TAJIKISTAN

EU COUNTRY ROADMAP FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

2014 - 2017

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PRIORITIES

The European Commission's Communication "The Roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations" identifies several areas where civil society actors can make a vital contribution to enhanced development and governance outcomes. The three priorities of the Communication, i.e. the **enabling environment**, the **roles and participation of CSOs**, and the **capacity of civil society** are contextualized in this document to the reality of Tajikistan with a vision towards the future.

The policy priorities here contained were defined through a process of consultation at different levels: within the EU Delegation, with Member States, with the civil society itself, as well as other international actors.

Finally, the Roadmap is not to be considered as a programming document. It is rather seen as a flexible and dynamic navigation tool, aimed at providing guidance for effective EU engagement with civil society at the country level. Priorities are therefore meant to reflect a strategic vision of change.

Priorities	Indicators
I Pillar	**Enabling Environment**
1. Contribution to enhancing the level playing field for CSOs by creating peer pressure through diplomacy and political dialogue with the government and by publicly raising human rights concerns, if and when necessary	• There is a decreased number of violations of the right to freedom of expression • Reduced number of cases where CSO representatives and Human Rights Defenders would be persecuted for critical speech, in public or private.
2. Work towards an adequate enactment of freedom of information legislation and its implementation mechanisms	• Progress towards clear and non-controversial legislation related to access to information. • Media and CSOs have access to information without restrictions imposed on accessing any source of information.
3. Contribution to strengthening the financial sustainability of CSOs	• Number of CSOs having received financial support from Members States, EU and other actors like USAID and Swiss Cooperation Office. • Progress towards transparent and efficient system of professional state tenders and grant-awards, and financial support for CSO's. • Level of engagement of CSOs in finding alternative ways for funding (i.e. income generating activities, private sector) is increased.

II Pillar	*Meaningful Participation in Policy Dialogue and Domestic Policies*
4. *Regular dialogue with the CS actors aimed to facilitate their participation in the policy development and legislative processes is held*	• Number of CSO participating in the various Government Working Groups increases. Consultations with CS are part of standard government procedures. • Number of CSOs from different sectors actively involved in development, monitoring of implementation and evaluation of PRSP, other State programmes and policies. • Number of CSOs involved in consultations for the Reports to UN Treaty Bodies, as well as in monitoring of state's follow-up on UN Treaty Bodies recommendations.
5. *Inclusiveness of formal space for dialogue is enhanced for rural CSOs, representing grass-root population and socially excluded groups.*	• Level of involvement of small grass root organizations into policy consultations, in particular for socially excluded groups (eg. youth, people with disabilities, HIV affected). • Number of rural CSOs regularly participating in development and monitoring of implementation of State programmes and policies in education/health/rural development and other sectors.
6. *Civil society plays its watchdog role and meaningfully participates in the strengthening and monitoring of activities promoted in the priority/focal sectors of EU and EU MS cooperation with the Government of Tajikistan*	• Regular cooperation between civil society, Government, Ombudsman's office is ensured. • Knowledge and skills level of CSOs in the focal sectors is enhanced so that they can empower communities to hold service providers accountable. • Number of networks and coordination mechanisms including CSOs and public authorities with other actors (service providers, trade unions, private sector organisations).
7. *The inclusiveness of existing space for dialogue in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment is enhanced*	• Number of CSOs actively involved in representing women voice as regarding women's economic empowerment, including access, control and ownership of land and other resources. • Number of CSOs active in raising awareness on gender issues and monitoring implementation of gender equality policies. • Dialogue between gender advocates and policy makers on women, peace and security issues increased.

III Pillar	Capacity development
8. *Think-tank capacity of CSOs is improved and skills in policy dialogue and lobbing activities are strengthened*	- Number of CSOs staff trained in analytical and sociological research, lobbing activities, policy dialogue, reporting, monitoring, evaluation, advocacy. - Number of think-tank activities conducted by CSOs and applied by local and central authorities in the policy formulation. - Number of CS organizations and coalitions regularly lobbying in the policy dialogues on various thematic areas, including the issues of public concern.
9. *Sustainability of civil society sector in Tajikistan is enhanced, and professional gap between urban civil society organizations and small rural CSOs is decreased*	- Number of rural CSOs staff trained in fundraising, project cycle management, reporting, monitoring and evaluation, research and advocacy, financial management. - Number of the projects conducted jointly between rural and leading national CSOs and types of partnership (implementing, consulting, etc) - Number of the representatives of the rural CSOs participating in the draft of the alternative reports and presenting the alternative reports to the UN Treaty Bodies and Universal Periodic Review (UPR).