



This action is funded by the European Union

ANNEX 15

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 HUMAN RIGHTS DIALOGUES AND THEIR FOLLOW-UP

1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number	Supporting Human Rights dialogues and their follow-up CRIS number: EIDHR/2016/038-673 for EUR 1 000 000 and EIDHR/2017/038-677 for EUR 1 000 000 financed under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
2. Zone benefiting from the action/location	In principle, actions must take place in the EU partner country where the support has been awarded.
3. Programming document	Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017) for the Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights Worldwide - Commission Implementing Decision C(2014) 7529 of 21.10.2014
4. Sector of concentration/ thematic area	Human Rights and Democracy
5. Amounts concerned	The total budget for this action is EUR 2 000 000. The contribution is for an amount of EUR 1 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2016, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the relevant budget and for an amount of EUR 1 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2017, subject to the availability of appropriations following the adoption of the draft budget and the budget.
6. Aid modalities and implementation modalities	Project Modality Direct management: procurement of services

7. DAC code	15160 - Human Rights and Democracy			
8. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Main objective
	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"/>
9. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagship	N/A			

Summary

This Action provides the necessary support to ensure the input of Civil Society for the Human Right Dialogues expected to take place between 2016 and 2017, between the EU and third countries or regional organisations.

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.

1 CONTEXT

1.1 Thematic area

Any actions under this Action Document shall respect and shall be implemented in accordance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

1.1.1 Public Policy Assessment and EU Policy Framework

According to the Regulation 235/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a financing instrument for democracy and human rights worldwide for the period 2014-2020, European Union assistance should "complement various other tools for implementing of Union policies on democracy and human rights"; "These tools range from political dialogue and diplomatic demarches to various instruments for financial and technical cooperation, including both geographic and thematic programmes" (recital 14).

Objective 5 of the EIDHR Multiannual Indicative Programme 2014-2017 (see also Annex I of the EIDHR Regulation) aims to support international and regional human rights instruments and mechanisms and in that context activities "to strengthen civil society involvement in preparing for and following up on human rights dialogues through, for example, mobilising experts and organising civil society seminars at local and regional level, linked to the formal human rights dialogues" (in line with the relevant EU guidelines).

1.1.2 Stakeholder analysis

The main stakeholders will be human rights academics, government officials and CSO representatives, both from the EU/EU Member States and from the third country or organisation concerned.

1.1.3 Priority areas for support

This Action Document deals with implementation arrangements for EIDHR support for actions on human rights dialogues their preparation and follow-up, including the involvement of civil society and necessary expertise for this process.

The 2012 EU Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy commit the EU to "always seek constructive engagement with third countries", and in this light, "to deepen its human rights dialogues and consultations with partner countries", with the aim that "these dialogues lead to results". In outcome 2 the EU commits to engage in "genuine partnership with civil society, including at the local level", with the aim to "consolidate consultations with civil society, notably on policy initiatives and dialogues on human rights" (2 c). In addition the Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy 2015-19 refers to "increasing the effectiveness of human rights dialogues" and in this regard to "develop, share and build upon the best practices identified for human rights dialogues, including follow-up processes" (outcome 29 a).

Moreover, the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Dialogues provide that "civil society should be closely involved", though not actually participate in the dialogue meetings themselves. In line with these agreed EU policy commitments, the EU is supporting civil society seminars alongside human rights dialogue meetings.

2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Main risks are changes in political conditions, leading to changes in priorities and/or political orientations.	M	EU Headquarters and Delegations take measures to mitigate this risk at central and local level and reinforce dialogues with CSOs.
Assumptions		
Political conditions and local context allow these dialogues,		

3 LESSONS LEARNT, COMPLEMENTARITY AND CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Lessons learnt

The past years have seen the development of civil society seminars, bringing together human rights organisations and/or experts from the EU and equivalent organisations and experts from the other party to the human rights dialogue. Civil society seminars have been held side by side with human rights dialogues with, for example and amongst many others, the African Union, Central Asian and Latin American countries, China, Indonesia, or Brazil – to mention a few. Though selecting NGOs from the partner country or regional organisation can sometimes be a delicate matter, interest in these seminars is growing among civil society organisations (CSOs) on both sides, resulting in many constructive joint recommendations and a desire to undertake preparatory and follow-up activities to maximise CSO input to the official human rights dialogues. In many countries indigenous peoples may be absent from the national civil society due to their marginalised status and, or, by choice. Efforts are required to ensure the participation of organisations, institutions and/or communities representing indigenous peoples. The need to communicate better on these civil society seminars and their outcome, and to increase their visibility, as appropriate, are further common lessons learnt. A summary of the outcomes and recommendations of the CSO seminar should ideally be submitted by the civil society itself at the opening of the official human rights dialogue.

3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor coordination

In addition to this specific Action, the EU continues to support civil society dialogue processes, such as the Policy Forum on Development, where the issue of enabling environment is regularly addressed. In line with the September 2012 Communication from the European Commission “The Roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe’s engagement with Civil Society in external relations” the aim is to strengthen the strategic engagement with civil society through the elaboration of Roadmaps at country level.

Moreover, the EU Delegations in third countries/regional organisations continue to monitor the development of the human rights situation at national and regional levels. The European Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) will maintain close coordination with EU Member States, the Commission services, EU Delegations and with other donors involved in this thematic activity.

There is also regular coordination with international or regional organisations dealing with human rights and democracy issues.

3.3 Cross-cutting issues

The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights is mainly focused on consolidating good governance, democracy and human rights and the promotion and protection of the human rights of those discriminated against in third countries. Special attention will be given to achieving the widest possible participation in the seminars by local, national and international actors in human rights and democracy issues in the third country or regional organisation concerned.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1 Objectives

The civil society seminars will complement the human rights dialogue meetings at official level held with certain countries/organisations. The seminars are designed to be open discussions feeding into the official dialogue. They are intended to provide an opportunity for discussion between European and local academics and civil society representatives on current human rights and democracy issues on the ground and how to take these issues forward.

Discussions are ongoing, but it is planned to continue to organise CSO seminars with those third countries/organisations with whom they had already been organised in previous years, with the possibility of extending the process to new countries or regions with which the EU has started a human rights dialogue. It is also planned to strengthen the overall sustainability of the process, by focusing on the preparatory and follow-up actions of these dialogues.

These measures are for the benefit of beneficiaries and partners of the EIDHR programme or for the common benefit of the beneficiaries / partners and the EU.

4.2 Expected results and main activities

The civil society seminars will provide an opportunity for discussion between European and local civil society representatives, academics and government officials on human rights topics and on how to enhance the respect and promotion of human rights. They will allow participants to deepen contacts with their counterparts and to engage in a wide-ranging exchange of views. Based on results from previous years, it is estimated to organize up to 20 potential seminars (subject to one procurement contract each).

The CSO seminar will, in general, focus on an in-depth examination of one or two human rights topics (e.g. in line with EU and regional human rights priorities and/or EU Guidelines). Both EU and local NGOs with expertise in the topic under discussion will be invited. The seminar will consist of a series of workshops on particular sub-topics. Each workshop will commence with presentations by participants, followed by a discussion of the topic in question.

The CSO seminars will attempt to adopt joint recommendations. Any such recommendations should be fed into the official dialogue meetings. In the follow-up of the dialogue and in preparation of the next round, these recommendations will be duly considered and fed into future proposed action, in order to improve sustainability of the process.

The organisation of CSO seminars is a process linked to the calendar of human rights dialogues in partner countries. The decision to coordinate a seminar depends on discussions with the local authorities and has to be officially agreed between the two parties, the EU and the partner country or regional organisation. In addition, a seminar with the African Union is held annually, one year in Addis Ababa, one year in Brussels. Other similar regional seminars could take place in other geographical areas such as South Caucasus or ASEAN. This action

also covers the annual EU-NGO Forum on human rights which gathers around 200 participants, including CSO representatives from many third countries.

Between 2015 and 2017, it is foreseen that the annual EU-NGO Forum on human rights policy, co-organised by the Commission services and the EEAS, as well as around 20 seminars will take place. In the coming years, regional seminars will also be considered where appropriate (e.g. Latin America, Central Asia, MENA). According to the political agenda, side seminars can be foreseen in reaction to upcoming changes on an ad hoc basis.

Support for preparatory and follow-up activities such as thematic meetings, small-scale studies, and communication outreach, will also be considered under this budget where necessary.

5 IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 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.

5.2 Indicative implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 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.

5.3 Implementation modalities: procurement of services (direct management)

Subject	Type (works, supplies, services)	Indicative number of contracts	Indicative trimester of launch of the procedure
Procurement (direct management)			
On 2016 EU Budget	Services	21	2/2016
On 2017 EU Budget	Services	21	2/2017

5.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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.

5.5 Indicative budget

Module	Amount in EUR	Third party contribution
Procurement (direct management)		

On 2016 EU Budget	1 000 000	N.A.
On 2017 EU Budget	1 000 000	N.A.
Totals	2 000 000	N.A.

5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

The activities will be managed by European Commission Headquarters.

5.7 Performance monitoring and reporting

The project will be monitored according to standard procedures and the Commission monitoring system (ROM - Results Oriented Monitoring). 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.

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.

Where applicable, reporting will be done in accordance to the requirements set in the General Conditions.

5.8 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.

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 evaluation and audits shall be covered by another measure constituting a financing decision.

5.10 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 4.2 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 establishment of the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations shall be in line with the Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action.