



EU TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS
IN THE WESTERN BALKANS AND TURKEY

EU Civil Society Forum Western Balkans and Türkiye 2024

Wrap up presentation



Growth Plan and Reform Facility

- More information and transparency about the Growth Plan and Reform Agendas
- More clarity on the expectations and mechanisms for civil society involvement in the development, implementation and monitoring of the Growth Plan
- Public consultation is an EU legal requirement, so the EU should hold governments to account if they do not meet their legal obligations
- Need for effective indicators and transparency in the methods of evaluating reforms against the indicators
- Enable transparent involvement of civil society from different sectors and different geographical regions
- Questions over capacities, time, knowledge of CSOs to engage.

Session 3 – Launch of Guidelines/Plenary

Enabling environment is facing challenges – legal framework is stable, but implementation is deteriorating in some areas

Improvements in the formal structures of government – civil society cooperation, but challenges in fairness and transparency of public funding, and in functioning of mechanisms for cooperation

CSOs are increasing their diversity of funding, strong in internal learning, but challenges remain with conflicts of interest and governance.

Session 4 – Breakout group 1 – Countering threats to civic space

Support platforms and mechanisms like Safe Journalist net, categorising and publishing attacks and threats, and link to Council of Europe

Use existing mechanisms, including rapid response funds and U.N. Special Rapporteur

Prevention: Education of lawyers, prosecutors and judges to support activist, human rights defenders and journalists

Raising awareness of public when there are decisions threatening civil society space, promoting partnerships

Condition assistance to states on effective and supportive partnerships with CSOs

Session 4 – Breakout Group 2 – Government – Civil Society Cooperation

- Established mechanisms – Strategies, Councils, and Offices for Cooperation are facing challenges in functioning
- Cooperation with civil society is wider – it includes cooperation with parliaments, local governments and various ministries and agencies
- There is no substitute for mutual trust and willingness to cooperate
- Processes are the key – structures and mechanisms that support processes for cooperation

Session 4 Breakout group 3 – strengthening the sector

1. Diversify sources of funding
2. Use local expertise over international
3. Foster private sector partnerships and commercial/social enterprises
4. Invest in human resources and internal procedures
5. EU support for fairer government funding for CSOs and enhancing their role in holding governments to account
6. Improved arrangements for funding local service provision

Session 4 – Breakout Group 4 – Building Constituency

- Go out and meet with constituents, conduct needs analysis to better understand and respond to the
- Building up democratic internal structures within CSOs helps to ensure strong relations with constituencies.
- Funders should allow for flexibility to enable a better engagement with constituencies.
- Donors could define some principles and benchmarks related to constituency involvement as part of grant award evaluation criteria (e.g. youth participation, gender equality, transparency, accountability etc.)

World Café – go to Padlet



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Thank you!

