



**Kazakhstan**

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

**2014 - 2017**

## **CURRENT EU ENGAGEMENT**

### **STRUCTURED EU DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY**

The EU's dialogue with Kazakhstani Civil Society Organisations (CSO) is organized within the framework of the 1995 bilateral Partnership and Cooperation Agreement and in accordance with the 2010 EU- Central Asia Strategy for a New Partnership. This dialogue has been maintained on a broad range of topics and in various formats.

### **MAINSTREAMING CIVIL SOCIETY**

The EU highly appreciates the constructive contributions it has obtained over time from CSOs in various priority sectors of bilateral intervention, namely promotion of regional cooperation and good neighborly relations; poverty reduction and increasing living standards; and good governance and economic reform.

## **PRIORITIES FOR EU INTERVENTION**

### **PRIORITY 1. Enhancing CSOs in promotion Good Governance, accountability and independent judiciary**

As it is the case in all countries of Central Asia, reinforcing governance, government accountability and an independent judiciary are key to reinforce the efficiency of reforms and this is pertinent for Kazakhstan as well. The voice and actions of CSOs as monitors, advocates, partners in national and local policy dialogue and providers of information and expertise can further foster transparency, public knowledge and participation. CSOs can thus play a decisive role in improving the quality and effectiveness of public policies, promoting fair management of public resources and access of all to fair justice. Together with public oversight councils and state institutional bodies such as parliament, local councils and the national audit chamber, CSOs can contribute to ensure that public resources are used effectively and efficiently and budgets are reflective of 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 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, particularly vulnerable groups and in the regions and rural areas taking care of inclusiveness and in a sustainable manner. Inclusive growth is characterised by people's ability to participate in, and benefit from, wealth and job creation.

Support could be provided to facilitate local development processes with a view to stimulate and promote coordination of various social and economic stakeholders in a rural and geographically remote areas, including Local Authorities (LA) CSOs, the private sector and others stakeholders, 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 3. Support CSOs actions to promote the respect for human rights and the rule of law**

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

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.

**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