

Standard Summary Project Fiche – IPA centralised programmes

Project number 3: Support to Civil Society

1. Basic information

- 1.1 **CRIS Number: 2009/021-638**
- 1.2 **Title: Support to Civil Society**
- 1.3 **ELARG Statistical code: 01.35**
- 1.4 **Location: Republic of Serbia**

Implementing arrangements:

- 1.5 **Contracting Authority:** EC Delegation (ECD) to the Republic of Serbia
- 1.6 **Implementing Agency:** ECD
- 1.7 **Beneficiary:** The main beneficiaries will be Civil Society Organisations¹ (CSOs) i.e. all not-for-profit structures outside government and public administrations²,

Financing:

- 1.8 **Overall cost (VAT excluded)³: 2.156 million EUR**
- 1.9 **EU contribution: 2 million EUR**
- 1.10 **Final date for contracting:** 2 years after signature of the Financing Agreement (FA)
- 1.11 **Final date for execution of contracts:** 4 years after signature of the FA
- 1.12 **Final date for disbursements:** 5 years after signature of the FA

¹ The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) defines ‘civil society organisations’ as “*all organisational structures whose members have objectives and responsibilities that are of general interest and who also act as mediators between the public authorities and citizens*”.

² e.g. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), professional and business associations, employers’ organisations, trade unions, associations of local self-governments.

³ The total cost of the project should be net of VAT and/or other taxes. Should this not be the case, the amount of VAT and the reasons why it should be considered eligible should be clearly indicated (see Section 7.6)

2. Overall Objective and Project Purpose

2.1 Overall Objective:

The Overall Objective is to support the active involvement of civil society in Serbia's EU integration process.

2.2 Project purpose

The Project Purpose is threefold:

- To strengthen dialogue between CSOs in Serbia and the EU.
- To build social cohesion and contribute to overcoming discrimination in Serbia by promoting tolerance and cultural diversity.
- To enhance cooperation between public institutions and civil society in Serbia.

2.3 Link with AP/NPAA / EP/ SAA

The **Progress Report 2008**, in the section on Economic and Social Rights (page 18), emphasizes that, "...a comprehensive anti-discrimination law has not yet been adopted. In practice, there is still widespread discrimination, primarily against national minorities, Roma or women as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people."

The Law on Anti-discrimination was adopted in the Republic of Serbia in March 2009 to regulate general provisions against discrimination, as part of reforms intended to align national legislation and policies with the EU acquis. The law bans any kind of discrimination, whether based on race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, culture, health condition, mental condition, financial status, language, age, disability, or other factors. Apart from prohibiting discrimination, the law also provides for the establishment of an independent Commissioner (Article 1, paragraph 2) to monitor possible discrimination, and outlines punitive measures. Civil society is active in supporting a broad range of measures which protect the equal rights of citizens and thus helps to endorse the fight against discrimination across a variety of sectors.

The **European Partnership** also cites the need to, "Implement the anti-discrimination law effectively. To organize awareness campaigns to inform the private sector, civil society and academic circles about this law. Monitor the implementation of the law and report on it." And further, "... encourage the development of civil society organizations and regular dialogue with civil society on policy initiatives." In a more general sense, among its short term priorities under Political Criteria, the EP highlights the commitment to, "...encourage the development of civil society organisations and regular dialogue with civil society on policy initiatives." As CSOs have characteristically been active in tackling discrimination across a range of sectors, and considering the fact that Serbia has finally passed legislation which is fundamental both to European integration and to supporting social cohesion, the project will aim to build cooperation between CSOs and public institutions in relation to these policies, while striving to strengthen dialogue between CSOs in Serbia and Europe, particularly with regard to promoting tolerance and cultural diversity in society. As a topic which covers a

broad range of equality and human rights issues, the fight against discrimination is envisaged as the medium through which dialogue and partnership will be encouraged.

The importance of civil society has been highlighted in several Commission Communications. Two Communications from the Commission on the Western Balkans⁴, the Communication on Civil Society Dialogue in Candidate countries⁵ and the Communication on the Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2007-2008⁶ and 2008-2009⁷ all clearly state the importance of the issue.

In order to better meet the needs of the region, support to civil society development and dialogue will be coordinated and streamlined by focusing on three areas of intervention, constituting the new *civil society facility (CSF)*:

- (i) *Support to civic initiatives and capacity-building* thereby enforcing the role of civil society at national level.
- (ii) A "*People 2 People*" Programme supporting visits to EU institutions and bodies to exchange experience, know-how and good practice between beneficiaries and EU and Member States Civil Society Organisations (CSOs). This programme will target in particular groups with influence over decision-making and society, such as journalists, young politicians, social partners, cultural foundations, health and consumer protection organisations, and teachers.
- (iii) *Partnership Actions* carried out between beneficiary CSOs and the EU leading to a transfer of knowledge and networks as well as trans-national innovative projects.

2.4 Link with MIPD

Civil Society is included in the Serbia MIPD 2009-2011 as part of its political criteria, affirming that dialogue and capacity building will be promoted in the areas of anti-discrimination, gender equality, social inclusion, health, environment, business advocacy and consumer protection, while also highlighting the important role which civil society will continue to play in the course of EU approximation.

Among its political criteria strategic objectives, the MIPD asserts "...support to civil society, media and the respect of the rights of minorities and other vulnerable groups (including anti-discrimination measures) and of equality between women and men further contributes to the fulfilment of the EU requirements for membership under this axis."⁸

The expected results under this axis emphasize civil society's role in the democratic stabilisation and social development of Serbia, stating, "A permanent dialogue between

⁴ Commission Communications – "The Western Balkans on the road to the EU: consolidating stability and raising prosperity" COM(2006) 27 of 27 January 2006 and "Western Balkans: Enhancing the European perspective" COM(2008) 127 of 5 March 2008

⁵ Commission Communication "Civil Society Dialogue between the EU and Candidate Countries" COM(2005) 290 of 29 June 2005

⁶ Commission Communication – "Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2007-2008", COM(2007) 663 of 6 November 2007

⁷ Commission Communication – "Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2008-2009", COM(2008) 674 of 5 November 2008

⁸ MIPD 2009 – 2011, paragraph 2.1.1.(page 12)

authorities and the civil society is developed.⁹” This is further highlighted with respect to actions concerning anti-discrimination: “Anti-discrimination legislation reinforced through adoption of an anti-discrimination law. It is expected to improve implementation of policies against social exclusion of vulnerable groups, improve relations between Serbian authorities and civil society actors...¹⁰” This is particularly relevant in terms of strengthening the partnership which is envisaged between public authorities and civil society organisations (CSOs).

2.5 Link with National Development Plan (where applicable)

N/A

2.6 Link with national/sectoral investment plans(where applicable)

By focusing its support on the broad range of actions aimed at upholding anti-discrimination policies, the IPA 2009 civil society project aligns directly with several relevant national policy documents including the following strategic documents:

The **National Strategy for Improvement of the Position of Women and the Promotion of Gender Equality** asserts that the strategy intends to establish comprehensive and harmonious state policies with the goal of eliminating discrimination against women, improving their position in society and supporting the principle of gender equality in all operations of public institutions. “In order to improve gender equality, special measures aimed at eliminating direct and indirect discrimination of women are needed, as well as strengthening of equal opportunity to benefit human rights...” (page 3).

The **National Strategy for Improving the Position of the Roma Population** is based upon principles and values underscoring the prevention of and fight against all forms of discrimination (page 2).

The **National Strategy to Improve the Position of Persons with Disabilities**, within its established framework which runs through 2015, supports achievement of the following general objective: To develop an effective legal protection system, together with policies for the prevention of discrimination against people with disabilities and plans to raise public awareness about disability issues.

The **Poverty Reduction Strategy** within the strategic direction “More Efficient Social Protection” defines basic guidelines in the reform of social protection as, “To abolish discrimination which exists towards some categories of social protection users” (page 102).

The **National Programme for Integration**, in the section on Human Rights and Protection of Minorities, states as one of its priorities, “To encourage the development of civil society organisations and establish a regular consultation process on political initiatives.” And among the short term priorities listed under Economic and Social Rights, the NPI includes, “Adopt a comprehensive legal framework against discrimination and secure appropriate institutional support to victims of discrimination.”

⁹ MIPD 2009 – 2011, paragraph 2.3.1.1. (page 22)

¹⁰ MIPD 2009 – 2011, paragraph 2.3.1.1. (page 21)

The **Serbian Plan of Action for Children (SPA)** underlines that “the SPA is designed to help eliminate any kind of discrimination against children and to be the plan of action for **all children**, especially for children from the most vulnerable populations, such as children with developmental difficulties and children from socially and culturally excluded populations.”

The **National Youth Strategy (NYS)** confirms that young people are entitled to equal rights and opportunities, regardless of gender, race and nationality, religious or political beliefs, sexual orientation, social status or disability. The Strategy states that “...all young people have the right to equal opportunities, access to information, personal development, lifelong learning, and employment according to their specific personal characteristics, choices and capabilities.” The NYS thus provides respect of gender equality, non-discrimination, freedom, dignity, safety and personal and social development among all young people.

3. Description of project

3.1 Background and justification:

The foremost political objective of the Western Balkans is accession to the European Union. This step is not automatic: the negotiation and ratification of an Accession Treaty must come first. But such a treaty is in itself not enough to make accession a success: since new Member States are to share the same values as those of the existing Member States, support at all levels is necessary in the social transformation of their societies before joining the EU.

This project is part of the Civil Society Facility. It offers the opportunity to better meet the needs of the region and in Serbia by providing support to civil society development and dialogue. This will be coordinated and streamlined by focusing on different areas of intervention such as civic initiatives.

Civil society plays a key role in enabling the development of a participatory democracy. As an integral part of the European Union accession process for the Republic of Serbia, opportunities for dialogue are envisaged between EU institutions and civil society actors, as well as among civil society actors and their own state and local self-governments. The 2007 Enlargement Strategy lists the need for reinforced dialogue in the region as one of the priorities to be covered by the pre-accession countries, while the IPA Council Regulation¹¹ affirms the importance of dialogue and highlights support to the development of civil society as one of the ongoing aims of EU assistance to candidate and potential candidate countries. Likewise, the principle of partnership has been emphasised as a fundamental element of the assistance given through the IPA.

The principle of partnership has been underscored as a tool for supporting the empowerment of civil society through the EU pre-accession process and for developing an enabling environment for cooperation between government and civil society. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are more than potential beneficiaries of EU funding; instead, they should be regarded as important partners in forming as well as implementing EU policies and programmes.

¹¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance, adopted on 17 July 2006.

A variety of sectors have been covered through both the national and regional programmes of IPA funding to date, while each of these IPA grants schemes has generally emphasized capacity building of CSOs to prompt their active participation in policy development and good governance (primarily through monitoring, and especially with regard to anti-corruption), and encouraged efforts to advance their role in the process of EU integration. In view of the significant role which civil society will have as Serbia moves toward EU approximation, it is important to further strengthen dialogue between and among Serbian CSOs and their regional as well as their European counterparts.

Serbia is the only country in Southeast Europe which is yet to reform the basic legal framework governing CSOs. A new Law on Associations has been drafted to replace the outdated 1982 law which is obsolete within the present transitional environment in Serbia. Over the past nine years, several drafts have been developed but they have fallen short of being adopted by the Parliament. The Republic of Serbia also does not have a government office for NGOs or a comparable structure established to improve coordination between the government and civil society. Many of the countries in the Western Balkans have to date taken this initiative in order to help enhance communication and understanding between government institutions and CSOs, as well as to strengthen the sustainability of CSOs.

At the Working Group on Civil Society within the DG Enlargement Donor Coordination Conference, held in Brussels in October 2008, it was agreed that governments need to engage in real partnership with CSOs, as well as in regular, structured consultations with civil society. The Sector for Programming, Management of EU Funds and Development Assistance in the Ministry of Finance is making strides to establish a mechanism for regular consultations with civil society about IPA programming. In a recent survey conducted by the Sector, nearly 70 CSOs responded to a questionnaire detailing their views about the priority areas which IPA national funds aimed at civil society should target. A majority of respondents said that CSO involvement should be fundamental to actions covering any of the broad range of issues related to the fight against discrimination. In the survey, the fight against discrimination incorporates all forms of discrimination (gender, national, religious, sexual, political, age). The survey results also highlighted the various actions which have been undertaken by CSOs in this field, such as the promotion of diversity, legal protection against all forms of discrimination and enforcement of anti-discrimination legislation, raising public awareness and other initiatives aimed at improving the existing situation. It is clear that CSOs have been involved in the fight against discrimination also by supporting cultural diversity.

Promoting a multi-ethnic culture and fostering diversity was voiced as particularly relevant by many CSOs surveyed. Helping to build a society in which differences are accepted and valued is viewed as an important measure toward the democratisation and stabilisation of Serbia. This can be elaborated both by supporting cultural expression directly, as well as by building contacts between civil society organisations in Serbia and the EU as a way of strengthening civil society's role in the effort to overcome discrimination in society. Through dialogue and knowledge exchange between CSOs in Serbia and the EU, it is expected that Serbia will benefit from the experience that civil society has had in cooperating with public institutions to promote cultural diversity and overcome discrimination in other countries. As affirmed by the Ljubljana Declaration, the importance of partnership between government and civil society is fundamental to the principle of building good governance in transitional economies. It is envisaged that this project will help foster opportunities for cooperation between public institutions and civil society actors.

Given that the Anti-discrimination Law has been passed and that much of the work of CSOs in Serbia already contributes in many ways toward building equal opportunities and encouraging tolerance and acceptance of differences in society, it is timely to facilitate the more active engagement of civil society actors in this area. Through a grants scheme which will be aimed at cultivating a greater understanding of the value of cultural diversity, CSOs will be able to initiate actions across a number of different sectors with the common objective of promoting knowledge and understanding, while at the same time building closer ties with EU partners. This could cover topics ranging from, for instance, upholding the rights of minorities, women, the elderly, disabled persons, etc., to providing for greater collaboration among various groups in society, based upon possible models and lessons learned by civil society actors in the EU. The project will aim to encourage active dialogue and exchange of ideas between CSOs in Serbia and the EU while helping to build greater tolerance and cultural diversity across Serbia.

3.2 Assessment of project impact, catalytic effect, sustainability and cross border impact (where applicable)

The project will complement initiatives of other donors, the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) and the IPA 2009 Multi-beneficiary CSO project. The project will contribute to encouraging cultural diversity in Serbian society and to strengthening civil society dialogue and cooperation between Serbia and the EU. The projects which will be supported through the grants scheme will help to establish and build partnerships among CSOs at different levels by using various types of actions so as to improve mutual knowledge and understanding. This dialogue and cooperation will also promote bilateral exchanges, thereby enhancing the participation of civil society in the political, cultural and economic development of Serbia. It will thus support the further development of a lively and vibrant civil society in Serbia, which is a key tool to the consolidation of political criteria for accession.

The project will also complement ongoing actions under the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme which stimulates joint actions between Serbian and neighbouring civil society actors. By encouraging dialogue centred on the broad themes of cultural diversity and the fight against discrimination, the project will promote networking among CSOs in Serbia and those from both the Western Balkans region as well as the EU.

The project will help to bridge the information gap, achieve better mutual knowledge and bring citizens and different cultures, political and economic systems closer together, thus building an awareness of the importance of cultural diversity and the necessity to overcome discrimination in society. As a consequent positive outcome, the project envisages the development of partnerships between CSOs and public institutions in Serbia.

3.3 Results and measurable indicators:

Result 1: New partnerships and networks established, fostering long-term cooperation between CSOs in Serbia and the EU.

Measurable indicators:

- At least 5 implemented projects comprising exchange of knowledge and best practices in promoting cultural diversity and tolerance.

Result 2: CSOs actively involved in promoting citizens' understanding of the importance of overcoming discrimination in society.

Measurable indicators:

- At least 5 projects implemented in support of cultural diversity and the fight against discrimination.
- At least 5 projects implemented which contribute to building cooperation between CSOs and public institutions.

3.4 Activities:

The project will be implemented through a Call for Proposals, with a fund of 1.4 million € available to support projects which will broadly promote the building of cultural diversity, tolerance and the fight against discrimination, as well as the development of partnerships between CSOs in Serbia and the EU. This will deliver both results through the transparent selection and approval of a minimum of 15 projects. Evaluation criteria for the grants selection will address the need to strengthen dialogue between Serbian and European CSOs, while also enabling CSOs in Serbia to utilise the best practices and lessons learned from other countries to help build their own capacity to play a significant role in shaping and implementing government policy related to overcoming discrimination in society. It is envisaged that this also will contribute to enhancing cooperation between civil society and public institutions, particularly at the local level.

As in previous years, a strong implementing partner will be selected through a service contract of 0.6 million € and will be responsible for the following:

- Organise and publicise the Call for Proposals through a wide information campaign.
- Design and launch of the grants scheme.
- Assist the evaluation committee to be set up by the contracting authority in assessment and selection of project proposals, with ongoing support to grant beneficiaries and monitoring of projects awarded.

The contractor will ensure that the process of identification and selection of projects for grant support is transparent, accountable and reflects an objective assessment of needs of the target groups. The proposals should clearly contribute to the achievement of the project purpose. Eligibility requirements for applicants and project proposals will be elaborated in the Guidelines for Applicants, which are to be prepared in compliance with PRAG regulations. Co-financing of at least 10% (of the total grant amount) should be provided by the grant recipients.

| |
|---|
| <p>This project will be implemented through one service contract and one grant fund. The service contract will assure management of the funds under this project, plus those of the following IPA 2010 project.</p> |
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3.5 Conditionality and sequencing:

The development of a civil society culture in the region requires political stability and a favourable environment for the enhancement of CSOs and civil society dialogue. The present general political framework should allow for dialogue and development of and with CSOs.

Consequently, partner CSOs and/or authorities should be willing to establish and improve their exchange of information. CSOs should be wholeheartedly working together to establish alliances and coalitions to help strengthen advocacy, etc. All these efforts will fail if the authorities implement policies and actions that are counterproductive to achieving a civil society culture. It is therefore of paramount importance that the EU and other donors keep a close eye on this and take appropriate measures if necessary. It is very important that donors remain committed to a strong civil society in Serbia.

CSOs have to demonstrate their legitimacy and credibility as reliable and constructive partners representing important elements of society: citizens should trust CSOs. In addition, beneficiary CSOs should be keen on establishing partnerships with other CSOs in Serbia and the EU and they should have the capacity to absorb and successfully implement contracts awarded to them. These matters will be analysed thoroughly during the selection of proposals.

Civil society organisations need to demonstrate their willingness to cooperation both amongst themselves and civil society organisations in the EU.

Civil society organisations need to have the capacity to produce quality project proposals in line with technical specifications laid out in the grants scheme.

The Call for Proposals should encourage cooperation between public institutions and civil society organisations in Serbia, as well as the building of partnerships between CSOs in Serbia and their counterparts in the EU.

Grants for civil society projects require 10% co-financing.

3.6 Linked activities

The European Union has across the region to date supported CSOs in broadly defined areas such as inter-ethnic relations, poverty reduction, environmental protection, social development and equal opportunities. Particular attention has been focused on funding social services, rule of law, youth, education, journalists, women, minorities, vulnerable groups, internally displaced person and refugees. In reviewing the IPA funding which has thus far targeted civil society, it appears that a variety of sectors have been covered through both the national and regional programmes, while each of these IPA grants schemes has generally emphasized capacity building of CSOs to prompt their active participation in policy development and good governance (primarily through monitoring, and especially with regard to anti-corruption), and encouraged efforts to advance their role in the process of EU integration.

The 2007 Component 1 national IPA project has allocated resources to support the building of partnerships among Serbian professional organisations and their European counterparts from the legal, business, research, cultural, education and health sectors.

On the basis of the CSF, the 2008 project grants will build upon this by elaborating a new civil society facility which aims to support further exchange of knowledge and best practices of Serbian CSOs with other regional and European counterparts as well as continued capacity building of CSOs at the local and national levels. The project will thus encourage mutual understanding among citizens in Serbia and other countries.

A second IPA 2007 project, “Implementation of Priorities in the Area of Human Rights and Protection of National Minority Groups,” aims to incorporate social and cultural dimensions into Serbia’s general reform agenda by streamlining policies in the fields of human and minority rights into overall middle-term and long-term governmental programmes. Areas to be covered include police reform, the integrated border management system, health care provision for vulnerable groups and reforms within the justice system. While this project is not directly related to civil society, it does illustrate the importance of respect for human rights and cultural diversity as key principles of the reform process.

The 2008 IPA Multi-Beneficiary civil society project introduced the Civil Society Facility as part of the political criteria axis. It consists of Technical Assistance, “People 2 People” activities, and Partnership Actions.

The objective of the *technical assistance* is to help CSOs in the Western Balkans and Turkey increase their overall capacity, improve their democratic legitimacy and to promote networking of CSOs across regional borders. During this project, technical assistance desks will be established throughout the IPA region. The technical assistance will as far as possible be established within the existing civil society system so as to ensure that actions may eventually be taken over by local civil society platforms.

The “*People 2 People*” programme is implemented through the provision of TAIEX-type technical assistance, mainly study tours, conferences and workshops. The purpose of the “*People 2 People*” is to stimulate civic participation in the region by offering individuals and CSOs the possibility of participating in short-term visits to EU institutions and organisations. “*People 2 People*” events also offer the opportunity for CSOs to interact and network with their national, regional and European-level counterparts and to create new partnerships.

Partnership actions will complement activities already launched under the national CSF projects aimed at partnerships between one or more local organisations and organisations within the EU. IPA 2008 activities will focus on the following priorities: (i) environmental fora, (ii) environment, energy efficiency, health and safety at work and (iii) the fight against corruption, organised crime and trafficking.

The EU has also been providing funding support toward enhancing the role of civil society through the CARDS 2003, 2004 and 2005 programmes. “Strengthening the Role of Civil Society in Shaping Poverty-related Policies and Practice” is one of the recent projects implemented by UNDP from 2006 through the end of 2009. The project intends to strengthen CSOs and the links between them so that they can: hold Government accountable for poverty reduction through monitoring the strategy and policy implementation; and effectively advocate for an enabling environment for CSOs. The project also emphasizes gender mainstreaming in sectoral policies, with a special focus on social policy.

As part of the wide-ranging effort being undertaken primarily by the government and civil society to fulfil the criteria for closer integration with the EU, a key component has been devoted to the introduction of legislation seeking to more effectively prevent and combat

discrimination of minorities and vulnerable groups in Serbia. The project, “Support to the Implementation of Anti-discrimination Legislation and Mediation in Serbia”, funded by the EU and implemented by UNDP, supported the preparation of the draft Anti-discrimination Law. The second phase of this project is expected to run through early 2010 and foresees implementation of the following components:

- Institutional support to the agencies and bodies involved in the implementation of current and future anti-discrimination legislation;
- Enhancing and mainstreaming further legislative developments in the field of anti-discrimination;
- Strengthening the role of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in the overall implementation of anti-discrimination provisions; and
- Awareness-raising within key groups and the society at large on the importance of equal treatment and the relevance of new anti-discrimination rules.

3.7 Lessons learned

Several recent examples show that civil society can play an important role in the policy making process in Serbia. This is a key lesson from the preparation of the national Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and the national Youth Strategy where civil society participation was essential. As can be seen from the controversy surrounding the finalization and adoption of the Anti-discrimination Law, civil society organisations provided an opportunity for the many different interest groups to express their views on this important issue which is essential to the political reforms that are a necessary part of the accession process. Building upon these lessons, new partnership opportunities with the government should be identified to afford civil society a greater policy development and implementation role.

Serbian society still needs to build an efficient consensus on EU accession. In a situation where Serbian society still has diverse attitudes towards EU integration, it is important to try to improve knowledge and skills concerning the European integration process, primarily by increasing exchange and partnership with EU counterparts concerning the challenges of future enlargement.

This project will favour types of actions that can provide continuity of established activities or maintenance of links and networks established among CSOs. With a view to ensure that this initiative will reach out to all regions and will include as many civil society actors as possible, joint project proposal by groups of CSOs will be encouraged. Proposals prepared by groups of artists and/or artists associations will be encouraged as well. Likewise, the building of partnerships between public institutions and CSOs will be supported in the interest of promoting and protecting cultural diversity.

4. Indicative Budget (amounts in EUR)

| | | | TOTAL EXP.RE | SOURCES OF FUNDING | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| | | | | IPA COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION | | NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION | | | | | PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION | |
| ACTIVITIES | IB (1) | INV (1) | EUR (a)=(b)+(c)+(d) | EUR (b) | %(2) | Total EUR (c)=(x)+(y)+(z) | % (2) | Central EUR (x) | Regional/ Local EUR (y) | IFIs EUR (z) | EUR (d) | % (2) |
| Activity 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Contract 1 | X | | 600,000 | 600,000 | 100 | | | | | | | – |
| Contract 2 | X | | 1,556,000 | 1,400,000 | 90 | 156,000 | 10 | | | | 156,000 | |
| TOTAL IB | | | 2,156,000 | 2,000,000 | 93 | 156,000 | 7 | | | | 156,000 | |
| TOTAL INV | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL PROJECT | | | 2,156,000 | 2,000,000 | 93 | 156,000 | 7 | | | | 156,000 | 7 |

Amounts net of VAT, (1)

In the Activity row use "X" to identify whether IB or INV,(2)

Expressed in % of the **Total** Expenditure (column (a))

5. Indicative Implementation Schedule (periods broken down per quarter)

| Contracts | Start of Tendering | Signature of contract | Project Completion |
|------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Contract 1 | N+1Q | N+4Q | N+14Q |
| Contract 2 | N+6Q | N+7Q | N+13Q |

6. Cross cutting issues (where applicable)

6.1 Equal Opportunity

This project will contribute to the objectives of strengthening the position and participation of women in all aspects of Serbian society, as well as to promote women's rights and equal opportunities. Particular consideration will have to be given to women's representation in the labour market and their representation in political decision making, whether on the national level regional or local level. The project is encouraging gender equality and the equal opportunity dimension in all activities covered by these funds.

6.2 Environment

Implementation of the project will allow CSOs to strengthen their ability to formulate plans for the reduction of pollution and to enforce existing and future environmental legislation, thereby protecting the health of present and future generations. The project will contribute to municipalities playing a full role in the implementation of national environmental strategies.

6.3 Minorities

This project will support regular cultural events such as exhibitions, festivals, conferences and exchanges of experiences in order to build knowledge about minority cultures, and particularly about the importance of cultural diversity. Minorities are encouraged to participate in order to highlight the inclusive nature of the European integration process. Finally, the contractor will actively try to motivate minority CSOs to access the EU networks and partners as part of the effort to build long-term cooperation and collaboration.

ANNEX I: Logical framework matrix in standard format

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR Project Fiche | | Programme name and number | |
| Support to Civil Society | | Contracting period expires 2 years after signature of the Financing Agreement | Disbursement period expires 5 years after signature of the Financing Agreement |
| | | Total budget : 2.156 million € | IPA budget: 2 million € |
| Overall objective | Objectively verifiable indicators | Sources of Verification | |
| To support the active involvement of civil society in Serbia's EU integration process. | Partnerships between local and EU civil society organisations established and developed. Improved implementation of government policies. | SAP, Council of Europe, OSCE Reports | |
| Project purpose | Objectively verifiable indicators | Sources of Verification | Assumptions |
| To strengthen dialogue among CSOs in Serbia and the EU. To build social cohesion and contribute to overcoming discrimination in Serbia by promoting tolerance and cultural diversity. To enhance cooperation between public institutions and civil society in Serbia | At least 5 partnerships established between CSOs in Serbia and with the EU. At least 15 project proposals approved under the grants scheme. Outputs/results of financed projects contribute to the attainment of the project purpose. | Beneficiaries' progress reports Reports from the monitoring unit Steering Committee meetings | Political and social stability Civil society organisations are willing to cooperate both amongst themselves and with CSOs in the EU CSOs are interested in the promotion of cultural diversity Government cooperation with the civil society sector |

| Results | Objectively verifiable indicators | Sources of Verification | Assumptions |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p>1. New partnerships and networks established, fostering long-term cooperation among CSOs in Serbia and the EU.</p> <p>2. CSOs actively involved in promoting citizens' understanding of the importance of overcoming discrimination in society.</p> | <p>Call for proposals launched and at least 15 project proposals approved under the grants scheme.</p> <p>At least 5 implemented projects comprising exchange of knowledge and best practices in promoting cultural diversity tolerance</p> <p>At least 5 implemented projects support cultural diversity and the fight against discrimination.</p> <p>At least 5 projects implemented which contribute to building cooperation between CSOs and public institutions.</p> | <p>Beneficiaries' progress reports</p> <p>Reports from the monitoring unit</p> <p>Steering Committee meetings</p> | <p>CSOs are interested in and have the capacity to carry out projects, particularly joint projects</p> <p>Adequate EU institutions are willing to participate in the joint projects and engage in social dialogue with CSOs in Serbia.</p> <p>Public institutions willing to collaborate with CSOs.</p> |
| Activities | Means | Costs | Assumptions |
| <p>Call for proposals organised and publicised broadly through a wide information campaign.</p> <p>Design and launch of grants scheme.</p> <p>Assessment and selection of project proposals, with ongoing support to grants beneficiaries and monitoring of selected projects.</p> | <p>Fund for civil society organisations (Call for Proposals)</p> | <p>2.156 million € of which 2million IPA funding and 0.156 grant co-funding</p> <p>1.4 million call for proposals</p> <p>0.6 million service contract</p> | <p>Sufficient capacity among CSOs to produce quality project proposals</p> <p>The Call for Proposals will encourage cooperation between public institutions and CSOs in Serbia, as well as the building of partnerships between CSOs in Serbia and their counterparts in the EU.</p> |

ANNEX II: Amounts (in million €) Contracted and disbursed by quarter for the project

| Contracted | N+4Q | N+5Q | N+6Q | N+7Q | N+8Q | N+9Q | N+10Q | N+11Q | N+12Q | N+13Q | N+14Q | N+15Q | Total |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Contract 1 | 0.600 | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.600 |
| Contract 2 | | | 1.556 | | | | | | | | | | 1.556 |
| Cumulated | 0.600 | 0.600 | 2.156 | 2.156 | 2.156 | 2.156 | 2.156 | 2.156 | 2.156 | 2.156 | 2.156 | 2.156 | 2.156 |
| Disbursed | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Contract 1 | 0.120 | | 0.084 | | 0.084 | | 0.084 | | 0.084 | | 0.084 | 0.060 | 0.600 |
| Contract 2 | | | 1.245 | | | | 0.200 | | 0.111 | | | | 1.556 |
| Cumulated | 0.120 | 0.120 | 1.449 | 1.449 | 1.533 | 1.533 | 1.817 | 1.817 | 2.012 | 2.012 | 2.096 | 2.156 | 2.156 |

ANNEX III Description of Institutional Framework

There is no ministry in the Serbian government specifically dealing with civil society organisations and issues per se. Professional organisations that will be targeted by this programme belong to a wide variety of sectors, therefore it is not feasible to identify only one counterpart on the Government side.

ANNEX IV Reference list of relevant laws and strategies

Key laws, regulations and strategic documents in the area of civil society and social dialogue:

- Constitution of the Republic of Serbia
- Law for the implementation of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia
- Anti-discrimination Law
- Law on the Ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking of Human Beings
- National Strategy for Serbia and Montenegro's Accession to the European Union
- Action Plan for Implementation of the European Partnership
- National Programme for Integration
- Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
- Draft Law on Citizens' Associations
- National Plan of Action for Children
- National Youth Strategy

Reference to AP /NPAA / EP / SAA

The European Partnership calls for the need to, "...encourage the development of civil society organisations and regular dialogue with civil society on policy initiatives." The EP also refers to the necessity to, "Implement the anti-discrimination law effectively. To organize awareness campaigns to inform the private sector, civil society and academic circles about this law. Monitor the implementation of the law and report on it."

The Government of Serbia adopted in 2004 the communication strategy designed to bring the Stabilization and Association process (SAp) of Serbia closer to its citizens. The main strategic objective has been to "ensure that the citizens are familiar with the SAp, understand the overall aim of joining the European Union, have a balanced view of its consequences and possess sufficient reliable information to take up their role and responsibilities in the SAp. "These efforts can bring success only if all parties take up their responsibility and cooperate with each other." By initialling the Stabilization and Association Agreement between Serbia and the European Union in November 2007 the need of effective communication on these issues became even more important.

Reference to MIPD

Civil Society is included in the Serbia MIPD 2009-2011 as part of its political criteria, affirming that dialogue and capacity building will be promoted in the areas of anti-discrimination, gender equality, social inclusion, health, environment, business advocacy and consumer protection, while also highlighting the important role which civil society will continue to play in the course of EU approximation.

Among its political criteria strategic objectives, the MIPD asserts “...support to civil society, media and the respect of the rights of minorities and other vulnerable groups (including anti-discrimination measures) and of equality between women and men further contributes to the fulfilment of the EU requirements for membership under this axis.”

The expected results under this axis emphasize civil society’s role in the democratic stabilisation and social development of Serbia, stating, “A permanent dialogue between authorities and the civil society is developed.” This is further highlighted with respect to actions concerning anti-discrimination: “Anti-discrimination legislation reinforced through adoption of an anti-discrimination law. It is expected to improve implementation of policies against social exclusion of vulnerable groups, improve relations between Serbian authorities and civil society actors...” This is particularly relevant in terms of strengthening the partnership which is envisaged between public authorities and civil society organisations (CSOs).

ANNEX V Details per EU funded contract (*) where applicable:

The contractor will be selected in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Practical Guide to Contract Procedures Financed by the General Budget of the EC in the Context of External Actions – “PRAG” – through funding which will be allocated to this project from the IPA 2008 civil society project.

The contractor will be responsible for designing and implementing the grants scheme, including assisting in assessment of grant proposals, ongoing support to grant beneficiaries and monitoring of selected projects.

All granted projects require a co-financing of at least 10% (of the total grant project's cost) which will be provided by the grant recipients.

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