

EU ROADMAP FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY IN INDONESIA



GENERAL INFORMATION

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1. The state of civil society in Indonesia

With more than 260 million inhabitants and over 630 ethnic groups, Indonesia is the fourth most populous country in the world and one of the largest democracies. Its GDP per capita continues to grow and it is considered one of the most socio-economically pluralistic countries worldwide, also characterised by a rising middle class. On a political level, the last decades have also witnessed a more democratic and inclusive approach, which also envisions the engagement with community-based organisations and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

Since the reform era "reformasi" until present days, the growth of CSOs in Indonesia has been remarkable. According to official data, today more than 330,000 CSOs are registered with the government either as associations, foundations or society organisations. Yet, this number is probably much higher considering that there are a vast number of organisations that are not formally registered.

Overall, Indonesian civil society is highly active and largely able to work freely in a democratic and open environment. Some of the **well-established CSOs play a pivotal role as watchdogs and public opinion formers and are able to collaborate with government and parliament and in some instances shape government policy.** In this regard, Indonesia and its civil society stand out in the region as a success story. However, as reported below, changes in the regulatory framework, internal governance and networking remain key challenges to strengthen the collective voice of Civil Society.

2. Key challenges

Despite a conducive and stable democratic environment, CSOs in Indonesia face several barriers to performing their roles effectively.

- While the space for CSO participation has generally become more open since "reformasi", it is still a **‘fragile space’** with the CSO's **legal and institutional regulatory framework still being reconsidered, debated and revised.**
- **Financial sustainability of CSOs** remains a key challenge, particularly in a context of graduation of the EU and main donors' bilateral assistance. Local philanthropy has potential (also in light of an emerging and growing middle class) but needs to be further researched and developed.
- While many CSOs have been directly participating in various public decision-making processes (such as Musrenbang and other participatory processes), **the quality** (incl. effectiveness) **of the participation is still in need for improvement.** Issues to be addressed are the improvement in the evidence-based policy advocacy, lobbying and negotiating skills as well as coordinated action to become more effective e.g. joint campaigns, alliances or the pooling of resources.
- While several CSOs have made substantial progress in their technical and managerial capacities and in ensuring their **financial sustainability**, a vast number of Indonesian CSOs are confronted with numerous capacity challenges, including those related to their **internal governance.**

3. EU-Indonesia engagement on CSOs

The EU and its Member States have been and continue to be a key partner for CSOs in Indonesia. In 2014 a first Roadmap for the engagement with CSOs in Indonesia was agreed. The EU has awarded EUR 4.5 million in the period 2016-2017 to support CSOs, especially those working in governance and accountability, local economic development, and inclusive and quality education.

Apart from the EU, Member States have also contributed to fostering CSOs' involvement in decision-making processes and provided technical assistance and funding to local CSOs in diverse areas, including education, human rights, environment, good governance and agriculture.

4. EU priorities and actions

	PRIORITIES FOR EU ENGAGEMENT	ACTIONS (analysis, policy dialogue, operational support)
1	Support CSOs efforts to advocate for the reform of the current legal and institutional framework regulating CSOs to make it more enabling for CSO.	<p>The EU and its MS will include the issue of CSOs legal fragility into their political and policy dialogues and contacts with the government.</p> <p>Support to CSO's initiatives to monitor the any legislation that will affect the political space for CSO's meaningful participation</p>
2	Promote the financial sustainability of CSOs through identification and deepening of domestic funding sources.	<p>Support CSO's research and advocacy efforts to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identify suitable (both conventional and innovative) local philanthropy sources of funding (including crowd-funding, social impact funds, etc.); - ensure better CSOs access to public funding without diminishing the independence of CSOs. <p>Benchmarking with other countries in similar conditions can also be promoted.</p>
3	Enhance CSOs' involvement in <i>Musrenbang</i> [participatory bottom-up consultation that feeds into the preparation of the government's annual planning] and other public decision-making processes.	Support CS initiatives/projects aiming at deepening the participation of CSOs in both invited and claimed spaces for dialogue, at local, sector and national level
4	Support CSOs' effort to develop their technical skills (particularly in areas related to policy dialogue and advocacy) and strengthen their governance and managerial systems.	<p>Support CS initiatives aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening CSOs technical skills in order to monitor public policies and hold government accountable - Enhancing internal governance of CSOs - Institutional development of CSOs (governance and management systems) <p>Priority will be given to provinces and remote locations where CSOs are underdeveloped.</p>
5	Support CSOs effort to enhance their collective voice through improved networking, alliance building and coordination in the areas of SDGs' monitoring and implementation, gender equality and environment/climate change.	Support CSOs joint initiatives (campaigns, networking efforts, emerging platforms, etc.) in the areas of SDGs' monitoring and implementation, gender equality and environment/climate change.