

to Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multi-country multiannual action plan on an EU Civil Society Facility and Media Programme in favour of the Western Balkans and Turkey for 2021-2023

Action Document for “EU Civil Society Facility and Media Programme for the Republic of Turkey for 2021-2023”

1. SYNOPSIS

1.1. Action Summary Table

Title	EU Civil Society Facility and Media Programme for the Republic of Turkey 2021-2023 Multi-country multiannual action plan on an EU Civil Society Facility and Media Programme in favour of the Western Balkans and Turkey for 2021-2023
CRIS/OPSYS number	IPA III/2021/043-102/08
Basic Act	Financed under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III)
Team Europe Initiative	No
Zone benefiting from the action	Turkey
Programming document	IPA III Programming Framework
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
Window and thematic priority	Window 1. Rule of law, fundamental rights and democracy Thematic Priority 5: Fundamental rights (with reference to media - freedom of expression) Thematic Priority 7: Civil Society
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	SDG 01: No Poverty SDG 05: Gender Equality SDG 08: Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 10: Reduce Inequalities SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities SDG 13: Climate Action SDG 16: Peace Justice and Strong Institutions (Main SDG) SDG 17: Partnership for the Goal
DAC code(s)	15150 Democratic participation and civil society 15153 Media and free flow of information
Main Delivery Channel	20000 Non Governmental Organisations and Civil Society 41000 United Nations agency, fund or commission (UN) 47000 - Other multilateral institution

Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internal markers	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	COVID-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
Amounts concerned	<p>Budget line: 15.020101.01</p> <p>Total estimated cost:</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 67 000 000.00</p> <p>2021: EUR 16 000 000.00</p> <p>2022: EUR 25 800 000.00</p> <p>2023: EUR 25 200 000.00</p> <p>The EU contribution is for an amount of EUR 16 000 000.00 from the general budget of the European Union for financial year 2021 and for an amount of EUR 25 800.000.00 from the general budget of the European Union for financial year 2022 and for an amount of EUR 25 200 000.00 from the general budget of the European Union for financial year 2023, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.</p>			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
Type of financing	Project Modality			

and method(s) of implementation	<p>Direct management through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grants - Procurement <p>Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.2.3.</p> <p>Indirect management with ILO and UNICEF</p>
Relevant priorities and flagships from Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans	NA
Final date for concluding contribution / delegation agreements, procurement and grant contracts	<p>For 2021 Budget: At the latest by 31 December 2022</p> <p>For 2022 Budget: At the latest by 31 December 2023</p> <p>For 2023 Budget: At the latest by 31 December 2024</p>
Indicative operational implementation period	72 months following the adoption of the Financing Decision

1.2. Summary of the Action

The **overall objective** of this action is to foster a functioning pluralistic, participatory and representative democracy and the consolidation of a resilient civil society by promoting a culture of fundamental rights and dialogue. It will target rights-based CSOs. The action will focus on strengthening operational capacities of CSOs; improving CSO's advocacy and monitoring for human and fundamental rights; enhancing the right to freedom of expression, access to information and to strengthen pluralism by supporting media actors; and improving cooperation between CSOs and local authorities. By improving the capacities of CSOs working on the relevant areas, the action will allow the promotion and protection of human and fundamental rights, including gender equality, rights of groups belonging to minorities and in vulnerable situations, children's rights, rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Non-binary, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ) people, and labour rights. It will address political, ethnic and social polarisation in Turkey and contribute to reducing inequalities and fostering social cohesion. It will also contribute to implementing the EU Green Deal¹ by supporting CSOs initiatives in the field and enhance the capacities of CSOs working on disaster management.

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Context Analysis

The European Union (EU) support to civil society in Turkey is guided by several policy documents. The Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries for 2014-2020 state: "Support to civil society within the enlargement policy should be focused on enabling and stimulating participatory democracy. This should be reflected in two main goals: achieving an environment that is conducive to civil society activities and building the capacity of CSOs to be effective and accountable independent actors".² The Revised 2014-2020 Indicative Strategy Paper for

¹ COM(2019) 640 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1576150542719&uri=COM%3A2019%3A640%3AFIN>

² Guidelines for EU support to Civil Society and Media in the enlargement region were in place for the period 2014-2020, and are currently being updated for the period 2021-2027. The actions under the 2021-2023 CSF are aligned with these documents. https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/52526/guidelines-eu-support-civil-society-enlargement-countries-2014-2020_en

Turkey defined three objectives for EU support to civil society in Turkey: (1) Support the development of civil society, allowing its more active participation in democratic policy and decision-making processes; (2) Promote a culture of fundamental rights and dialogue; and (3) Enhance civil society dialogue and inter-cultural exchange between civil societies in Turkey and Europe.³ The three objectives remain valid and consistent with the shortcomings highlighted in the Commission's 2021 Turkey report⁴. Given the shrinking civic space in Turkey, it is a challenge for Turkey's civil society to maintain a level of resilience, securing resources and a certain level of engagement. This action will support building resilience of civil society organisations (CSOs), especially targeting rights-based CSOs.

2.2. Problem analysis by areas of support

CSOs are at the heart of any country's democratisation process. An independent, pluralistic and competent civil society is crucial for any democracy. By articulating citizens' concerns, CSOs represent and nurture pluralism and contribute to more effective and inclusive policies. CSOs can also play an active role in fostering dialogue, peace and conflict resolution. Over the past years, the not-for-profit sector in Turkey has grown in size. The legal framework regulates the establishment and working of civil society organisations with respective laws for two main legal forms: associations and foundations. As of September 2020, there were around 126,753 associations and 5,352 foundations operating alongside informal organisations such as platforms, initiatives, and groups. According to data provided by the Directorate General for Relations with Civil Society, as of September 2020, out of all CSOs registered, only 1.23% (1,494 associations) focus on the promotion and protection of rule of law, democracy and human rights.

The ability of CSOs to participate in different domains of public life depends on a set of preconditions commonly referred to as the 'CSO enabling environment', for which different actors carry responsibility. To operate, CSOs need a functioning democratic legal and judicial system, giving them the de jure and de facto right to associate and secure funding, coupled with freedom of expression, access to information and participation in public life. The primary responsibility to ensure these basic conditions lies with the state. Although the 11th National Development Plan of Turkey (2019-2023) includes under pillar 5 "rule of law, democratisation and good governance" the objective to strengthen civil society, the reality is that the overall space for rights-based CSOs continues to shrink under unrelenting political pressure and an increasingly restrictive regulatory framework.

In the 2020 Turkey report⁵, the European Commission states: "*Civil society organisations remained excluded from legislative consultation processes in parliamentary committees. Systematic and inclusive mechanisms for consulting a wide spectrum of civil society organisations, notably on new legislation and policies need to be in place. Administrative difficulties for national and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) remained in place.*"

The Report also states that "*Serious backsliding continued on freedom of expression... Heavy pressure on freedom of expression and intimidation of the media continued as in previous years, with arrests, detentions, prosecutions, convictions and dismissals of media staff leading to censorship and self-censorship among media professionals.*" According to the 2021 Turkey report the situation continues to deteriorate and the "*space for foreign donors, which provide financial support to civil society in Turkey under current Turkish legislation, is increasingly shrinking*".

Latest developments include on 27 December 2020 the adoption of the Law on "Preventing financing of proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction", introducing restrictions and strict oversight rules on the CSOs' activities and in March 2021 the withdrawal of Turkey from the Istanbul Convention (Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence) by Presidential Decree.

The main challenges Turkish CSOs are facing⁶:

- Legal and administrative framework: despite several positive changes initiated over the last decade regarding the overall legal framework for civil society and citizenship, interpretations of existing legislation generate bureaucratic burdens that hamper CSOs' operations while limiting freedom of expression, freedom of association

³ C(2018) 5067 final, <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/20180817-revised-indicative-strategy-paper-2014-2020-for-turkey.pdf>

⁴ SWD(2021) 290 final/2, https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/turkey-report-2021_en

⁵ SWD(2020) 355 final, https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/turkey_report_2020.pdf

⁶ For references on the main challenges for civil society in Turkey see "Assessment on the State of the Enabling Environment and Capacities of Civil Society against the Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in Enlargement countries, 2014-2020" drafted by TACSO 3 (<http://tacso.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Regional-CS-Needs-Assessment-Report-2018-2019-final.pdf>); "Outlook Of Freedom Of Association In Turkey" by STGM (<https://www.stgm.org.tr/sites/default/files/migrationfiles/stgmduyuruen-files/017962/000008416-outlook-of-freedom-of-association-in-turkey.pdf>) the "Monitoring Matrix on Enabling Environment for Civil Society 2019 Turkey Report by TUSEV (<https://www.tusev.org.tr/usrfiles/images/MM2019Ingilizce14072020.pdf>).

and freedom of peaceful assembly. More importantly, measures taken in the specific context of the post-coup attempt and subsequent State of Emergency (in place between July 2016 and July 2018) restricted CSOs and citizens' ability to operate independently drastically. Specific categories of CSOs and activists, notably those operating in areas characterised by a deterioration of the security situation or tackling sensitive issues, face constraints on access to funds, intimidation or, in extreme cases, suspension and closure of organisations as well as detention of leaders.

- Media professionals and organisations working on Freedom of Expression continue to be subject to arrests, detentions, prosecutions, convictions and dismissals, leading to censorship and self-censorship.
- Limited political support and public policy recognition of civil society as legitimate actor for a democratic system with checks and balances;
- Lack of consistent and structured cooperation with public administration for policy dialogue and decision making;
- Limited opportunities for structured and sustainable cooperation with municipalities and local authorities;
- Lack of effective implementation of Law on Right to Access Information;
- Lack of access to monitoring decision making processes, policy development and implementation at different levels due to lack of public administrations' policy and capacity to include CSOs,
- Limited financial sustainability: CSOs working on rights advocacy largely rely on donor support for their operations.
- Shrinking space for freedom of speech and media, inducing also to self-censorship.
- Geographic discrepancies as the majority of CSOs is registered in urban areas.
- Limited capacities for collaboration and networking among CSOs is not widespread as organisations often compete for funding and are reflecting the highly divided Turkish society.
- Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic had mixed consequences on CSOs in Turkey: while some had to struggle with the challenges and costs associated with the necessary digital transformation of their organisations, others saw an opportunity for enhanced monitoring of civil and human rights.
- The ability of CSOs and active citizens/activists to perform is also hampered by their own limitations as they usually face limited financing capacity as well as internal governance challenges such as lack of representativeness, transparency and conflict of leadership. The lack of adequate expertise (particularly in the legal and policy fields) is one of the major issues for CSOs in Turkey whereas their social basis, members and volunteers is particularly low.

Description of main stakeholders

The main stakeholders of this action are Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), media actors, human rights activists, UN agencies, Member States cooperation agencies and Turkish citizens.

Complementarity with national strategies

While national documents, including the 11th National Development Plan and the Annual Presidential Programme, underline the importance of cooperation with CSOs and their participation in decision-making processes, there is no policy or strategy that defines and encourages cooperation and participation modalities. Within the Presidential Government System, there is no overarching policy, national strategy or legal framework that governs civil society and government relations and there is no institution or mechanism that is mandated to facilitate, monitor and report on civil society and government relations. Presidential Decree No. 17 established the Directorate General for Relations with Civil Society under the Ministry of Interior and abolished the Department of Associations. The regulation on the organisation and duties of the Directorate General for Relations with Civil Society came into force on 10 October 2018 and put forward targets to improve the civil society environment. A "Civil Society Strategic Document" is under preparation whereas the "Civil Society Advisory Board" was established within the MoI, and the first meeting of the board was held on 27 November 2020. Based on the challenges identified above, this action does not focus on supporting a conducive environment. The action has further limited complementarity or link to the IPA III Programming Framework, the Strategic Response or any National strategy or policy with respect to Civil Society.

2.3. Relevance and complementarity with strategies supported by key national stakeholders

Following the interruption of funds programmed in Indirect Management with Beneficiary Country (IMBC) since 2017, the only action in support of civil society under the IPA II National Programme is on civic engagement and volunteerism (2020 allocations). The action will be carried out in indirect management with an entrusted entity (UNDP). Complementarity will be ensured with activities programmed under this AD involving cooperation with municipalities and support to NGOs working on environment/climate change. This action has limited complementarity or link to the IPA III Programming Framework, the Strategic Response or any National strategy or policy with respect to Civil Society.

Under IPA III, 2021 funds, an action on Women Friendly Cities to be implemented by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is being programmed. Complementarity with activities in support to women and girls programmed under this Action Document will be ensured during the design and implementation phases.

2.4. Relevance and complementarity with EU policy and EU and other donors' assistance

Since 2014 the European Union's support to civil society in Turkey was programmed in line with the "Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-2020". The Guidelines state, among other principles, that: "support to civil society within the enlargement policy should be focused on enabling and stimulating participatory democracy. This should be reflected in two main goals: achieving an environment that is conducive to civil society activities and building the capacity of CSOs to be effective and accountable independent actors." The Guidelines are currently under revision to be adapted to the new programming cycle 2021-2027. Activities will also directly contribute to the implementation of the EU Action Plan for Human Rights and Democracy 2020-2024⁷, the European Democracy Action Plan⁸ and the Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Action 2021-2025 (GAP III)⁹. Activities under this Action Document will contribute to Sustainable Development Goals: 5 - Gender Equality; 8 - Decent work and Economic Growth; 10 - Reduced Inequalities; 11 - Sustainable cities and Communities; 13 - Climate Action; 16 - Peace Justice and Strong Institutions; 17 - Partnership for the Goal.

The Action will also support Turkish CSOs in monitoring Turkey's fulfilment of the accepted recommendations of the 2015 Universal Periodic Review (UPR), notably (i) to investigate all complaints of harassment and persecution against human rights defenders and non-governmental organisations, and sanction those responsible and (ii) to guarantee the right to freedom of expression, including freedom of the press, association and peaceful assembly and to align its legislation with its obligations and commitments based on relevant international law. The action may also assist Turkey in meeting some of the accepted recommendations of the UPR in 2020. This action will be implemented in synergy and complementarity with actions funded under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and the future thematic line of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), to stimulate development and consolidation of democracy, rule of law and human rights.

The priorities supported by this action are in line with the geopolitical priorities of the current Von der Leyen Commission, contributing to the EU Green Deal, Digitalisation and promoting EU values in external actions. Turkey is not traditionally aid recipient, with very few exceptions related to refugees assistance. EU Member States such as Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands are supporting CSOs within the framework of human rights and support to refugees programmes. Complementarity with project and programmes managed by EU Member States development agencies in Turkey will be pursued while designing the projects and during implementation.

In addition, Turkey will be associated to the Erasmus+ programme and the European Solidarity Corps programmes for the new programming period (2021-2027) on an equal footing with EU Member States. Erasmus+ support mobility and cooperation projects at all levels of education (schools, vocational institutions, universities, adult education organisations, youth organisations, sport associations...). Turkish CSOs are involved in international projects strengthening their links to European peers and modernising their working methods thanks to EU funding. Turkey is associated the European Solidarity Corps since 2018 which finances volunteering projects in Europe and beyond.

2.5. Lessons learned and links with previous financial assistance

Two main reasons motivated the Delegation of the European Union to Turkey (EUD) in the past years to increasingly use the "support to third parties" modality: firstly, feedback from the field confirmed the need to maximise the outreach to small organisations that are not able to access EU funding directly or which are hindered by language barriers. Secondly, the need to provide specialised capacity building through implementing partners according to their mandate and technical specialisation. This was in line with the findings of the mid-term evaluation of Civil Society Facility and Media Programme 2016, which stated that under future CSF actions the EUD should *promote the integration of sub-grant mechanisms*.¹⁰ This approach allowed, furthermore, to keep the increased amount available under the CSF manageable by the team in the EUD. Central to the "support to third parties" approach is the combination of financial support with capacity building. Capacity-building activities cover different aspects: raising

⁷ JOIN/2020/5 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020JC0005>

⁸ COM/2020/790 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2020%3A790%3AFIN&qid=1607079662423>

⁹ JOIN(2020) 17 final, https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/join-2020-17-final_en.pdf

¹⁰ Mid-term Evaluation of Actions funded under the Civil Society Facility and Media Programme 2016 – Turkey Component.

and managing funds, developing visibility tools, conducting advocacy and lobby campaigns and developing strategic approaches to advance fundamental rights, to mention a few. An evaluation of the support to third parties provided under the CSF in Turkey is ongoing. The outcomes of the evaluation will feed into the design of the activities foreseen under this Action Document.

Building on the experiences stemming from the Networks and Platform Call for Proposal under CSF 2018/2019 and to promote the inclusion of civil society as cross-cutting into other sectors, this action will increase funds allocated to areas traditionally less targeted through the CSF, such as environment, climate change, disaster management, employment and labour rights.

Finally, the COVID19 pandemic has pointed out the need for CSOs to improve their capacities to use digital tools. Furthermore, the pandemic has shown the need for a closer cooperation between municipalities/local authorities and CSOs in providing essential services to citizens. This action will seek to enhance cooperation between municipalities and CSOs in several sub-areas where the involvement of local communities in public policies can have potentially a high impact and lead to sustainability of actions; namely: environment and climate change, disaster management, social cohesion and cultural initiatives.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1. Planned results and intervention logic

The Action has the following intervention logic:

IF CSOs' and media actors' operational and professional capacities are strengthened (*output*) AND the assumptions hold true, THEN they will lead to an enhanced Civil society's resilience and capacity to advance human and fundamental rights (*outcome*).

If Civil society's resilience and capacity to advance human and fundamental rights are enhanced (*outcome*) AND assumptions hold true, THEN the intervention will contribute to the consolidation of a resilient civil society through advocacy and community-building engagement and by promoting a culture of fundamental rights and dialogue (**impact and overall objective of the action**).

The EU Action contributes to impact(s) and only indirectly influences its achievement. The latter will stem from the synergy of the interventions of all relevant stakeholders in the given context.

3.2. Indicative type of activities

Output 1, *CSOs' and media actors' operational and professional capacities are strengthened*, will be achieved through the following activities:

Activity 1 – Resource Centre for CSOs in Turkey (EUR 3 million)

This activity will be the continuation of previous phases of setting-up and support the functioning of a Resource Centre to increase the capacity of CSOs, to promote freedom of association in Turkey, and more generally to facilitate the civil society's contribution to decision-making processes and in particular those linked to the EU accession process. In Turkey, the Civil Society Development Centre (STGM) originally emerged as the natural key partner for this kind of activity, as it has been implementing Turkey-wide civil society capacity development programmes for CSOs with EU support for over ten years.

Activities shall include:

- Capacity building support to CSOs in various result areas (including producing information, help desk services, coaching, trainings, thematic, inter sectorial and intra sectorial events, information meetings targeting all levels of actors from civil society), and to enhance CSOs capacities to cope with the digital transformation;
- Promotion of freedom of association in Turkey;
- Facilitation of civil society contribution to EU accession process in cooperation with EU and key stakeholders.

Activity 2 - Sivil Düşün VI: Support mechanism for civil society organisations and activists (EUR 7 million)

This activity will be the continuation of previous phases of Sivil Düşün ('Think Civil' in English), the flag-ship programme of the Civil Society Facility in Turkey. It aims at increasing citizens' and CSOs' capacities to carry out rights-based actions, Sivil Düşün offers an innovative and flexible, short-term, in-kind (not financial) support to CSOs and to active citizens/activists. This activity will continue improving the environment for active citizenship and strengthen the capacity of organised active citizens through indicatively:

- Support to civil society and citizens right based initiatives via the Active Citizenship Mechanism;

- Support to networking and communication skills of civil society and active citizens via the organisation of CSO Fora and round-tables, including through the use of new digital tools; and
- Awareness raising of CSOs and citizens on EU support to civil society and human rights.

The Active Citizenship Mechanism, the main tool of the Sivil Düşün, will provide flexible, transparent and accessible support (in-kind) to rights-based work carried out by activists, CSOs, platforms, networks, civil initiatives, foundations, associations, cooperatives, non-profit companies, city councils, unions, as well as human rights and civil society units of universities. Non-financial support will be provided under different categories such as event management, mobility and networking, organisational capacity building, campaign, and communication.

Activity 3 - Supporting Human Rights Defenders (EUR 4.4 million)

As the European Union Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders indicates, support for human rights defenders is already a long-established element of the European Union's human rights external relations policy. The European Union Local Strategy to Support and Defend Human Rights Defenders in Turkey provides operational guidelines for EU missions to implement the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders, notably with regard to the provision of effective support to human rights defenders as well as the monitoring of the situation of human rights defenders in Turkey. This activity is designed to secure continuity of the critical support to human rights defenders in their efforts to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms. This can include but will not be limited to: actions for enhancing technical knowledge, skills and capacities of human rights defenders for carrying out their activities, including expertise building for legal professionals and improving access to justice. This activity will complement and strengthen actions funded under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights / NDICI Thematic Line for Human Rights and Democracy. It will be the follow-up of Activity 3 of the Action Document CSF 2017 - Turkey window as well as Activity 1 of the Action Document CSF 2019 - Turkey window.

Activity 4 - Monitoring of Freedom of Association-II (EUR 1.5 million)

Based on the monitoring and advocacy capacity created during the first phase of "Monitoring of Freedom of Association" project, this activity will contribute to continue protecting civil society space and pluralism by strengthening freedom of association and the right to participation to the political decision-making processes in Turkey. A conducive environment is considered as crucial manifestation of freedom of association that safeguards the freedom of natural and legal persons to voluntarily cooperate as a part of an organisation with the aim of achieving a common goal without state interference. The activity will improve monitoring and advocacy capacity of CSOs as regards freedom of association. A first component will focus on the regular monitoring and reporting on the existence of a conducive legal environment. Data and evidence obtained during the monitoring phase will be used to develop effective advocacy and dialogue strategies to be used vis-à-vis the state authorities. A second component will support monitoring structures and mechanisms for cooperation between public authorities and CSOs in view of promoting the involvement of CSOs in the decision-making process. This monitoring exercise will aim to support "free, clear and accessible flows of information on matters of public interest". The boundaries of the civil space are determined by the capacities of organised civil society as much as the laws governing civil society organisations. The third component will therefore focus on strengthening capacities of organised civil society to effectively advocate for a better legal and institutional framework. Their effectiveness to conduct monitoring studies, to perform advocacy works, to create networks and coalitions and to involve in the policy- and decision-making processes in their respective thematic mission areas will be supported. As a result, benefitting CSOs will have increased capacities for monitoring and advocacy in the field of Freedom of Association.

Activity 5 - Support CSOs working on human and fundamental rights (EUR 6 million)

The Activity will be implemented through a call for proposals focused on supporting rights-based organisations working on the promotion and advancement of human and fundamental rights. The call will target medium-sized or bigger civil society organisations working on thematic priorities such as women rights, cultural and religious rights, children rights, rights of persons with disabilities, rights of persons belonging to minorities (including national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities), rights of LGBTIQ (the list is not exhaustive). Activities such as the promotion of networks and coalitions (including with European peer organisations), the fight against hate speech and discrimination, support to digitalisation might be included in the design of the grant scheme. The call may be divided into lots.

Activity 6 - Empowering women and girls (EUR 5 million)

The proposed activity aims at contributing to achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls in Turkey (SDG 5) by focusing on three key aspects: (a) Tackling discrimination against women and girls; (b) Combating violence against all women and girls; and (c) Promoting women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life. Activities will include, but not be limited to:

- Enhancing the capacities of CSOs working on gender issues to promote equality and fighting stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination in the public sphere and media.

- Supporting CSOs working on the fight and prevention of violence against women and in the provision of shelters and social, psychological and legal support services.
- Reinforcing the capacities of women’s CSO networks and lobby groups to promote political participation of women.
- Supporting women’s organisations and informal groups in advocacy for fundamental rights and freedoms (namely freedom of speech, association, and assembly).

The Activity shall include financial support to third parties for the benefit of rights-based CSOs promoting women and girls’ empowerment. Given the complexity of the action, requiring a combination of thematic expertise in the field along with the financial and administrative capacity to manage a large contract including sub-granting schemes, it is expected to be implemented through a contribution agreement with an entity (either a UN agency or a Member State cooperation agency) with proven capacity.

Activity 7 - Gender equality monitoring through rights-based CSOs (EUR 2.5 million)

The objective of this activity is to contribute to the achievement of gender equality and participatory democracy in Turkey by empowering rights-based CSOs working to strengthen gender equality. It will be based on the results of the former and the ongoing EU funded action “Enhancement of Participatory Democracy in Turkey: Monitoring Gender Equality.” Within the framework of this action, a Gender Equality Monitoring Centre and Local Monitoring Platforms (LMP) have been established to deliver capacity building and disseminate rights-based GEM knowledge, data and resources for national and international interest groups. Gender equality mapping reports and monitoring indicators in seventeen thematic areas have been prepared. To further build on these achievements, this activity will facilitate sustainable networks of the LMPs including municipalities. Geographical coverage of LMPs will be expanded with the inclusion of more provinces. LMPs’ monitoring capacity will be increased and maintained through delivery of training, planning and technical support by the Gender Equality Monitoring Centre. Working Groups on GEM will continue their reporting activities, including preparation of the Annual Monitoring Report and Gender Equality Index for Turkey. Monitoring reports will continue to be prepared, including additional thematic areas such as Gender Equality in Local Political Participation, in Rural Areas, in Environment, in Climate Change and in Arts. CSOs will receive support on advocacy and communication of the monitoring results and information to strengthen their role as influencers of policymaking.

Activity 8 - Advancing the rights of LBGTI+ (EUR 1 million)

The activity aims to strengthen LGBTIQ organisations and initiatives to increase their resilience and to support them in sustaining their key functions to protect a civic space for LGBTIQ rights holders in the face of increasing challenges in Turkey. The action will also support informal LGBTIQ groups to advocate for their rights, support LGBTIQ individuals and work towards community organising. Furthermore, the action will also address the need for mainstreaming LGBTIQ rights in the key stakeholders’ human rights agenda and coordination among these key stakeholders to mainstream and promote LGBTIQ rights.

Activities will include, but not be limited to:

- Capacity development program for LGBTIQ organisations on administrative, financial, legal issues, and on human rights and democracy subjects;
- Outreach and visibility support to enhance LGBTIQ organisations with regards to their community-building, social media management, corporate communication and public campaigning;
- Strengthening the capacities of LGBTIQ coalitions and informal movements.

Activity 9 - Stronger Civil Society for Stronger Accountability on Child Rights in Turkey: Improving Monitoring, Engagement and Advocacy at Central and Local Levels (EUR 6 million)

This activity aims to increase the capacity of civil society to monitor the implementation of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, to meaningfully engage with key national and local stakeholders for improved policies and practices, and to proactively advocate in order to protect and promote children’s rights and wellbeing in Turkey. The activity will provide technical and financial support to CSOs to enable them to perform meaningfully as key actors in the field of child rights by monitoring violations, generating evidence, engaging with key duty-bearers and influencing central and local policies and programmes.

Activities may include, but not be limited to:

- Capacity building trainings within areas such as child rights monitoring, child-rights-based reporting, strategy planning, and monitoring and evaluation,
- Facilitation of partnership between CSOs and local governments,
- Support to networks and platforms strengthening youth’s and CSOs’ advocacy and participation to decision making processes,
- Financial support to CSOs through small grant schemes.

Activity 10 -Support to media freedom (EUR 4 million)

Freedom of expression, which is an essential element for a country's EU accession path, still needs considerable support in Turkey. Turkey holds one of the lowest ranking in press freedom according to reports of international media organisations. Mainstream media is controlled by pro-government companies, critical media is intimidated with punitive and disproportionate sanctions, journalists are deprived of their freedom for their journalistic activities or are under trial for their critical reporting. Thousand others are unemployed or practice self-censorship. Following-up on an action supported under the CSF 2020, the objective of the proposed intervention is to continue strengthening media pluralism by way of supporting media professionals, investigative journalists, bloggers and social media outlets outside mainstream media, mainly TVs and radios, while carrying out their watchdog functions. Monitoring, reporting on the enabling environment for media, provision of legal aid, occupational trainings, capacity building for journalists, and financial support to 3rd parties for reinforcing media pluralism will be at the centre of this activity. The activity will have two distinguished components that might be implemented by two different organisations:

- Component A focusing on monitoring and reporting on the enabling environment for media in Turkey; international and national advocacy and lobby; delivering financial support to third parties;
- Component B will focus on providing legal aid, support for strategic litigation, trial monitoring for journalists' cases, visits to journalists in prisons, occupational rights trainings.

Activity 11 – Support to independent Media Outlets (EUR 2 million)

This activity aims to contribute to rebuilding public trust in the media by strengthening independent media and quality journalism. According to the Internal Press Institute Report on Turkey Digital Media “The New Mainstream Media’ is Rising”¹¹ which assessed the current capacity and professional needs of digital journalism in Turkey, the digital domain remains the primary refuge of independent journalism. The study also showed that independent media’s digital reach (33.5 million users) is catching up with the mainstream media (affiliated to pro-government companies) (47.8 million users). Independent media outlets receive 16.5% more interactions on social media, have five times more engagement on Facebook and they reach a more diverse audience of news consumers on Twitter. This implies that the independent media’s digital reach is already significant and provides enormous potential for the future. Yet, independent outlets present a more fragmented media landscape, lagging behind the mainstream media in specific demographics, including women and youth. The main reasons for independent media to exploit their digital potential, appears to be lack of digital skills and resources. This activity’s objective is to provide capacity building for independent media outlets and agencies to reach its full potential and ensure their business continuity. It will help them improve their operations and strengthen their technical capacity by way of improving their reporting capacity, upgrading their infrastructure etc. It will contribute to their audience engagement and development. The activity shall also include financial support to third parties. The target group of the activity will be independent media outlets/agencies that exhibit professionalism, are pluralist and inclusive in their editorial policies and following a rights based approach (covering topics ranging from politics, to environment, culture to gender equality, social, academic issues etc).

Activity 12 - Supporting cooperation between municipalities and CSOs on cultural issues (EUR 3 million)

This activity aims to bridge the gap and enhance cooperation between public institutions and non-governmental organisations in the cultural sphere. According to a needs assessment conducted by the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (IKSV) for UNESCO¹² involving some 440 institutions and cultural professionals from 68 cities across Turkey, public institutions and non-governmental organisations do not tend to cooperate with each other, but rather collaborate separately among themselves. According to the same research, the most basic areas that NGOs need training stand out as financial capacity, digital skills and cultural management. Public institutions, on the other hand, stated that they need training mostly in the fields of cultural management, digital skills and institutional / organisational capacity. This activity therefore aims to improve the capacity of cultural professionals working for NGOs in the fields of cultural policies and cultural management and foster the civic participation in the decision-making process through enhancing dialogue and cooperation between the civil society and local public sector. The focus will be on three pillars: cultural policy, education, and support to joint projects of cultural CSOs and local authorities in arts and culture through a sub-granting scheme . Such a methodology will ensure that the ideas presented during the training programmes can also translate into joint actions enhancing the project management skills of the participants. The activity will also open the way of partnerships between institutions from the EU and Turkey with respect to cultural policy studies, network development, curriculum and content creation.

¹¹ <https://freeturkeyjournalists.ipi.media/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ENG-IPI-Turkey-Digital-Media-Report-01032021-final-.pdf>

¹² The needs assessment is conducted by a Turkish renowned cultural organisation in the framework of the UNESCO report, but it is still not published.

Activity 13 - Supporting cultural initiatives as a mean to promote freedom of expression, dialogue, tolerance and fight against discrimination (EUR 5 million)

The activity is designed to address political, ethnic and social polarisation in Turkey. Such divisions among citizens reduce trust and prevent a harmonious co-existence. Culture can be a catalyst to bring people of different backgrounds and opinions together enabling human, sustainable and inclusive development. In Turkey, the financial and human capital for culture and arts has been predominantly manifesting itself in Istanbul. Other metropolises remained a cultural backwater, as they were far away from this current for decades. To overhaul this geographically unbalanced cultural development, shifting the focus of investment and directing capacity-building interventions towards Anatolia will be essential in fostering diversity of cultural expressions. This approach would foster dialogue between diverse cultural actors in Turkey and pave the way for new cultural collaborations.

The objective of this activity is to support cultural initiatives as a means to promote freedom of expression, dialogue, tolerance, fight against discrimination and promotion of individual liberties. It will promote confidence-building in Turkey through support to cultural initiatives from civil society organisations and cultural institutes for widening the cultural horizon, the promotion of social cohesion, sustainable peace as well as fight against all forms of violence. The activity will allow target groups to better understand the root-cause of ethnic, social and political polarisations while initiating actions at local and central levels to overcome them such as civic education, intercultural and inter-religious dialogue, dialogue for peace, awareness raising campaigns, etc. The beneficiaries of this activity will be non-partisan civil society organisations based in Turkey that directly support citizens through a rights-based approach. Various forms of cultural expressions will be promoted. The activity will also include financial support to third parties.

Activity 14 – Promoting Labour Rights in the Changing World of Work (EUR 5 million)

The activity will support workers' and employers' organisations and civil society organisations working in the field of labour rights with a view of increasing their knowledge and capacities in the context of changing working conditions (due to digitalisation, new ways of work, impact of European Green Deal etc). Priority themes will be further specified in the light of major challenges that the Turkish labour market and social dialogue system are facing, to be guided by the European Pillar of Social Rights and International Labour Standards of ILO. The activity will target social partners (workers' and employers' organisations) at national and sectoral level, business membership organisations, and civil society organisations (working on human rights, labour rights, gender equality, youth, disability, climate change, migration, Roma, etc.). Activities may include: improving knowledge and technical capacity of target groups, enhancing adaptation and policy making capacity for the future of work, enhancing social dialogue mechanisms, establishment of sustainable policy advocacy platforms and networks as well as financial support to third parties. Women and youth representation in the beneficiary organisations will be particularly encouraged.

Activity 15 – Civil Society Action towards European Green Deal (EUR 5 million)

The activity will support civil society organisations with a view to increasing their capacities to support the achievement of the ambitious targets of the EU's green deal. This activity will target, through a call for proposal, civil society organisations working on all aspects of the EU's green deal (nature protection, climate action, environment, energy and resource efficiency, circular economy, gender equality, sustainable mobility etc.) towards developing and piloting integrated and innovative solutions and actions and its implications for the civil society and citizens. The ultimate aim and the expected results of the action will be to improve organisational and implementation capacities of the CSOs, foster partnerships with local and European actors as well as business community, empowerment of citizens and CSOs and improving the advocacy capacity of CSOs in areas of concern under the green deal. Dissemination and sharing of information and knowledge should also be an important element of the scheme.

Activity 16 - Green Local Action (EUR 4 Million)

This activity will focus on reinforcing and increasing the capacities of rights-based CSOs (including grassroots organisations, community-based organisations, local initiatives, national, regional or local CSOs, networks and platforms) working on environment and climate change issues in line with the European Green Deal framework. The activity will be carried out in indirect management with an entrusted entity modality and will include financial support to third parties. The intermediary organisation will also act as a vector for delivering targeted capacity building trainings as well as carrying out monitoring and evaluation of the grants, compilation of lessons learnt, scaling-up and replication potentials, ensuring higher visibility and overall management of the programme. Expected results include improved organisational and implementation capacities of CSOs, improved visibility and advocacy capacity for grassroots organisations, increased involvement of citizens and smaller CSOs in the environment and climate action related policy making at the local and national level, implemented demonstrations of innovative or key activities and enhanced partnerships among CSOs, business community and local and national actors. Development and dissemination of knowledge products shall also be targeted as possible.

Activity 17 - Disaster risk management (EUR 2 million)

This activity will aim at increasing institutional and technical capacities of CSOs active in disaster risk management. It will target CSOs specialised in the field of disaster risk management as well as organisations working in other fields such as gender equality, children rights, nature protection, refugee rights and others aiming to support citizens and business community with initiatives to improve disaster risk management. The activity will support initiatives aiming at enhancing volunteerism and roles of volunteers in the Civil Protection services; sharing of experience and knowledge in disaster risk management; engaging citizens, SME and private sector in disaster risk management; increasing lobbying and advocacy capacity; improving cooperation with public bodies and municipalities; and supporting vulnerable groups in disaster risk management. The list is not exhaustive. Knowledge sharing with the EU and IPA region countries will be emphasised and supported. CSOs' active involvement with the EU Civil Protection Mechanism will also be targeted.

Activity 18 - Support measures (EUR 0.6 million)

This activity will be used to support the EU Delegation in the management of the implementation of this action. Activities may include: assessing calls for proposals, monitoring of on-going grants (including financial support to third parties), evaluation of activities, organisation of training and information days and production of communication materials.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
1. Political developments in Turkey may affect the ability of individuals and CSOs to participate in, and benefit from the action.	H	This risk is assessed high, as the situation is already dire for CSOs in Turkey and further deterioration may occur. EUD is spreading the risk by supporting a wide and range of organisations, using appropriate and diversified tools to ensure protection of targeted organisations and individuals.
2. CSOs with limited capacities might be discouraged to participate to calls, perceiving EU procedures for the award of grants, as well as co-financing requirement, and financial rules for implementation of projects too complex.	M	The EUD will make sure that potential applicants are aware of the capacity-building opportunities offered through the ongoing projects (Sivil Düşün and the Resource Center in the first place).
3. Some of the activities require the willingness of implementing partners to take political and technical risks (notably as regards financial support to third parties).	M	The EUD will allow the deployment of legal and technical consultancy services through the available ongoing projects.
Assumptions (to be reflected in the Logical Framework Matrix above) – grouped by outputs and outcomes		
The overall assumption for the implementation of this action is that the operational environment for civil society in Turkey does not further deteriorate.		

3.4. Mainstreaming

The action is in line with the EU **Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Action 2021–2025**. Activities 4 and 5 will specifically target Gender Equality and Women's and Girls' Empowerment. The other activities will mainstream these issues as appropriate. Gender balance will be sought on all the managing bodies and activities of the action and importance will be given during all stages of contracting and implementation. Equal participation of women and men will be secured in the design of activities and access to the opportunities they offer. Promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities will be considered when preparing guidelines for applicants for the calls for proposals or negotiating direct grant contracts. All activities will be designed and implemented so as to provide disaggregated data by gender.

The principles of transparency of the **rights based approach, inclusiveness and non-discrimination** will be applied in each activity and taken into consideration at each step of the implementation process. For instance, guidelines on the various calls for proposals to be launched will be drafted to favour proposals that ensure equal opportunities for various categories of target groups. All contractors/implementing partners will be requested to provide monitoring data, recording the participation of men and women in terms of expert inputs and of trainees/beneficiaries benefiting under the project, as an integral component of all narrative progress reports. Geographical coverage will be respected all over Turkey, with a special focus on remote regions.

Activities supported under this action will contribute to the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms without any **discrimination**. Throughout the action, special focus will be given to people belonging to minorities and vulnerable groups including e.g. Roma as one of the most socio-economically excluded group in the region, to ensure active and equal participation of various categories of CSOs. In this framework, special attention will be given to organisations representing or composed of vulnerable and/or discriminated groups. Overall, the whole action has been designed in order to strengthen, among others, the protection of minorities and vulnerable groups.

Environment and Climate change will be targeted through a specific activity aiming at contributing to the implementation of the European Green Deal and will be mainstreamed, as appropriate, through other activities.

3.5. Conditions for implementation

It is expected that implementing partners under this action continue to be allowed by the regulatory framework to implement the activities in an effective and timely manner in order to achieve the Action's objectives.

3.6. Logical Framework

Results	Results chain: Main expected results	Indicators	Baselines (2020)	Targets (2024)	Sources of data (1 per indicator)	Assumptions
Impact	To foster a functioning pluralistic, participatory and representative democracy and the consolidation of a resilient civil society by promoting a culture of fundamental rights and dialogue	Country ranking according to the Bertelsmann Transformation Index (BTI)	Political Transformation: Nr 77 of 137 (2020)	Political Transformation: Nr 77* of 137 (2024)	Bertelsmann Transformation Index 2020	Not applicable
Outcome 1	Civil society's resilience and capacity to advance human and fundamental rights is enhanced	Number of initiatives led by civil society and supported by the EU (IPA PF 2.10)	0	60	Project progress reports	
		Number of women directly benefiting from interventions supported by the EU, disaggregated by age (IPA PF 2.7)	0	1500	Project progress reports	
		Percentage of CSOs who engage in networking aimed at joint campaigning and advocacy	0	25%	Project progress reports	
		Percentage of CSOs that confirm that they are able to raise funds according to their planning and in line with their VMG	0	30%	Project progress reports	
		Number of CSOs that have not more than 50% of their budget funded by a single donor	0	12%	Project progress reports	
Output 1	CSOs' and media actors' operational and professional capacities are strengthened	Number of civil society organisations benefitting from (or reached by) EU support, disaggregated by type of CSO (grass-root organisations, women's organisation; persons with disabilities) and by province	0	120	Project progress reports	The operational environment for civil society in Turkey does not further deteriorate.
		Number of media actors benefitting from (or reached by) EU support	0	300		
		Number of CSO staff trained on fundamental rights with EU support	0	2000		
		Number of monitoring reports on human and fundamental rights prepared by CSOs	0	50		

*The target value for impact indicator is the same as the baseline under the assumption that the situation will not further deteriorate.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Financing agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country.

4.2. Implementation modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures¹³.

4.2.1. Direct Management (Grants)

Activity 1: Resource centre for CSOs in Turkey

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The activity will directly contribute to output 1: CSOs' and media actors' operational and professional capacities are strengthened. The activity will provide support to the functioning of a Resource Centre to increase the capacity of CSOs, to promote freedom of association in Turkey and more generally to facilitate the civil society's contribution to decision-making processes and in particular those linked to the EU accession process.

Activities will contribute to:

- Increase capacities of CSOs
- Promote freedom of association
- Facilitate civil society's contribution to EU accession process.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

The grantee has to be a legal entity; non-profit-making; and be a civil society organisation.

Activity 3 - Supporting Human Rights Defenders

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The activity will directly contribute to output 1: CSOs' and media actors' operational and professional capacities are strengthened. The activity will secure continuity of the critical support to human rights defenders in their efforts to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms. This can include but will not be limited to: actions for enhancing technical knowledge, skills and capacities of human rights defenders for carrying out their activities, including expertise building for legal professionals and improving access to justice.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

The grantee has to be a legal entity; non-profit-making; and be a civil society organisation.

Activity 4 - Monitoring of Freedom of Association-II

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The activity will directly contribute to output 1: CSOs' and media actors' operational and professional capacities are strengthened. It will help improve monitoring and advocacy capacity of CSOs as regards freedom of association. A first component will focus on the regular monitoring and reporting on the existence of a conducive legal environment. A second component will support monitoring structures and mechanisms for cooperation between public authorities and CSOs in view of promoting the involvement of CSOs in the decision-making process. A third component will focus on strengthening capacities of organised civil society to effectively advocate for a better legal and institutional framework. As a result, benefiting CSOs will have increased capacities for monitoring and advocacy in the field of Freedom of Association.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

The grantee has to be a legal entity; non-profit-making; and be a civil society organisation.

¹³ www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

Activity 5 - Support CSOs working on human and fundamental rights

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The activity will directly contribute to output 1: CSOs' and media actors' operational and professional capacities are strengthened. The activity will support civil society organisations working on promoting and advancing human and fundamental rights.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

The grantee has to be a legal entity; non-profit-making; and be a civil society organisation

Activity 7 - Gender equality monitoring through rights-based CSOs

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The activity will directly contribute to output 1: CSOs' and media actors' operational and professional capacities are strengthened. The activity will contribute to the achievement of gender equality and participatory democracy in Turkey by empowering rights-based CSOs working to strengthen gender equality. This activity will facilitate sustainable networks of the Local Monitoring Platforms (LMP) including municipalities. LMPs' monitoring capacity will be increased and maintained through delivery of training, planning and technical support by the Gender Equality Monitoring Centre. CSOs will receive support on advocacy and communication of the monitoring results and information to strengthen their role as influencers of policymaking. The activity is a follow-up of a similar one, carried out by CEID, with CSF 2019 funds.

(b) Justification for direct award

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to Association for Monitoring Gender Equality (CEID). Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because CEID is the first and only umbrella organisation legally established in Turkey which aims at ensuring a systematic and comprehensive monitoring of all aspects of gender equality in line with commitment of Turkey to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). In line with Art 195, c) of the financial regulation CEID is in a situation of *de facto* monopoly in terms of expertise on the topic.

CEID is the only CSO established with an exclusive and specific aim of monitoring gender equality-related public policies and bearing a legal person status in Turkey.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entity fail, that part of this action may be implemented in indirect management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.3.8.

Activity 10 - Support to media freedom

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The activity will directly contribute to output 1: CSOs' and media actors' operational and professional capacities are strengthened. The intervention is foreseen to continue strengthening media pluralism by way of supporting media professionals, investigative journalists, bloggers and social media outlets outside mainstream media, mainly TVs and radios, while carrying out their watchdog functions. Monitoring, reporting on the enabling environment for media, provision of legal aid, occupational trainings, capacity building for journalists, and financial support to 3rd parties for reinforcing media pluralism will be at the centre of this activity. The Activity will have two distinguished components: A) focusing on monitoring and reporting on the enabling environment for media in Turkey; international and national advocacy and lobby; delivering financial support to third parties; B) will focus on providing legal aid, support for strategic litigation, trial monitoring for journalists' cases, visits to journalists in prisons, occupational rights trainings.

(b) Types of applicants targeted

The grantee has to be a legal entity; non-profit-making; and be a civil society organisations.

Activity 11 – Support to independent Media Outlets

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The activity will directly contribute to output 1: CSOs' and media actors' operational and professional capacities are strengthened. The objective of this activity is to provide capacity building for independent media outlets and agencies to reach its full potential and ensure their business continuity. The activity will have the scope of supporting independent

media outlets in their non-for-profit activities. It will help them improve their operations and strengthen their technical capacity by way of improving their reporting capacity, upgrading their infrastructure etc. It will contribute to their audience engagement and development. The activity shall also include financial support to third parties.

(b) Types of applicants targeted

The grantee has to be a legal entity; non-profit-making; and be a civil society organisation.

Activity 12 - Supporting cooperation between municipalities and CSOs on cultural issues

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The activity will directly contribute to output 1: CSOs' and media actors' operational and professional capacities are strengthened. The activity will help improve the capacity of cultural professionals working for NGOs in the fields of cultural policies and cultural management and foster the civic participation in the decision-making process through enhancing dialogue and cooperation between the civil society and local public sector. The focus will be on three pillars: cultural policy, education, and support to joint projects of cultural CSOs and local authorities in arts and culture through a sub-granting scheme .

(b) Types of applicants targeted

The grantee has to be a legal entity; non-profit-making; and be a civil society organisations.

Activity 13 - Supporting cultural initiatives as a mean to promote freedom of expression, dialogue, tolerance and fight against discrimination

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The activity will directly contribute to output 1: CSOs' and media actors' operational and professional capacities are strengthened. The activity will support cultural initiatives as a means to promote freedom of expression, dialogue, tolerance, fight against discrimination and promotion of individual liberties. It will promote confidence-building in Turkey through support to cultural initiatives from civil society organisations and cultural institutes for widening the cultural horizon, the promotion of social cohesion, sustainable peace as well as fight against all forms of violence. The beneficiaries of this activity will be non-partisan civil society organisations based in Turkey that directly support citizens through a rights-based approach. Various forms of cultural expressions will be promoted. The activity will also include financial support to third parties.

(b) Types of applicants targeted

The grantee has to be a legal entity, a civil society organisation or a private sector entity.

Activity 15 – Civil Society Action towards European Green Deal

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The activity will directly contribute to output 1: CSOs' and media actors' operational and professional capacities are strengthened. The activity will support civil society organisations with a view to increasing their capacities to support the achievement of the ambitious targets of the EU's green deal. This activity will target, through a call for proposal, civil society organisations working on all aspects of the EU's green deal (nature protection, climate action, environment, energy and resource efficiency, circular economy, gender equality, sustainable mobility etc.) towards developing and piloting integrated and innovative solutions and actions and its implications for the civil society and citizens.

(b) Types of applicants targeted

The grantee has to be a legal entity; a civil society organisation or a private sector entity.

Activity 17 - Disaster risk management

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The activity will directly contribute to output 1: CSOs' and media actors' operational and professional capacities are strengthened. This activity will support institutional and technical capacities of CSOs active in disaster risk management. It will target CSOs specialised in the field of disaster risk management as well as organisations working in other fields such as gender equality, children rights, nature protection, refugee rights and others aiming to support citizens and business community with initiatives to improve disaster risk management.

(b) Types of applicants targeted

The grantee has to be a legal entity, a civil society organisation or a private sector entity.

4.2.2. Direct Management (Procurement)

Procurement will contribute to **output 1: CSOs' and media actors' operational and professional capacities are strengthened.**

Activity 2 - Sivil Düşün VI: Support mechanism for civil society organisations and activists -

Activity 18 - Support measures

4.2.3. Indirect management with [an] entrusted entity[ies] (i.e. Member State Organisation, third donor country, EU specialised (traditional/regulatory) agency, international organisation)

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an an entity which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

Criteria for Activity 6 - Empowering women and girls

- Experience in implementing activities in supporting women and girls empowerment in Turkey
- Experience in advocacy for advancing the rights of women and girls
- Technical expertise in managing sub-granting schemes and providing capacity-building
- Holding a position of neutrality vis-à-vis the CSOs to be supported.

The implementation by this entity entails activities related to:

- Enhancing the capacities of CSOs working on gender issues to promote equality and fighting stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination in the public sphere and media.
- Supporting CSOs working on the fight and prevention of violence against women and in the provision of shelters and social, psychological and legal support services.
- Reinforcing the capacities of women's CSO networks and lobby groups to promote political participation of women.
- Supporting women's organisations and informal groups in advocacy for fundamental rights and freedoms (namely freedom of speech, association, and assembly).

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select a[nother] replacement entity using the same selection criteria given above. If the entity is replaced the decision to replace it needs to be justified

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an an entity which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

Criteria for activity 8 -Advancing the rights of LGBTIQ

- Experience in implementing activities in supporting LGBTIQ community in Turkey
- Experience in advocacy for advancing the rights of LGBTIQ
- Technical expertise in managing sub-granting schemes and providing capacity-building
- Holding a position of neutrality vis-à-vis the CSOs to be supported.

The implementation by this entity entails activities related to capacity development of LGBTIQ organisations, LGBTIQ coalitions and informal movements as well as awareness raising.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entity fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.3.8.

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an an entity which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

Criteria for Activity 16 - Green Local Action

- Having a relevant global mandate
- Experience in implementing activities in supporting CSOs in Turkey
- Technical expertise in managing sub-granting schemes and providing capacity-building
- Holding a position of neutrality vis-à-vis the CSOs to be supported
- Experience in implementing activities in environment/climate change sector, even if not in Turkey

The implementation by this entity entails financial support to third parties, targeted capacity building trainings as well as carrying out monitoring and evaluation of the grants, compilation of lessons learnt, scaling-up and replication potentials, ensuring higher visibility and overall management of the programme. The implementation through this entrusted entity will allow better outreach of the funds to smaller CSOs and grassroots organisations that is not possible through activities in direct management. The activity will be therefore highly complementary to Activity 16 of this Action.

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select a [nother] replacement entity using the same selection criteria given above. If the entity is replaced the decision to replace it needs to be justified

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with UNICEF (Activity 9), Stronger Civil Society for Stronger Accountability on Child Rights in Turkey: Improving Monitoring, Engagement and Advocacy at Central and Local Levels

This action will be implemented in indirect management with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

The implementation entails the provision of technical and financial support to CSOs to enable them to perform meaningfully as key actors in the field of child rights by monitoring violations, generating evidence, engaging with key duty-bearers and influencing central and local policies and programmes.

The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: (a) UNICEF's global mandate to protect the rights of the child; (b) UNICEF has significant technical expertise in the field of promotion and protection of child rights; and (c) UNICEF has the experience in supporting networks for CSOs and academia working to advance the rights of the child in Turkey. The implementation by this entity entails activities related to capacity building, facilitation of partnerships between CSOs and local governments, support to networks and platforms strengthening youth's and CSOs' advocacy and participation to decision making processes, as well as financial support to CSOs through small grant schemes.

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with ILO (Activity 14) – Promoting Labour Rights in the Changing World of Work

This action may be implemented in indirect management with the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The implementation entails supporting workers' and employers' organisations and civil society organisations working in the field of labour rights with a view of increasing their knowledge and capacities in the context of changing working conditions. The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: (a) With its tripartite structure (consisting of governments, employers and workers), ILO has an unique mandate on labour issues; (b) ILO has an obligation to develop principles and guidelines for governments, workers' and employers' organisations and other stakeholders ensuring that fundamental principles and rights at work are recognised and upheld for all; and (c) ILO has the technical expertise to implement this activity. The implementation by this entity entails improving knowledge and technical capacity of target groups, enhancing adaptation and policy making capacity for the future of work, enhancing social dialogue mechanisms, establishment of sustainable policy advocacy platforms and networks as well as financial support to third parties for social partner, business membership organisations and CSOs .

4.2.4. Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and viceversa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

Activity 7, currently foreseen as a direct grant; a part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- Experience in implementing activities in supporting women and girls empowerment in Turkey
- Experience in advocacy for advancing the rights of women and girls

- Technical expertise in managing sub-granting schemes and providing capacity-building
- Experience in monitoring rights of women and girls
- Holding a position of neutrality vis-à-vis the CSOs to be supported.

The implementation of this activity entails empowering rights-based CSOs working to strengthen gender equality. It will contribute to output 1: CSOs' and media actors' operational and professional capacities are strengthened. In this case the activity might be combined with activities 6 and 8.

Activity 8, currently foreseen to be implemented in indirect management.

In this case:

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The activity will directly contribute to output 1: CSOs' and media actors' operational and professional capacities are strengthened. The activity will support civil society organisations working rights of LGBTIQ community.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

The grantee has to be a legal entity and a civil society organisation or a private sector entity

4.3. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult

4.4. Indicative budget

	EU contribution (in EUR)			Indicative third party contribution (in EUR)
	2021	2022	2023	
Implementation modalities				
Direct management:				
Procurement				
Act 2: Sivil Düşün VI			7 000 000	0
Act 19: Support measures		300 000	300 000	0
Total procurement				7 600 000
Grants				
Act 1 – Resource Centre for CSOs in Turkey			3 000 000	0
Act 3 - Supporting Human Rights Defenders			4 400 000	0
Act 4 - Monitoring of Freedom of Association - II			1 500 000	0
Act 5 - Support CSOs working on human and fundamental rights		6 000 000		200 000
Act 7 - Gender equality monitoring through rights-based CSOs		2 500 000		0
Act 10 - Support to media freedom			4 000 000	0
Act 11 – Support to independent Media outlets	2 000 000			tbc
Act 12 - Supporting cooperation between municipalities and CSOs on cultural issues	3 000 000			tbc
Act 13 - Supporting cultural initiatives as a mean to promote freedom of expression, dialogue, tolerance and fight against discrimination			5 000 000	200 000

Act 15 - Civil Society Action towards European Green Deal		5 000 000		200 000
Act 17 – Disaster Risk Management		2 000 000		100 000
Total grants (EU contribution)		37 400 000		
Indirect Management with Entrusted Entities				
Act 6 - Empowering women and girls		5 000 000		tbc
Act 8 - Advancing the rights of LBGTI+		1 000 000		tbc
Act 9 - Stronger Civil Society for Stronger Accountability on Child Rights in Turkey: Improving Monitoring, Engagement and Advocacy at Central and Local Levels	6 000 000			tbc
Act 14 – Promoting Labour Rights in the Changing World of Work	5 000 000			tbc
Act 16 - Green Local Action		4 000 000		tbc
Sub-total	16 000 000	25 800 000	25 200 000	700 000
TOTAL		67 000 000		

4.5. Organisational set-up and responsibilities

The European Union Delegation to Turkey (EUD) will be responsible for the contracting and oversight of implementation of the different activities under the Action Document.

5. PERFORMANCE/RESULTS MONITORING AND REPORTING

5.1. Internal monitoring

The EU Delegation, as Contracting Authority, will monitor all activities included in this action. This will be done through Steering Committees and/or Monthly Management Meetings, On-the-Spot visits and other monitoring actions as appropriate.

5.2. Roles & responsibilities for data collection, analysis & reporting

Where relevant for specific activities under this Action, the indicators of the logical framework of this Action (section 3.6) will be collected, analysed and reported upon by the different implementing partners of this action.

5.3. Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a mid-term and/or final evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission or via an implementing partner. Indicatively it is foreseen that evaluations of activities implemented via Indirect Management with an Entrusted Entity (IMEE) will be contracted via the implementing partner, whereas grants will be evaluated via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

The mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes. A final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision).

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least two months in advance of the dates foreseen for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the implementing partner and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

The financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

6. AUDIT

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

The financing of the audit shall be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

7. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Visibility of EU funding and communication about objectives and impact of Actions are a legal obligation for all Actions funded by the EU, as set out in the EU communication and visibility requirements in force.

In particular, the recipients of EU funding shall acknowledge the origin of the EU funding and ensure its proper visibility by:

- Providing a statement highlighting the support received from the EU in a visible manner on all documents and communication material relating to the implementation of the funds, including on an official website and social media accounts, where these exist; and
- Promoting the actions and their results by providing coherent, effective and proportionate targeted information to multiple audiences, including the media.

Visibility and communication measures shall be implemented, as relevant, by the entrusted entities, contractors and grant beneficiaries. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included, respectively, in contribution agreements, and procurement and grant contracts.

The measures shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan, established and implemented in line with the EU communication and visibility requirements in force. The plan shall include, inter alia, a communication narrative and master messages for the Action, customised for the various target audiences (stakeholders, civil society, general public, etc.).

Visibility and communication measures specific to this Action shall be complementary to the broader communication activities implemented directly by the European Commission services and/or the EU Delegation. The European Commission and the EU Delegation should be fully informed of the planning and implementation of the specific visibility and communication activities, notably with respect to the communication narrative and master messages.

If the Action includes Union programmes, visibility and communication measures shall be implemented in accordance with the EU communication and visibility requirements in force and the specific rules of each Union programme. The relevant programme managing entity shall be responsible for monitoring the visibility and communication activities. The European Commission and the EU Delegation should be fully informed of the planning and implementation of the specific visibility and communication activities.

8. SUSTAINABILITY

All components of the action aim at strengthening the capacities of CSOs and at improving the skills of citizens for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Turkey. As such, the main assumption of the action is that target groups and beneficiaries of the various activities will benefit from the action even after its completion. The action will contribute to the improvement of capacities of targeted organisation through two specific activities (1 and 2) and across the board, in other activities, ensuring a combination of financial support with capacity-building.