



Bu proje Avrupa Birliđi ve Türkiye Cumhuriyeti tarafından finanse edilmektedir
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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORT TO THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TURKEY CIVIL SOCIETY SUB-SECTOR PROGRAMMING 2016-2017

EU INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II) CIVIL SOCIETY SECTOR WORKSHOPS' REPORT



10 May 2017





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EU INSTRUMENT FOR PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE (IPA II)

CIVIL SOCIETY SECTOR WORKSHOPS' REPORT

Project Title and Number:	Technical Assistance for Support to the Preparation and Implementation of the Turkey Civil Society Sub-Sector Programming 2016-17 FWC BENEFICIARIES 2013 - LOT 7: Governance and Home Affairs EuropeAid/132633/C/SER/multi
Beneficiary Institution:	The Ministry for EU Affairs (MEU)
Activity Title:	Activity 5: Support to MEU to deliver a series of national and local workshops for CSOs to facilitate their participation in the programming and oversight of the civil society sub-sector plan.
Place of Implementation and Dates of Workshops	First National Workshop in Ankara (15/02/2017) Second National Workshop in İstanbul (30/03/2017)

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1. Project Introduction

“Technical Assistance for Support to the Implementation of the Turkey Civil Society Sub-sector Programming 2016/2017 Project” has been started on 25th of July 2016. The implementation period of this Framework Contract project is approximately 12 months. The project is co-financed by the European Union and the Republic of Turkey and the Contracting Authority is Central Finance and Contracts Unit (CFCU). The main beneficiary of the project is, as the Lead Institution for the civil society sub- sector, the Ministry for EU Affairs (MEU).

The global objective of the project is to ensure that the MEU is supported in the preparation and promotion of the implementation of the sub-sector programme for Civil Society.

Specific objectives are;

- To strengthen the capacities within the MEU for programming and preparing for the implementation of interventions to support civil society and beneficiary institutions in Turkey under Civil Society sub-sector.
- To support the MEU and other proposed Beneficiary Institutions (Prime Ministry Directorate General of Foundations, Department of Associations of the Ministry of Interior) in the preparation of technical documents for the implementation of activities.
- To enhance the participation of CSOs in the process of programming and design of interventions under the sub-sector.
- To establish a framework for raising awareness among CSOs and other key stakeholders to the range of support available under the Civil Society sub-sector programme.

Main activities are

1. Desk Review
2. Preparation and Presentation of the Inception Report to the Key Stakeholders with a Roundtable Meeting
3. Establishment of a Consultation Mechanism and Delivery of a Communication Strategy and Implementation Plan
4. Provision of a Range of Templates to MEU to promote the Civil Society sub-sector
5. Support to MEU to deliver a Series of National and Local Workshops for CSOs (3 National Level Workshops; 4 Local Workshops)
6. Support to two Proposed Beneficiary Institutions in Civil Society Sub-sector to assist them in drafting Terms of Reference
7. Organisation of a three-day Training for Relevant Public Institutions
8. Revision of Sector Planning Document (2014-17) for Civil Society Sub-sector

The project implementation has been managed by the MEU with the support of the Project Team, comprised of a Team Leader and a Communication Expert.





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2. Brief Activity Description

As it is indicated in the Terms of References (ToR), as per the following requirements, under the 2.3 Requested Services – Activity 5, the first two workshops were organised in Ankara and in Istanbul;

*“Support to MEU to deliver a series of national and local workshops for CSOs to facilitate their participation in the programming and oversight of the civil society sub-sector plan. **Three national level workshops** (one day for each) should be designed for approximately 150 participants (for each workshop), with effective promotion of the event and an inclusive process for participation of the CSOs. The national workshops may be at different location in Turkey and should ensure maximum visibility for the support offered by the sub-sector plan and the role of the MEU. One of the national workshops is proposed to be held in Ankara. Provision of an effective moderation will be important for all these workshops.”*

The First Workshop announced from the MEU website and CSOs networks, such as Civil Society Dialogue - CSD Programme, Sivil Düşün, Civil Society Development Center (STGM). All CSOs’ applications were electronically received and the participants were selected based on the criteria listed below which were announced on the Ministry’s web-site

- To have knowledge on EU accession process and EU financial assistance
- To be a partner in national and international cooperation platforms, networks and/or programs.

The application date of the participants had also been respected to finalise the list of participants.

The First Workshop was conducted on 15/02/2017 in Ankara, Mövenpick Hotel, in line with the Agenda (please see Annex 1: Agenda of the First Workshop) with 172 participants, 54 of them attended from out of Ankara (please see Annex 2: List of Participants).





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In the Second Workshop, an electronic invitation letter sent to all CSOs who had previously applied to participate in the First Workshop, but could not be invited due to budget constraints identified in the ToR. Besides, a similar letter of invitation also sent to CSOs in İstanbul experienced in EU Projects. In this regard, The participants of the Consortium project's (Strengthening Civil Society Development and Civil Society-Public Sector Cooperation in Turkey, 2011/0135.07) partners, CSD project beneficiaries, CSOs conducted EUD projects, TACSO National Advisory Board members, rights-based CSOs have been invited to the workshops. In addition, the CSO representatives who have been trained by the MEU in Antalya, have been invited to the Workshop in İstanbul as a complementary activity to their capacity building processes.

The Second Workshop was conducted on 30/03/2017 in İstanbul, Barbaros Point Hotel, in line with the Agenda (please see Annex 3: Agenda of the Second Workshop) with 159 participants, 54 of them attended from out of İstanbul. (Please see Annex 4: List of Participants).



Confirmed participants from other provinces out of place of workshops were contacted to arrange the travel details. Transportation and accommodation costs of those participants were covered by the Project.

The printed materials including invitation letter and agenda together with the stage, registration desk and signboards were designed and produced according to the EU visibility rules.

Copies of "Civil Society Sector Planning Document" (SPD), "EU Support for CSOs in the Framework of EU Grant Programmes Booklet", project visibility materials were distributed to all participants within a Project Folder.



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3. Scope of Workshops: Presentation and Discussions

Both workshops started with registration and continued with morning sessions with welcoming speeches.

In the first Workshop, the welcoming speeches were conducted by Mr. Gabriel MUNUERA VINALS, Deputy Head of Delegation, Delegation of the European Union to Turkey, Dr. Mehmet CANGİR, Deputy Undersecretary, Ministry for EU Affairs and Mr. Bülent ÖZCAN, Director of Project Implementation.



In the Second Workshop, the welcoming speeches were conducted by Mr. Ahmet ÖNAL, İstanbul Governorate, Deputy Governor, Ambassador Selim YENEL, Acting Undersecretary, Ministry for EU Affairs and Mr. Bülent ÖZCAN, Director of Project Implementation.

Morning sessions in both workshops continued with the MEU Experts presentations on

- Civil Society Sector and Programming Process: In this presentation, programming under the civil society sub-sector and priorities are expressed along with the expected contributions from the CSOs. It is also intended to increase their understanding and potential future capacity to actively contribute in this programming process, main policy papers (Sector Planning Document – SPD; Country Strategy Paper - CSP). Institutional structure are also briefly elaborated.
- EU Financial Assistance for CSOs: The new funding mechanisms and opportunities are briefly presented for the IPA-II Period along with the supports of TACSO, STGM and Sivil Düşün.

Morning sessions concluded with questions and feedbacks by the CSOs along with the answers by the MEU, mainly in the following issues;

In the afternoon sessions of both Workshops, the participants were divided into the three groups and they have discussed the following questions in three different meeting room and provided their comments and feedbacks. The experts from MEU, TAT and STGM moderated these three parallel sessions.

All discussions and feedbacks during the workshops were collated, grouped and presented by group representatives from the CSOs (one male and female participants) in the bigger meeting room. Summary of the discussions were presented below.



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Workshop Questions and Main Highlights

1. What are the needs and priorities of the CSOs at national, international and local levels?

- *Institutional Capacity Building*
 - Training
 - To increase volunteerism and human resources
 - To improve physical conditions of the CSOs
 - Academic support
- *Financing*
 - Overcome financial problems (rent, salaries, personnel issues, etc.)
 - Fund raising
 - Simplification of grant programs' support mechanism
 - Solving the co-financing issue
 - Need for non-project based fund raising
 - Transparency for the support mechanism of non-EU finance sources
- *Strengthening the Public Sector – CSO – Private Sector cooperation*
 - Efficient communication and cooperation with the Public Sector
 - Strengthening the independence of the CSOs
 - Needs for legislative framework
 - Orienting the CSOs to umbrella organizations to be trained in lobbying for increasing their national and international recognition / reputation
 - Accessing the records of Ministry of Interior, Department of Associations
 - Recognition of the CSOs by the public sector
 - Need for ensuring the public objectivity
- *Developing the culture of volunteerism*
 - Developing the consciousness of volunteerism
 - Management of volunteerism

2. How are these priorities of CSOs addressed / satisfied?

- *Institutional Capacity Building*
 - Support by various instruments (grants, technical support, training etc.)
 - Trainings on how to find volunteers, auditing, performance, legislation, strategical planning, coordination-communication, proposal writing, social media etc.
 - Provision of office equipment
 - Promoting volunteerism
 - Identification of reason of low level of CSO membership / participation in civil society activities
 - Developing the mentoring system
 - Involvement of universities to the civil society field
 - Facilitating technical support
 - Civil society newspaper either printed or electronic
 - Using a simple and understandable language in writing the projects
 - Disseminating good practices
 - Increasing volunteerism



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- *Financing*
 - Ensuring financial sustainability
 - Increasing the transparency of public funds
 - Increasing the fund raising capacity
 - Increasing the support of local administrations
 - Developing grant programmes to prioritize disadvantaged CSOs / rural parts of Turkey
 - Simplification of grant programmes' procedures (both application and implementation)
 - Supporting the activists, platforms and social initiatives
 - Promoting micro-grant programmes
 - Early announcement of grant programmes and allocation of sufficient time for the potential applicants / partners to prepare their projects
 - Developing alternative solutions for co-financing; Possibility of involvement of private sector in the EU grant projects should be considered.
 - Preparing follow-up grant programmes for increasing sustainability of the previous programmes and impact prospects
 - Grant applications should be submitted in Turkish language.
 - Long and two-phases of grant projects' evaluation process have resulted in respective problems and frustrations for the applicants. Evaluation process should be shortened.
 - *Strengthening the Public Sector - CSO - Private Sector Cooperation*
 - Establishing consultation mechanisms and commissions in local and national levels
 - Increasing the efficiency of the existing local commissions
 - Revision of the public policies and implementations
 - Establishing a public office / focal points for the CSOs to consult at local level
 - Simplifying the procedures to improve communication among the parties
 - Establishing CSO units in every Ministry
 - *Legal Environment*
 - Establishing consultation mechanisms and commissions in local and national levels
 - Improving and enabling the legal environment for CSOs
- 3. How do the CSOs provide support to the civil society sector programming process? Which method/tools CSOs propose to give their feedbacks on programming process?**
- *Meetings*
 - Thematic meetings
 - Consultation committees
 - Experts groups
 - Workshops ensuring to receive CSO contributions in accordance with their geographical, thematic categorisation and their operational capacities
 - Face to face communication
 - *Online Studies*
 - Developing online support mechanism for participating in the programming process
 - Developing online training modules
 - Webinar
 - e-mail group



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- Civil Society Sector web-sites (including CSO database, joint announcement platform for the calls for grants, partner search engine etc.)
- Online dialogue meetings
- Social media
- Establishing a communication network by using the facilitation of the MEU
- *Local/Regional Studies*
 - Creating joint platforms for local CSOs - public sector - private sector actors (after review of best practices in EU)
 - Developing local communication mechanisms
 - Appointing regional / local representatives among the CSOs
 - Organising regular regional meetings and studies
 - Increasing the number of local experts
 - Increasing the effectiveness of Provincial Directorates of Department of Associations (Ministry of Interior)
- *Strengthening the cooperation among Public Sector-CSOs-Private Sector*
 - Ensuring strong and efficient communication with the public sector
 - Ensuring more effective cooperation with CSOs by the increasing level of knowledge in the public sector about IPA's sector approach and functions
 - Strengthening the independence of CSOs against the public institutions
 - Creating a joint and strong structure by developing the regional/thematic partnerships and developing the culture of working together with CSOs
- *CSOs in the Programming Process*
 - Researches on how CSOs can effectively contribute to the process
 - Provision of feedbacks to the CSOs on to what extent their contributions are integrated for the programming process
 - Organizing continuous consultancy meetings with CSOs on each of four priority areas of Sectoral Planning Document (SPD)
 - Including CSOs to the preparation of grant call for proposals/project design (in identification of priority areas, activities to be supported etc.)
 - Joint assessments of previous experiences, lessons learned of the CSOs projects
- *Strengthening the MEU*
 - Strengthening the local organization of MEU to accelerate the local consultancy mechanism
 - Increasing number of MEU branch offices in provinces
 - Strengthening cooperation between the Ministry of Development and MEU on the civil society support
 - Assign contact person in the MEU to communicate with CSOs
 - Organizing more trainings by MEU for CSOs
 - Increasing the number of workshops, meetings, training programmes on capacity building and proposal writing by the MEU
- *Others*
 - Questionnaires
 - Other innovative technological instruments utilised by UN for the sustainable development for exchanging views and comments
 - Making clear definitions for terminological concepts like civil society, active citizenship and framework programmes



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4. What would be the project proposals of the programming process of civil society sector in the next phase (2014-2020)?

- Projects on assessing the needs for the legal infrastructure and improving the legal framework
- Project on establishing a legislative framework for volunteerism
- Strengthening the collaborations of public sector-CSO, CSO-CSO and CSO-private sector, public-private-universities and projects enabling in improvement of collaboration of them, and development of cooperation modalities
- Project ensuring effective dialogue among the actors (public-private-CSOs-universities)
- Project ensuring accessible, current and reliable data on civil society field
- Grant programmes for awareness raising
- Thematic grant programmes, i.e. supports for renewable energy and supports for vocational training, cross sectoral supports (i.e. joint projects / programmes, between sectors, cultural and environmental issues)
- Grant programmes for grassroots
- Increasing the consciousness of civil society in the university context and supporting mutual CSO-University projects to promote student / youth employment
- Support for financial sustainability and increased cooperation and generating strong foundations towards philanthropy.

The workshop closing speeches were also conducted by Mr. Selim YENEL, Ambassador, Acting Undersecretary, Ministry for EU Affairs.





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Conclusion

In all sessions, almost all participants have expressed their high level of satisfaction on the information provided, organisation, hospitality of the MEU, open and transparent way of communication, despite of the difficulties in understanding the terminology of presentations and sophisticated EU procedure. The participants have also conveyed their interest to attend to similar events, training programmes which would better increase efficiency, if they are regularly and frequently organised and prior information, documentation and expectations from participants are better communicated / formulated, i.e. contribution from CSOs to the programming process will be communicated and sector documents, policy papers are distributed in advance etc.



The importance and need of organising such long-term (preferably 2-3 days) meetings / workshops especially at local level have also been underlined.

Great interest has been shown by the CSOs to these two workshops and they are more successful than anticipated as an important initiative conducted by the MEU for the IPA-II period after identification of the civil society as a sub-sector.

Considering the different profiles of the participants, the dialogue between the CSO representatives from various parts of the society and the provinces, which has been preserved till the end of the workshops, is regarded as an important achievement, that can also be interpreted as an open and enabling environment for mutual understanding.

It has been observed that many recommendation, new project ideas and potential areas of work in the civil society sub-sector, which are presented below; have been expressed by CSOs even though the participation and their contributions would be expected as limited in such a technical process of EU programming.

It is estimated that similar studies and workshops will increase the participation and contribution of CSOs to the civil society sub-sector programming processes, bring about new project ideas and create an enabling environment in the context of public-CSO cooperation.

You can send your contributions and/or comments about Report to siviltoplumsektoru@gmail.com