creating sustainable cross-river partnerships between Moldova and its Transnistrian region.

Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities (CSO-LA, former NSA-LA) Call for Proposals is foreseen to be launched in August 2014 with total amount of 1.25 MEUR. Focus on media freedom, reform of public broadcasters and social and health sector services targeting women and children from vulnerable groups.

EIDHR and CSF Call for Proposals deadline was in July 2014. Total amounts of 1.0 MEUR under EIDHR, and 450,000.00 EUR under CSF. EIDHR focus is on inclusive participation, support for implementing the

Law on Equality, support for Equality Council and National Participation Council. CSF focus is on anti-corruption activities.

As per the recently approved Single Support Framework for Moldova, civil society will be involved under that in 2 ways: (1) mainstreamed into focal budget support sectors mainly for monitoring assistance and participating in policy dialogue (public administration reform; agriculture and rural development and; police reform and border management) (2) the allocation of a complementary envelope specifically targeting the civil society. The size of the complementary envelope for civil society is foreseen to be approximately 5% out of the indicative amount allocated for the 1st period of programming (2014 – 2017). This amount is meant to be between 335 MEUR and 410 MEUR. Therefore, the indicative amount allocated to civil society under the complementary envelope over the next 4 years will be between 16.75 MEUR and 20.5 MEUR. The content of this potential action has not been confirmed yet.

In addition, there are several Global and Regional calls where Moldovan CSOs can participate: Global EIDHR, Regional CSO-LA, DCI Thematic Budget lines, European Endowment for Democracy etc.

2.1 STRUCTURED EU DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

- Human Rights Dialogue with the Government, civil society hearings
- Regular formal and informal contacts with CSOs
- Consultations and hearings regular basis on human rights and EU assistance related topics
- Almost all visitors of all levels from the EU institutions meet CSOs and take their views into account. Thematic meetings with CSOs are also organized on such topics as human rights, Transnistrian settlement, implementation of DCFTA, media freedom, visa free travel, combating corruption, etc.

2.2 POLICY DIALOGUE FOR AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

It is highly important to promote Moldovan government to involve actively civil society organisations in country's development process in more organized and systematic way. Moldova has indeed showed strong commitments in enabling civil society organisations participate more actively in policy making process. Moldova also seems to be one of the few countries that allow CSOs take part in all parts of the Human Rights Dialogue with the EU.

However, in its cooperation, the EU is emphasizing the importance of taking into account the views of civil society at all stages, including in drafting budgets, legislation, promote increased access to information and promote respect, protection and fulfilment of basic legal rights such as the freedom of expression (on-line and off-line), assembly and association and enabling environment (including very practical organisational related legislative improvements). The EU is particularly keen in encouraging transparency in decision making as well as putting emphasis on the role of civil society in fighting and preventing corruption.

2.3 MAINSTREAMING CIVIL SOCIETY

- Civil society mainstreamed for programming 2014-2017 (-2020);
- Under the recently approved Single Support Framework for Moldova, civil society will be mainstreamed into focal sectors: public administration reform; agriculture and rural development and; police reform and border management. It will be mainly monitoring reforms and participating in policy dialogue, including the ENPARD, PFPR and DCFTA that are already starting under the AAP 2014.

- Call for proposals will be published for strengthening inclusive participation of civil society in different sectors

2.4 COORDINATION

- The EU Delegation to Moldova has conducted a number of consultations with CSF National Platform. The Delegation also maintains regular informal contacts with a number of different CSOs and participates to conferences, roundtables and other events. Related to the Programming Period 2014-2020, the EU Delegation organized in September 2013 a Roundtable Consultation Event with civil society organisations and local authorities associations regarding their priorities for the period 2014-2017 (-2020). Consultations on Member States' civil society priorities were held in parallel in August/September 2013.
- Donor coordination meetings on head of operations level;
- Swedish Embassy initiative for CSO donor coordination meetings every 2nd month started in February/March 2014 (incl. CSOs and other big donors participation). In the future, starting from the third CSO coordination meeting that will be held in August/September 2014, all EU Member States will be invited;
- Consultations twice a year with a number of human rights CSOs in the framework of the EU-Moldova Human Rights Dialogue;
- Almost all visitors of all levels from the EU institutions meet CSOs and take their views into account. Thematic meetings with CSOs are also organized on such topics as human rights, Transnistrian settlement, implementation of DCFTA, media freedom, visa free travel, combating corruption, etc.

2.5 LESSONS LEARNT

- Donors provide to a large extent support to the same group of CSOs, those are the CSOs that have good organisational capacities, can

write a decent proposal and reports and have already received funds from different donors. Also most donors' priorities are similar and to different extents linked to the EU integration agenda. Civil society coordination between donors is fundamental, just like needs-based assessments. It is important to reach a wide range of CSOs throughout the country instead of only 'the usual suspects'.

- Lack of knowledge in the area of Public Finance Management resulted in lack of experience in monitoring of how local public institutions spend public money, and, as a result, in a quite passive presence in this field.
- Civil society organisations technical capacity is limited and needs to be increased; especially related to an enhanced role of the civil society in monitoring more systematically reforms, EU assistance and particularly budget support.
- Competition between CSOs has led to a situation where CSOs are not willing to apply for funds with co-applicants. Call for Proposals should oblige or at least strongly encourage for acting with co-applicant.
- In case of Moldova it is important to keep in mind that political environment still can be the main obstacle to development and engagement of civil society.
- Civil society organisations are fragile in political crisis and are prone to take sides and recent political crisis (ie. recent political crisis; spring 2013 and now with Russia) have led to a fragmentation of civil society and number of leading analysts and CSOs have taken sides.
- For an inclusive policy process to be credible, civil society must be independent, representative and competent. In many sectors civil society still lacks sufficient capacity and legitimacy to fulfil its role.
- CSO cooperation between both banks remains quite limited due complicated political situation and different legal frameworks.

3 PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 1: Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance

Priority: Needs-based support for civil society organisations as the most important actors in monitoring human rights situation and democratic reforms, reporting of violations, participating in policy dialogue and carrying out projects in line with the EU policy priorities, Human Rights Country Strategy and UPR recommendations (including projects targeting gender and women's rights, child rights, people with disabilities, vulnerable minorities, Roma and other vulnerable groups etc.), particularly paid attention to CSO role in ensuring equality, ensuring prevention of corruption, media freedom and combating torture. Pay special attention to the needs in terms of human rights monitoring at local level, including UTAG (Gagauzia).

Indicator: Raised awareness of human rights violations and enhanced human rights situation and transparent democratic reform. Increased level of involvement of groups representing minorities or marginalised groups participating.

(Main instrument EIDHR, CSO-LA and the 5% complementary envelope for civil society participation can be used)

PRIORITY 2: Facilitate CSOs oversight role and build capacity of civil society to be stronger actor in governance and accountability and more systematically involved in policy dialogue and monitoring implementation of EU assistance and democratic reform.

Priority: Promote an increasing role of the civil society in policy dialogue, monitoring implementation of EU-Moldova Agreements and financial assistance, especially budget support and sector reforms. Build capacity of CSOs to apply for funds and manage projects including other technical skills. Facilitate capacity building of CSOs through cross-border cooperation and participation in regional and European CSOs networks/platforms. Pay special attention to capacity building and oversight role in the regions/local level, including for UTAG (Gagauzia).

Indicator: Enhanced involvement of the civil society related to monitoring EU Agreements and bilateral development cooperation with the Government of Moldova.

(Civil society mainstreamed in budget support priority sectors, 5% complementary envelope for civil society participation, Thematic Programme CSO-LA and ENI)

PRIORITY 3: Enhance capacity and the role of civil society to be active and independent development actor and encourage Moldovan government to involve civil society more systematically in line with the National Civil Society Development Strategy for 2012-2015 and the Action Plan for implementing the Strategy

Priority: Enhance capacity of civil society to be involved systematically in development process of the country. Very practical interventions can be such as supporting national participatory structures, small local civil society organisations and their umbrella organisations and build up their capacities. Also for example in the area of financial support, authorities may be interested in capacity development interventions designed to make public employees aware of for example what kind of information can be shared and how participation can be organised (staff in ministries, members of parliaments, and local authorities to enable them to provide the necessary information to and engage successfully with citizens and civil society). Encourage government to ensure that it funds its own civil society in the long run for example by using civil society for service delivery, but also in other ways, such as cultural initiatives, making it more involved and sustainable. Pay special attention to involvement of civil society in public policy formulation and implementation including at regional and local levels.

Indicator: Increased level of responsiveness of government and other institutions (including local authorities) of the state to the views of civil society and the private sector. Increased and more systematic participation of civil society organisations, CBOs and CSOs umbrella organisations in policy dialogue with national and local authorities. Civil society is monitoring reforms in more systematic and structured way through institutionalised participatory structures.

(CSO-LA, mainstreaming in budget support, 5% complementary envelope can be used)

4 ACTIONS

Action tables

Priority 1 Human Rights, Democracy, Good Governance and Media Freedom
<p>Rights based/needs based support for civil society organisations as the most important actors in monitoring human rights situation and democratic reforms, reporting of violations, participating in policy dialogue and carrying out projects in line with the EU policy priorities, Human Rights Country Strategy and UPR recommendations (including projects targeting gender equality and women's rights, child rights, people with disabilities, vulnerable minorities, Roma and other vulnerable groups etc.), particularly paid attention to CSO role in ensuring equality, ensuring prevention of corruption, media freedom and combating torture.</p>
Indicator(s)
<p>Raised awareness of human rights violations and enhanced human rights situation and transparent democratic reform. Increased level of involvement of groups representing minorities or marginalised groups participating, enhanced media freedom and journalists capacity</p>
Actions:
A. Analysis: Studies, mappings and research
<p>Studies, mappings and research on human rights and democratic governance have been conducted under ongoing civil society projects (see themes under the 'current engagement'. Foreseen studies TBC.</p>
A. Policy dialogue, consultation and facilitation
<p>Human rights dialogue, civil society consultations and hearings, policy dialogue on human rights, democracy, good governance and media freedom</p>
B. Funding: Operational support including mainstreaming
<p>The main instrument EIDHR, CSO-LA and the complementary 5% envelope can be used. For civil society instruments obliged or strongly encouraged to apply with co-applicants and to offer sub-granting.</p> <p>(Call for proposals)</p>

Priority 2 Facilitate CSOs oversight role and build capacity of civil society to be stronger actor in governance and accountability and more systematically involved in policy dialogue and monitoring implementation of EU assistance and democratic reform
Promote an increasing role of the civil society in policy dialogue, monitoring implementation of EU-Moldova Agreements and financial assistance, especially budget support and sector reforms. Build capacity of CSOs to apply for funds and manage projects including other technical skills.
Indicator(s)
Enhanced involvement of the civil society related to monitoring EU Agreements and bilateral development cooperation with the Government of Moldova.
Actions:
A. Analysis: Studies, mappings and research
Recently was published an EU funded Mapping study "Civil Society Organizations from the Republic of Moldova: development, sustainability and participation to the policy dialogue". Foreseen studies tbc.
A. Policy dialogue, consultation and facilitation
Policy dialogue for enhanced CSO engagement in EU assistance
B. Funding: Operational support including mainstreaming
Budget support priority sectors mainstreaming and 5% complementary envelope for civil society participation, Thematic Programme CSO-LA and ENI

<p>Priority 3 Enhance capacity and the role of civil society to be active and independent development actor and encourage Moldovan government to involve civil society more systematically in line with the National Civil Society Development Strategy for 2012-2015 and the Action Plan for implementing the Strategy and with upcoming new strategy and actions plan</p>
<p>Priority: Enhance capacity of civil society to be involved systematically in development process of the country. Very practical interventions can be such as supporting national participatory structures, small local civil society organisations and their umbrella organisations and build up their capacities. Also for example in the area of financial support, authorities may be interested in capacity development interventions designed to make public employees aware of for example what kind of information can be shared and how participation can be organised (staff in ministries, members of parliaments, and local authorities to enable them to provide the necessary information to and engage successfully with citizens and civil society). Encourage government to ensure that it funds its own civil society in the long run for example by using civil society for service delivery, but also in other ways, such as cultural initiatives, making it more involved and sustainable.</p>
<p>Indicator(s)</p>
<p>Indicator: Increased level of responsiveness of government and other institutions (including local authorities) of the state to the views of civil society and the private sector. Increased and more systematic participation of civil society organisations, CBOs and CSOs umbrella organisations in policy dialogue with national and local authorities. Civil society is monitoring reforms in more systematic and structured way through institutionalised participatory structures.</p>
<p>Actions:</p>
<p>A. Analysis: Studies, mappings and research</p>
<p>[E.g. mappings, studies or analyses to be carried out]</p> <p>[Indicate who is responsible (EUD, Member States, other donors and stakeholders) stressing joint actions where relevant]</p>
<p>A. Policy dialogue, consultation and facilitation</p>
<p>Promote Moldovan government to involve actively civil society organisations in country's development process in more organized and systematic way.</p> <p>In its cooperation, the EU is emphasizing the importance of taking into account the views of civil society at all stages, including in drafting budgets, legislation, promote increased access to information and promote respect, protection and fulfilment of basic legal rights such as the freedom of expression (on-line and off-line), assembly and association and enabling environment (including very practical organisational related legislative improvements).</p> <p>The EU is particularly keen in encouraging transparency in decision making as well as putting</p>

emphasis on the role of civil society in fighting and preventing corruption.

B. Funding: Operational support including mainstreaming

CSO-LA, CSF and mainstreaming in Budget Support priority sectors and the complementary 5% envelope. CSO-LA and CSF obliged or strongly encouraged to apply with co-applicants and to offer sub-granting.

5 DASHBOARD

Country:		
Process		
Area	Indicator	Achievement
Involvement of Member States in Roadmap elaboration	Member States present in the country are actively involved in the elaboration of the Roadmap	Germany, Sweden, Finland, Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary For the concept note consultations carried out in August 2013, participated following MS: Romania, Denmark, Finland, France, UK, Sweden, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Latvia, Austria, Germany
Consultation with local civil society	The Roadmap has been prepared on the basis of consultations with a broad range of local CSOs respecting principles of access to information, sufficient advance notice, and clear provisions for feedback and follow-up.	Consultation event in September 2013 with more than 60 CSOs and LAs, Regular informal consultations, and regular hearings with the civil society
Joint actions	Member States present in the country are actively involved in the implementation of the Roadmap priorities	Austria willing to participate in ENPARD CSO involvement. Austria interested in joint activities in the CS field, particularly social affairs and environment advocacy, build capacity of media and journalists Germany: inclusion of civil society into regional development and policy dialogue Finland active in supporting media freedom, human rights, democracy and good governance CS initiatives Sweden: Support to the civil society is provided through core funding, project support and sub grants. Overall aim is to support and strengthen political and human rights as well as democracy. Czech Republic: for human rights and democracy initiatives that are not government priorities :including support for Social services - elderly, disabled, and children; Inclusion of persons with special needs, inclusion of children with special needs into education system; Minorities rights; Inclusion of civil society organization into regional development Romania: capacity building for NGOs

		through cross-border partnerships, transfer of know-how and best practices from RO NGOs, and support for participation in European networks/platforms.
Outcome		
Priority	Indicator	Achievement
Insert ...	Insert ...	
Insert ...	Insert ...	
To be continued as relevant...	...	