



Civil Society Dialogue Network Funding Instruments Meeting

EU support for local peacebuilding through the 'Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness' component of the NDICI-Global Europe Thematic Programme on Peace Stability and Conflict Prevention: Gathering civil society input'

Thursday 12 May 2022 (15.00-17.00), Online

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

Since 2007, the European Commission (EC) has been providing financial support to civil society peacebuilding actors in conflict-affected countries through, *inter alia*, the 'Conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness' (Article 4) component of the [Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace \(IcSP\)](#) and its predecessor the [Instrument for Stability \(IfS\)](#).

In 2017, the EC's [Service for Foreign Policy Instruments \(FPI\)](#), which managed both the IcSP and the IfS, asked the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) to organise a [Civil Society Dialogue Network Funding Instruments Meeting \(CSDN FIM\)](#) entitled '[Support to in-country CSO capacity building and initiatives in conflict prevention and peacebuilding](#)' in which representatives of international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) shared their experiences of applying for and managing various donors' support for in-country civil society organisation (CSO) capacity building and conflict prevention and peacebuilding (CPPB) initiatives, and made recommendations for future EU support in this area.

In June 2021, the European Parliament (EP) and the Council of the EU adopted the [Regulation establishing the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe \(NDICI-GE\)](#), which replaced various EU external funding instruments (EFIs), including the IcSP.

According to the [Multiannual Indicative Programme \(MIP\) 2021-2027 for the NDICI-GE Thematic Programme on Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention \(TP on PS&CP\)](#), which was adopted in December 2021, the EU's second priority is to 'Promote conflict prevention and conflict resolution measures, including by facilitating and building capacity in confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation processes'. In this context, it has defined the following specific objectives¹:

1. Local, national and regional conflict prevention and mitigation capacities in fragile countries or countries at risk of violent conflict are strengthened
2. Mediation, mediation support and facilitation of dialogues are increasingly and effectively used by the EU and other international, national and local actors in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, and in their aftermath to avoid re-emergence
3. Effectiveness of local, national and regional peace mediation actors, including civil society is strengthened with specific attention to women and women's organisations, as well as to youth.

¹ Emphasis added by EPLO

Objectives

The overall objective of this meeting is to gather CSO representatives' assessments of previous and ongoing EU support for local peacebuilding actors in conflict-affected countries and regions, and their recommendations for maximising the effectiveness of EU support under the NDICI-GE (2021-2027).

Format

The two-hour meeting will consist of two back-to-back plenary sessions under the Chatham House Rule on the Zoom platform.

In both sessions, all participants will be encouraged to exchange views.

Participants

The meeting will bring together 20-30 participants, including representatives from international, national and local CSOs and other experts, and officials from the EC.

Language

The meeting will be held in English. Interpretation into other languages may be provided if required.

Outputs

A report of the meeting will be shared with all participants and published on the EPLO website.

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 contributing to Stability and Peace). 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 fourth phase of the CSDN will last from 2020 to 2023. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).

DRAFT AGENDA

Thursday 12 May 2022

15.00 – 15.10	Introductory Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Ben Moore – European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)</i>• <i>Gaëlle Nizery – Unit for Stability and Peace – Crisis Response, Conflict Prevention and Peace Building (FPI 2), Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), European Commission (EC)</i>
15.10 – 16.00	Session 1: Civil society organisations' (CSOs) experiences of applying for and managing Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) funding for conflict prevention and peacebuilding (CPPB) actions in the EU's partner countries <p>The discussions in this session could be guided by the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What were the main achievements of the IcSP's in-country support to civil society-led peacebuilding actions?• What, if any, were obstacles and opportunities for local CSOs (as opposed to international governmental organisations (INGOs)) to apply for and manage IcSP grants?• How have CSOs and EU officials experienced the management of IcSP funding for sub-granting mechanisms/projects? <p><i>Introductory comments by</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Peter Brorsen – External Evaluator of IcSP CSO support</i>• <i>Eva Maria Troya Blanco – Finance and Contracts Cell, FPI Regional Team for the Middle East and North Africa</i> <p><i>Facilitation: Ben Moore – EPLO</i></p>
16.00 – 16.50	Session 2: Recommendations for NDICI-GE support to local CSO-led CPPB actions in the EU's partner countries <p>The discussions in this session could be guided by the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are there specific changes that the EU should consider in its NDICI-GE support to local CSO-led peacebuilding actions (e.g. choice of thematic and/or geographic priorities, selection and award processes, duration of grants, etc.)?• Are there examples of other funding programmes (either EU or non-EU) that have provided effective support to local CSO-led peacebuilding actions? What made them particularly effective?• Through which (innovative) modalities could NDICI-GE funding best be used to support local CSO-led peacebuilding actions in the EU's partner countries? <p><i>Introductory comments by: Angela Lella, FPI 2 & Peter Brorsen</i></p> <p><i>Facilitation: Ben Moore – EPLO</i></p>
16.50 – 17.00	Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Ben Moore – EPLO</i>

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