



Kazakhstan

**EU COUNTRY ROADMAP FOR
ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY**

2018 - 2020

Priorities and Actions

Disclaimer: Please note that this version of the Roadmap has been edited on 19 July 2019 to improve readability.

1. PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 1 - Enhancing CSOs' role in promoting good governance, accountability and independent judiciary

As it is the case of all countries of Central Asia, reinforcing governance, government accountability and an independent judiciary are key elements in improving development results in Kazakhstan. The voice and actions of CSOs as monitors, advocates, partners in national and local policy dialogue and as providers of information and expertise can foster greater transparency, public knowledge and participation. CSOs can thus play a decisive role in improving the quality and effectiveness of public policies, promoting sound management of public resources and access to justice for all.

Together with public oversight councils and state institutional bodies such as parliament, local councils and the national audit chamber, CSOs can contribute to ensuring that public resources are used effectively and efficiently and budgets reflect people's needs and priorities.

Indicators:

- 1) Improved environment and space for CSOs to promote good governance and government accountability and independent justice.
- 2) Enhanced CSO involvement in policy dialogues, governance and accountability at local, regional and national level, including through networks.
- 3) Strengthened capacity of CSOs to participate in and contribute to policy dialogue and accountability processes at local, regional and national level.
- 4) Improved CSOs' structuring and joint action in governance and accountability.
- 5) Improved rating of Kazakhstan on anti-corruption.

PRIORITY 2 - Support the institutionalized dialogue between the state and CSOs

This priority is aimed at supporting the participation of CSOs in a dialogue with the government on the human dimension (development of democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights and freedoms) within the framework of the Consultative-Advisory Body “The Dialogue Platform on Human Dimension” under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; public councils under a number of state bodies and departments and other dialogue platforms, structures and working groups, including the ones that function as part of Parliament's activities pertaining to the human dimension.

This will contribute significantly to enhance the participation of civil society in the policy processes relating to the human dimension, improving the quality and efficiency of the dialogue between the state and society.

Indicators:

- 1) Increased frequency of meetings between CSOs and state representatives to discuss matters of human dimension
- 2) Increased level of institutionalization of the dialogue between civil society and the state in issues pertaining to human dimension
- 3) Increased level of participation of representatives of state bodies and departments in the dialogue with civil society on human dimension
- 4) Increased number of CSOs and independent experts participating in the dialogue with the state on issues pertaining to human dimension
- 5) Increased level and quality of participation of CSOs in policies processes carried out by Parliament as part of discussions of draft legislation on human dimension

PRIORITY 3 - Support CSOs' actions to enhance social development, promote better education for marginalised groups and inclusive growth in full respect of the environment.

Support should be provided to CSO actions to enhance social development by improving the population's access to (and benefits from) social services. This priority also aims at improving the livelihoods of population groups in need, in particular vulnerable groups in the regions and rural areas ensuring inclusiveness and doing so in a sustainable manner.

Inclusive growth is characterised by the people's access to participate in and benefit from the wealth of society and job creation. Support could be provided to facilitate local development processes with a view to stimulating and promoting coordination of efforts by various social and economic actors in rural and geographically remote areas, including Local Authorities (LA), CSOs, the private sector and other stakeholders in order to formulate and implement development policies and strategies for inclusive and sustainable development.

Indicators:

- 1) Improved environment and space for CSOs to raise awareness on environmental issues.
- 2) Improved environment which allows CSOs to be active in social sectors.
- 3) Enhanced CSO actions in policy dialogues to promote social development, better education for marginalised groups and inclusive growth in full respect of the environment at local, regional and national level, including through networks.
- 4) Enhanced CSO participation in social sectors (in policy dialogue and monitoring and in implementation as appropriate) and raising awareness on environmental issues at local, regional and national level.
- 5) Strengthened capacity of CSOs to effectively advocate for larger access of population to quality social services (notably for vulnerable groups and population out of mainstream services) and environmental issues.

PRIORITY 4 - Support CSOs' actions to promote the respect for human rights and the rule of law, including through promoting the recommendations of international organizations for the in the field of human dimension

This priority is aimed at strengthening the role of citizens and CSOs in policy processes related to the rule of law and respect for human rights.

Support should be provided for CSOs' actions in support of democracy by, among other things, fostering a culture respecting the Rule of Law and Human Rights. Since upholding the Rule of Law and Human Rights is primarily a responsibility of the state and is linked to the reform of the judiciary, it is particularly important to build synergies and complementarity with actions led by state authorities.

Support should also be provided to the promotion of recommendations of international bodies and organizations in the field of the human dimension - development of democracy, rule of law, and respect for human rights and freedoms. The objective is to increase the role and level of participation of civil society in the reforms of legislation, institutional development and improvement of law-enforcement practices relating to Kazakhstan's performance of its international obligations stipulated by international agreements and accords which the country has ratified and which relate to the respect, protection and promotion of human rights and freedoms.

Indicators:

- 1) Reduced number of cases of violation of human rights in the country;
- 2) Improvement of HR defenders working environment and protection of their rights;
- 3) Improved ratings of Kazakhstan by International Human Rights Institutions
- 4) Strengthening CSO networking (including CSO in rural areas) on HR issues
- 5) Increased number of implemented recommendations of international bodies and organizations in the field of human dimension
- 6) Increased level and quality of the dialogue between CSOs and state authorities concerning Kazakhstan's performance of its human dimension obligations
- 7) Increased role of CSOs in the implementation of recommendations of international bodies and organizations that are stipulated by international human rights agreements ratified by the Republic of Kazakhstan

2. ACTIONS

The priorities above will be taken into consideration when the EU Delegation determines the priorities for the EIDHR Country-Based Support Schemes for the period 2019-2020. The EU Delegation will also ensure that the priorities are reflected in other EU calls for proposals where CSOs based in Kazakhstan are beneficiaries.

Another opportunity to involve CSOs and promote the priorities identified in the Roadmap will be in the design and implementation of specific activities to be undertaken in connection with EU funded regional activities, such as WECOOP¹, CAEWDP², Nexus, Central Asia Invest and the EU-Central Asia platforms on the Rule of Law and Education.

Last but not least the EU institutions will strive to ensure that the priorities are duly considered in the policy dialogue with the government, including through the formal meetings held in the context of the PCA/EPCA, such as the Human Rights Dialogue and the sub-committee on Justice and Home Affairs.

To follow-up and monitor the implementation of the Roadmap, the questionnaire included in the Annex will be applied in a survey to be carried out annually in cooperation with an umbrella organisation for Kazakh CSOs. The result of the survey will be summarised by the EU Delegation in its annual External Action Monitoring Report (EAMR).

¹ Water, Environment and climate change Cooperation Programme.

² Central Asia Energy-Water Development Programme.

Questionnaire to be used in survey on the implementation of EU Country Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society

Please respond to what extent you agree with the statements choosing one the six options given in the pull-down menu: "Fully agree", "Agree", "Neither Agree nor Disagree", "Disagree", "Strongly disagree" or "Unable to answer"

| Question | Response |
|---|-----------------|
| PRIORITY 1 - Enhancing CSOs' role in promoting good governance, accountability and independent judiciary | |
| 1. The environment and space for CSOs to promote good governance and government accountability and independent justice is adequate. | Choose an item. |
| 2. CSO involvement in policy dialogues, governance and accountability at local, regional and national level, including through networks is adequate. | Choose an item. |
| 3. The capacity of CSOs to participate in and contribute to policy dialogue and accountability processes at local, regional and national level is strong. | Choose an item. |
| 4. CSOs' structuring and joint action in governance and accountability is strong. | Choose an item. |
| 5. This should continue to be a priority | Choose an item. |
| PRIORITY 2 - Support the institutionalized dialogue between the state and CSOs | |
| 1. Frequency of meetings between CSOs and state representatives to discuss matters of human dimension is high. | Choose an item. |
| 2. The level of institutionalization of the dialogue between civil society and the state in issues pertaining to human dimension is high. | Choose an item. |
| 3. The level of participation of representatives of state bodies and departments in the dialogue with civil society on human dimension is high. | Choose an item. |
| 4. The number of CSOs and independent experts participating in the dialogue with the state on issues pertaining to human dimension is high. | Choose an item. |
| 5. The level and quality of participation of CSOs in policies processes carried out by Parliament as part of discussions of draft legislation on human dimension is high. | Choose an item. |
| 6. This should continue to be a priority. | Choose an item. |

| PRIORITY 3 - Support CSOs actions to enhance social development, promote better education for marginalised groups and inclusive growth in full respect of the environment. | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. The environment and space for CSOs to raise awareness on environmental issues is adequate. | Choose an item. |
| 2. The environment which allows CSOs to be active in social sectors is adequate. | Choose an item. |
| 3. CSO actions in policy dialogues to promote social development, better education for marginalised groups and inclusive growth in full respect of the environment at local, regional and national level, including through networks, are strong. | Choose an item. |
| 4. CSO participation in social sectors (in policy dialogue and monitoring and in implementation as appropriate) and raising awareness on environmental issues at local, regional and national level is adequate. | Choose an item. |
| 5. The capacity of CSOs to effectively advocate for larger access of population to quality social services (notably for vulnerable groups and population out of mainstream services) and environmental issues is strong. | Choose an item. |
| 6. This should continue to be a priority. | Choose an item. |
| PRIORITY 4 - Support CSOs actions to promote the respect for human rights and the rule of law, including through promoting the recommendations of international organizations in the field of the human dimension | |
| 1. The number of cases of violation of human rights in the country is low. | Choose an item. |
| 2. The working environment and protection of their rights of HR defenders is good. | Choose an item. |
| 3. Kazakhstan's ratings by International Human Rights Institutions are adequate | Choose an item. |
| 4. CSO networking (including CSO in rural areas) on HR issues is strong. | Choose an item. |
| 5. The number of implemented recommendations of international bodies and organizations in the field of human dimension is high. | Choose an item. |
| 6. The level and quality of the dialogue between CSOs and state authorities concerning Kazakhstan's performance of its human dimension obligations is adequate. | Choose an item. |
| 7. The role of CSOs in the implementation of recommendations of international bodies and organizations that are stipulated by international human rights agreements ratified by the Republic of Kazakhstan is strong. | Choose an item. |
| 8. This should continue to be a priority. | Choose an item. |