



Questions:

Do you think that there are thematic priorities or other important elements missing in the proposed structure of the programming framework?

Do you have any specific suggestions in relation to the process of preparation of the strategic response by IPA III beneficiaries?

Do you have any specific suggestions relating to how support of civil society is reflected in the programming framework?

Do you have any other comment or suggestion?

Iris network inputs/answers:

Stronger focus on social services is missing and needs to be tackled within *Competitiveness and inclusive growth* connecting community development, civil society sector and social inclusion. Through thematic networks support, all five cross-cutting themes can be addressed (climate change, civil society, gender, rights-based approach, public administration reform on the local level meaning social procurement, involvement in policy process regulating social service sector).

Two main subthemes, both relevant for Western Balkan region, should be reflected in the framework:

- service delivery (improving the quality of the social services, accreditation/licensing of the services, along with stronger coordination to the public institutions in charge for the service delivery, capacity building of CSOs social service providers) and
- community resilience and social cohesion through the CSOs' networking activities, direct actions in the local communities and awareness raising campaigns.

Additionally, financial sustainability of local organisations/ CSOs service providers remains high on the Network's agenda in WB. Comprehensive approach to building capacities and networking for reaching policy reform and creating more enabling environment for social inclusion is of the utmost importance for that part of civil society providing social services.

Building and additional support to social service sector in WB should be two-fold, comprised of measures to support local service providers and umbrella organisations i.e. thematic networks and support organisations.

Direct support to CSOs social service providers:

- Support to CSOs social service providers capacities: capacity building, skills development, consultancy support for development and dissemination, licensing, mentoring, etc;
- Flexible grants to support CSOs to explore potentials for financial sustainability through creating economic activity in the organization, expansion and escalation, support in promotion, creating and implementing campaigns, etc.;
- Grants for equipment in terms of new services;



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- Grants for implementation of various projects covering different thematic and cross-cutting issues.

Support for networks/ clusters / regional and other associated initiatives through:

- Creation and implementation of various measures aimed at capacity and partnership building of CSOs social service providers;
- Grants / projects for capacity building in terms of networking in WB and in European Union;
- Strengthening the ecosystems for the development of a more inclusive societies;
Creation and implementation of harmonized advocacy campaigns in the region;
- Working with local governments (public procurement, local support, etc.);
- Grants / projects to promote and increase the visibility.



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