



# **GUIDE TO GLOBAL EUROPE FUNDING 2021-2027: FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS**

## **Part I**

**CONCORD**

European NGO confederation for relief and development

# ABOUT CONCORD

CONCORD is the European Confederation of Relief and Development NGOs. Our member organisations represent more than 2,600 NGOs and are supported by millions of people across Europe.

We are the main interlocutor with the EU institutions on development policy. We are a member-led organisation, which means that the Confederation's strategic direction is determined by our members.

## VISION

We envision a world in which people live free from poverty and exploitation. This must be achieved by a people-led transformative agenda based on social justice and gender equality, one that respects diversity and the limits of what our planet can sustain.

## MISSION

We work together to ensure that EU policies promote sustainable economic, social and human development, that they address the root causes of poverty, and are based on human rights, gender equality, justice and democracy.

More at: [concordeurope.org](http://concordeurope.org)

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Coordination: Celia Cranfield (CONCORD Europe)

Design and layout: [www.profigrafik.sk](http://www.profigrafik.sk) with Katarzyna Krok (CONCORD Europe)

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For further information about this report, please contact Celia Cranfield, CONCORD Senior Policy and Advocacy Adviser, at [celia.cranfield@concordeurope.org](mailto:celia.cranfield@concordeurope.org).

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# INTRODUCTION

This guide aims to provide civil society organisations with a comprehensive overview of the instruments and programmes, both thematic and geographic, used by the European Union (EU) in its international cooperation. It focuses on the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe. This introductory publication to the Global Europe instrument will be developed into a more detailed guide of CSO funding opportunities as and when the European Commission shares its detailed planning, in the form of the Multi Annual Indicative Programme(s), towards the end of 2021.

It is hoped that this piece of work, undertaken by the CONCORD Funding and Financing for Sustainable Development group will improve and increase the accessibility and predictability of funding for CSOs through the Global Europe instrument.



## EU AS A DONOR AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The EU is a leading provider of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and the primary trading partner and foreign investor for a great many countries in the world. Its external action budget helps it to uphold fundamental values (democracy, human rights, peace, stability, solidarity, sustainable development and poverty reduction) and to implement its priorities in the world. The added value of its intervention in external action is based on its competencies and expertise, its political and economic clout and the geographic range of its external cooperation.

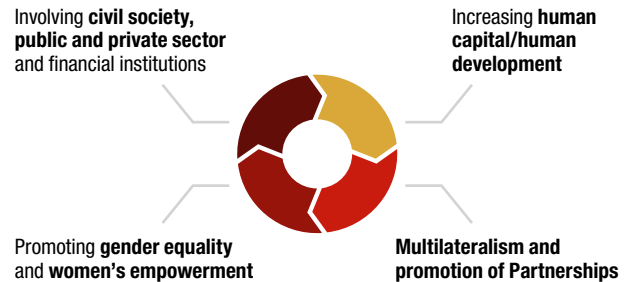
# EU POLITICS AND EU PRIORITIES

The European Union's international cooperation is guided by policies for development based on the EU Treaties and strategies as well as by political priorities brought forth by the European Commission (EC). Under the mandate of EC President Ursula von der Leyen, the EU has seen a shift in approach to development cooperation, whereby the EU's geopolitical goals, interests and values play an increasing role in establishing partnerships with the countries to which it delivers ODA. This is reflected in the name change of the EC body responsible for development cooperation from the Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development to the Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA).

The 2019-2024 European Commission defines itself as geopolitical and strives to balance the EU's interests with commitments to achieve the UN 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Support for human rights and gender equality and a renewed partnership with Africa also play an important role and are defined in strategies like the European Union Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, the Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Commission's communication 'Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa'.

Human development is considered cross-cutting to these priorities. Multilateralism and support to multi-stakeholder partnerships (including civil society) are also at the heart of the EU's policy. The geographic scope of cooperation is widened to include 'more advanced' partner countries and high-income countries.

**Figure 1: Cross-cutting priorities of the Commission**



The EC's effort to work more closely with the EU Member States in programming and implementing ODA is rooted in its commitment to 'working better together' but also in its political aim to be more visible on the international stage. This joint undertaking has been rebranded as Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) and applied in response to the COVID-19 crisis and it will likely play an important role in the next years.

This new approach where the political priorities guide international cooperation and the EU works increasingly closely with its Member States and other partners to deliver ODA characterises the NDICI-Global Europe instrument.

## THE GEOPOLITICAL PRIORITIES WHICH WILL DRIVE EU INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ARE:

-  the Green Deal (climate action, environment, biodiversity, sustainable food production and green energy)
-  digital transformation and data technologies
-  alliances for sustainable growth and decent jobs (trade and investment)
-  migration partnerships
-  governance, peace and security (human rights, democracy and the rule of law).

# GLOBAL EUROPE-NDICI: A NEW SINGLE INSTRUMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

For this EU budget cycle, known as the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027, the European Commission proposed to simplify and streamline EU international cooperation, crisis response and peace-building actions with partner countries with a single financial instrument for international cooperation: “The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)” – also known as ‘Global Europe’.

The instrument does this by merging the ten former external financial instruments – as well as the European Development Fund (EDF) - into one single financing tool. Including the EDF in the Global Europe budget is expected to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of EU development aid, strengthen the European Parliament’s democratic oversight and make such aid more predictable.

This means that EU policies focusing on poverty reduction, the protection of human rights and crisis response are now all financed from this single instrument.

The new instrument is made up of three main components 1) geographical, 2) thematic and 3) rapid response and a more flexible element to counter emerging crises.

Funds can be more easily shifted from one programme to another within the broader scope of the instrument. It also provides a more policy-driven and inclusive approach to decisions about the allocation of funds, with potentially more direct input from local and national stakeholders in partner countries.

Please note that while Global Europe has a crisis response element, this is not the same as humanitarian action which has its own instrument managed by the Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO).

## ✓ GLOBAL EUROPE: MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

### GEOPOLITICAL EUROPEAN UNION

With the new single instrument, the EU aims to follow up to international commitments such as the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement, their existing internal approach to international partnerships as formalised in the European Consensus on Development and their newer external policy approaches set out in the EU Global Strategy and the European Neighbourhood Policy. The aim is for the EU to bring more added value and increase its relevance and credibility in the internal sphere.

As a result, there is a strategic geographic focus on the Neighbourhood and Africa within Global Europe, and on cross-cutting priorities such as migration, peace and security, climate change, digitalisation, inequality and democracy.

To get the full picture of the latest developments in the EU ODA landscape, have a read at [CONCORD AidWatch 2021 report](#).



### ALIGNMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND SPENDING TARGETS

Global Europe is aligned to a number of the EU’s international commitments, in particular the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. To contribute towards the achievement of these, the instrument includes a number of targets:

- A spending target of 30% for climate action.
- The commitment to provide 0.2 % of gross national income (GNI) for aid to least developed countries by 2030
- A benchmark of 93% of EU development assistance to qualify as Official Development Assistance (ODA) as defined by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), demonstrating the EU’s compliance with adherence to international norms and standards.

Additional spending targets have also been set for thematic priorities:

- 10% of the financial envelope has been allocated to “actions supporting management and governance of migration and forced displacement”.
- 20% to social inclusion and human development, including basic social services such as health, education, water, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, and social protection.
- An additional progressively increasing target of 7.5% of overall annual MFF spending is to be dedicated to biodiversity objectives from 2024, and 10% from 2026. It is expected that this will have a significant impact on Global Europe.



## INCLUSION OF THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

The European Development Fund (EDF), once the largest geographical instrument of the European Union (EUR 30.5 billion for the period 2014-2020) was previously outside the general budget of the European Union. The EDF financed the cooperation of the EU with the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT). After years of advocacy from the Parliament and CSOs, with both pushing for more transparency and accountability mechanisms, the EDF was finally included in the EU Budget 2021-2027. This is known as budgetisation of the EDF.

As a result, the European Parliament (EP) will have more influence on how the cooperation with ACP countries and OCT will be financed, just like the EP scrutinizes other programmes and instruments financed with the general budget of the EU. Since the European Parliament has to approve the Commission's budget, the EP Committees on Foreign Affairs (AFET) and Development (DEVE) can be more involved at an early stage, by helping to set strategic or policy goals and setting up the governance of the funds.



## SIMPLICITY AND FLEXIBILITY

The simplification of many instruments into a single Global Europe instrument enables the EU to engage more strategically with its partner countries and to be more agile in reacting to unforeseen developments. It will also help to increase coherence with internal policies. By providing a more uniform framework for setting goals, reporting progress and managing funding, Global Europe streamlines the oversight of the various programmes.

Flexibility within and between programmes is ensured through built-in reserves. The instrument increases the amount that can be transferred from one programme to another within the instrument from 10% to 15%, and makes use of the full range of existing implementation modalities.



## FLEXIBILITY FOR CSOs

In practical terms, for CSOs flexibility means that funds could more easily be moved from one project to another, allowing the EU to respond more effectively to emerging crises and offer aid faster than before.

Article 30 in the Regulation of the Global Europe Instrument indicates that unused commitments and payments appropriations shall be automatically carried over and used up to 31 December of the following financial year. This, for example, will mean that EU Delegations and implementing partners will no longer need to rush at the end of the calendar year to get contracts signed before the December holiday in EU Delegations.



## MODALITIES

The Global Europe instrument seeks to broaden the use of innovative financing mechanisms. These include: direct, indirect or shared management modes and delivery methods such as grants, procurement contracts, programme estimates, budget support, trust funds, technical assistance and information exchange (TAIEX) and twinning, guarantees, loans and other financial instruments. More information on modalities is presented in the section 'Global Europe: modalities overview' at page 10.



## GREATER COLLABORATION BETWEEN EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTORS

The Global Europe instrument gives new impetus to greater collaboration between European sustainable development actors. The rules governing the instrument specify that "joint programming" is the preferred approach for country programming. This gives the European Commission the legal backing to make the Team Europe approach, combining its own expertise and funding with those of Member States and the European development finance institutions, the norm rather than the exception. Joint programming is already actively ongoing in 76 countries.<sup>1</sup>



## JOINT PROGRAMMING AND TEAM EUROPE INITIATIVES

**Joint Programming** occurs when the EU and its Member States, together with European development agencies and finance institutions (and with like-minded donors if agreed locally by EU Heads of Mission), agree to adopt a common multiannual programming document framing their cooperation with a partner country. It is a voluntary and flexible process allowing for differing degrees of participation of Member States.

It is a process led in-country and can encompass policy areas beyond international cooperation. Joint Programming is based on the joint analysis of national or regional sustainable development priorities and EU interests and priorities, and a joint response setting out how European partners plan to cooperate with the partner country and how the results of this collective effort will be jointly monitored.

Beyond framing cooperation, it allows the EU and Member States to speak with one voice and to enhance their influence.

**Team Europe** is an approach initially born in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic to support partner countries in a coordinated manner between the EU and Member States.

The Team Europe approach has been applied over and above the pandemic and aims to give a collective EU response to an increasingly changing geopolitical landscape at the

<sup>1</sup> European Commission Joint Programming Tracker, November 2021. <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/joint-programming-tracker/>

international level. With this approach, the EU pursues several objectives:

- to have a leading role in the world, protect EU interests and promote EU values;
- to increase the visibility of EU cooperation with a common branding;
- to increase coherence and coordination between stakeholders, in line with commitments to the Busan Effectiveness principles<sup>2</sup> and the work of the Global Partnership for Effective Development cooperation<sup>3</sup>.

Team Europe is made up of: the EU institutions and services (including EUDs), the EU Member States (including their implementing agencies and public development banks), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

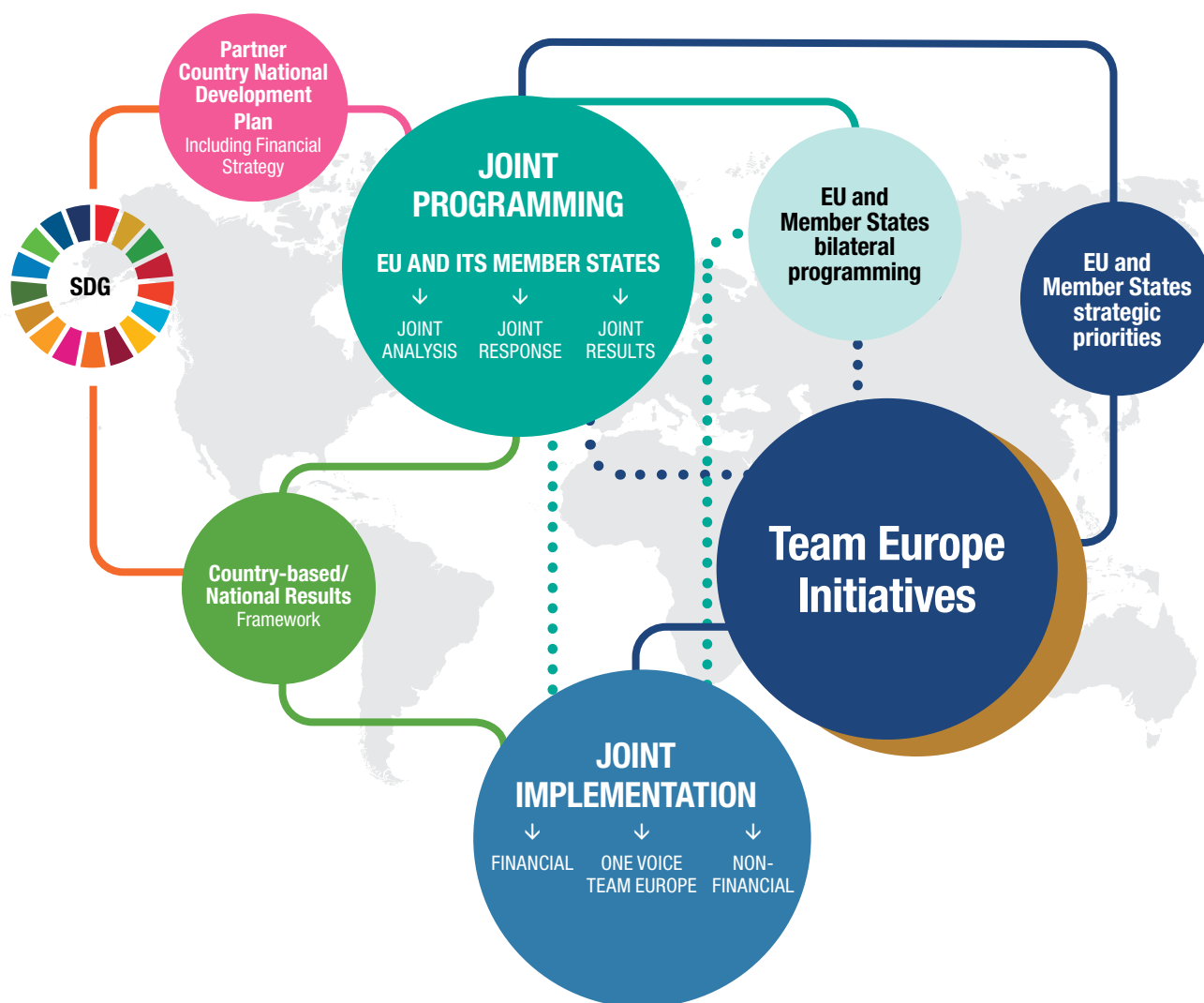
**Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs)** are the flagship of the Team Europe approach. TEIs may be at country-level (up to 2 per country) and regional level and they must link to the priorities

set in the Multiannual Indicative Programmes (MIPs). Global TEIs are under discussion. TEIs should deliver concrete results for partner countries, in line with their strategic and national priorities, and promote the ‘Team Europe’ brand. They can include a mix of implementing modalities, depending on the context and the decision of the EU actors concerned.

The Team Europe approach is a guiding principle for the EU Multiannual Indicative Programmes. The Team Europe approach adds a broader political approach to Joint Programming, strengthening the global coordination efforts of the EU and its Member States (MS), according to the EU.

In some countries, Joint Programming and the Team Europe approach would be the same. In other countries where there isn't yet a Joint Programming strategy, Team Europe Initiatives might be seen as an entry point to start the discussion and collaboration between the EU and MS. To know more about TEIs, check out **CONCORD's** guide on it.

**Figure 2: Diagram extracted from the guide “Working together as Team Europe” (January, 2021)**



<sup>2</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/development/effectiveness/busanpartnership.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.effectivecooperation.org/>





## FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE OF THE GLOBAL EUROPE INSTRUMENT

For the period 2021-2027, the Global Europe Instrument is set to contain funding of around **€79,5 billion<sup>4</sup>**, divided into four components. Most of this funding is programmable, meaning that the EU has allocated the funds across the different components, to meet objectives identified during the programming process. You can find more information on the programming process at the [following link](#).



## GEOGRAPHIC COMPONENT (€60,4 BILLION)

This component focuses on strengthening cooperation with partner countries from different regions of the world. The increased focus on bilateral cooperation is a major shift in the EU's approach and geographic programmes now constitute the main source of the EU development funding. This trend is also called 'geographisation.'

It is expected that:

1. at least €19.32 billion will be allocated for the European Neighbourhood
2. at least €29.18 billion for Sub-Saharan Africa
3. €8.48 billion for Asia and the Pacific
4. €3.39 billion for the Americas and the Caribbean



## THEMATIC COMPONENT (€6,4 BILLION)

These are actions that are linked to specific themes in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Programmes funded under this component will specifically focus on tackling worldwide issues and global challenges and will finance four thematic programmes:

1. Human Rights and Democracy,
2. Civil Society Organisations
3. Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention
4. Global Challenges (people, planet, prosperity and partnerships).

The thematic component is complementary to the geographic component and is programmable.



## RAPID RESPONSE COMPONENT (€3,2 BILLION)

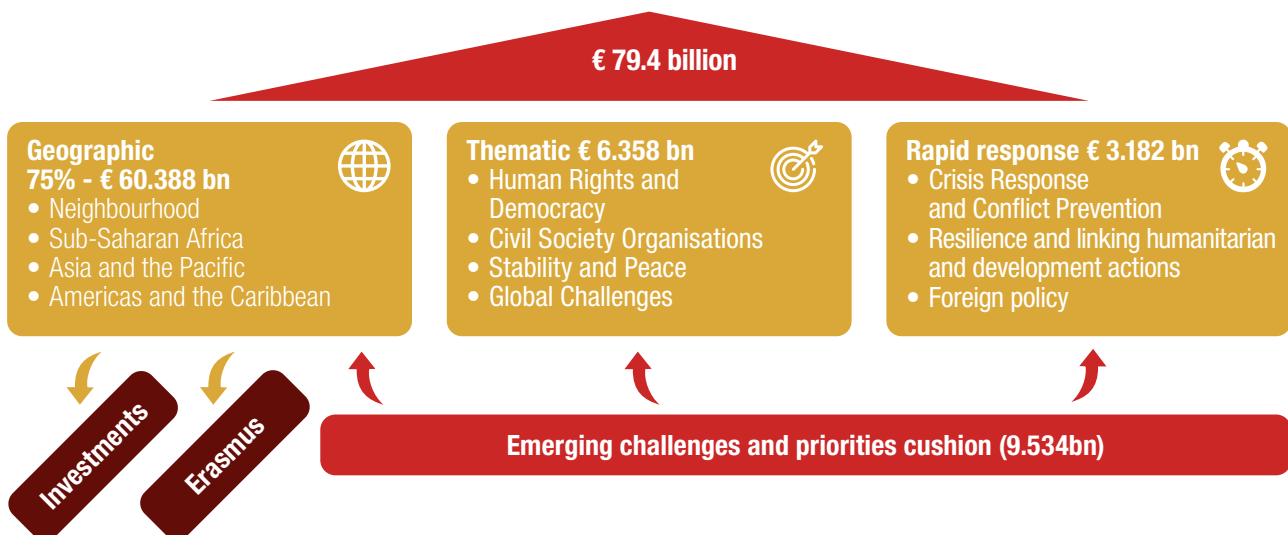
This component focuses on managing existing crises (both foreign policy measures and actions supporting resilience and linking humanitarian and development assistance), the prevention of conflicts and (re)building peace efforts. As opposed to the geographic and thematic components, this does not require long-term programmes to be set in place, but is rather focused on financing individual measures or one-off action plans. This component is designed to allow the EU to respond more quickly to crises as they arise.



## FLEXIBILITY CUSHION OF UNALLOCATED FUNDS (€9.5 BILLION)

These funds can be used to top-up any of the geographic or thematic programmes and the rapid response mechanism, in order to address unforeseen circumstances, new needs or emerging challenges and promote new priorities. For these reasons, they are considered to be non-programmable funds.

Figure 3: How is Global Europe made up?



<sup>4</sup> The EU budget is expressed in 'current' prices or prices fixed to a certain year (2018 for the current MFF). Throughout this guide we refer to 2018 current prices.

# GLOBAL EUROPE: MODALITIES OVERVIEW

The EU can distribute the money allocated for external support in different ways - these are called financing with funding modalities. Not all modalities are open to civil society. You will find below a general list of the aid modalities that can be used for the Global Europe (NDICI) instrument, but specific information is only shared in the multiannual indicative programme.

- Budget Support: funding from the EU directly to governments.
- Grants - financial donation given to a beneficiary (for example, the applying CSO) to contribute to the achievement of a policy objective by covering part of the functioning or project costs of the applicant.
- Public Procurement (tenders): usually for infrastructure projects, large-scale service provision.
- Blending: links EU budget grants with loans by international, regional and European bilateral financial institutions (like European Investment Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), Nordic Investment Bank, Africa Development Bank, German Development Bank (KFW)).

The following table breaks down the grants aid modality which is most likely to be used by CSOs.

## OPSYS

The European Commission is moving towards what they call 'the corporate approach.' This includes new contract formats, rules and tools, including transition to an electronic system for managing grants. Applying for, and eventually managing and reporting on projects, will be done through the OPSYS portal. OPSYS stands for Operational System and is the information system used by the European Commission (EC) for external actions. It is a combination of interactive IT tools and information systems currently used by the EU that will address the whole project cycle: from programming to final evaluation. If you want to apply for external action funding opportunities then your organisation will need to register in OPSYS to receive a Participant Identification Code (PIC) which you can access via the [EU Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal](#). You will be able to find updated guidance from CONCORD on the use of the portal [here](#).<sup>5</sup>

AID MODALITY	OPPORTUNITIES FOR CIVIL SOCIETY
<b>Calls for proposals</b>	Usually includes civil society as an actor. Award based on quality of application, fulfilment of call criteria contained in the Call for Proposals guidelines and internal decision-making process. Calls for Proposals are published on the <a href="#">EU Funding and Tender Opportunities portal</a> . Programme design, award and contracting is mainly managed by EU Delegations for single country programmes or by DG INTPA or DG NEAR for regional or global calls.
<b>Direct awards</b>	The actor is approached to submit an application without going through a call for proposal. May also be awarded in exceptional situations, in case of monopoly situations, in fragile countries operating under flexible procedures or to ensure a rapid response to provide strategic support when there is no time to go through a call for proposals. Can also include low-value grants to human rights defenders to finance urgent protection actions and needs and low value grants to civil society organisations.
<b>Financial Support to Third Parties (sub-granting)</b>	A financing mechanism that can support CSOs, whereby the donor provides funding to a generally well-established or umbrella organisation, which in turn facilitates funding (in the form of sub-grants) for a number of smaller or grassroots organisations.
<b>Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs)</b>	Framework Partnerships can be entered into by civil society networks, normally following a call for proposals. Once accepted as an FPA-holder, dedicated funding streams may be available. The eligibility criteria determining support for national or regional networks include: strategic plan with long-term vision, specific objectives, proven organisational and management strengths, democratic internal governance etc.

<sup>5</sup> CONCORD will share more detailed guidance on OPSYS with its members as the OPSYS platform develops.

# ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN THE GLOBAL EUROPE INSTRUMENT

## CSOs EVOLVING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EU

Civil society organisations (CSOs) play a vital role in international cooperation. Since the 2011 fourth high-level forum on aid effectiveness in Busan, CSOs have been formally recognised by the international community as independent development actors who “play a vital role in enabling people to claim their rights, in promoting rights-based approaches, in shaping development policies and partnerships, and in overseeing their implementation. They also provide services in areas that are complementary to those provided by states.”<sup>6</sup>

**Open, transparent and regular dialogue with civil society** is a principle in all EU policies, and is also reflected in the regulation for the new Global Europe Instrument.

EU policies and legal instruments defining civil society’s active role in EU international cooperation:

- 2011 Agenda for Change
- 2012 Communication ‘The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe’s engagement with Civil Society in external relations’
- 2017 European Consensus on Development
- 2021 Post-Cotonou agreement

In 2010, the EC organised a Structured Dialogue bringing together CSOs and Local Authorities (LAs) from the European Union and partner countries with European institutions and bodies, to build an efficient partnership in development. Subsequently, the Policy Forum for Development (PFD) replaced this mechanism and it remains today a key EC body responsible for consultation with CSOs and LAs. According to the CSO-LA 2014-2020 programme evaluation, the PFD is more successful in engaging with the EC at regional and global level than at other levels. The **new Instrument foresees strengthening the PFD**, so as to ensure that dialogue with civil society on key issues results in meaningful contributions to advance sustainable development objectives.

In 2013, the EU launched a process to draw up Roadmaps for Engagement with Civil Society at country level, aimed at strengthening the strategic cooperation and structured dialogue between the EU and its Member States on the one hand, and CSOs on the other. CONCORD produced a handbook that helps CSOs navigate through the work with EUDs and foster effective cooperation with them. The handbook is available [at this link](#). The EU will **continue using and updating the CSO Roadmaps** during the MFF 2021-2027, as the **main means of engagement with civil society in partner countries**.

<sup>6</sup> *Busan Partnership, Article 22.*

<sup>7</sup> *Provisional agreement resulting from interinstitutional negotiations, Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, March 2021, recital 45.*

**Involving civil society is also one of the current EC cross-cutting political priorities for international partnerships.**

The regulation of the new Instrument specifies areas of programming, implementation and monitoring where CSOs play an important role.

One of the specific objectives of the Regulation is to “support civil society organisations” at global level (Article 3, 2c). The importance of dialogue and cooperation with CSOs is stated in the general principles (Article 8), as is the **principle of inclusive partnership and transparency** that includes consultation of and information-sharing with stakeholders in partner countries to allow them “to be adequately involved and play a meaningful role during the design, implementation and associated monitoring processes of programmes”. These principles are reiterated in the regulation scope of geographic and thematic programmes, and of the rapid response action.<sup>7</sup>

CSOs were invited by EU institutions to participate in some consultations, covering in-country, regional and global levels, either by the EUD concerned or via the PFD, as part of the Global Europe programming process. However, meaningful involvement in the design of programme priorities was not always realised. It is therefore of fundamental importance that CSOs continue engaging proactively and constructively with the EU institutions, including EUDs, throughout the duration of the 2021-2027 MFF.

# CSO FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



In this section we explore the most likely funding opportunities for CSOs within the Global Europe instrument and in a number of other EU funding instruments.

## ✓ GLOBAL EUROPE

An active role for CSOs is envisaged in the geographic and thematic programmes particularly in the areas of human rights, governance and rule of law. Detailed information will be found in the relevant Multiannual Indicative Programme documents while specific opportunities are normally communicated via the EU Funding and Tender Opportunities portal (calls for proposals) for both geographic and thematic funding.

## ✓ THE GEOGRAPHIC PROGRAMMES

The vast majority of funding opportunities for CSOs are expected to be in the geographic programmes. The Multiannual Indicative Programmes (MIPs) and Annual Action Plans (AAPs) will give more comprehensive information about what CSOs can expect and the second part of this guide - which will be released later - will try to analyse this further.

While the focus at country level on geographic programmes rather than thematic priorities paves the way for a cooperation that is better aligned with the objectives and needs of partner countries, there is a risk that, with less funding, global challenges and the other thematic programmes may be neglected. These have often been an important source of funding for civil society organisations.

## ✓ THE THEMATIC PROGRAMMES

The “Civil Society Organisations” and “Human rights and democracy” (HR&D) thematic programmes involve civil society as both beneficiaries and main actors of the EU international cooperation policy.

## ✓ HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

The Human Rights and Democracy programme will respond inter alia to the shrinking space of civil society active in the promotion and protection of human rights; it addresses the protection of human rights defenders and funding to civil society through dedicated mechanisms; it also aims at enhancing “citizen and civil society participation” and supporting civil society to strengthen rule of law, the judiciary etc.

## ✓ CIVIL SOCIETY PROGRAMME

The CSO programme will focus on “contributing to an enabling environment for civil society”, “a more inclusive CSO participation in the dialogue on development policy and domestic policies” and “a comprehensive approach to capacity building to strengthen CSO partner capacities”. Additionally, the EC will shift away from service delivery which will be restricted to very specific situations such as fragility and conflict. A more targeted approach will benefit the complementarity of thematic and geographic programmes, and serve the purpose of reaching (and funding) the full spectrum of CSO actors including grassroots organisations, emerging social movements, youth and women’s organisations, trade unions, cooperatives, business and consumer organisations, among others. Funding delivery will follow the principle of geographisation, with most of the implementation being at the local level, and fewer global or regional initiatives which generally complement country-level actions.

## ✓ GLOBAL CHALLENGES PROGRAMME

The Global Challenges Programme sets out the global and multilateral dimensions of the EU’s political priorities. It aims to strengthen the EU as a global actor, complementing country and regional programmes. It will finance only global and transregional initiatives, addressing global challenges, the delivery of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, protecting global public goods, supporting multilateralism and promoting transformative changes.

The structure of the Global Challenges programme will reflect the key themes of the 2030 Agenda that shape the SDGs:

- People (health, education, gender equality and women’s rights, children and youth, migration, decent work)
- Planet (climate action, environment and natural resources, green transition, sustainable energy)
- Prosperity (investment climate, private sector, decent work, employment and trade, circular economy, child labour, digital transformation, resilient and sustainable agriculture)
- Partnerships (strategic cooperation with global and multilateral organisations, economic governance and inclusive societies, local authorities)

## ✓ PEACE, STABILITY AND CONFLICT PREVENTION PROGRAMME

Along with the rapid response pillar, resilience programming from geographic programmes and the humanitarian aid instrument, this programme will provide funding for humanitarian-development-security nexus interventions. The beneficiaries of this programme will be diverse entities, however some of the funding will be disbursed through CSOs. There are two main areas with ambitious objectives. It is likely that funding for CSOs will be available mostly in the first area:

1. Conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness. This includes:
  - a. stabilisation projects focusing on peace-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation at community level relevant to the Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) agenda;
  - b. improving post-conflict and postdisaster recovery, with relevance to the political and security situation;
  - c. supporting statebuilding/governance by strengthening the dialogue of CSOs and governments in fragile contexts;
  - d. supporting the representation of women and youth in formal and informal peace processes;
  - e. strengthening the resilience of states, societies, communities and individuals.
2. Addressing global and trans-regional threats and emerging threats, such as radicalisation leading to violent extremism, organised crime, cyber-crime, illicit trafficking, threats to public health and environmental stability, maritime security threats, nuclear safety. This area does not foresee CSOs as beneficiaries. Trans-regional cooperation will be prioritised with some themes tackled through cooperation with individual countries, regions, or international, regional and sub-regional organisations. Radicalisation and counter-terrorism will be addressed by focusing on legislative change in partner countries.

## OTHER FUNDING INSTRUMENTS COMPLEMENTING EU INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION POLICY

### ✓ HORIZON EUROPE (RESEARCH AND INNOVATION)

Horizon Europe is the EU's funding programme for research and innovation with a budget of €95.5 billion under the 2021-2027 MFF. The aim of the programme is to tackle climate change, help to achieve the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals and boost the EU's competitiveness and growth. Horizon Europe is primarily providing funding for EU domestic programmes and to EU stakeholders. However, there are often opportunities to undertake research with partners

outside of Europe, mainly in Africa. Horizon Europe is primarily targeting research organisations, technical institutes and university scientific centres, but there are many opportunities for specialised niche CSOs to join as consortium partners.

Horizon Europe is structured in three pillars: Excellent Science; Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness; and Innovative Europe. Although relevant calls are published in all the sub-programmes of those pillars, the second pillar is the most relevant for civil society organisations. It is divided into 6 clusters:

1. Health
2. Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
3. Civil Security for Society
4. Digital, Industry and Space
5. Climate, Energy and Mobility
6. Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Each of those clusters have dedicated work programmes detailing the aims, eligibility and geographic scope of the calls for the next 2 years.

Besides the three pillars, Horizon Europe introduced 5 mission areas that operate as a portfolio of actions and have devoted calls. Calls under missions, pillars and clusters open in batches throughout the year and are published on the EU Funding and Tender Opportunities portal.

#### USEFUL RESOURCES:

- Recordings of the Horizon Europe infodays
- List of the Horizon Europe National Contact Points (NCPs)
- Webinar recording - How to prepare a successful proposal in Horizon Europe: episode 1 - episode 2
- Horizon Europe Strategic Plan (2021-2024) defining the key strategic orientations

### ✓ LIFE (ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION)

LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting EU domestic environmental, nature conservation and climate action projects. Under the 2021-2027 MFF, LIFE has a budget of €5.43 billion allocated to its two pillars and four sub-pillars:

- The sub-pillars 'Nature and Biodiversity' and 'Circular Economy and Quality of Life' come under the pillar 'environment' (€3.5 billion);
- The sub-pillars 'Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation' and 'Clean Energy Transition' come under the pillar 'Climate Action' (€1.94 billion).

Organisations, including CSOs, legally registered in the EU as well as in Iceland, Albania, Turkey, Israel and Ukraine, are eligible to apply and the projects must take place in those countries. Only in exceptional cases does the programme

finance activities outside this geographical scope.<sup>8</sup> LIFE grants usually require a high co-financing contribution of around 50%. In addition, LIFE also offers operating grants for environmental and climate CSOs for EU advocacy work.

LIFE is supported by CINEA, the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency. Calls are published each year on the EU Funding and Tender Opportunities portal.

#### USEFUL RESOURCES:

- CINEA published a series of 40 videos introducing LIFE and all its components
- List of LIFE National Contact Points (NCPs)
- LIFE regulation
- Political priorities & work programme for 2021-2024



#### ✓ ERASMUS +

Erasmus + programme is the EU's flagship programme for education, training, youth and sport. It benefits from €26.2 billion with €2.2 billion from the NDICI and IPA3 budgets. 70% of the budget supports student, staff and youth mobilities aiming to enhance professional and personal development and lifelong learning skills, while 30% of the budget will fund projects whereby organisations gain experience in international cooperation, strengthen their capacities, produce innovative approaches, exchange good practices and network. While the programme mostly funds organisations based in the European Union, European Economic Area and pre-accession countries, access to limited funding is also possible for organisations from outside the EU. The instrument funds both educational institutions and CSOs.

#### USEFUL RESOURCES:

- Erasmus + Programme Guide 2021
- European Education and Culture Executive Agency



#### ✓ INSTRUMENT OF PRE-ACCESSION ASSISTANCE III

The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III) supports candidate countries and potential candidates to fulfil the EU accession criteria by funding programmes and reforms. The third iteration of this instrument has a budget of €14.2 billion and will focus on Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey. The main priorities (thematic windows) are: rule of law and respect of fundamental values; strengthening democratic institutions and public administration reform; promoting economic governance and competitiveness, green agenda, connectivity, territorial and cross-border cooperation. The allocations are based on the thematic windows, with countries competing for funding based on performance in achieving the objectives of the instrument.

#### ✓ HUMANITARIAN AID

Humanitarian aid is managed not by DG INTPA but by a different Directorate-General, DG ECHO, which deals with European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations. More information is available at **the following link** Civil society organisations are important implementing partners in EU humanitarian aid and funding from DG ECHO is provided on the basis of holding an EU Humanitarian Partnership Certificate.

<sup>8</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/life/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation\\_life\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/life/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_life_en.pdf)

# OVERVIEW OF THE EU PROGRAMMING CYCLE

For reference we include this brief overview of the EU programme cycle.

Programming is the ‘where, what and how’ decisions that shape EU international cooperation policy.

The Global Europe instrument has its legal basis in a regulation adopted by the European Parliament (EP) and the Council of the European Union. The legal basis establishes which countries, regions, thematic programmes or other special programmes will receive development cooperation funding under that instrument, and what rules will apply.

To guide the implementation of each country, regional, thematic or other programme, the European Commission (EC), jointly with the European External Action Service (EEAS), drafts a Strategy for the period of the MFF and a Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP). This is a multi-year plan for each programme/country/region, setting out priorities, objectives, expected results and indicators, as well as indicative financial allocations for different objectives. It is the role of the EC and the EU Delegations to ensure that there are consultations and dialogue with stakeholders, including partner country governments, local authorities and civil society.

Halfway through the seven-year period of the MFF, a Mid-Term Review of the MIP will be carried out, and then a revised MIP will be adopted for the final three years of the period. When the strategies and MIPs are being drawn up, there is a strategic dialogue between the EP and the Council of the EU about the drafts presented by the EC. The final MIP is adopted by the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument committee (as per article 45 of the regulation, see [at this link](#)), on which EU Member States are represented, and this is where other related decisions are made.

Following the approval of the strategies/MIPs, the EC presents its draft Annual Action Programme (AAP) for each programme. The AAPs are based on decisions in the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument committee (the members of this Committee are representatives from the Member States and from DG INTPA). In an AAP, the actions to be funded under that annual budget are described in annexes. There are also Annual Work Programmes which give further details of the grants to be awarded during the year.

## GLOBAL EUROPE PROGRAMMING: ROLE FOR CSOs

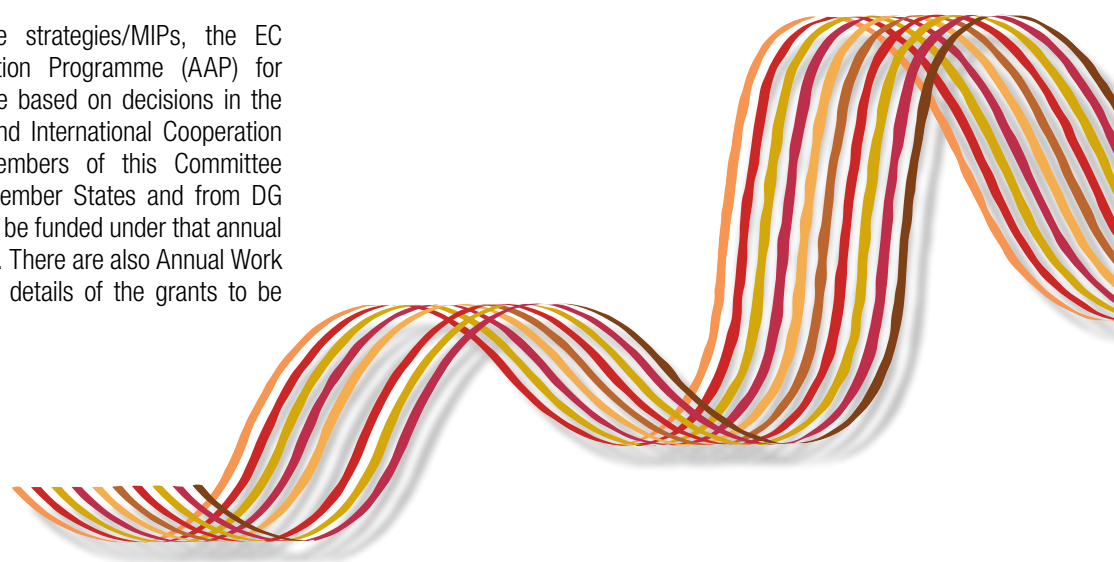
CSO involvement can strengthen each step of EU programming. For geographic programmes, stakeholder consultations at country level are prescribed in the regulations of the Instrument. Systematic, meaningful CSO participation should be a priority in the MFF, MIPs, Mid-Term Reviews and AAPs, in both geographic and thematic programmes, as stated in the EC Communication “The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe’s engagement with Civil Society in external relations” (2012).

The consultations with CSOs regarding Global Europe programming were organised as follows:

### 1 PRE-PROGRAMMING

The pre-programming phase consisted of consultations and analysis carried out by the EU Delegations and Member States Embassies and agencies present in countries, in the first half of 2020. This was to allow the EU to identify its areas of support in, and with, partner countries. The outcome was a short strategy paper indicating proposed umbrella priorities. In some cases, these priorities were then developed into “Team Europe Initiatives” (previously called Flagship Initiatives, see below for more information) which were elaborated based on proposals from the EU Delegations and further inputs from EU Headquarters (EEAS & EC DGs INTPA & NEAR) for the geographic programmes.

Opportunities for CSOs to participate in this phase were limited but some were invited to provide input about the priorities in a specific country or programme.



## 2 PROGRAMMING

During this phase, the EU outlined the detailed priorities for each country, region or thematic programme as well which actors were best placed to achieve the expected impact.

This was an important phase for CSO engagement as civil society sought to ensure its various roles were recognised and influence the priorities of in-country European development cooperation as well as of thematic and regional programmes. CSO engagement in the programming exercise was supported by the Commissioner of DG INTPA in guidance sent to every EU Delegation.

## 3 MID-TERM REVIEW AND EVALUATIONS

The MIPs will have a duration of 7 years. During that period, after 4 years, the actions and activities within the MIPs as well as the indicative plan itself are evaluated. The evaluation (known as Mid-Term Review) assesses the performance of the programmes, the effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, coherence, relevance and the EU added value. The assessments will include a variety of stakeholders and will look at the indicators established in the actions. The evaluations will seek to demonstrate how the MIP prioritises and how the EU would contribute to support those sustainable development goals at country or regional levels. According to the European Commission, EU partner countries should be invited to set up their own evaluation activities within the framework of the MIP, as should the MS in the context of the TEI. Evaluations should provide useful information on how EU actions are contributing to its commitments at global level, including the SDGs.





# GLOSSARY

<b>AAP</b>	Annual Action Plan
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>HRD</b>	Human Rights and Democracy
<b>IPA</b>	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
<b>MAAP</b>	Multi Annual Action Programme
<b>MFF</b>	Multiannual Financial Framework
<b>MIP</b>	Multiannual Indicative Programme
<b>NDICI</b>	Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument
<b>OPSYS</b>	Operational System
<b>PIC</b>	Participant Identification Code
<b>TEI(s)</b>	Team Europe Initiative(s)

## USEFUL RESOURCES



[CONCORD AidWatch 2021 report](#)

[CONCORD's guide](#) 'Team Europe Initiatives: first insights and questions to Member States' agencies'

[CONCORD's note to civil society about programming](#)

[CONCORD guidance note](#): Participant Identification Code (PIC) and Roles within OPSYS

[CONCORD's handbook](#) 'EU Delegations unwrapped: A practical guide for Civil Society Organisations'

EU [Capacity4dev](#) - Connecting the Development Community



# OUR MEMBERS

<p><b>NATIONAL PLATFORMS</b></p>	 <p>Global Responsibility Austrian Platform for Development and Humanitarian Aid</p>	 <p>BELGISCH PLATFORM PLATE-FORME BELGE CONCORD ONGO-ITALIA / ACODEV / ITALIA / Cooperazione</p>	 <p>Bulgarian Platform for International Development</p>	 <p>Platforma za međunarodnu građansku solidarnost Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity CROSOL</p>	 <p>CYINDEP Cyprus Island wide NGO Development Platform</p>	 <p>FORS</p>
<p><b>GLOBAL FOCUS</b> Dutchi OSKs for Development Cooperation</p>	 <p>AKÜ</p>	 <p>fingo</p>	 <p>COORDINATION SUD</p>	 <p>VENRO ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN DEVELOPMENT AND HUMANITARIAN AID NGOs</p>	 <p>Hellenic Platform for Development</p>	 <p>HAND</p>
<p><b>dóchas</b> The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations</p>	 <p>Network delle ONG in Europa per lo sviluppo e l'emergenza CONCORD ITALIA</p>	 <p>LAPAS Lithuanian Platform for Development Cooperation</p>	 <p>Lithuanian National Non-Governmental Development Cooperation Organisations' Platform LITDEA</p>	 <p>Cerle de coopération des ONG DU LUXEMBOURG</p>	 <p>SKOP Solidarjetà u Koperazzjoni</p>	 <p>PARTOS</p>
 <p>ZAGRANICA</p>	 <p>ONGD PLATAFORMA PORTUGUESA</p>	 <p>FOND Federalni Organizacijski in Regulatorni Centeri za Evropsko</p>	 <p>Ambrela Platforma for Development Organisations</p>	 <p>SLOGA Slovenian Global Action</p>	 <p>LA COORDINADORA de ONGs de ALUMNIA de la UCA de Sevilla</p>	 <p>CONCORD SWEDEN</p>
 <p>bond</p>	<p>NETWORKS</p>	 <p>actalliance eu formerly APACDEV</p>	 <p>actionaid</p>	 <p>ADRA</p>	 <p>Alliance 2015 towards the eradication of poverty</p>	 <p>CARE</p>
 <p>caritas europa</p>	 <p>cbm together we can do more</p>	 <p>ChildFund Alliance</p>	 <p>CIDSE together for global justice</p>	 <p>eucord European Children's Organisations for Relief and Development</p>	 <p>GNDR Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction</p>	 <p>Habitat for Humanity</p>
 <p>Hi humanity &amp; inclusion</p>	 <p>IPPF International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network</p>	 <p>LIGHT FOR THE WORLD</p>	 <p>OXFAM International</p>	 <p>PLAN INTERNATIONAL</p>	 <p>Save the Children</p>	 <p>Sightsavers</p>
 <p>solidar</p>	 <p>SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES INTERNATIONAL</p>	 <p>Terre des Hommes International Federation</p>	 <p>wecf</p>	 <p>Wetlands INTERNATIONAL</p>	 <p>World Vision</p>	 <p>WWF</p>
<p><b>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</b></p>	 <p>alda European Association for Local Democracy</p>	 <p>ea ea EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF ADULTS</p>	 <p>EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR DEMOCRACY</p>	 <p>EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM</p>	 <p>INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE</p>	 <p>NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL</p>



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