



Western Balkans and Türkiye Civil Society Forum 2023

Launch of the baseline assessment

DG NEAR Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement Region 2021 - 2027

Proposed date and venue: 31 May – 1 June 2023, Podgorica, Montenegro

DRAFT AGENDA

30 May, Tuesday	
	Arrival of participants
31 May, Wednesday	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration of participants and networking coffee
09:00 – 09:30	<p><u>Opening remarks and welcoming speeches</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Government representative of the Republic of Montenegro • Mr Holger Schröder, Head of Unit, Western Balkans Regional Programmes, Economic Investment Plan, Directorate-General Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR) (online) • Representative of the CSO community of the Republic of Montenegro <p>Moderator: Mr Richard Allen, EU TACSO 3 Team Leader</p>
09:30 – 10:15	<p><u>Launch of the baseline assessment</u></p> <p>The Baseline Assessment against the Revised DG NEAR Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement Region 2021 - 2027 has been completed. The findings refer to the baseline year 2021. This session will provide some background on the research methodology and the structure and highlights from the key findings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the assessment process and methodology – Ms Snjezana Bokulic, EU TACSO 3 Expert • Presentation of the key assessment findings – Mr Richard Allen, EU TACSO 3 Team Leader • Q&A <p>Moderator: Ms Hillen Francke, DG NEAR, Head of Sector Civil society, social inclusion and human capital development</p> <p><i>*This session will provide key inputs for the following sessions on the specific area of the assessment conducted/Guidelines composition</i></p>
10:15 - 10:45	<p>Break</p> <p>Press corner</p>

<p>10:45 – 12:00</p>	<p>Short baseline presentation of the 2021 situation – Ms Snjezana Bokulic, EU TACSO 3 Expert</p> <p>Plenary session: Enabling environment – a civil society under pressure This session will include a detailed presentation on the key findings from the baseline assessment in the area of an enabling environment. Speakers will comment on the baseline, and talk about likely trends into the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has happened since then? What will happen in the coming years? What are the main advances and reverses in the region we need to look out for? • Freedom of expression and civil society • EU perspective on the enabling environment – DG Just representative • Council of Europe representative <p>Moderator: TBC</p>
<p>12:00 – 13:00</p>	<p><u>Breakout groups – Enabling Environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group/issue no 1: Digital tools for protecting the enabling environment and promoting the Rule of Law. What to do with monitoring data? How to use it for advocacy and campaigning on the enabling environment? The role of the digital agenda in this process. – Moderator: Mr Dino Mujanovic, EU TACSO P2P Manager - Group/issue no. 2: Safety and security – Fighting back against SLAPPs and inappropriate use of legislation; Money laundering/terrorist financing (Moneyval) – Moderator: Ms Jelena Pajovic EU TACSO 3 Country Coordinator for Serbia - Group/issue no. 3: Enabling environment and CSO financial sustainability – Moderator: Ms Ana Margarida Tome de Freitas Mariguesa Lorentzen, Programme Manager, EUD Montenegro <p>The purpose of breakout groups is to stimulate active participation of the large group of participants divided into three smaller groups discussing the key issues from the panel session and focusing on the solutions. Each group will have a person in charge of facilitation of the process, a person responsible for notes-taking and at least one contributor from the panel session present. The detailed methodology of the breakout groups will be defined based on the final selection of the contributors. Also, the use of digital tools in engaging participants is planned.</p>
<p>13:00 – 14:15</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>14:15 – 15:30</p>	<p>Short baseline presentation of the 2021 situation – Mr Richard Allen, EU TACSO 3 Team Leader</p>

	<p><u>Plenary session: Government – civil society cooperation – a win-win if we can make it happen</u></p> <p>This session will include a detailed presentation on the key findings from the baseline assessment in the area of government–civil society cooperation. Also, will include additional views/perspectives linked to the main topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A view from a government • A view from a CSO/network • EU Member State perspective • The local (government) perspective <p>Moderator: Mr Daniele Aloisi, Task Manager – Civil Society, DG NEAR</p>
15:30 – 16:00	Break
16:00 – 17:00	<p><u>Breakout groups – Government – Civil Society Cooperation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group/issue no 1: Use of the digital tools to increase public engagement Moderator: Ms Marija Armenski, EU TACSO 3 Country Coordinator for North Macedonia - Group/issue no. 2: Green Agenda and regional cooperation: how can governments and civil society strengthen cooperation across the region, and what are the benefits - Moderator: Ms Aleksandra Gligorovic, EU TACSO 3 Country Coordinator for Montenegro - Group/issue no. 3: Local cooperation for local communities' development – innovations and benefits, cooperation, local service provision and local development - Moderator: Ms Ozge Konuralp, EU TACSO 3 Country Coordinator for Türkiye
19:30 – 21:00	Dinner/Reception
1 June, Thursday	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration of participants and networking coffee
09:00 – 10:30	<p>Short baseline presentation of the 2021 situation – Ms Andreja Tonc, EU TACSO 3 Capacity Building Expert</p> <p><u>Plenary session: CSO capacity and accountability – no time for complacency</u></p> <p>This session will include a detailed presentation on the key findings from the baseline assessment in the area of CSO capacity and accountability. Also, will include additional views/perspectives linked to the main topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills for non-profit management/Year of Skills - • Global Standard and national standards – successes and challenges - • Donor perspectives on CSO accountability

	<p>Moderator: Ms Liselotte Isaksson, Deputy Head of Cooperation, EUD Montenegro</p>
10:30 – 11:00	<p>Break</p>
11:00 – 12:00	<p><u>Breakout groups – CSO capacity and accountability</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group issue no. 1: Mainstreaming diversity – how CSOs can ensure involvement, inclusion and representation of minorities and marginalised people - Moderator: Ms Valerie Covic, Programme Manager, EUD Albania - Group/issue no. 2: Skills for non-profits; partnerships and developing professional standards – Moderator: Ms Kanita Kulic, EU TACSO 3 Country Coordinator for Bosnia and Herzegovina - Group/issue no. 3: Governance and accountability, ensuring good governance practice and effective boards, policies, diversity and equality in CSOs – Moderator: Ms Aferdita Pustina, EU TACSO 3 Country Coordinator for Kosovo*
12:00 – 13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting from breakout sessions – key messages by reporters • Closing of the event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Representative of the Government of Montenegro; ○ Ms Hillen Francke, DG NEAR, Head of Sector Civil society, social inclusion and human capital development ○ Mr Richard Allen, EU TACSO 3 Team Leader <p>Moderator: Ms Andreja Tonč, EU TACSO 3 Capacity Building Expert</p>
13:00 – 14:00	<p>Lunch and departure of participants</p>