



Civil Society Dialogue Network Funding Instruments Meeting

Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) Consultation on 2016 programming

Thursday 22 October 2015, Brussels

MINUTES

The [final agenda](#) of the meeting is available to download from the Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) section of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) website.

The following background document was sent to participants in advance of the meeting:

- [Background document for small group discussions](#) (Session 3)

1. Welcome

EPLO welcomed participants and thanked the European Commission (EC) for seeking civil society input into the 2016 programming of the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP).

EPLO informed participants that the format of the meeting had been slightly modified from that of previous years in order to include small group discussions with a view to enabling representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs) to provide more detailed input on the thematic priorities for IcSP programming in 2016 and beyond.

The EC welcomed participants and urged them to provide concrete ideas to inform its thinking on how to take forward work on conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness in 2016 and beyond.

2. Session 1: Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace 2016 programming – Article 5 (Global and Trans-regional Threats)

The EC informed participants about the [public consultation on the partnership between the European Union \(EU\) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific \(ACP\) Group of States](#) which was launched on 6 October and which would be open until 31 December.

The EC also presented the [2015 Annual Action Programme \(AAP\) for Article 5 \(Global and Trans-regional Threats\) and initial thoughts on the 2016 AAP](#).

Participants raised the following issues:

1. Regarding the 'Counter terrorism, including countering violent radicalisation' objective: Is the EC planning to continue the [Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism \(STRIVE\)](#) Global Programme in 2016?
2. Regarding drug trafficking: In addition to the support which is foreseen for the 'Cocaine Route Programme', is the EC also planning to provide support for the 'Heroin Route Programme' in 2016?
3. [United Nations Security Council Resolution \(UNSCR\) 2242](#), which was adopted on 13 October, includes, for the first time, a clear reference to the link between women and countering violent extremism (CVE). Does the EC already have any thoughts about a similar approach, including how it could be reflected in the 2016 programming?
4. On 20 October, the EC adopted a decision to establish an [Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa](#). Will the Emergency Trust Fund be financed from the IcSP? If so, from which Article?
5. Will there be any support for the 'Addressing global and trans-regional effects of climate change having a potentially destabilising impact' objective in 2016?
6. Regarding cybersecurity: Which activities is the EC planning to support and in which countries?
7. Who are the partners in the implementation of the EC's programmes under Article 5?

In response, the EC said:

1. The EC would like to review the results of the STRIVE Global Programme in the Horn of Africa, Pakistan and the Sahel before focusing on other areas. In 2016, the focus of the EC's activities under the 'Counter terrorism, including countering violent radicalisation' objective will be on cutting terrorist funding.
2. The Heroin Route Programme was prioritised in the [2015 AAP](#) with a view to starting implementation in 2016. Work is currently being undertaken to prepare the contracting of the action in line with the objectives set out in the 2015 AAP.
3. The EC is working with grassroots organisations, including women's organisations, in order to prevent and/or counter violent extremism. The EU is supporting the [Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund \(GCERF\)](#) with planned actions on CVE in Bangladesh, Nigeria and Mali. The EC will analyse the results of needs assessments and then put more emphasis where the best results can be obtained. Overall, the EC believes that everybody needs to play their role in CVE.
4. The vast majority of the funding for the 'Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa' will come from the reserve of the eleventh European Development Fund (EDF 11) and from the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI). However, it is foreseen that some funding will come from the Article 5 component of the IcSP. The EC is currently working on a series of projects to be adopted in December.
5. The 'Addressing global and trans-regional effects of climate change having a potentially destabilising impact' objective will be prioritised again in 2017. A project on climate change and security was included in the [2015 AAP](#).
6. The EC's focus in the field of cybersecurity is on supporting third countries to establish effective legal frameworks and to enhance their capacity for effective international co-operation. It has an ongoing global project with the Council of Europe on promoting the adoption and implementation of the [Budapest Convention on Cybercrime](#). In 2016, the EC's support for cybersecurity will be mainly focused on countries in Africa but it will also cover countries in Asia and Latin America.
7. The EC works mainly with EU Member States in the implementation of Article 5 projects.

3. Session 2: Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace 2016 programming – Article 4 (Conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness component)

The EC presented an [update on the 2015 AAP for Article 4 \(Conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness\) and key elements of the draft 2016 AAP](#).

Participants raised the following issues:

1. Will support for media, including social media, be prioritised in 2016?
2. How can the EC increase the transparency of its decisions regarding funding for activities under Article 3 ('Assistance in response to situations of crisis or emerging crisis')?
3. How will the EC ensure coherence between the support which is foreseen to participation and deployment in civilian stabilisation missions, with other ongoing initiatives (e.g. Horizon2020 projects on training and the review of Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) training policy)?
4. How do the EU delegations (EUDs) which manage sub-delegated Calls for Proposals under the actions on 'Support to In-country Civil Society actors in conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness' decide which of the priorities set out in the AAP to support?
5. What are the geographical priorities for the IcSP in 2016?
6. Regarding the action on 'Enhancing the EU's early warning capacities by bridging the warning-response gap' in the 2015 AAP: The EU should support the provision of participatory analysis, and the participation of networks of CSOs in security sector reform (SSR) processes.
7. Will the action on 'Development of Post-Conflicts and Post-Disasters Needs Assessments (PCNA/PDNA) in the 2015 AAP be linked to other similar initiatives?
8. Is transitional justice a potential priority for the action on 'Support to In-country Civil Society actors in conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness' in 2016?
9. Regarding the proposed action on 'Support to In-country Civil Society actors in conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness': Will the EC target youth organisations?

In response the EC said:

1. The EC is interested in continuing its support for the contribution of media to conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It is also interested in examining culture for the same objective.
2. Due to its nature, Article 3 funding is non-programmable and the choice of implementing partners is context-specific. The process for allocating funding is as follows: (1) A concept note for an action is prepared by the EUD in the country in question. (2) The concept note is discussed with all other relevant EC services (principally the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) and the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO)) and the European External Action Service (EEAS). (3) With the agreement of all services, a summary of the proposed action is presented to the Council of the EU's Political and Security Committee (PSC) for its information in line with Article 7(4) of the [IcSP Regulation](#). The European Parliament (EP) is also informed of the same in line with Article 7(7) of the IcSP Regulation. (4) The EC proceeds with internal decision-making which leads to the adoption of a Financing Decision for the action in question and its subsequent contracting with the identified implementing partner. (NB/ The information which is provided to the Council is not public due to the sensitive nature of many of the proposed actions.)
3. The EC is aware of the Horizon2020 call for proposals and it is in contact with the EEAS structures responsible for the CSDP training policy. It will take both initiatives into account in the considerations of the framing of the proposed third phase of '[Europe's New Training Initiative for Civilian Crisis Management](#)' (ENTRi III).

4. As of 2015, the selection of EUDs to manage sub-delegated Calls for Proposals under the action on 'Support to In-country Civil Society actors in conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness' is informed with reference to the [EU Conflict Early Warning System](#) (EWS), as well as in relation to issues such as the capacity of EUDs to manage the Calls for Proposals in terms of human resources and coordination with EU Member States and other donors.
The EC has not yet clearly established why none of the EUDs selected to manage sub-delegated Calls for Proposals in the [2015 AAP](#) chose to prioritise 'Gender-responsive planning and financing for inclusive peace and security' or 'Reducing electoral violence'. It surmises that there may have been greater civil society interest in working on the two other priorities (i.e. 'Youth affected by conflicts: Young people as agents for peace' and 'Children affected by conflicts'). It also highlights that since these Calls for Proposals are sub-delegated to EUDs, Headquarters cannot impose priorities, as to do so would defeat the purpose of trying to meet and respond to identified local needs in terms of conflict and peacebuilding.
5. The IcSP has global coverage. Geographic prioritisation only applies to the action on 'Support to In-country Civil Society actors in conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness' for which the EC designates upstream the countries in which Calls for Proposals will be launched. The selection of countries for this action is determined using, *inter alia*, the results of the EWS (see response to Question 4).
6. The objective of the proposed 'Support to partner countries in the area of SSR' is to ensure that the EC can contribute to inclusive national processes in countries – particularly conflict-affected countries – which are undergoing / planning SSR processes.
7. The EC is approaching the action in terms of both creating the largest scope for consistency and complementarity with EU-supported and other initiatives in the area of disaster reduction and recovery, and maximising interaction with regional organisations such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), as well as with national governments.
8. Transitional justice is a potential priority for the action on 'Support to In-country Civil Society actors in conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness' and the EC looks forward to receiving CSO input on this idea in the small group discussion.
9. The EC will be considering support to youth organisations as part of the action on 'Support to In-country Civil Society actors in conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness' and it looks forward to receiving CSO input on this idea in the small group discussion.

4. Session 3: Small group discussions on priority areas for Article 4 in 2016 and beyond

A CSO participant gave a report of the small group discussion on 'Natural resources / Conflict minerals / Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)'. Points raised included:

- The discussion on natural resources/conflict minerals/CSR needs to take place in a broader context addressing the nexus between security, lack of governance, and sometimes not-so-responsible business practices.
- There is a need for multi-stakeholder engagement involving the private sector (e.g. the extractive industry, infrastructure companies, etc.), CSOs, local communities, national governments, and the EU and other multilateral organisations.
- There is also a need for multi-level engagement.
- A long-term approach to CSR is much more effective than one-off, small-scale projects.
- The processes which companies use to put in place initiatives are as important as the final outcome.
- CSR may be too restrictive as a framework for conflict sensitivity.

- The EU, the UN and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have all adopted policies and frameworks on these issues and they need to be fully implemented.

A CSO participant gave a report of the small group discussion on 'Gender / Women, peace and security'. Points raised included:

- There is a general lack of understanding about what gender means, what it entails in practice, and what CSOs are trying to achieve by adopting a gender-sensitive lens and specific tools for gender analysis.
- There is a need to work with both men and women to address the issues which have an impact on them in conflict-affected environments.
- Discussions on participation should go beyond quantifiable objectives, (e.g. having equal numbers of men and women), to ensuring inclusive and meaningful participation which results in actual changes.
- It is important to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in a meaningful way throughout the programming cycle of all of the EU's interventions.
- There is a need for programmes which address and contribute to building awareness and understanding about:
 - how women are affected by conflict
 - how and why women participate in conflict and in violence and crime
 - how women can contribute to peacebuilding, statebuilding and security provision.
- It is important to work at different levels with different groups of actors.
- There is a need to develop the capacities of organisations which are undertaking peacebuilding work by training them in gender sensitivity and gender analysis.
- There is a need to support the political participation of women and the promotion of gender sensitivity in SSR and disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) processes, constitution-making, national dialogues, etc. at different levels.
- The following topics could also be analysed from a gender mainstreaming perspective: migration, CVE and the environment.

A CSO participant gave a report of the small group discussion on 'Youth / Culture'. Points raised included:

- The empowerment of young people and cultural actors is a key aspect in terms of seeing them as agents of change, active citizens, and community builders, holding their governments accountable and promoting a positive image of youth engagement in peacebuilding. Empowerment can occur both through youth-oriented strategies and through strengthened funding opportunities.
- It is important to:
 - create spaces for young people and cultural actors to have a voice
 - support the media to create those spaces and to give those voices
 - foster inclusive dialogues with youth and/or cultural activists at different levels
 - support mediation
 - support peace education
 - support civic engagement
 - support the development of entrepreneurial business skills
 - raise awareness about the role youth could play in society.
- Attention needs to be paid to the 'Do No Harm' and conflict sensitivity aspects of education.
- There is a need to increase the focus on more fragile and vulnerable groups.
- Performing arts can contribute to peacebuilding at various levels.

- Media, in particular social media, is a potentially useful tool for trust-building in conflict.
- There is a need for psycho-social support through education and culture to deal with trauma and help towards recovery.
- Regarding 2016 programming, there is a need to ensure a holistic approach, with due regard to political, social and economic inclusion, and to link it to relevant national and EU strategies.
- Regarding measuring impact, there is a need for adequate analysis and data collection, sharing of best practices, creation of communities and strengthening of networks.
- Regarding scale, initiatives need to be feasible and realistic, and take into account cultural diversity.
- There is a need to:
 - bridge the gap between youth and the elderly
 - link activities with the pedagogy of peace
 - support media education as a means of helping youth correctly interpret media information
 - promote the exchange of information and best practices at local and regional levels
 - focus on the urban dimension of youth and culture
 - develop indicators to measure the impact of culture.

A CSO participant gave a report of the small group discussion on 'Transitional justice'. Points raised included:

- Article 4 is quite small and probably not suited for providing funding for certain activities (e.g. tribunals). However, it could be useful for supporting the promotion of enabling environments for transitional justice.
- Article 4 funding could be used in the following areas:
 - Training staff in EUDs on how they understand the concept of transitional justice beyond simply human rights
 - Working with the media to promote more truthful reporting in order to create enabling environments for transitional justice
 - Empowering civil society actors in order to raise the expectations of communities about the potential effectiveness of transitional justice processes.
- There is a need to prioritise the involvement of victims in transitional justice processes.
- It is important to maintain flexibility in support for transitional justice as priorities and entry points differ from country to country.

5. Conclusions

EPLO thanked the speakers, moderators and participants, and invited them to send any additional comments on and recommendations for the draft AAP 2016 for Article 4 by Friday 30 October.

Civil Society Dialogue Network

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a mechanism for dialogue between civil society and EU policy-makers on issues related to peace and conflict. It is co-financed by the European Union (Instrument for Stability). It is managed by the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), a civil society network, in co-operation with the European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS). The second phase of the CSDN will last from 2014 to 2016. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).