

EU COUNTRY ROADMAP FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

Summary 2014 - 2017

1. INTRODUCTION

Brazil is a profoundly heterogeneous country with a pro-active civil society, comprising a large number of organizations, social movements and networks with highly qualified staff who has sound experience in managing funds from private, public and foreign sources. Brazilian Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are notable for their capacity to develop new, creative and locally adapted solutions to development issues. These organizations are also very politically active and often influence the formulation of public policies at Municipal, State of the Federation and Federal level.

According to the research project FASFIL (Fundações Privadas e Associações sem Fins Lucrativos)¹, launched in December 2012, and carried out by IBGE (The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics) and IPEA (Institute of Economic and Political Applied Research), with ABONG and GIFE (Group of institutes, foundations and companies) that year there were more than 320.000 CSOs operating in Brazil². Mostly concentrated in the Southeast (44.2%), Northeast (22.9%) and South (21.5%), being less present in the North (4.9%) and in the Centre (6.5%) of the country. Of the total number, only about 14,6% were explicitly and directly involved with questions related to development and advocacy. About 28,5%, were entities managed directly by church services or religious entities; 15,5% acted in the area of employer associations and professionals; and 12,7% were involved with culture and recreation activities.

Poverty reduction and strengthening democracy in Brazil were among the objectives of the international co-operation agencies in the 1990s and many Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and social organizations benefited from available funding. However, during the last two decades, the rapid economic growth of Brazil has led to the re-shifting of international co-operation funding to the poorest countries and regions in the world and thus, international funding to Brazilian CSOs, declined dramatically. Although financial sustainability is one of the central problems of CSOs, in the last decade, the Brazilian administration and private foundations have created a number of new and consistent sources of funding for financing civil society projects, particularly in environmental and climate areas.

At the same time, and as a consequence of the improvement of the economic situation of Brazil, Government funding has become the most important funding source for many CSOs in Brazil, thus allowing the CSOs to be more active in implementing social services on behalf of the Government. However, this process opened a public discussion on the role of CSOs in a country like Brazil, because in the understanding of many CSOs they should not replace the State in their assignments, arguing that it weakens their autonomy and their position when dialoguing with the Government.

¹ “As fundações privadas e associações sem fins lucrativos no Brasil – 2010”. IBGE/ABONG/IPEA/GIFE. Rio de Janeiro, 2012.

² In 2010, there were 290.000 private foundations and non-profit associations in Brazil, meaning and increase of 30.000 new CSOs in two years.

The elaboration of this country roadmap was done in consultation with the representatives of Brazilian CSOs and their main forums and networks, mainly the ABONG.

Throughout the second half of 2013, eight public consultations were held by the EU Delegation to Brazil (in addition to the regular contacts the Delegation has with CSOs in its routine work):

(a) the first two consultations (August) involved 45 advisors belonging to 30 NGOs with contracts recently signed with the European Commission;

(b) in September, five broad consultations were held in cities of different States (Brasília, Belém, Fortaleza, São Paulo e Porto Alegre) during the launch of the 2013 Non-State Actors (NSA) call for proposals (EuropeAid/134-987/L/ACT/BR). These five consultations involved 418 participants, most of them related to national CSOs;

(c) In the same month, a consultation was held in Brasilia gathering the representatives of 12 of the main national NGOs, acting in different fields (environmental, social, indigenous, health, microfinance, etc.)³

Additionally, a specific questionnaire was constructed and made available on the website of the EU Delegation to collect contributions from NGOs and the EU Delegation also maintains regular contact with the academia, not only in Brasilia but in other parts of the country.

2. PRIORITIES

Enhancement of CSOs capacities

Priority: Capacity of Brazilian CSOs to perform their roles as relevant actors for development are strengthened.

Indicators:

➡ Level of sustainability of CSOs in three core dimensions: transparency & accountability, programme management (result-oriented planning and monitoring, financial management, etc.) and financial (differentiation of sources, greater access to international, governmental and private funds, and mobilization of resources within civil society itself) targeted by the projects of the thematic budget lines and other EU initiatives.

➡ Number and extent of networks and coalitions of CSOs representing minorities, marginalized and peripheral groups target by the projects of the thematic budget lines and other EU initiatives that were strengthened.

³ The Embassies of the EU member States were invited to the meetings in Brasília.

Influence on public policies

Priority: CSOs participation in national, local (municipal and State level), international (including development cooperation) and sectorial policies is improved and broadened.

Indicators:

➤ Number and types of democratic spaces for social control, regular and open discussions with the Brazilian authorities and influence on public policies strengthened by contributions of the thematic budget lines and other EU initiatives.

➤ Number and types of public policies impacted (i.e. strongly influenced) by demands, proposals and visions of CSOs target by the projects of the thematic budget lines and other EU initiatives at national and local level.

Promotion of Human Rights

Priority: Brazilian civil society has strengthened its roles in the promotion of Human Rights, targeting five vulnerable groups: children, women, indigenous peoples, LGBTI and human rights defenders.

Indicators:

➤ Number and types of innovative and successful initiatives associated to the promotion of Human Rights supported by the thematic budget lines and other EU initiatives.

➤ Number of people (women / men) belonging to vulnerable and socially excluded groups targeted by the projects of the thematic budget lines and other EU initiatives that improve the awareness of their rights and became politically engaged.

Innovation and sustainable development

Priority: Innovative initiatives to reduce poverty and inequality in a context of sustainable development are consolidated and generate social and economic impacts.

Indicators:

➤ Number of people (women / men) living in poverty or social risk with improvements on their professional skills and with individual income increased targeted by the projects of the thematic budget lines and other EU initiatives.

➤ Number and types of innovative initiatives for the promotion of equitable and sustainable development consolidated targeted by the projects of the thematic budget lines and other EU initiatives (including south-south/triangular cooperation initiatives in partnership with EU member States).