



February 2011

Civil Society Facility (CSF) - People 2 People Programme (P2P)

Introduction



In line with the Communication of the European Commission (EC) "Western Balkans: enhancing the European perspective" of 5 March 2008, the Directorate General for Enlargement of the EC launched a new strategy towards civil society - the "Civil Society Facility" (CSF). This initiative foresees support both at national and multi-beneficiary levels and consists of three strands, which together aim to strengthen civil society's role in the democratic process:

- Technical Assistance (TACSO) to civic and capacity-building initiatives to enforce the role of civil society;
- a **People 2 People Programme** (P2P) supporting visits to EU institutions and bodies to exchange experience, know-how and good practices between beneficiaries, EU and Member States civil society organisations (CSOs) and
- Partnership Actions carried out between beneficiary and EU CSOs, leading to a transfer of know-how and the realisation of innovative trans-national projects.

In designing the new facility various stakeholders, including beneficiaries, Member States, donors, CSOs and other EC services, have been consulted in order to construct a useful tool responding adequately to the needs of civil society in the region. The second strand - the **People 2 People Programme** - has been launched in 2008, and the other two strands became operational in 2009.

The aims of the People 2 People Programme (P2P)

- to help the beneficiary CSOs to familiarise themselves with the EU institutions and the decision-making process, as well as with key EU policies, legislation and programmes;
- to offer the opportunity to CSOs to interact and network with their national, regional and European-level counterparts and to create new partnerships and
- to stimulate civic participation in the beneficiary countries and in the region.

Target groups

The **P2P Programme** covers the following candidate countries and potential candidates to EU accession: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo¹, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey as well as Iceland.

The **P2P Programme** targets all layers of civil society of the beneficiaries mentioned above. These groups can be, amongst others: employers associations; trade unions; NGOs dealing with acquis-related subjects, such as equal opportunities, non discrimination, employment, children rights, youth, etc.; organisations active in the cultural, artistic, educational and linguistic fields; human rights groups, including minorities defence groups, legal aid offices, etc; farmers associations; representatives of religion-based associations; consumer associations; health-related civil society organisations, etc.

Since the beginning of the **P2P Programme** more than 2000 representatives of CSOs have participated in more than 60 **P2P Programme** study tours, interacting on topics such as agriculture and rural development, the role of civil society in EU policy making, women in business, intercultural dialogue, social dialogue and employment policy, climate change and renewable energies, people with disabilities, youth, organised crime and corruption etc.

¹ Under UNSCR 1244/1999

Types of activities of the P2P Programme (P2P)

The Programme mainly entails the organisation of:

1) **Multi-country study tours**, where 3-5 representatives per beneficiary are invited to Brussels or other venues of EU institutions. In this case the participants have similar professional backgrounds but come from all over the region. The aim of these visits is to build up regional and European networking. The working language of these events is English.

2) **Single country events** focusing on the same beneficiary with the objective of stimulating and strengthening dialogue and cooperation among interested parties. They are organised in the region. The working language of these events can be English and one or more local languages.



Selection procedure

a. Selection of topics

The topics under the **P2P Programme** are defined by the Directorate General for Enlargement, in accordance with the political, legislative or social priorities established in relation to the targeted region and beneficiaries, taking into account proposals from the European Union Delegations.

b. Selection of participants

The selection of participants for the study tours and single country events is conducted by the Directorate General for Enlargement with the assistance of the European Union Delegations.

Logistics

Once the topics, target group and the programme for a study tour have been established, the Directorate General for Enlargement deals with all the organisational, logistical and financial aspects of the study tour, such as transport and accommodation (if required).

Activities of the P2P Programme

For the year 2011 the **P2P Programme** foresees around 30 events. At least 10 of them will be single country events.

For further details, please consult the TAIEX web site:

P2P 2011 planning http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix/p2p/planning_en.htm.

Contacts:

For further questions relating to the P2P Programme, please contact us at: Elarg-CSF-P2P@ec.europa.eu

or consult our website: http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/taix/pdf/p2p/p2p-leaflet_en.pdf