

Concept note on CSO-LA Consultation on the
Evaluation of External Financing Instruments for EU external action (2014-2027)

24 May 2023
13:00h - 17:00h CET

Overview

In the framework of the mid-term evaluation (MTE) of EU external financing instruments 2021-2027 and final evaluation of previous external financing instruments 2014-2020, public and targeted consultations are being organised to gather the views of the multiple stakeholders of EU external cooperation. EU Member States, development agencies of the EU Member States, civil society organisations (CSOs) and local authorities (LAs) networks and platforms, the European Parliament, International Financial Institutions, and other relevant stakeholders are being consulted through dedicated meetings.

In parallel, an online open public consultation (OPC) is available via [EU Survey](#) with a set of 22 questions. CSOs and LAs as stakeholders are encouraged to reply to this OPC and to submit contributions, to be uploaded via EU Survey.

The mid-term evaluation of the ongoing EU external financing instruments covers the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe (NDICI – GE), the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III), the Decision on the Overseas Association, including Greenland (DOAG) and the Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC). It also includes the final evaluation of the 2014-2020 external financing instruments. The Commission report will be presented to the Parliament and the Council in early 2024. This evaluation is based on the relevant OECD DAC evaluation criteria (relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability) and EU added value, with a final report expected in early 2024.

Participants will be able to:

Contribute to the constructive and forward-looking consultations with the EU with a view to integrating different stakeholder perspectives and recommendations into the ongoing evaluation of external financing instruments and to their next generation.

Methodology

The 4 hours moderated discussion will consist of a general presentation of the mid-term evaluation purpose and process and two consecutive sessions: one on NDICI-GE, DOAG and INSC in 2 parts (CSOs and LAs) and one on IPA III. The interactive plenary discussions will be focused around specific questions of particular relevance for CSOs and LAs.

Draft Agenda and guiding questions

	Participants connecting
13:00 - 13:30	Presentation of the mid-term evaluation: objectives and process (<i>including consultations</i>)
13:30 - 15:30	<p>Session on international and development cooperation (NDICI-GE, DOAG and INSC)</p> <p><i>13:30 - 14:30 focus on CSOs</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have the new external financing instruments facilitated the inclusion of CSO in line with the principle of (multi-actor) partnerships? 2. How do the new external financing instruments and in particular NDICI-GE facilitate access to funding for a diversity of local CSOs? 3. Has the dialogue with the EU Delegations improved in the context of the 'geographisation' principleⁱ? <p><i>14:30 - 14:45 break</i></p> <p><i>14:45 - 15:45 focus on local authorities</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Has the new EFI framework led to strengthened partnerships with LAs, including through multi-actor partnerships? 2. How do LAs see the impact of the 'geographisation' principle? 3. In particular, how has the dialogue with the EU Delegations evolved in the context of the 'geographisation' principle? Has it improved?
15:45 - 16:00	Break
16:00 - 17:00	<p>Session on candidate and potential candidate countries (IPA III)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How is IPA III promoting cooperation and partnerships between CSOs and institutions of the enlargement region, including at the local level? 2. How is IPA III contributing to strengthening CSOs' and LAs' capacities and resilience in the region? 3. How is IPA III contributing to the promotion of a conducive environment for CSOs? 4. How is IPA III promoting gender equality?

ⁱ REGULATION (EU) 2021/947 (NDICI-GE), Whereas (35) The main approach for actions financed under the Instrument should be through geographic programmes, in order to maximise the impact of the Union's assistance and bring Union's action closer to partner countries and populations. That main approach should be complemented, where relevant, by thematic programmes and by rapid response actions, whilst ensuring the consistency and coherence of all programmes and actions