**Engagement plan with the EU Delegation in Sri Lanka**

Engaging with a European Union (EU) Delegation is key to get first-hand information on future calls and its priorities concerning a particular country. Having this information can help anticipate how our programmes could fit those calls, and also get more time to prepare the proposal. This document gives information and examples of questions as a guide to prepare a potential meeting with the EU Delegation.

Please be aware that EU Delegation staff is generally not open to meetings/lobbying for a project during a Call for Proposal process, as the call for proposals are supposed to be competitive and transparent processes.

This paper is organized into 3 sections: i) EU Funding instruments which gives a general overview of the funding available in the country, ii) Example of questions to ask in the meeting and iii) examples of projects funded by the EU in the country.

**EU Funding Instruments**

The EU has committed **EUR 210 M** through the [National Indicative Programme 2014-2020](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/multi-annual-indicative-programme-mip-2014-2020-sri-lanka_en) for Sri Lanka. The programme is focused on **Integrated** **Rural development. [[1]](#footnote-1)**

The Asia Regional Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) financed by the DCI covers 19 countries[[2]](#footnote-2) and aims at eradicating poverty by supporting broad-based inclusive and sustainable growth, promoting conditions conducive to trade and integration within the region, enhancing governance, and increasing political and social stability.

*N.B. It is not expected that NGOs benefit from the regional fund*

**Examples of questions to ask during the meeting**

-**Implementation of the SDG Agenda**: In September 2015, the UN launched the new sustainable development agenda which includes new goals and targets related to children rights, for instance Goal 16.2 “End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children”. *Refer to your expertise of the situation of children in the country, your concerns, and programmes.*

**Q**: How the EU Delegation is going to align its actions to the objectives of the SDG Agenda?

How the EU Delegation is going to support the implementation of the SDG agenda in Sri Lanka? Is the EU Delegation going to prioritize some of the targets related to children rights?

**-Engagement with CSOs**: The EU Delegation has provided support to CSOs to implement projects in the areas of good governance, food security, human rights, education and health.

**Q.:** Ask if there are any upcoming Civil Society consultation meetings taking place that we can be part of and if the EU Delegation is planning on holding a more institutionalized dialogue with Civil Society?

What is the strategic focus of the cooperation with civil society organisations in Sri Lanka?

Enquire the EU Delegation about the [EU Roadmap for engagement with civil society](http://capacity4dev.ec.europa.eu/public-governance-civilsociety/minisite/roadmaps) for Sri Lanka. When is it expected to be published? What will the next steps be? How could we be involved?

**-Funding opportunities:**

**Q:** As organization focused on children rights, you may draw the attention to the situation of children rights in the country or in a specific region that requires the attention of the EU. Based on that, you may ask, how might the EU contribute to improve that situation – including at the political level? What funding would be available to address that situation? Would it also be through competitive calls for proposals where CSOs could apply? Would you consider direct funds to NGOs?[[3]](#footnote-3)

In a meeting held at the EU Delegation it was said that would be a new priority for Sri Lanka, how would it be implemented, through calls for proposals where CSOs could apply?

**-European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR):** This instrument aims the promotion of democracy and human rights in non-EU countries. It has worldwide coverage outside the EU and can act independently of the consent of governments in the countries concerned.

**Q.** We understand from our office in Brussels that an envelope of EUR 0, 8 m is foreseen for 2016 and EUR 1 m for 2017. When can the call for proposal be expected and what will it focus on?

Will they include an objective related to children’s rights?

If not, ask to consider a focus on children’s rights given the situation of children in the country.

If yes, mention that the new EU strategy on gender includes an objective to tackle violence against girls. Ask if the EIDHR call will include objectives related to this issue? (EU Gender Strategy: <http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-15-5691_en.htm>)

**-Civil Society Organisations – Local Authorities (CSO-LA):** It is a thematic programme under the Development Cooperation Instrument. Its focus is on enhancing local CSO and LA contributions to governance and development processes. Under this programme CSO will be supported as partners in promoting social development (esp. access for the most vulnerable to social services), and stakeholders in promoting inclusive and sustainable growth.

**Key words**: capacity building of national CSOs, innovations, social services in where local authorities lack the capacity, socio-economic initiatives, job creation etc.

**Q**. An envelope for 2,7 m EUR is foreseen for 2017. When can the call be expected and what will it focus on?

The focus of the CSO-LA programme will be on enhancing CSOs’ contributions to governance and development process. In this context you could ask, how do you think a NGO focused on children’s rights like us can contribute to this priority?

**Examples of projects supported by the EU Delegation in Sri Lanka[[4]](#footnote-4)**:

**-A multi sectoral intervention to address violence against women and children in Sri Lanka:** implemented by Women In Need Trust from 2009 to 2012 (289,522.00 EUR). The overall objective was to provide a multi-faceted approach to reducing and addressing the issue of violence against women in Sri Lanka. The specific objective is to address issues of violence, provide redress and reduce incidences of violence against women and their children through a collaborative effort of State and civil society actors.

**-Fight against HIV/AIDS Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in Asia (RHIYA):** implemented by UNFPA and the International Planned Parenthood Federation Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka from   2003 to 2006 (990 000 EUR).

**-Livelihood development project in Sri Lanka:** implemented by UNDP from 2006 to 2008. The objective was to help over 300 local paddy seed farmers produce better quality paddy seed. To increase the number of certified seeds and the membership base of certified paddy seed producers in the district.

1. In a meeting held at the EU Delegation in March 2016, it was said that the EU development strategy for Sri Lanka is under review due to the latest political changes and the explicit request of the current Sri Lankan Government to give reconciliation a priority. EU felt that the current MIP is not reflecting the request and will adapt the MIP 2014-2020 until end of 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Direct grants are granted directly to an NGO without the usual call for proposal. These are possible only in a limited number of situations, for example to support humanitarian aid or emergency assistance. They can also be awarded to actors with a de jure or de facto monopoly or with the high degree of specialization or technical competence necessary for a particular type of action. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. More references can be found in [EU Delegation to Sri Lanka](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/india/projects/case_studies/index_en.htm) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)