



This action is funded by the European Union

#### ANNEX 4

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the adoption of the Multiannual Action Programme 2016 and 2017 for the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights

#### **Action Document for supporting Democracy - Global programmes to Strengthen the capacity of Political Parties and Parliaments**

##### **INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL GRANT APPLICANTS**

##### **WORK PROGRAMME FOR GRANTS**

This document constitutes the work programme for grants in the sense of Article 128(1) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012) in the following sections concerning calls for proposals: 5.3.1.1. “Grants – call for proposals on Component 1/political parties (direct management)”.

<b>1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number</b>	<b>Supporting Democracy - Global programmes to Strengthen the capacity of Political Parties and Parliaments</b> CRIS number: EIDHR/2016/038-670 for EUR 5 000 000 and EIDHR/2017/038-677 for EUR 5 000 000 financed under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
<b>2. Zone benefiting from the action/location</b>	Global/Thematic Programme. The locations of the action are open without limitation, in accordance with Regulations (EU) No 235/2014 and (EU) No 236/2014. Priority may be given to any country undergoing a transition into democracy and the countries concerned by the pilot exercise of the EU Agenda for Action on Democracy Support <sup>1</sup> , as foreseen in the relevant 2010 Council Conclusions and 2014 explanatory note of the PSC <sup>2</sup> . The exact locations addressed by the call for proposals will be determined by the sub-delegated authorising officer in coordination with the EEAS and the EU delegations concerned.
<b>3. Programming document</b>	Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017) for the Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights Worldwide - Commission Implementing Decision C(2014) 7529 of 21.10.2014
<b>4. Sector of concentration/</b>	Human Rights and Democracy

<sup>1</sup> ST 17835 2010 INIT

<sup>2</sup> ST 06005/14

<b>thematic area</b>				
<b>5. Amounts concerned</b>	<p>Total estimated cost: EUR 11 250 000</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 10 000 000</p> <p>The contribution is for an amount of EUR 5 million from the general budget of the European Union for financial year 2016 for an amount of EUR 5 million from the general budget of the European Union for financial year 2017, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the draft budget and the budget.</p> <p>This action is co-financed by potential grant beneficiaries for an indicative amount of EUR 1 250 000.</p>			
<b>6. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)</b>	<p>Project Modality</p> <p>Direct management,</p> <p>5.3.1.1 Grants – call for proposal</p> <p>5.3.1.12 Procurement</p>			
<b>7. DAC code(s)</b>	15152 Legislatures and political parties			
<b>8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Main objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality (including Women In Development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Main objective</b>
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagship</b>	N/A			

**SUMMARY**

*This programme will contribute to the strengthening of democracy by supporting the capacity of political parties and parliaments outside the EU.*

*The component addressing political parties, in line with the non-partisan multiparty approach, will aim to: A) support reforms of the regulatory and financial framework underlying the party systems B) strengthen the political participation of women and youth. Special attention will be paid to gender equality in all activities.*

*Support to parliaments will aim at further development of the capacity of beneficiary parliaments to deliver on their key functions, with a special focus on accountability and inclusive functioning of parliamentary structures. Key functions are oversight, legislation, representation, inclusivity, adoption of the national budget and administrative capacity, including research. This capacity development will be based on peer-to-peer assistance work through European parliaments. Following this programme, the capacity of some parliaments to deliver on these functions should have improved. Special emphasis will be placed on gender equality throughout the implementation of this programme.*

*This action intends to support the new EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy "Keeping human rights at the heart of the EU agenda" which was adopted by the FAC on 20 July 2015. The new Action Plan aims to reinforce the implementation of the EU's human rights and democracy policy with a special emphasis on strengthening ownership by local institutions, mechanisms and civil society actors, and on invigorating support to Human Rights Defenders. It brings a renewed commitment to the mainstreaming of human rights and democracy into all the EU's activities and to ensuring coherence between EU internal and external policies, to increasing the impact and effectiveness of our policies and tools, as well as to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment. Specific actions are outlined under 5 subject areas: boosting ownership of local actors, addressing human rights challenges; ensuring comprehensive human rights approach to conflicts and crises; fostering better coherence and consistency; and ensuring a more effective human rights and democracy support policy.*

## **1 CONTEXT**

### **1.1 Sector context/Thematic area**

Democracy is very important for development and for the fight against poverty. It is also a key objective of European foreign policy. In such a context, support to the capacity of Parliaments and Political Parties is a key area of intervention. These institutions foster, inter alia, deliberation, participation and accountability. They provide the space for political deliberation of the representatives of the people; they stir participation by engaging with their constituents during the decision-making process and are the actors/locus of horizontal accountability vis-à-vis the executive and other state institutions as well as vertical accountability between the people and political authority. However, work with political parties and parliaments touches upon the very heart of political power in any functioning democracy. Their place at the core of a state's sovereignty also renders support a sensitive matter. Parties compete in parliaments, asserting socio-economic interests on a daily basis. Any intervention can make a donor liable to the accusation of being partial and of undermining the sovereignty of the beneficiary country. However, undertaking Parliamentary Strengthening Programmes (PSPs) and working with political parties across the political spectrum can be done without taking sides with a particular political ideology. It can be a fully inclusive process that concentrates on building an institution and contributing to a pluralist, democratic culture, in line with a non-partisan, multiparty approach.

#### **1.1.1 EU Policy Framework**

The commitment of the EU to democracy is a key component of its foreign policy, stipulated in Article 21 of the TEU. This commitment was specifically spelled out in the November

2009 conclusions of the Council on 'Increased coherence in the EU's support to democracy'<sup>3</sup>, including the annexed 'Agenda for Action', and further developed in the European Neighbourhood Policy<sup>4</sup> as 'deep democracy'. It is also part of the 'Agenda for Change'<sup>5</sup>, guiding EU development cooperation.

The Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017) of the EIDHR that underlies this decision explicitly mentions "support for participatory and representative democracy, including **parliamentary** democracy, through supporting representative, inclusive **political parties**" as part of our programming.

Support to **the capacity of** political parties and PSPs is also mentioned in the Council Conclusions of 2009 according to which "EU democracy support should include a special focus on the role of elected representatives and political parties and institutions" and the Joint Communication on the Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2015-2019) "Keeping human rights at the heart of the EU agenda"<sup>6</sup>. Several other EU policy documents like the European Consensus on Development<sup>7</sup>, the Communication<sup>8</sup> on "Governance in the European Consensus on Development", the ACP-EC cooperation strategies, the Joint Paper<sup>9</sup> on "Democracy Building in EU External Relations Cooperation", and the Communication<sup>10</sup> on "Human rights and Democracy at the heart of EU external action – towards a more effective approach" also refer to the importance of support to parliaments.

### ***1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis***

The key beneficiaries of this programme are parliamentary assemblies and political parties in the countries covered by the EIDHR. Any action description adopted under this decision will include a contextual analysis tailored to the targeted beneficiaries, including a stakeholder analysis of the countries/regions where the activities will be implemented. Every action will include a comprehensive gender analysis as well. Given potential sensitivities, EU Delegations in coordination with EU Member States will play a particularly important role in assessing risks.

Other important stakeholders include:

- civil society organisations, including actors such as the media and press freedom organisations, trade unions and other professional organisations, academic institutions and research centres, the private sector and financial system intermediaries, political foundations not registered as political parties, community-based organisations, etc. ;
- the citizens as the ultimate beneficiaries of this programme;
- other relevant state and public institutions;
- Regional groups, international donors and other international organisations, including multilateral ones, may also be of relevance, depending on the country context in which the programme will be implemented.

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<sup>3</sup> [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/111250.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/111250.pdf), 16081/09

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.eas.europa.eu/top\\_stories/2011/250511\\_en.htm](http://www.eas.europa.eu/top_stories/2011/250511_en.htm)

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.dev-practitioners.eu/fileadmin/Redaktion/Documents/Post-Busan\\_03\\_2012/agenda\\_for\\_change\\_en.pdf?PHPSESSID=e40027878fd33ee30ebfa76cb75e730c](http://www.dev-practitioners.eu/fileadmin/Redaktion/Documents/Post-Busan_03_2012/agenda_for_change_en.pdf?PHPSESSID=e40027878fd33ee30ebfa76cb75e730c)

<sup>6</sup> JOIN(2015) 16 final

<sup>7</sup> 2006/C 46/01

<sup>8</sup> COM(2006) 421 final

<sup>9</sup> SEC(2009) 1095 final

<sup>10</sup> COM(2011) 886 final

### **1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis**

#### **1.1.1.1 Building political parties with deeper roots in society**

Political parties are the least trusted actors in democratic systems all over the world<sup>11</sup>. The degree, to which a party is entrenched in society and rooted in those sectors of society that the party seeks to represent, is a measure of its strength. Often however, instead of strong foundations, parties in emerging democracies tend to be top-down organisations<sup>12</sup> in nature. This top-down structure comes with a lack of rootedness among the local population, including youth. Almost generally, there is also a gender imbalance with lower political participation of women at all levels. Women have equal rights and must be empowered to participate in policy and governance processes at all levels. This is reflected in the on-going discussion on Sustainable Development Goals, in particular in the yet to be approved SDG 5.5 ("Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life").

Gender imbalance and the other problems mentioned above are deeply embedded in the political, economic and socio-cultural context in which parties emerge. They include: 1) the "compressed" conditions of creation of parties in transitional democracies that do not leave time for membership development and occurs at the same time as CSO creation (both vying for membership); 2) the political legacies left behind demised authoritarian regimes that make people distrust party membership; 3) the prevalence of Presidential as opposed to parliamentary systems in many emerging democracies that makes it hard for parties to attract good candidates for the parliament and, consequently, makes it even harder to generate grassroots involvement; 4) the type of regulatory and financial arrangements underlying party systems that may induce smaller, shallow-membership parties or not; 5) poverty itself that does not allow parties to develop.

The nature of political parties in emerging democracies indicates two priority entry points:

- a) support for the reform of party systems. This will address the regulatory and financial arrangements underlying party systems.
- b) strengthening of political participation of women and youth

#### **1.1.1.2 Peer-to-peer parliamentary strengthening**

In 2012 parliaments were more prevalent than ever before. 190 of 193 countries<sup>13</sup> had some form of functioning parliament, accounting for over 46,000 representatives. The existence of a parliament is not synonymous with democracy, but democracy cannot exist without a parliament. Although varying hugely in power, influence and function, almost every political system now has some form of representative assembly. But even when a parliament exists and democracy is healthy, parliaments may still face challenges related to issues of accountability, including inclusive functioning of parliamentary structures, internal regulations of the parliament, check and balances, gender inequality, capacity for the opposition to participate in deliberations and control capacity of the minority.

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<sup>11</sup> CIVICUS Global Survey of the State of Civil Society: Comparative perspectives (page 320), edited by Volkhart Heinrich, Lorenzo Fioramonti, CIVICUS 2008

<sup>12</sup> Carothers Thomas, "Confronting the weakest link: aiding political parties in new democracies", Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington D.C., 2006.

<sup>13</sup> Global Parliamentary Report 2012, Page 4, available at <http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/gpr2012-full-e.pdf>, last accessed on 16/04/2015

These challenges lay at the very core of the governance system of any country. Parliaments are expected to be able to deliver on a set of key functions that allows them to play their role in full in the governance system of a polity. Key functions are oversight, legislation, representation, inclusivity, adoption of the national budget and administrative capacity - including research- to underpin all the aforementioned.

The EU parliamentary development operations focus on all the main functions a parliament is supposed to perform as an institution. Moreover, the European Union is home to some of the world's oldest parliamentary democracies, and many of its parliaments already have substantial experience in extending parliamentary support abroad. Others can match the relative lack of such experience with recent experience of democratic transition. In either case, it is beyond doubt that parliaments know best how another parliament is supposed to function, and the EU is home to some of the most experienced institutions in the world in this respect.

The priority area supported under this programme will therefore be peer-to-peer assistance work aiming to promote the capacity of beneficiary parliaments to deliver on their functions and to ensure a level playing field for the parties. The programme will employ flexible arrangements within the framework set by the Financial Regulation, to allow EU national parliaments to help improve the functioning of the beneficiary parliaments.

## 2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Risk level (H/M/L)</b>	<b>Mitigating measures</b>
EU national Parliaments do not take up the opportunity to extend support to third country parliaments.	H	PSPs are not the first priority of EU national parliaments. Domestic politics is their first priority and willingness to take advantage of this opportunity could become an issue. The programme will be advertised to the National Parliaments of the EU. It will also be promoted at appropriate fora such as the meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees on Development of EU parliaments. Beneficiary Parliaments normally have quite small regular budgets and may have difficulty absorbing large assistance programmes. This will be addressed through the architecture of the programme. The largest possible number of beneficiary parliaments will be addressed across the world. If necessary the same parliament will receive assistance more than once through this programme.
Beneficiary Parliaments have difficulty absorbing assistance.		
Parties do not wish to engage in any reform of the party system.	H	These risks are more likely to occur in countries with dominant party systems, where the dominant party only has to lose from reform of the regulatory framework underlying the party system. The risks will be mitigated by: a) undertaking an advance analysis of the party system and

Parties do not want to adjust to a reformed party system.		exploratory discussions with the major parties of the country in question before committing to operations. This will determine in advance whether adequate will is in place; b) placing emphasis on the implementation side of any reform undertaken
The funds for the party component are spread too thin	H	This operation will address an area with vast needs across the globe. In order to avoid a Christmas tree effect, the operation will limit its ambition and align its objectives with available resources at the stage of design. At the implementation stage, the needs of the country addressed will be assessed in advance and the number of operations to implement will not exceed the optimum balance between available resources and cost of operations foreseen.
<b>Assumptions</b>		
It is difficult to change parties and parliaments from outside. This is the most common problem faced by democracy building operators. This decision will finance an operation that aims to transform the party system or the parliaments of any country in the <i>long-run</i> (beyond the duration of the programme).		

### 3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

#### 3.1 Lessons learnt

A number of evaluations have been undertaken following previous Commission's operations supporting the capacity of parliaments and political parties. The main lesson learnt is that the ambition of Commission's operations needs to be circumscribed and the objectives of operations need to have a specific, narrow but clear, focus. Dysfunctional party systems and weak parliaments are due to a multitude of broader socio-economic, political and even cultural problems. The Commission's operations need to take the overall context into account, but focus only on those aspects that are *ready* to foster sustainable change. It should be clear that even the most successful and largest development operation cannot change a society as a whole. Therefore, our operations need to be focused on specific deliverables constituting one part of a wider strategy for meaningful change of parties and parliaments as efficient organisations.

When it comes to its PSPs in particular, another issue brought up by the evaluations was the relative inflexibility and preferred large size of Commission's projects. Parliaments normally have quite small regular budgets and may have difficulty absorbing large assistance programmes. Flexible funding instruments are therefore important to project success. In this regard, the infrequent use of EIDHR funding has been a case in point. Following a number of case-studies, it's been deduced that successful PSPs typically include: a longer-term approach; an amenable environment for democratic development; an ability to respond quickly and flexibly when opportunities arise; strong national ownership; clearly defined programme objectives; strong EU Delegation engagement, including careful programme planning; **expert** implementation partners, either national or international.

#### 3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

This intervention will produce synergies with the multiparty aid and PSP efforts of other donors to the extent that it will co-fund existing or incubated initiatives supported by other

donors as well. Youth and women participation as well as parliaments in emerging democracies are already supported by EU party foundations and EU national parliaments. The European Parliament is also undertaking its own operational activities under its Comprehensive Democracy Support Approach, established and implemented by the EP Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group. A notable initiative in this direction is the European Parliament's Young Leaders Forum. This programme will complement all such efforts without trying to replicate them, in full coordination with the donors involved.

In addition to support to political parties and parliaments, the toolbox of the EU for democracy building comprises electoral assistance, political dialogue, support to civil society and the media as well as support to other relevant institutions such as ombudsperson's offices, press councils and other representative bodies. Complementarity with existing and future democracy building programmes employing these tools will be systematically explored at the *country* level.

### **3.3 Cross-cutting issues**

Gender equality is the main cross-cutting issue that needs to be addressed during the implementation of this action. Despite progress in some beneficiary countries, overall there is very limited positive evolution regarding the rates of female membership of political parties, female persons in senior cadre positions in the same parties and female MPs.

This action will bear in mind at all stages the **objective of gender equality** and the need to ensure parliaments become gender sensitive institutions that respond to the needs and interests of both men and women in their structures, operations, methods and work. Any trainings or exchanges organised to address parliamentary functions will place special emphasis on addressing gender balance issues. Gender awareness may also be addressed through dedicated trainings for party members and parliament members and officials. Gender equality will also be borne in mind while working towards reforms of the party system, with an aim to either boost male-female equilibrium -in women's access to campaign funding for instance- or at least do no harm at the expense of women.

The same will apply for human rights in general. Special care will be taken in order to ensure that the assertion of specific individual rights is addressed during some of the training activities that will be implemented by this programme.

## **4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION**

### **4.1 Objectives/results**

This programme will consist of **two** projects/components.

#### **Overall Objective:**

To support representative democracy through the development of inclusive and effective parliaments and the bolstering of political parties in emerging democracies, in line with the multiparty, non-partisan approach.

### **Component 1 on Political Parties**



### **Specific Objective 1**

To address the legal and policy constraints of the **party-system** of the beneficiary country.

#### **Expected result 1.1**

A number of political parties have received advice and technical assistance or have participated at inter-party dialogues on the legal and policy framework.

#### **Expected result 1.2**

A number of political parties have received advice and technical assistance or have held inter-party dialogues on reforms of the regulations on political parties' financing.

### **Specific objective 2**

To support efforts for adequate political participation for women and youth and strengthen gender equality in general.

#### **Expected result 2.1**

Increased percentage of female members in political parties;

#### **Expected result 2.2**

Empower women and youth to take an active role in the life of the parties and political affairs in general.

## **Component 2 on Parliamentary Strengthening**

### **Specific Objective 3**

Support the improvement of the legislative, oversight, representation, budgetary, inclusivity and administrative function of some beneficiary parliaments. Emphasis will be placed on the issues of accountability, the creation of a level playing field, including inclusive functioning of parliamentary structures, internal regulations of the parliament, check and balances, capacity for the opposition to participate in deliberations and control of the majority.

#### **Expected result 3.1**

The number of parliamentary strengthening operations undertaken by the EU Member States' parliaments to assist their peers outside the EU has increased.

#### **Expected result 3.2**

Improved capacity of parliamentarians, with a special focus on gender equality, to perform their functions in an effective, transparent and inclusive way.

#### **Expected result 3.3**

Enhanced institutional (including administrative) capacity of the beneficiary parliaments to perform their functions in an effective, transparent and inclusive way. In particular, there are genuine efforts/measures to ensure level playing field in the parliament and a role of the opposition.

## **4.2 Main activities**

The exact determination of the activities hinges upon the context within the country in which the programme will operate. At this stage it is therefore not possible to be precise. The following list of activities is indicative, based on the type of activities similar programmes tend to organise:

- professional development of members of parliaments on legislative, oversight and representative functions, etc;
- gender awareness training, introduction of appropriate support measures to enhance gender equality;
- trainings and support to parliamentary administrations to deliver quality services to parliament and parliamentarians;
- peer-to-peer assistance and training for parliaments' administrations as well as parliamentarians on fair application of the internal rules of parliaments to ensure inclusivity, transparency and most effective way of proceeding with parliament work;
- studies researching the strengths and weaknesses of specific party systems and political finance systems, and practical implementation manuals for local stakeholders;
- trainings of political party representatives and related stakeholders focusing on political party systems and political finance systems;
- facilitation of dialogues between political parties and between parties and related stakeholders (oversight agencies, civil society, media etc) on political party system and political party finance reform;
- support to internal structures including legislative processes and procedures-trainings of party members on elaboration of laws on specific topics such as climate change, with proper public participation, possible mitigating public policies, on the value of functional tax systems, on environmental policy as practised in the EU, on labour rights frameworks in any EU Member State or the EU as a whole, etc;
- study visits and exchanges of members of parliament, political party youth members, parliamentary administrators, bilateral discussion fora for members of parliament.

## **5 IMPLEMENTATION**

### **5.1 Financing agreement**

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

### **5.2 Indicative implementation period**

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.1 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Action Document. Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's authorising officer responsible by amending this decision and the relevant contracts and agreements; such amendments to this decision constitute technical amendments in the sense of point (i) of Article 2(3)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.

### **5.3 Implementation modalities for an action under project modality.**

#### **5.3.1.1 Grants: call for proposals on Component 1/political parties (direct management)**

(a) Objectives of the grant, fields of intervention and expected results

**Objective of Lot 1:** To strengthen the political participation of women and youth in political parties in third countries.

Field of intervention: Women and youth political participation.

Expected results of Lot 1:

See results 2.1 and 2.2 here above.

**Objective of Lot 2:** Inform on available options to improve the party-system of the targeted country/ies.

Field of intervention: Either inter-party dialogue or electoral and/or party law or party finances and/or campaign finances or a combination of the aforementioned.

Expected results of Lot 2:

See results 1.1 and 1.2 here above.

(b) Eligibility conditions for Lot 1 and Lot 2

**Lot 1:** In order to be eligible, the applicant must be able to demonstrate that it is among those mentioned in Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action.

In addition, the (co-)applicants need to demonstrate that they already have experience on working with political parties outside the EU. Each application needs to demonstrate *collective* experience of cooperation with foreign parties being deemed to be politically aligned or belonging to **at least four different** international organisations of political parties (party internationals) as evidence of operational capacity in the non-partisan, multi-party approach to party aid.

**Lot 2:** In order to be eligible, the applicant must be able to demonstrate that it is among those mentioned in Article 11 of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action.

In addition, the (co-)applicants need to demonstrate that they already have experience on working with issues pertaining to party systems outside the EU, through a non-partisan, multi-party approach.

Subject to information to be published in the call for proposals, the indicative amount of the EU contribution per lot is EUR 3,5 million for Lot 1 and EUR 1,5 million for Lot 2. The grants may be awarded to sole beneficiaries and to consortia of beneficiaries (coordinator and co-beneficiaries) only.

(c) Essential selection and award criteria for Lot 1 and Lot 2

The essential selection criteria are financial and operational capacity of the applicant.

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.

(d) Maximum rate of co-financing for Lot 1 and Lot 2

The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants under this call is 80% of the eligible costs of the action. The rate may be higher if the auto-financing capacity of the targeted beneficiaries is weak.

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 maximum possible rate of co-financing may be increased up to 100 %. The essentiality of full funding will be justified by the Commission's authorising officer responsible in the award decision, in respect of the principles of equal treatment and sound financial management.

(e) Indicative timing to launch the call: April - June 2016

**5.3.1.2 Procurement (direct management)**

Subject in generic terms, if possible	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Service contract to support the national parliaments of the European Union to undertake parliamentary strengthening activities addressing assemblies in beneficiary countries	services	01	First trimester 2017

**5.4 Indicative budget**

	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR)</b>	<b>Indicative third party contribution, in EUR</b>
5.4.1. – Component/Project 1 on Political parties		
5.3.1.1 – Call for proposals on <b>Component 1/political parties</b> (direct management)	5 000 000	1 000 000
5.4.2. – Component/Project 2 on Parliamentary Strengthening		N.A.
5.4.2.1. – Procurement (direct management)	5 000 000	N.A.

5.7 – Evaluation, 5.10 - Audit	will be covered by another decision	N.A.
Totals	EUR 10 million	EUR 1 000 000

The total amount of EU budget contribution is EUR 10 000 000. The contribution is for an amount of EUR 5 000 000 for 5.4.1 Component 1 from the general budget of the European Union for 2016 and for an amount of EUR 5 000 000 for 5.4.2 Component 2 from the general budget of the European Union for 2017, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the relevant budget.

### **5.5 Organisational set-up and responsibilities**

Both components will be managed by the Commission Headquarters, in line with the provisions of the Financial Regulation on direct management.

### **5.6 Performance monitoring and reporting**

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes). The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation. The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

### **5.7 Evaluation**

The Commission may decide to undertake an evaluation for duly justified reasons during or after implementation, either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner. In this case, the Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 10 days in advance of the dates foreseen for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities. The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project. The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

## **5.8 Audit**

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements. The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

## **5.9 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 at the start of implementation. In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements. 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 - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY, EXCLUDING CALL FOR PROPOSALS)**

The activities, the expected outputs and all the indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix are indicative and may be updated during the implementation of the action without an amendment to the financing decision. The indicative logframe matrix will evolve during the lifetime of the action: new lines will be added for listing the activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) when it is relevant and for reporting purpose on the achievement of results as measured by indicators.

	<b>Intervention logic</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Baselines (incl. reference year)</b>	<b>Targets (incl. reference year)</b>	<b>Sources and means of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Overall objective: Impact</b>	To support representative democracy through the development of inclusive and effective parliaments and the bolstering of political parties in emerging democracies, in line with the multiparty, non-partisan approach.	See below	See below	See below	See below	Representative democracy can be measured
<b>Specific Objective 1:</b>	To address the legal and policy constraints of the party-system of the beneficiary country	Not applicable at this stage as it will delivered through a call for proposals	Not applicable at this stage as it will delivered through a call for proposals	Not applicable at this stage as it will delivered through a call for proposals	Not applicable at this stage as it will delivered through a call for proposals	Not applicable at this stage as it will delivered through a call for proposals
<b>Specific Objective 2:</b>	To support efforts for adequate political participation for women and youth and	Not applicable at this stage as it will delivered through a call for proposals	Not applicable at this stage as it will delivered through a call for proposals	Not applicable at this stage as it will delivered through a call for proposals	Not applicable at this stage as it will delivered through a call for proposals	Not applicable at this stage as it will delivered through a call for proposals

	strengthen gender equality in general.			for proposals		
Specific Objective 3:	Support to the improvement of the legislative, oversight, representation, budgetary, inclusivity and administrative function of some beneficiary parliaments. Emphasis will be placed on the issues of accountability, the creation of a level playing field, including inclusive functioning of parliamentary structures, internal regulations of the parliament, check and balances, capacity for the opposition to participate in deliberations and control of the majority.	See below	See below	See below	See below	See below
Outputs	The number of parliamentary strengthening operations undertaken by the EU Member States' parliaments to	Number of parliamentary strengthening operations undertaken by the EU Member States' parliaments	Parliamentary strengthening operations undertaken by the participating EU Member States'	Increase of one extra operation per participating EU parliament compared to 2015	Aggregation of operations as reported by participating EU parliaments	At least 1 EU parliament will participate



	assist their peers outside the EU has increased.		parliaments in 2015			
Outputs	Improved capacity of parliamentarians, with a special focus on gender equality, to perform their functions in an effective, transparent and inclusive way.	Number of study visits or trainings of MPs or members of staff organised	To be decided by the Sub-Delegated Authorising Officer in accordance with the selected indicator(s)	To be decided by the Sub-Delegated Authorising Officer in accordance with the selected indicator(s)	To be decided by the Sub-Delegated Authorising Officer in accordance with the selected indicator(s)	At least 1 EU parliament will participate
Output	Enhanced institutional (including administrative) capacity of the beneficiary parliaments to perform their functions in an effective, transparent and inclusive way. In particular, there are genuine efforts/measures to ensure level playing field in the parliament and a role of the opposition.	Number of study visits or trainings of members of staff organised.	To be decided by the Sub-Delegated Authorising Officer in accordance with the selected indicator(s)	To be decided by the Sub-Delegated Authorising Officer in accordance with the selected indicator(s)	To be decided by the Sub-Delegated Authorising Officer in accordance with the selected indicator(s)	At least 1 beneficiary parliament will elaborate a SDP