

## **THE EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS (EIDHR) COUNTRY-BASED SUPPORT SCHEME (occupied Palestinian territory)**

### **1. THE EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS (EIDHR)**

The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in December 2006 under the Financial Perspectives 2007-2013. This new financing instrument is the successor to the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights, established upon the initiative of the European Parliament in 1994. This thematic instrument, which entered into force on 1 January 2007, reflects the high political profile and specific Treaty mandates relating to the development and consolidation of democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and will bring financial support worldwide to activities in this area.

### **2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME AND PRIORITY ISSUES**

**The global general objectives** of the new financing instrument are to contribute to the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, and of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, within the framework of the Community's policy on development cooperation, and economic, financial and technical cooperation with third countries, consistent with the EU's foreign policy as a whole.

This instrument aims at helping civil society to become an effective force for political reform and defence of human rights. In this way, it will complement the new generation of geographical programmes, which will increasingly mainstream democracy and human rights, though focusing primarily on public institution-building. The EIDHR will offer independence of action, allowing for the delivery of assistance in principle without the need for government consent, which is a critical feature of cooperation with civil society organizations at national level, especially in the sensitive areas of democracy and human rights. It also offers more flexibility and capacity to respond to changing circumstances or to support innovation.

The EIDHR is thus global in scope, operating at national, regional and international level, supporting actions in third countries around the globe, and also in Member States if relevant to needs in third countries.

The European Commission has drawn up a Strategy Paper 2007-2010 for the implementation action of the EIDHR. The EIDHR Strategy Paper identifies five distinct objectives, forming the response strategy for the period 2007-2010:

- 1) Enhancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in countries and regions where they are most at risk;
- 2) Strengthening the role of civil society in promoting human rights and democratic reform, in supporting the peaceful conciliation of group interests and consolidating political participation and representation;
- 3) Supporting actions on human rights and democracy issues in areas covered by EU Guidelines, including on human rights dialogues, on human rights defenders, on the death penalty, on torture, and on children and armed conflict;

4) Supporting and strengthening the international and regional framework for the protection of human rights, justice, the rule of law and the promotion of democracy;

5) Building confidence in and enhancing the reliability and transparency of democratic electoral processes, in particular through election observation.

The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) Strategy Paper for the period 2007-2010 can be consulted at the following address:

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/worldwide/eidhr/documents/eidhr-strategy-paper-2007\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/worldwide/eidhr/documents/eidhr-strategy-paper-2007_en.pdf).

The **Country-Based Support Scheme** (CBSS) is built on the former experience with micro project facility under the previous European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights. CBSS is one of the EIDHR implementation modalities that aims at realizing Objective 2 of the EIDHR Strategy Paper and which will be managed at country level by European Commission Delegations and/ or Representations.

The recent Call for Proposals Ref. 128-214 corresponds to the **Country- Based Support Scheme (CBSS)** that aims at selecting actions as to implement **Objective 2 of the EIDHR Strategy Paper** entitled "*Strengthening the role of civil society in promoting human rights and democratic reform, in facilitating the peaceful conciliation of group interests and in consolidating political participation and representation.*"

Under Objective 2, the emphasis will be on assisting cooperation among local civil society organisations and stakeholders to develop greater cohesion in working on human rights, political pluralism and democratic political participation and representation, in contributing to the peaceful conciliation of group interests, combating discrimination on any ground, and in developing equal participation of men and women in social, economic and political life.

The below-stated **specific objective(s)** of the above-mentioned Call for Proposals are the specific thematic areas that were defined for eligible interventions and financial support:

- **Initiatives to monitor and raise awareness on the performance of public institutions**, improve transparency, accountability, quality of services, equal opportunity, cost efficiency, and in particular enhance the effectiveness of the judiciary and legal sector, including upholding the independence of the judiciary and promote civil society role in monitoring and overseeing the security services' performances and practices with a particular emphasis on transparency and the respect of human rights.
- **Advancing the rights of marginalized groups** including *rights of women and rights of children*, support to promote advocacy, awareness-raising and training in the field of children's rights and women's rights relating to the signature, ratification and effective implementation of international agreements, instruments and commitments including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Support to effective institutional mechanisms to strengthen the advancement of gender equality and children's rights by integrating them in legislation, public policies, programs and projects is also encouraged. Furthermore, developing/improving measures to combat all forms of violence against children and women, such as domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape, incest and sexual abuse. Equal participation of women in power, decision-making, planning process and integration of gender perspectives in legislation and public policies will be also encouraged.

- ***Strengthening freedom of expression*** including freedom of the media and access to the internet, fostering independent press and broadcasting, the abolishment of censorship, improving media professionalism and promoting adequate revision of communication/media legislations.

Specific activities in the field **of gender equality, the rights of the child and the rights of persons with disabilities** are particularly relevant. Such common agendas ensuring broad-based participation among civil society operators and networks is also much appreciated.

**Specific attention is also given to activities in the Gaza Strip and marginalized communities.**

**LIST OF AWARDED GRANTS  
EIDHR-CBSS Program**

**Call for Proposals 2009 & 2010 Reference: EuropeAid/128-214/L/ACT/PS**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Partner/s</b>	<b>Starting date/ End date</b>	<b>Total amount/EC contribution EUR</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Contribution to the Respect, Protection and Promotion of the Right of Freedom of Association in the Gaza Strip	AL-DAMEER ASSOCIATION FOR SUPPORTING PRISONERS AND HUMAN RIGHTS	PNGO	15/12/2009 - 01/01/2012	165,882.53	The action aims to contribute to the respect, protection and promotion of the right to freedom of association in the Gaza Strip. The activities include developing of web portal (Design, hosting and operation), publications, lobbying and advocacy campaigns, conferences and training of lawyers.
AMAN-Combating Sexual Violence in the Palestinian Society	WOMEN S STUDIES CENTER ASSOCIATION	n/a	19/12/2009 - 05/02/2012	300,000.00	The project aims at strengthening the role of civil society in building national capacity to combat sexual violence, to adopt policy reform and application of national policies and laws to combat sexual violence. The activities will include school-based program (training of counsellors, teachers, parent-school support unit, students and principals, development of resource materials, developing the referral to services and support, policy and law Reform.
Enhancing the Effectiveness of an Independent Judiciary and Empowering the Civil Society's Monitoring Role on the Judiciary	THE COALITION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND INTEGRITY (AMAN) ASSOCIATION	n/a	13/02/2010 - 13/02/2012	206,865.00	The project aims at improving the role of the judicial authority in building the national integrity system and enhancing judicial authority integrity, accountability, independency and its capacity in fighting corruption. Target group includes High Judicial Council (HJC), Public Prosecution (PP), and Ministry of Justice (MoJ).

Combating Discrimination and Human Rights Abuse of Marginalized Children with Disabilities	THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR COMMUNITY REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION	Kifaia Foundation	15/2/2011 - 14/02/2013	247,995.67	The action aims at helping females and children with disabilities to protect their own rights and to contribute in elimination of all forms of discrimination between females with disabilities. Activities include setting up Disabilities Rights Centre; awareness and education on human rights, welfare and gender equality, community sensitization; Legal framework development; vocational and technical training.
Save the Water: Strengthening Local Self-Government in Palestine	AL-MOASASH ALFELESTINIA LELTANMIA WA-ALDIMOQRTIA ALTARIQ ASSOCIATION	n/a	22/11/2010 - 22/11/2012	104,300.00	The action seeks to increase the understanding of democracy and human rights of three local Palestinian communities as to develop self-governance and inter-institutional dialogue using the experience of wastewater re-use. Activities include workshops on advocacy, "water as basic human right" , seminars on cost effectiveness and decision making, training on environmental hazards and for women on "How to establish a green landscapes rural area" and others.
Media & Security... Consolidating the Bridges	INTERNEWS MIDDLE EAST CO	n/a	01/11/2010 - 01/05/2012	187,245.00	It seeks to overcome the lack of access of Palestinian journalists to information related to the Palestinian security and justice policies and building trust between official Palestinian security & judiciary staff and media. It also seeks to build professional relationships between media professionals and Palestinian security, judiciary, & court system officials through training courses, empowering media units and publications.
Youth for Human Rights	Al Wedad for Community Rehabilitation	Sharek Youth Forum	1/5/2011- 1/12/2012	136,156.00	The project aims enhancing human rights awareness in the Gaza Strip through providing fresh graduates with the necessary skills and capacities so that they can spread and promote human rights culture and monitor human rights issues and fundamental freedoms.

**Global Calls for Proposals responding to EIDHR Objectives 1, 2 and 3.**

Promoting and Protecting the rights of Palestinian children affected by armed conflict and occupation	Defense for Children International	n/a	01/04/2012 - 30/03/2012	600,000.00	To strengthen the capacity of DCI-Palestine as the leading Palestinian non-governmental child rights actor in the oPt to monitor and report on violations of Palestinian child detainees' rights and raise the awareness of key stakeholders on the rights of children affected by conflict under international law.
Breaking the Silence, Saying No to Torture	Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre	Hurriyyat	01/01/2009 - 31/12/2011	627,482.00	To reduce both the prevalence of torture and duration of trauma suffered by those who have been tortured, degraded, and ill-treated. To increase percentage of police, security, and custodial personnel who are knowledgeable about human rights, and who internalize the prohibition against torture; Palestinian law enforcement and security agencies motivated to ratify the UN CAT. To raise information of public about torture and its ramifications, and better equip and encourage the public to report on, document, and speak out against such cruel and degrading ill-treatment.
Sustaining and Enhancing Comprehensive, Community-based service delivery to Victims of Torture...	Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre	Franz Fanon Foundation; Dulwitch Center	01/01/2009 - 31/12/2011	1,199,874.00	To expand services for victims of torture and politically organized violence benefiting from TRC's psychiatric, medical and psycho-social rehabilitative services through in-office therapy sessions, Outreach Program and specific activities targeting victims of torture and politically motivated violence and their families, with particular focus on women and children. To enable ex-detainees to be economically independent.
Human Rights and	Institouto	The	01/01/2010	699,890.00	Through a comprehensive set of structured

Reconciliation - Civil Society Acts Beyond Borders	Neuroepistimon Kai Technologias Kypriou (Future Worlds Centre)	management centre of the Mediteranean (CYP); Palestinian Dialogue Centre (PAL); YAARI (ISR)	- 31/12/2012		dialogue workshops, civil society trainings, as well as multi-communal public debates, round tables and conferences, this project aims to empower civil society actors, youth, and local authorities in Israel and Palestine to actively promote Human Rights and Democratization.
Alhaya Haque "Life is a right"	Sharek Youth Forum Association	Leaders Organisation (PS); Association Libanaise pour l'education et la formation (LB); Women for cultural development Naama (JOR); Andalus institute for tolerance and non-violence studies (EGT).	01/08/2010 - 30/01/2012	626,274.00	To lead a change in the public and official perceptions on the death penalty in the 4 respective countries. Primarily, the action will target public opinion due to the importance of shaping a public opinion that is in favour of abolishing the death penalty. Secondly, the action will influence official attitudes and perceptions regarding the death penalty.