

## Annex 1: Action Fiche – Belarus 2012

### 1. IDENTIFICATION

<b>Title/Number</b>	Special measure: Support to Civil Society in Belarus CRIS: ENPI/2012/23453		
<b>Total cost</b>	EU contribution: €2.3 million		
<b>Method/ Management mode</b>	Project approach – Direct Centralised Management		
<b>DAC-code, if applicable</b>	15150	<b>Sector</b>	Democratic participation and civil society

### 2. RATIONALE

#### 2.1. Sector context

At the international donors' conference 'Solidarity with Belarus' (Warsaw, 2 February 2011), organised after the aftermath of the Belarusian December 2010 elections, the EU pledged a total of €17.3 million for immediate assistance and increased support to civil society in the mid-term.

The urgent support (€1.7 million) is being provided through the Instrument for Stability (project managed by the Nordic Council of Ministers) to individual victims of the repression and to civil society organizations.

The mid term measures (€15.6 million) cover the period 2011-2013 and include 4 components:

(a) ENPI-funded Open Europe Scholarship Programme (€4 million), for which a Commission Decision was adopted in May 2011;

(b) Allocations under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) for the period 2011 - 2013 (€2.6 million) complemented by ENPI top-ups (€1 million);

(c) Allocations under the programme Non State Actors and Local Authorities (NSA & LA) for the period 2011 - 2013 (€6 million) complemented by ENPI top-ups (€2.5 million);

(d) Further support to the EIDHR-funded European Humanities University (€3 million) over the period 2011-2013 complemented by ENPI top-ups (€2 million).

The total of ENPI 2012-2013 top-ups, included in the €15.6 million of mid-term measures, amounts to €5.5 million. This amount has been deducted from the original allocations for the NIP 2012-2013, as the EU response to increase the support to civil society.

The present action covers the ENPI €2.3 million top-ups related to 2012 for the components (b) and (c) above mentioned (€1.8 million for the NSA & LA, €0.5 million for the EIDHR).<sup>1</sup>

## **2.2. Lessons learnt**

The existing EU-funded programmes supporting civil society and promoting people-to-people contacts show that there is great interest and unmet needs in Belarus.

## **2.3. Complementary actions**

### EU Programmes/projects

- Existing funding to support civil society under the EIDHR (local based calls, Brussels centralised calls for Objective 1 targeting countries where human rights are most at risk); and the NSA & LA (local based calls).
- Clearing House Project (€0.2 million, managed by Office for Democratic Belarus): a new platform for interaction between donors and implementers NGOs.

## **2.4. Donor coordination**

The EU Delegation in Minsk organises on a regular basis donor coordination meetings with EU Member States, as well as with all other major donors active in Belarus, in order to coordinate actions in the priority areas of assistance. Such coordination is organised in compliance with principles of the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action and is aimed to ensure maximum aid effectiveness. In addition, the European Commission and the European External Action Service organise regular implementers and donors meetings in Brussels (2-3 times per year).

## **3. DESCRIPTION**

### **3.1. Objectives**

Overall objective: To contribute to the development of a democratic Belarus.

Specific objectives: To reinforce the financial allocations at local level to support civil society through the EU external aid thematic instruments EIDHR and NSA & LA.

### **3.2. Expected results and main activities**

The expected results and activities will be aligned to those of the programmes reinforced (EIDHR, NSA & LA) as specified in the corresponding financing decisions.

### **3.3. Risks and assumptions**

The risks and assumptions will be aligned to those of the programmes reinforced (EIDHR, NSA & LA) as specified in the corresponding financing decisions.

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<sup>1</sup> Top ups for component (d) EHU are covered by a separate Action Fiche (ENPI/2012/23454)

### **3.4. Crosscutting Issues**

Gender equality principles will be implemented at all stages of the action.

### **3.5. Stakeholders**

Local and international Non State Actors and NGOs active in Belarus.

## **4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

### **4.1. Method of implementation**

Direct centralised management.

The funds made available with the present action intend to reinforce the EIDHR and NSA & LA financial envelopes allocated to local country-based call(s) for proposals expected to be launched in May 2012 by the EU Delegation to Belarus.

### **4.2. Procurement and grant award procedures**

#### **1) Contracts**

All contracts implementing the action must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the Commission for the implementation of external operations, in force at the time of the launch of the procedure in question.

Participation in the award of contracts for the present action shall be open to all natural and legal persons covered by ENPI Regulation. Further extensions of this participation to other natural or legal persons by the concerned authorising officer shall be subject to the conditions provided for in Article 21(7) ENPI.

Considering that the present action intends to top up EIDHR and NSA & LA funded calls for proposals, participation may be restricted to correspond to the eligibility conditions (nationality of applicants and/or partners) defined in the financing decisions funding these thematic calls for proposals.

#### **2) Specific rules for grants**

The essential selection and award criteria for the award of grants are laid down in the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EU external actions. They are established in accordance with the principles set out in Title VI 'Grants' of the Financial Regulation applicable to the General Budget. When derogations to these principles are applied, they shall be justified, in particular in the following cases:

- Financing in full (derogation to the principle of co-financing): the maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants is up to 95% of the total accepted costs of the Action. Full financing may only be applied in the cases provided for in Article 253 of the Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation applicable to the General Budget.

- Derogation to the principle of non-retroactivity: a grant may be awarded for an action which has already begun only if the applicant can demonstrate the need to start the action before the grant is awarded, in accordance with Article 112 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the General Budget.

#### **4.3. Budget and calendar**

##### Indicative budget breakdown

- €1.8 million for the NSA & LA
- € 0.5 million for the EIDHR

##### Calendar

The calendar for the tops ups for the EIDHR and NSA & LA will be aligned to the calendar for the calls to be launched under those programmes expectedly in May 2012.

##### Duration

Indicative maximum duration is 36 months from the date of signature of the contracts.

#### **4.4. Performance monitoring**

Monitoring will be aligned to the one performed on the programmes reinforced (EIDHR and NSA & LA) as specified in the corresponding financing decisions.

#### **4.5. Evaluation and audit**

Evaluation and audit will be aligned to the one performed on the programmes reinforced (EIDHR, NSA & LA) as specified in the corresponding financing decisions.

#### **4.6. Communication and visibility**

Communication and visibility actions will be conform to the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU external actions and will be aligned to the ones performed on the programmes reinforced (EIDHR, NSA & LA) as specified in the corresponding financing decisions. They should also be fully in line with the developments in the overall EU/Belarus relations, given the particular politically sensitive context.