

The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) Country-Based Support Scheme (occupied Palestinian Territory)

The European Union (EU) has a long standing relationship with Non-Governmental (NGOs) and other Civil Society Organisations (CSO), supporting them since 1976. Increasingly, the EU has acknowledged CS's crucial role in promotion and consolidation of democracy, both at the level of advocacy and decision-policy making as well as at the level of implementing development actions.

The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) was established in 2007 and builds upon its preceding instruments initiated in 1994. This thematic instrument reflects the high political profile and specific EU 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. For the period 2007-2013 the EIDHR has a total budget of EUR 1.104 billion.

In the oPt, country allocations have been made available through the Country-Based Support Scheme (CBSS) for a total of EUR 8,4 million. Three local CfPs have been launched so far: the first one in 2008 (pooling two budget years for a total of EUR 1,8 million), the second one in 2009 (pooling two budget years for a total of EUR 1,8 million) and the third one in 2011 (pooling the budgets of 2011 and 2012 for a total of EUR 3 million).

A Neighbourhood Civil Society Facility (CSF) was first established in 2011, as an operational follow up of the comprehensive review of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). This Communication highlighted the Civil Society's (CS) contribution to policy-making and holding governments to account. Seeking complementarity with the instruments available, the Facility focuses on boosting CS's involvement in the policy dialogue at country level, by increasing its advocacy capacity and its ability to monitor reform. At political level the EU promotes the setup of an enabling environment for Non-State Actors (NSA) and an inclusive approach to CS participation in national reforms. The Facility is implemented both at regional and at national level.

One of the components of the Facility is strengthening civil society organizations through support to regional and country projects, by supplementing the funding available through thematic programmes and instruments. In the oPt, the 2012 Civil Society Facility funds supplements the funds allocated to EIDHR-CBSS instrument in order to enhance the promotion of

freedom of association and strengthening the civil society involvement in governance, decision- making and policy dialogue with the Palestinian Authority.

In view of maximising the complementarity between the afore-mentioned thematic budget lines, the Office of the EU Representative has decided to launch a single call for the two allocations (EIDHR-CBSS and CSF) in order to have a more comprehensive approach for the support of the Palestinian civil society. The defined priorities set in these guidelines are meant to be complementary to each other.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME AND PRIORITY ISSUES

The EU global focus on human rights and good governance as well as its determination to strengthen the CS so as to effectively act as a watchdog and partner in dialogue with national governments, is further emphasized in the context of the Neighbourhood region. The guiding principles of this CfP stem from the recent policy documents approved by the EU like the Agenda for Change as well as from the conclusions and recommendations of consultation processes launched at global level - Structured dialogue for an Efficient partnership in development, studies undertaken in the oPt -Mapping study on civil society Organisations in the oPt and the EC Communication on Europe's engagement with civil society in external relations.

The call for proposals (CfP) is conceived as a comprehensive initiative targeting the CS in the oPt and it is putting forward a structured scheme with an overarching global objective that is the strengthening of the role of CS in promoting human rights and democratic reform, in supporting the peaceful conciliation of group interests and consolidating political participation and representation.

The specific objectives of this CfP were the following:

Objective 1 – To promote good governance and civilian oversight

Priority was given to those Actions focusing on at least one of the following issues:

- 1) Enhancing the independence and effectiveness of the judiciary;**
- 2) Ensuring transparency and accountability of the Palestinian Authority;**

3) Reinforcing civil society participation in the decision making-process.

Objective 2 –To promote human rights and fundamental freedoms

Priority was given to those Actions focusing on at least one of the following issues:

- 1) Improving citizen's access to information on their rights;**
- 2) Enhancing the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups¹;**
- 3) Promoting freedom of association and expression in alignment with international standards.**

Recommendations to apply to the implementation of the actions under this CfP included:

- a) Promoting partnerships and networks to strengthen common approaches and agendas amongst different NSA and CSO, especially CBOs;**
- b) Targeting the most deprived areas of oPt, in particular the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, Area C and the "sea zone" (Palestinian areas isolated from the West Bank by the separation barrier).**

¹ Including rights of children, women, persons with disabilities and the elderly.

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

Call for Proposals 2012 & 2013 Reference: EuropeAid/134-007/L/ACT/PS

Title	Contractor	Co-Applicant	Starting date/ End date	Total amount/EC contribution EUR	Summary
Strengthen capacity of Civil Society organisations in C area and Seam Zone to promote water as human right issue.	PALESTINIAN HYDROLOGY GROUP FOR WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT	N/A	01/01/2014 - 31/12/2016	391,772.31	OO: - Enhance the participation of marginalized and vulnerable groups in the water governance and reform - Promotion the concept of water right as basic human right SO- Raise awareness of the right to water of vulnerable communities, at the community, national, and international levels. - Initiate establishment of mechanisms for ownership and protection of water resources within the marginalised communities. O3: Empower marginalized community.
Protective Environment for Children form Sexual Abuse	Palestinian Centre for Democracy and Conflict Resolution LTD	N/A	01/01/2014 - 31/12/2015	483,339.00	OO: To improve protection of the rights of children in GS& WB exposed to sexual abuse threats through community-based mechanisms. SO: To institutionalize a short, medium and long-term community participation regarding children's rights to protection from sexual abuse by enhancing sexual education and advocacy efforts.
A Turning Point: Defending Freedom of Expression and Opinion through a Healthy Legal Environment	Palestinian Center for Development and Media Freedoms (Mada Association)	N/A	01/01/2014 - 31/12/2015	250,000.00	OO: Enhance the collaboration and mutual relation between the Judiciary, the lawyers, the journalists, and the Palestinian Center for Development to defend and promote freedom of expression and opinion through a healthy legal environment. SOs: - To enhance the Judges understanding of

					freedom of expression and opinion, and the importance of respecting this right and implementing it in Palestine - To build the capacity of lawyers to defend f
Restoring the Rights to Remedy and Reparations for Victims of Torture and other Ill-Treatments	Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture	The Human Rights and Democracy Media Center "SHAMS" - The Center for Defence of Liberties and Civil Rights "Hurriyat";	01/01/2014 - 31/12/2016	450,000.00	OO: To contribute to the well-being and reparation of victims of torture through rehabilitative services in order to promote their human rights and fundamental freedoms
Foundations for the Future: Community based Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in Palestine	Early Childhood and Family Development (TRUST)	INTERNATIONAL CHILD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES STICHTING	28/02/2014 - 31/10/2016	489,123.00	OO: Creation of an improved rights climate for young children and women in the Occupied Palestinian Territories SO: Development of good quality community based Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services in 10 locations in OPT, benefiting both young children and their mothers
Strengthening human rights and access to information	Stichting Oxfam Novib	Palestinian Centre for Human Rights	01/03/2014 - 29/02/2016	411,861.00	OO: To contribute to the promotion of an informed and engaged civil society in the Gaza Strip which uses its awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms to hold duty bearers accountable for their failure to respect, protect and fulfil their human rights. SOs: - To improve citizens' access to information and increase the awareness of marginalised communities, particularly women, youth and people with disabilities, on human rights, democracy and fundamental freedoms. - To increase the community awareness of human rights violations in the Gaza Strip to act effectively to protect the rights of vulnerable groups as a result of strengthened advocacy and media work and alliance

					with CBOs.
Promotion and Improvement of Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Rights for Women in the Gaza Strip	Stiftelsen Flyktingeradet	Palestinian Centre for Democracy and Conflict Resolution	01/01/2014 - 31/12/2015	496,727.00	OO: To contribute to promoting women's housing, land and property (HLP) rights in the Gaza Strip SOs: To enhance the protection of the rights of women and vulnerable communities in the Gaza Strip (HLP) through improved access, information, legal services and advocacy in relation to their HLP rights and by advancing the role of civil society in monitoring HLP issues.
Empowerment of DPOs Promoting WWDs rights in the West Bank	EducAid Onlus Associazione	- DPI (Disabled People's International) ITALIA ONLUS - Associazione Italiana Amici di Raoul Follereau (AIFO) - FISH onlus - Federazione Italiana per il Superamento dell'Handicap - The General Union of People with Disabilities (GUPWD) - Stars of Hope - Aswat Society	01/04/2014 - 31/03/2016	481,000.00	OO: To promote the role, and the recognition among policy makers, of DPOs in OPT as active stakeholders representing the needs of PWDs. SO: To strengthen DPOs structure, organizational, and national coordination capacities to represent the rights and voices of Women With Disabilities (WWDs) and; - To reinforce DPOs capacities and expertise in promoting advocacy of WWDs rights in the West Bank through inclusive approach and; - To improve the access of Women with Disability to services that ensure their social and economic protection and participation.

UNDER THE GLOBAL CALL: Enhancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms where they are most at risk and supporting Human Rights Defenders Reference EuropeAid/ 132-760 /Multi

Title	Contractor	Co-Applicant	Starting date/ End date	Total amount/EC contribution EUR	Summary
Empowering Palestinian Human Rights Defenders	Palestinian Centre for the Independence of Judiciary and the Legal profession Association	N/A	01/12/2013 - 30/11/2016	293,010.00	OO: Enhancement for the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Palestine through empowering Palestinian Human Rights Defenders (hereinafter HRDs) and reinforcing their capacities. SO: - To create a new and more qualified class of HRDs by building their legal capacities and raising their knowledge and technical skills - To improve the monitoring system in compliance with international standards and to enhance the legal protection of HRDs