



EU TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS
IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY



DG NEAR Guidelines and Strategic Directions for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement region 2021-2027

Country consultations on draft result framework



Review process

1. Regional Civil Society Forum, 22-23 January, 2020 - **general discussion**
and **WG on 3 areas – initial input**
2. Internal **Commission** consultations and **expert work**
3. **Draft** Guidelines preparation
4. Conduct of **on-line written** and **country consultations** (Dec 2020 – March 2021)
5. Review of input and **preparation of final Guidelines**
6. **Publication**, promotion, implementation, monitoring

January
2020

Spring 2021



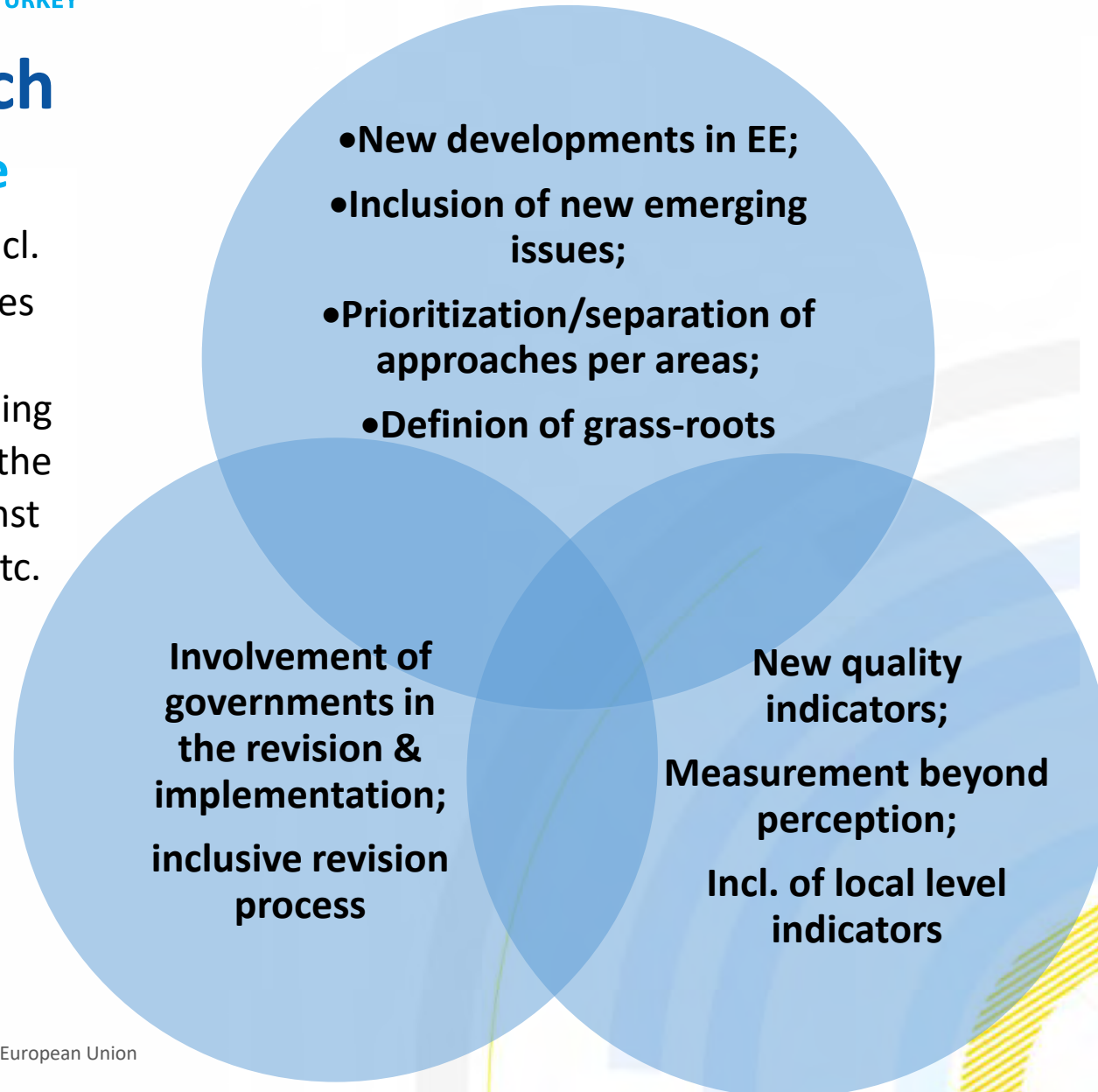
Review approach

1. Structure of the result framework

incl. reorganization of objectives and linked indicators, introduction of new emerging issues and mainstreaming the reviewed framework against HR standards, EU Acquis etc.

3. Operationalization

of the new system of data-gathering, analysis and presentation of the assessments (ideally through an online one-stop-shop tool)



2. Methodology incl. the process of data-gathering, their interpretation and analysis so that assessments are comparative and methodologically correct; review of methodology of traffic-light assessment and link to CSF MIS/Db (if relevant)

Structure of the framework

OVERALL OBJECTIVES: The broader, long-term impact and situation to be achieved
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES/ OUTCOMES: Short to medium term effects targeted by an intervention

RESULT INDICATORS: Measures of progress in achieving the agreed objectives and outcomes

6 Specific objective in 3 Areas

BENCHMARKS/ REGIONAL STANDARDS: Situation attainable under ideal conditions, represents a concrete optimum situation to be achieved within the time period (all countries/at region level to achieve by 2027)

BASELINE/CURRENT VALUE: The level of performance at a specified starting point. Provides the initial point of comparison for the future measures of performance.

SOURCES OF VERIFICATION: Primary and secondary information sources used to monitor and assess the situation in the given time period, i.e. annually.

(4)
IPA BENEFICIARY TIME-BOUNDED TARGETS: To support IPA beneficiaries' development/revision of domestic CSO strategies or CSOs own strategic plans

RESULTS LEVELS (Overall objective, specific objective/outcomes)	Results indicator	Benchmarks/ Reference to Regional Standards	Baseline/ Current Value	Source of Verification (SoV)	IPA beneficiary time-bound target ³
<p>Overall objective: The overall objective of the EU support to civil society within the enlargement policy is to strengthen participatory democracies and the EU approximation process in the Enlargement region</p>					
<p>Specific objectives for Conducive environment SO 1.1 All individuals and legal entities in the Enlargement region can establish, join and participate in non-formal and/or registered organisations, can assemble peacefully and can express themselves freely</p>	<p>1.1.a. Number of cases of infringement of basic constitutional rights of individuals and legal entities to express freely, to assemble, to join and/or participate in non-formal and/or registered organisation, and of these, the number of cases duly investigated and sanctioned (disaggregated to show human rights defender cases) by IPA beneficiary authorities</p> <p>1.1.b. There is no case of grave violation or infringement of the freedom of association, assembly and expression in practice</p>	<p>EU Charter of Fundamental Rights: Article 12 - Freedom of assembly and of association Article 11: Freedom of expression</p> <p>European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) Article 11 – freedom of assembly and association Article 10 – freedom of expression</p>	<p>Based on EU TACSO 3 Annual Monitoring Report 2020 (available in spring 2021) and other relevant reports.</p>	<p>Documents: Annual courts statistics</p> <p>Reports by international, regional and national human rights bodies and organizations</p> <p>European Court for Human Rights judgments</p> <p>Methods: Review of legislation Survey with CSOs Focus groups Interviews</p>	<p>Legal framework: Legal framework is in full compliance with international standards on basic freedoms and any needed improvements are made till 2027.</p> <p>Practice: No grave case of violation or infringement is present and if it happens, it is properly sanctioned.</p>



OVERALL OBJECTIVE:

To strengthen participatory democracies and the EU approximation process in the Western Balkans and Turkey

1. Stimulating and enabling a **legal and policy environment**, for the exercise of **fundamental freedoms and rights**, with focus on association, assembly and expressions

3. Encouraging civil society and IPA Beneficiary institutions (authorities) to work in partnership through **dialogue** and **cooperation**, based on willingness, trust and mutual acknowledgment around common interests

4. Investing in CSOs to be **capable, transparent, accountable, strategically-led** and **supported**, and **resource-based** CSOs

Area 1: Conducive Environment

Fundamental rights and freedoms

Enabling financial Environment

Area 2: Changing relations between CSOs and IPA Beneficiary authorities/institutions

Civil society and public institutions work in partnership through dialogue and cooperation

Area 3: CSOs resilience and capacities

CSOs capable, transparent accountable, strategically-led and supported, and resource-based CSOs

2. Promoting an **enabling financial environment**, which supports sustainability of CSOs, with adequate funding of the sector

Area 1. Conducive Environment

Fundamental Freedom

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1.1 Freedom of **association, assembly and expression**

1.2 **New:** Protect CSOs from **interference and attacks....respect privacy....proportional measures** for CSOs in place when fighting extremism, terrorism, money laundering and corruption

1.3 **New:** Treat all CSOs **equally, and equitably** with business entities

1.4 Enabling policies and rules for **small community organizations and civic initiatives**

Indicators

1.1a. Cases of **infringement** of basic constitutional rights

1.1.b. No cases of **grave violation** or infringement of freedoms

1.1.c. **Adoption and implementation** of relevant legislation

1.2.a Law provisions that **clearly protect** the right of CSOs and CSOs have access to effective complaint and appeal mechanism

1.2.b. Laws to combat extremism, terrorism, money laundering and **corruption not include provisions that restrict CSOs** to undertake legitimate activities

1.3.a. CSOs are **treated equally**

1.3.b. CSOs are not subject to stricter **administrative and operational requirements** than business entities

1.4.a. Local organisations are recognised by the law or in case not, can **operate freely without registering**

Standards/Benchmarks

EUCFR Article 12, 11, 7, 8, 21

ECHR Article 11, 10, 14

Joint Guidelines on Freedom of Association

Acquis Chapter 3, 4, 5, 6, 22, 23, 24

Area 1. Conducive Environment

Enabling Financial Environment

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- 2.1 New All CSOs are **free to solicit and receive funding**
- 2.2 **Public funding for CSOs** provided in a transparent, accountable, fair and non-discriminatory manner
- 2.3 **Tax benefits** for individual and corporate giving (for CSOs)
- 2.4 Financial (e.g. tax or in-kind) **benefits** available for CSOs
- 2.5 Stimulate and facilitate **volunteering and employment** in CSOs

Indicators

- 2.1.a. **All kind of donations** for CSOs are allowed
- 2.2.a. CSO's perception **on transparency, fairness and non-discrimination**
- 2.2.b. Ratio of amount sought vs. amount disbursed through public funding to CSOs
- 2.2.c. **Quality** of public funding frameworks for CSOs
- 2.2.d. The **application process** for public funding is simple, transparent.
- 2.3.a. **Number and kind** of donations to CSOs from individual and corporate donors
- 2.3.b. **Individuals and corporates** can use tax benefit
- 2.4.a. Percentage of **CSOs aware of tax incentives**
- 2.4.b. **Favourable tax benefits** for grants, donations, economic activities, passive investments, endowments, membership fees, etc
- 2.5.a **Number of employees** in CSO and number of **volunteers**
- 2.5.b. Number and **type of incentives** for volunteering
- 2.5.c. **Quality of legislative** framework for employment and volunteering

Standards/Benchmarks

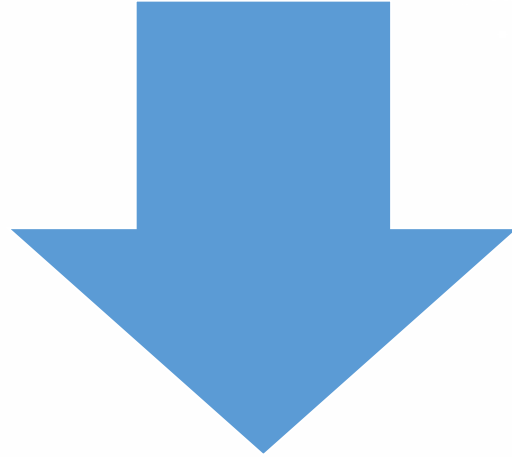
CoE Recommendation
CM/Rec(2007)14:
Principle: 57, 58, 59, 60
EC Communication on
Volunteering
Acquis Chapter 16, 24
+ UN Handbook
(employment)
+ ILO Manual
on Volunteering



Area 2. CSOs and IPA Beneficiary authorities/institutions relations

Standards/Benchmarks

Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process
EC Communication - Towards a Reinforced Culture of Consultation and Dialogue – General principles and minimum standards for consultation of interested parties by the Commission, COM (2002) 704;
Principles of Public Administration
Acquis Chapter 6, 18, 28



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.1:
Authorities include CSOs in decision- and policy-making and acknowledge their importance in improving good governance

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3.2 (New):
Mainstream civil society and acknowledge importance of development and cooperation (strategic framework, policies)



Indicators

- 3.1.a. Percentage of laws, strategies and policy reforms **effectively consulted with CSOs**
- 3.1.b. **Mechanisms for dialogue** are clear, open, accessible and efficient
- 3.2.a **Strategic framework or measures are efficiently** drafted in cooperation with civil society
- 3.2.b **Central level institution** or mechanism(s) have **sufficient resources** and mandate for facilitating CSO-government dialogue



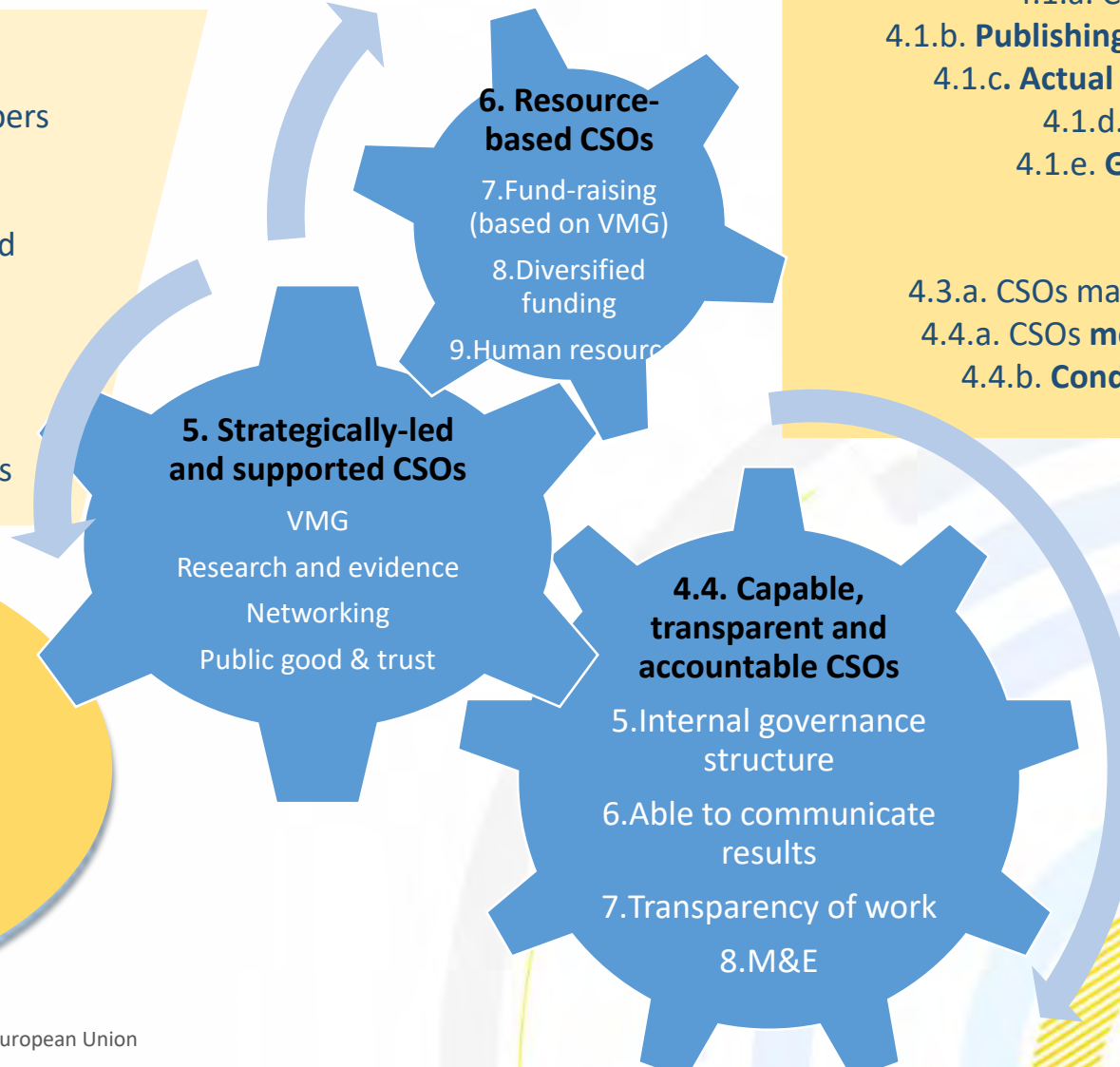
Area 3. CSO resilience and capacity

Indicators

- 5.1.a Clearly defined VMG by its members
- 5.1.b Use of **stakeholder analysis** and **feedback**
- 5.2.a. Use adequate argumentation and analysis
- 5.3.a. CSOs in **networks**
- 5.3.b. Start of networking through EU-funded projects
- 5.4.a Percentage of **public trust** in CSOs

Indicators

- 6.1.a. Raise funds according to **planning and in line with VMG**
- 6.1.b. Donor policies based on **CSOs needs**
- 6.1.c. Data on sources of CSOs funding are available
- 6.2.a. **Diversity** in CSO sources of income
- 6.2.b. Cases of **alternative funding sources**
- 6.3.a. Existence of **internal codes of conducts**
- 6.3.c. **Hiring process** are transparent



Indicators

- 4.1.a. CSOs **follow legal obligation** for structures
- 4.1.b. **Publishing** organizational structure and documents
- 4.1.c. **Actual role** of bodies is in line with expectations
- 4.1.d. Sector-wide initiative for **self-regulation**
- 4.1.e. **Gender balance** in organization structures
- 4.2.a. CSOs with **one on-line channel**
- 4.2.b. Presence of **specialized PR staff**
- 4.3.a. CSOs making their **accounts and reports** available
- 4.4.a. CSOs **monitor and evaluate** projects (EU funded)
- 4.4.b. **Conducted evaluations** of EU-funded projects

Standards/Benchmarks:
Global Standard for CSO
Accountability
Civicus Civil Society Index
Acquis Chapter 9, 19, 22

II. Monitoring (assessment) methodology

importance of
triangulation
&
validation of findings

- **Current cycle 2014-2020:** EU TACSO 3 project prepares the reports (2018-2019, new one for 2020 in the pipeline);
- **Current methodology:** focus on quantitative and qualitative issues, data gathering through legislation and practice review; survey with CSOs, focus groups and interview with stakeholders;
- **Limited basic data available:** improvements in systematic data-collection by public institutions needed;
- Same assessment methodological approach **continued** under the new Guidelines.



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Thank you for your attention!



Ground rules

- 1. One person at the time!** - Everyone on Mute, except the person that has the floor to speak;
- 2. Speak only once** your are given the floor by the Moderator;
- 3. If during presentation, ask your questions through Chat!** – Write your questions clearly or raise your hand to speak in the Chat section;
- 4. Give Comments** – Write your comment clearly or raise your hand to speak in the Chat section;
- 5. Priority** will be give to those that have not had the floor previously;
- 6. Present yourself** – Give your name, organization/institutions;
- 7. Brief and to the point (3 min max!)**! – Try to focus on the main point and the subject of the discussion;
- 8. Use Chat to share** - Send links to your researches, actions; You can also target conversation, respond/comment to specific persons etc. there.



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DISCUSSION



Conclusions and next steps

- Any further comments, information, ideas



consultations@tacso.eu

till Friday, 12 March, 2021

- **Finalization** of the Guidelines result framework and work on methodology, operationalization in March;
- **Regional launching event** on the final Guidelines document held in April 2021;
- Promotion of the new framework, **implementation & monitoring**.

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