

EPLO Briefing Paper 1/2011

The EC's External Financing Instruments

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Introduction

The purpose of this briefing paper is to provide an overview of the current set of regulations governing the European Commission's (EC) external relations and to analyse what place peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict occupy in them.

Background

In 2004, the EC began the process of streamlining the numerous regulations governing its external relations. The new set of "financing instruments", which entered into force in 2007 and which will cover the period 2007 – 2013, provide the legal basis for the EC's co-operation with all regions of the world. The provisions included in regulations such as the Instrument for Stability (IfS), the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) are, therefore, crucial to establishing the scope of and funding for the EC's support to peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict in its external relations.

In this regard, it is alarming to note that neither peacebuilding nor the prevention of violent conflict is included in any of the above-mentioned instruments. This omission is largely due to the so-called "ECOWAS case" – a case which was brought before the European Court of Justice (ECJ) in 2005 on the issue of EU support to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for combating the accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons (SALW).¹ The case rested on the EC's claim that a Council decision to support ECOWAS on SALW in the framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) was illegal on the grounds that it affected Community powers in the field of development assistance. The fact that the ECOWAS case was ongoing at the time of the revision of the EC's external financing instruments resulted in the omission of any references to conflict prevention from the new regulations.

The IfS is regularly cited as the key tool in discussions about the EU's contribution to peacebuilding. Although the IfS, unlike other EC external financing instruments, does have a peacebuilding ('crisis preparedness') component, it is important to note that it is both overwhelmingly focused on crisis response and includes a strict 18-month time limit on measures which it can be used to finance. Furthermore, the highly political nature of the IfS combined with

¹ European Commission, (2005), Action brought on 21 February 2005 by the European Commission against the Council of the European Union, (Case C-91/05), in Official Journal of the European Union C 115 Volume 48 of 15 May 2005, p. 10.

the need for rapid reaction and a number of procedural issues mean that it does not allow for many civil society-led initiatives.

The omission of peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict from the EC's financing instruments ignores a number of important premises. Firstly, many of the EC's external co-operation programmes are implemented in countries in which violent conflict is widespread or which are at risk from violent conflict. Secondly, peacebuilding measures are most effective when they are conducted in the long-term and form an integral part of good development practice. Thirdly, in order to avoid exacerbating existing problems in the EC's partner countries, it is essential that all activities which are undertaken under the external financing instruments are based on thorough conflict analyses.

In addition, the absence of peacebuilding in the EC's external financing instruments also ignores important political commitments linking peacebuilding and conflict prevention activities to development co-operation, including the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement (Cotonou Agreement), the 2001 EU Programme for the Prevention of Violent Conflict (Gothenburg Programme), the 2001 Commission communication on conflict prevention, the 2005 European Consensus on Development and the 2007 Council conclusions on security and development.

Finally, the legal argument for not including peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict in the external financing instruments is no longer relevant. In May 2008, the ECJ passed judgement in the ECOWAS case. In its ruling, the ECJ upheld the Commission's complaint, thereby establishing that activities related to conflict prevention were indeed a Community competence and could, therefore, be undertaken as part of the EC's development co-operation programmes.²

Instrument for Stability

The specific aims of the Instrument for Stability (IfS) are as follows:

- (a) in a situation of crisis or emerging crisis, to contribute to stability by providing an effective response to help preserve, establish or re-establish the conditions essential to the proper implementation of the Community's development
- (b) in the context of stable conditions for the implementation of Community co-operation policies in third countries, to help build capacity both to address specific global and transregional threats having a destabilising effect and to ensure preparedness to address pre- and post-crisis situations.³

The IfS has a budget of € 2.06 billion for the period 2007 – 2013. This is divided into three main components: assistance in response to situations of crisis or emerging crisis (crisis response), pre- and post-crisis capacity building (crisis preparedness) and assistance in the context of stable conditions for co-operation (longer term actions).

The crisis response component accounts for more than 70% of the total IfS budget. According to the IfS Regulation, this funding can be used:

(...) in response to a situation of urgency, crisis or emerging crisis, a situation posing a threat to democracy, law and order, the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, or the security and safety of individuals, or a situation threatening to escalate into armed conflict or severely to destabilise the third country or countries concerned."⁴

² Commission v. Council, Judgement of the European Court of Justice in case C-91/05, (20 May 2008) See para 92-93 of the Judgment

³ IfS Article 1(2)

⁴ IfS Article 3(1)

The IfS Regulation includes a list of measures which can be financed from the crisis response component, including:

- (a) support, through the provision of technical assistance for the efforts undertaken by international and regional organisations, state and non-state actors in promoting confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation
- (b) support for the establishment and the functioning of interim administrations
- (c) support for the development of democratic, pluralistic state institutions
- (d) support for international criminal tribunals and ad hoc national tribunals, truth and reconciliation commissions and mechanisms for the legal settlement of human rights claims and the assertion and adjudication of property rights
- (e) support for measures necessary to start the rehabilitation and reconstruction of key infrastructure, housing, public buildings and economic assets, as well as essential productive capacity, and for the re-starting of economic activity and the generation of employment and the establishment of the minimum conditions necessary for sustainable social development
- (f) support for civilian measures related to the demobilisation and reintegration of former combatants into civil society, and where appropriate their repatriation, as well as measures to address the situation of child soldiers and female combatants
- (g) support for measures to mitigate the social effects of restructuring of the armed forces
- (h) support for measures to address the socio-economic impact on the civilian population of antipersonnel landmines, unexploded ordnance or explosive remnants of war
- (i) support for measures to address the impact on the civilian population of the illicit use of and access to firearms
- (j) support for measures to ensure that the specific needs of women and children in crisis and conflict situations
- (k) support for the rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims of armed conflict
- (l) support for measures to promote and defend respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law, and the related international instruments
- (m) support for socio-economic measures to promote equitable access to and transparent management of natural resources in a situation of crisis or emerging crisis
- (n) support for measures to support the development and organisation of civil society and its participation in the political process
- (o) support for measures in response to natural or man-made disasters and threats to public health

To date, it appears that there has been a lack of overall strategic planning in the implementation of measures under the crisis response component of the IfS. In 2007, the majority of the resources available under this component were allocated directly in support of EU, UN and AU crisis management operations. Due to opaque allocation procedures and the highly political nature of the IfS, very few NGOs were able to access funding from this component.

In addition to the crisis response component, the IfS also includes a crisis preparedness component. According to the IfS Regulation, the resources which are available under this component (up to five per cent of the total budget) can be used:

- (...) for long-term measures aimed at building and strengthening the capacity of international, regional and sub-regional organisations, state and non-state actors in relation to their efforts in:
- (a) promoting early warning, confidence-building, mediation and reconciliation, and addressing emerging inter-community tensions;
 - (b) improving post-conflict and post-disaster recovery.”⁵

⁵ IfS Article 4(3)

The IfS Regulation also includes a list of activities which can be supported from the crisis preparedness component, including: 'know-how transfer, exchange of information, risk/threat assessment, research and analysis, early warning systems and training.'⁶ The crisis preparedness component of the IfS is implemented through the so-called "Peacebuilding Partnership (PbP). The PbP is the main source of EC funding for peacebuilding NGOs.

The third component of the IfS is the long-term actions. According to the IfS Regulation, the resources available under this component (up to 22% of the total budget) can be used to support the EC's response to 'threats to law and order, to the security and safety of individuals, to critical infrastructure and to public health'⁷ as well as 'risk mitigation and preparedness relating to chemical, biological and nuclear materials or agents.'⁸

Activities which can be supported under the first priority include:

- (a) strengthening the capacity of law enforcement and judicial authorities involved in the fight against terrorism and organised crime
- (b) support for measures to address threats to international transport, energy operations and critical infrastructure
- (c) contributing to ensuring an adequate response to sudden major threats to public health,

Activities which can be supported under the second priority include:

- (a) the promotion of civilian research activities as an alternative to defence-related research
- (b) support for measures to enhance safety practices related to civilian facilities where sensitive chemical, radiological and nuclear materials or agents are stored, or are handled in the context of civilian research programmes
- (c) support for the establishment of civil infrastructure and relevant civilian studies necessary for the dismantlement, remediation or conversion of weapons-related facilities and sites where these are declared as no longer belonging to a defence programme
- (d) strengthening the capacity of competent civilian authorities involved in the development and enforcement of effective control of illicit trafficking in chemical, biological radiological and nuclear materials or agents
- (e) the development of the legal framework and institutional capacities for the establishment and enforcement of effective export controls on dual-use goods
- (f) the development of effective civilian disaster-preparedness, emergency planning, crisis response and capabilities for clean up measures in relation to possible major environmental incidents in this field.

European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

The specific aims of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) are:

- (a) enhancing the respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international and regional human rights instruments, and promoting and consolidating democracy and democratic reform in third countries, mainly through support for civil society organisations, providing support and solidarity to human rights defenders and victims of repression and abuse, and strengthening civil society active in the field of human rights and democracy promotion;
- (b) supporting and strengthening the international and regional framework for the protection, promotion and monitoring of human rights, the promotion of democracy

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ IfS Article 4(1)

⁸ IfS Article 4(2)

and the rule of law, and reinforcing an active role for civil society within these frameworks;

- (c) building confidence in and enhancing the reliability of electoral processes, in particular through election observation missions, and through support for local civil society organisations involved in these processes.⁹

The EIDHR Regulation sets out four main priorities for support:

- (a) the promotion and enhancement of participatory and representative democracy, including parliamentary democracy, and the processes of democratisation, mainly through civil society organisations
- (b) the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human rights and other international and regional instruments concerning civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, mainly through civil society organisations
- (c) the strengthening of the international framework for the protection of human rights, justice, the rule of law and the promotion of democracy
- (d) building confidence in and enhancing the reliability and transparency of democratic electoral processes¹⁰

The EIDHR, which replaced the European *Initiative* for Democracy and Human Rights (E/DHR),¹¹ has a budget of € 1.1 billion for the period 2007 – 2013.

According to the 1999 EIDHR Regulation, resources which were available under the former instrument could be used, *inter alia*, to support ‘measures to promote respect for human rights and democratisation by preventing conflict and dealing with its consequences, in close collaboration with the relevant competent bodies.’¹² Unfortunately, this priority was not maintained in the current EIDHR. This is particularly problematic given the increased risk which is posed to human rights and fundamental freedoms by violent conflict.

Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance

The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) governs EC co-operation with the following countries: Albania, Bosnia, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. Its overall objective is to assist those countries ‘in their progressive alignment with the standards and policies of the European Union, including where appropriate the *acquis communautaire*, with a view to membership.’¹³

The IPA Regulation sets out the following activities to be supported:

- (a) Strengthening of democratic institutions
- (b) Promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and enhanced respect for minority rights, the promotion of gender equality and non discrimination
- (c) Public administration reform
- (d) Economic reform
- (e) The development of civil society
- (f) Social inclusion
- (g) Reconciliation, confidence-building measures and reconstruction
- (h) Regional and cross-border cooperation.

⁹ EIDHR Article 1(2)

¹⁰ EIDHR Article 2

¹¹ E/DHR <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:1999:120:0001:0007:EN:PDF>

¹² E/DHR Article 2(3)

¹³ IPA Article 1

The IPA has a budget of € 11.5 million for the period 2007 – 2013.

Given the recent history of violent conflict in many of the countries which fall under the scope of the IPA, there is a clear need for it to be both conflict-sensitive and to include support for peacebuilding and conflict prevention measures.

European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)

The European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) governs EC co-operation with the following countries and territories: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), Russia, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine. Its overall objective is “the development of an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness” involving the EU and those countries.

The ENPI Regulation sets out the following activities to be supported:

- (a) Promoting political dialogue and reform
- (b) Promoting legislative and regulatory approximation towards higher standards in all relevant areas and in particular to encourage the progressive participation of partner countries in the internal market and the intensification of trade
- (c) Strengthening of national institutions and bodies responsible for the elaboration and the effective implementation of policies in areas covered in association agreements, partnership and cooperation agreements, and other multilateral agreements
- (d) Promoting the rule of law and good governance
- (e) Promoting sustainable development in all aspects
- (f) Pursuing regional and local development efforts
- (g) Promoting environmental protection, nature conservation and the sustainable management of natural resources
- (h) Supporting policies aimed at poverty reduction to help achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals
- (i) Supporting policies to promote social development, social inclusion, gender equality, non-discrimination, employment and social protection
- (j) Supporting policies to promote health, education and training
- (k) Promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms
- (l) Supporting democratisation
- (m) Fostering the development of civil society and of non-governmental organisations
- (n) Promoting the development of a market economy
- (o) Promoting cooperation in the sectors of energy telecommunication and transport
- (p) Providing support for actions aimed at increasing food safety for citizens
- (q) Ensuring efficient and secure border management
- (r) Supporting reform and strengthening capacity in the field of justice and home affairs
- (s) Supporting administrative cooperation to improve transparency and the exchange of information in the area of taxation
- (t) Promoting participation in Community research and innovation activities
- (u) Promoting cooperation between the Member States and partner countries in higher education and mobility of teachers, researchers and students
- (v) Promoting multicultural dialogue, people-to-people contacts, cooperation between civil societies, cultural institutions and exchanges of young people
- (w) Supporting cooperation aimed at protecting historical and cultural heritage and promoting its development potential
- (x) Supporting participation of partner countries in Community programmes and agencies

- (y) Supporting cross-border cooperation through joint local initiatives to promote sustainable economic, social and environmental development in border regions and integrated territorial development across the Community's external border
- (z) Promoting regional and sub-regional cooperation and integration
- (aa) Providing support in post-crisis situations
- (bb) Encouraging communication and promoting exchange among the partners on the measures and activities financed under the programmes
- (cc) Addressing common thematic challenges in fields of mutual concern¹⁴

The ENPI has a budget of € 11.18 billion of which 95% is allocated to country and multi-country programmes and up to five per cent is allocated to cross-border co-operation programmes. The ENPI Regulation specifies that non-state actors, including NGOs, are eligible for funding under this financing instrument.¹⁵

In light of the recent violent conflicts in Gaza, Georgia and Lebanon and the frozen conflicts in Armenia/Azerbaijan and Moldova and the continued tensions in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian territories, there is a need for the ENPI to be both conflict-sensitive and to include support for peacebuilding and conflict prevention measures.

Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)

Together with the European Development Fund, the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) is the main instrument for EC co-operation with developing countries. The 'primary and overarching' objective of the DCI is:

(...) the eradication of poverty in partner countries and regions in the context of sustainable development, including pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as the promotion of democracy, good governance and respect for human rights and for the rule of law.¹⁶

EC assistance under the DCI is provided via geographical and thematic programmes. Under the DCI, geographic (country and regional) programmes cover 47 countries in Latin America, Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East as well as South Africa. The thematic programmes cover all developing countries as set out in the OECD-DAC list of aid recipients¹⁷ as well as Israel and Russia.

According to the DCI Regulation, geographical programmes will include support for the following activities:

- (a) Supporting the implementation of policies aimed at poverty eradication and the achievement of the MDGs
- (b) Addressing the essential needs of the population with prime attention to primary education and health
- (c) Promoting social cohesion as a priority policy of the relations between the Community and partner countries, with a focus on decent work and social and fiscal policies
- (d) Combating all forms of group-based discrimination and promoting and protecting gender equality, indigenous rights and the rights of the child
- (e) Strengthening the institutional framework to promote and facilitate the creation of small and medium-sized enterprises with a view to stimulating job creation

¹⁴ ENPI Article 2(2)

¹⁵ ENPI Article 14(1)

¹⁶ DCI Article 2

¹⁷ See <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/62/48/41655745.pdf>

- (f) Promoting and protecting fundamental freedoms and human rights, strengthening democracy, the rule of law, access to justice and good governance
- (g) Supporting an active civil society
- (h) Fostering co-operation and policy reforms in the fields of security and justice
- (i) Fostering co-operation and policy reforms in the field of migration and asylum with partner countries
- (j) Supporting effective multilateralism
- (k) Assisting partner countries and regions on trade, investment and regional integration
- (l) Supporting accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and implementation of WTO agreements
- (m) Supporting economic and trade co-operation and strengthening investment relations between the Community and partner countries and regions
- (n) Promoting sustainable development through environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources
- (o) Supporting improvements in the urban environment
- (p) Promoting sustainable patterns of production and consumption and the safe and sustainable management of chemicals and waste
- (q) Ensuring respect for and supporting the implementation of international environmental agreements
- (r) Developing capacities for emergency preparedness and prevention of natural disasters
- (s) Supporting sustainable integrated water resource management
- (t) Fostering greater use of sustainable energy technologies
- (u) Contributing to the development of economic infrastructure
- (v) Supporting sustainable rural development
- (w) Reconstructing and rehabilitating, in the medium- and long-term, regions and countries affected by conflict, man-made and natural disasters, including support for mine action, demobilisation and reintegration actions, while ensuring the continuum between relief, rehabilitation and development
- (x) Carrying out medium- and long-term activities aimed at the self-sufficiency and integration or reintegration of uprooted people, ensuring that an integrated and consistent approach between humanitarian aid, rehabilitation, aid to uprooted people and development co-operation is pursued
- (y) In fragile or failing states, supporting the delivery of basic services and building of legitimate, effective and resilient public institutions
- (z) Addressing development challenges common to the Community and its partners, in particular support to sectoral dialogues, to the implementation of bilateral agreements and to any other area of action consistent with the scope of this Regulation.¹⁸

The DCI Regulation also sets out a number of specific priorities for each geographical region. In Latin America, special attention will be paid to:

- (a) Promoting social cohesion as a shared goal and priority policy of Community-Latin America relations thereby fighting against poverty and exclusion.
- (b) Encouraging greater regional integration
- (c) Supporting the reinforcement of good governance and public institutions, and of the protection of human rights
- (d) Supporting the creation of a common EU-Latin American higher education area
- (e) Promoting sustainable development in all its dimensions.¹⁹

In Asia, special attention will be paid to:

- (a) Pursuing MDGs in the health, including HIV/AIDS, and education

¹⁸ DCI Article 5(2)

¹⁹ DCI Article 6

- (b) Addressing governance issues in particular in fragile states so as to help build legitimate, effective and resilient public institutions and an active and organised civil society, and to enhance the protection of human rights
- (c) Encouraging greater regional integration and co-operation
- (d) Contributing to the control of epidemics and zoonoses
- (e) Promoting sustainable development in all its dimensions
- (f) Fighting against production, consumption and trafficking of drugs and against other trafficking.²⁰

In Central Asia, special attention will be paid to:

- (a) Promoting constitutional reforms and legislative, administrative and regulatory approximation with the Community
- (b) Promoting the development of a market economy and partner countries' integration into the WTO
- (c) Supporting efficient border management and cross-border co-operation to promote sustainable economic, social and environmental development in border regions
- (d) Fighting against production, consumption and trafficking of drugs and against other trafficking
- (e) Fighting against HIV/AIDS
- (f) Promoting regional co-operation, dialogue and integration.²¹

In the Middle East, special attention will be paid to:

- (a) Encouraging social cohesion to ensure social equity, notably in relation to the use of domestic natural resource and to ensure political equality in particular through the promotion of human rights
- (b) Promoting economic diversification, the development of a market economy, and partner countries' integration in the WTO
- (c) Promoting regional co-operation, dialogue and integration
- (d) Supporting the conclusion of international agreements and the effective implementation of international law
- (e) Addressing governance issues in particular in fragile states so as to help build legitimate, effective and resilient public institutions and an active and organised civil society, and to enhance the protection of human rights.²²

In South Africa, special attention will be paid to:

- (a) Supporting the consolidation of a democratic society, good governance and a state governed by the rule of law and contributing to regional and continental stability and integration
- (b) Providing support to the adjustment efforts occasioned in the region by the establishment of free-trade areas under the Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement between the Community and South Africa and other regional agreements
- (c) Supporting the fight against poverty, inequality and exclusion
- (d) Addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic and its impacts on the South African society.²³

The DCI has a budget of € 16.9 billion of which € 10.06 billion is allocated to geographical programmes. The DCI Regulation specifies that non-state actors are eligible for funding under this financing instrument.²⁴

²⁰ DCI Article 7

²¹ DCI Article 7

²² DCI Article 8

²³ DCI Article 9

²⁴ DCI Article 24(1)

Given the fact that a significant number of countries which fall under the geographical scope of the DCI are either conflict or post-conflict countries, it is crucial that it is both conflict sensitive and includes support for peacebuilding and conflict prevention measures. In order to meet its development co-operation policy objectives, the EC needs to promote and implement measures which lead to sustainable peace between and within states, and that transform and resolve conflicts non-violently.

As stated above, in addition to the geographical programmes, the DCI also includes a series of thematic programmes on the following themes: human and social development ('Investing in People'), environment and the sustainable management of natural resources including energy, non-state actors and local authorities in development, food security, and migration and asylum. The DCI Regulation provides that the budget for thematic programmes for the period 2007 – 2013 will be € 5.6 billion of which € 465 million will be allocated in support of thematic activities which benefit the countries under the geographical scope of the ENPI.

The thematic programmes on human and social development and non-state actors in development are examined in the following section.

Thematic Programme on Non-state Actors and Local Authorities in Development (NSA-LA)

The overall objective of the Thematic Programme on Non-state Actors and Local Authorities in Development (NSA-LA) is 'to co-finance initiatives proposed and/or carried out by civil society organisations and local authorities originating from the Community and partner countries in the area of development.'²⁵

The DCI Regulation provides that NSA-LA will include support for the following activities:

- (a) Interventions in developing countries which strengthen participatory development and process and inclusion of all actors, support capacity development processes of all actors concerned, promote mutual understanding processes, facilitate citizens' active engagement in development processes and at strengthening their capacity to take action
- (b) Raising public awareness of development issues and promoting education for development in the Community and in acceding countries, to anchor development policy in European societies, to mobilise greater public support in the Community and acceding countries for action against poverty and for fairer relations between developed and developing countries, to raise awareness in the Community of the issues and difficulties facing developing countries and their peoples and to promote the social dimension of globalisation
- (c) Coordination and communication between civil society and local authority networks, within their organisations and between different types of stakeholders active in the European and global public debate on development.²⁶

The budget for NSA-LA is € 1.64 billion for the period 2007 – 2013 of which 85% will be allocated to NSAs.

Although the NSA-LA article of the DCI Regulation does not specify issues on which NSA-led work might be supported, the Commission communication on NSA-LA includes several references to conflict and post-conflict countries, conflict prevention and peacebuilding.²⁷ However, to date, large numbers of proposals for activities in the fields of peacebuilding and conflict prevention which have been submitted by specialised peacebuilding NGOs have been

²⁵ DCI Article 14(1)

²⁶ DCI Article 14(2)

²⁷ COM(2006) 19 final

rejected on the grounds that they did not meet the relevance criteria for the thematic programme. As stated above, a significant number of developing countries are either currently affected by conflict or are post-conflict countries. Therefore, it is extremely important that the resources available under NSA-LA are also accessible to specialised peacebuilding NGOs.

Thematic Programme on Investing in People (IiP)

The objective of the Thematic Programme 'Investing in People' (IiP) is 'to support actions in areas which directly affect people's living standards and well-being (...) and focusing on the poorest and least developed countries and the most disadvantaged sections of the population.'²⁸

The DCI Regulation provides that IiP will include support for the following activities:

- (1) Good health for all
- (2) Education, knowledge and skills
- (3) Gender equality
- (4) Other aspects of human and social development (culture, employment and social cohesion, and youth and children.)²⁹

Under the gender equality pillar, the DCI Regulation sets out the following activities to be supported:

- (i) The promotion of gender equality and women's rights, implementing global commitments as set out in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) and the UN Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), activities include:
 - Supporting programmes that contribute to achieving the objectives of the BPfA with a special emphasis on gender equality in governance and political and social representation and other actions to empower women
 - Strengthening institutional and operational capacities of key stakeholders, CSOs, women's organisations and networks in their endeavours to promote gender equality and economic and social empowerment, including north-south and south-south networking and advocacy
 - Including a gender perspective in monitoring and statistical capacity building, by supporting the development and dissemination of data and indicators disaggregated by sex, as well as gender equality data and indicators
 - Actions against violence against women.³⁰

The budget for IiP is € 1.06 billion for the period 2007 – 2013. According to the IiP Strategy Paper (2007 – 2010), five per cent of the resources available under this thematic programme will be allocated in support of the gender equality pillar.³¹

Neither the IiP article of the DCI Regulation nor the IiP Strategy Paper (2007 – 2010) includes any references to the issue of violence against women in conflict. Furthermore, they do not specifically acknowledge UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. Given the fact that a significant number of countries in which IiP is implemented are either conflict or post-conflict countries, it is extremely important that it both recognises the highly negative impact of violent conflict on the promotion of gender equality and women's rights and that the resources which are available under it are accessible to specialised peacebuilding NGOs.

²⁸ DCI Article 12(1)

²⁹ DCI Article 12(2)

³⁰ DCI Article 12(2)(c)

³¹ European Commission, Investing in People: Strategy Paper for the Thematic Programme 2007–2013, p. 20

EPLO Members

Berghof Conflict Research
Civil Society Conflict Prevention Network (KATU)
Conciliation Resources
Crisis Management Initiative
ESSEC IRÉNÉ
European Network for Civil Peace Services
Fractal
Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation
Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
International Alert
International Center for Transitional Justice
International Crisis Group
Interpeace
Kvinna till Kvinna
Life and Peace Institute
Nansen Dialogue Network
NGO Support Centre
Nonviolent Peaceforce
Partners for Democratic Change International
Pax Christi International
Quaker Council for European Affairs
Saferworld
Search for Common Ground
swisspeace
Toledo International Centre for Peace (CITpax)
World Vision International

European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)

EPLO is the platform of European NGOs, networks of NGOs and think tanks active in the field of peacebuilding, who share an interest in promoting sustainable peacebuilding policies among decision-makers in the European Union.

EPLO aims to influence the EU so it promotes and implements measures that lead to sustainable peace between states and within states and peoples, and that transform and resolve conflicts non-violently. EPLO wants the EU to recognise the crucial connection between peacebuilding, the eradication of poverty, and sustainable development world wide and the crucial role NGOs have to play in sustainable EU efforts for peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and crisis management.

EPLO advances the interests of its members through common policy positions and consequently advocating for those common positions. EPLO disseminates information and promotes understanding of EU policies of concern to its Members. The Office builds also solidarity and cooperation amongst its members and with other relevant NGO networks.

Finally, EPLO raises awareness about the contribution the EU should make to peacebuilding and the need to hold the EU accountable to its own political commitments of helping secure peace within and outside its borders.

About EPLO's Briefing Papers

EPLO's briefing papers are succinct and accessible guides to EU policies on conflict prevention, peacebuilding, security and development. Their purpose is to inform those working in the broader peacebuilding field about developments at the EU-level.

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