

From: CGS Livno (Zulka Baljak) <cgs-li@tel.net.ba>
Sent: 09 March 2020 10:32
To: Welcome@tacso.eu
Subject: IPA III planning process - consultations with CSOs

Dear Madam/Sir,

Please find below our comments and proposals in relations to IPA III planning process.

Regarding the invitation of civil society organizations from Bosnia and Herzegovina to submit proposals and comments for the preparation of IPA III, we send proposals and comments based on IPA III options (presentation):

When it comes to BiH (although other countries in the region are also submitting their proposals), in all 5 options we suggest (as far as possible) more commitment and more resources to local authorities (municipalities and cities, not cantons) because for the citizens it is the most important level of government, level where most of the work is done in BiH. The basis of IPA funds should not be based solely on cross-border cooperation and should be conditional on partnership with neighbours. More emphasis should be given to the co-operation of neighbouring municipalities within BiH that have or share the same needs of residents and problems. As far as we are concerned, only in Options 2 and 5 we would leave some of the funding for cross-border cooperation for good neighbourly relations, all the rest should be devoted to the development of local authorities, in particular: O3 - Environment and climate change; O4 - all four topics, especially Agriculture and Rural Development (the need to support the establishment and strengthening of agricultural cooperatives, examples from Germany should be emphasized here; this is lacking in BiH, as once cooperatives in BiH were well developed); O5 - all 5 topics and in particular infrastructure development, natural resources management and protection of natural resources (otherwise, in our political circumstances (troubles), we will have 500 mini hydropower plants, bare land instead of present forests, droughts, floods, disappearance of agriculture, etc.. Therefore, when it comes to working with BiH authorities, local authorities should be a priority in all options.

When it comes to civil society:

Questions 1, 2, 3: More attention should be paid to and support should be given to the work of civil society organizations that will address specific topics at the local level. Missing, when it comes to BH civil society, is the European Union's support for trade unions and the labour movement as the most important part of civil society, through all EU funds, including IPA. A strong labour movement can greatly influence and determine the political, economic and social image of society (examples from Sweden, Norway...) with the constant struggle to preserve what has been achieved. Most EU Member States have a strong trade union movement that has fought for workers' protection and social change, and we (and throughout the region) ignore this shortcoming and need. Thus, unions should be included in the goals and topics addressed to civil society and / or added a specific objective and theme. In addition, it is necessary to foster cooperation between NGOs and trade unions to work together.

Sincerely,

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