

Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN)

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a mechanism for dialogue between civil society and EU policy-makers on peace and conflict. It is co-financed by the European Union (Instrument for Stability) and the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), and managed by EPLO 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. It will contribute to strengthening EU and civil society capacity to anticipate, analyse, prevent and respond to threats to stability and human development posed by violent conflict and crisis.

CSDN events take the form of dialogue meetings and are usually open to all interested civil society actors. They take place in Brussels, EU Member States and conflict-affected countries with EU presence and are focused on:

- specific conflicts, including conflict analysis
- strategy, policy-making and programming EU peacebuilding and conflict prevention support
- thematic issues relating to conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

CSDN EVENTS FALL INTO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

Geographic Meetings, including Early Response Meetings and In-country Dialogue Meetings are designed to gather civil society analysis of the situation in a particular country and/or region affected by conflict(s) and/or in a situation of fragility:

- **Early Response Meetings** are meetings of civil society experts convened at short notice by EPLO at the request of EU policy-makers. They cover the following: situations of potential conflict (e.g. where early warning information is being received); ongoing/emerging/worsening conflicts; and immediate post-conflict situations. They are often short, off-the-record and bring together a small number of experts on the topic.

Early Response Meetings usually take place in Brussels.

- **In-country Dialogue Meetings** are designed to gather civil society analysis of the situation in a particular country and/or region affected by conflict(s) and/or in a situation of fragility, and in which the EU has a significant presence.

In-country Dialogue Meetings take place in the countries in question.

Policy Meetings channel contemporary thinking and evidence about effective responses to conflict into EU policy-making.

- **Policy Meetings** are focused on thematic issues related to peacebuilding, including, inter alia, the conflict-sensitivity of EU development assistance; EU support to peace processes, or to security sector reform; gender, peace and security etc. They also include meetings on the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and specific EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions.

Policy Meetings usually take place in Brussels.

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- **Funding Instruments Meetings** are designed to gather civil society input into the strategy and programming of the conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness component of the Instrument for Stability and Peace (IcSP). They can also serve as a forum for discussing the other components of the IcSP as well as the EU's other external funding instruments.

Funding Instruments Meetings usually take place in Brussels.

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- **Member State Meetings** are aimed at engaging with policy-makers in EU Member States on a range of thematic issues related to the EU's peacebuilding policies and practices. Each event is designed to reflect the most pertinent policy areas in the particular EU Member State at the given moment.

Member State Meetings take place in EU Member States.

Member State Meetings aim to mobilise Member States to support EU peacebuilding.

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- **The EU in International Peacebuilding Meetings** will cover the role of the EU in influencing the international policy framework for peacebuilding and the relationships between the EU and the United Nations (UN) and between the EU and the United States (US) (as well as potentially between the EU and other multilateral institutions and/or major emerging powers).

The EU in International Peacebuilding Meetings may take place in major international policy hubs, including Brussels, New York, Washington DC, Geneva or Addis Ababa.

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- **Training Seminars** are designed to increase civil society organisations' knowledge and understanding of the EU's peacebuilding policies and practices, and to enable them to engage in advocacy activities targeting EU policy-makers.

Training Seminars take place in Brussels and EU Member States.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CSDN EVENTS (INCLUDING THOSE EVENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING CSDN I (2010-2013)) IS AVAILABLE ON THE CSDN SECTION OF THE EPLO WEBSITE:

WWW.EPLO.ORG/CIVIL-SOCIETY-DIALOGUE-NETWORK