**Input for meeting with EU Delegation in Paraguay**

The European Commission signed a Multi-Annual Indicative Programme with Paraguay on 27 Nov 2014, committing **€168 m** for development cooperation support to Paraguay in the period 2014-2020. The breakdown in the press release lists:

Education (€85 million);

Private sector development (€20 million);

Social protection (€84 million);

Democracy, participation and institutional strengthening (€10 million).

(*This breakdown totals 199 EUR m, not 168 EUR m, unclear why! Mistake in the press release or do they add in funding from EIDHR:**European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights?)*

This funding comes from the **Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)** which has afocus on poverty eradication; the MDGs; democracy, the rule of law, good governance, human rights and international law (see beneath). Simply put: Eligible NGOs must be either local organisations, or based in the European Union.

(At regional level, an EU Multiannual Indicative Programme has been agreed at **€**925 m (2014-2020), including two main components:

1. At continental level: €805 million dedicated to regional initiatives open to Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, Uruguay and Venezuela – and focused on areas requiring joint cooperation efforts between EU and Latin America: *The security-development nexus ; Good governance, accountability and social equity ; Inclusive and sustainable growth for human development ; Environmental sustainability and climate change ; Higher education*

2. At Sub-regional programme for Central America (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panamá): €120 million for *Regional Economic Integration ; Security and the Rule of Law ; Climate change and disaster management.)*

1. Questions for the EU Delegation:

How will the bilateral funding for Paraguay be implemented? Budget support, through global actors such as the UN and the World Bank, but it would it also be through competitive calls for proposals where NGOs could apply?

Can we get a copy of this Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (not yet published on-line)? In the EU budget support for Paraguay, would you consider requesting that Paraguay works with civil society in the implementation?

The **Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)**

It is a political tool focused on conflict, violence and organized crime. All civil society actors (based in any country) are eligible, and the total amount available from 2014 – 2020 is 2,3 billion EUR. This instrument spent 20% on children and youth during the last years in places including in West Africa, Bolivia, Honduras, Nicaragua and India. Cross-cutting issues include children's rights. The IcSP has three arms:

70 % in response to crises (“article 3”) No calls for proposals: If a program responds to a current EU political priority it can be funded anywhere, anytime.

9 % for conflict prevention, crisis preparedness and peace-building (“article 4”). Programmed funds. For 2015, focus includes youth and peace, inter-confessional dialogue in the Latin America and Arab countries; and Reintegration of child soldiers. The exact countries will be identified in the beginning of next year, to be followed by Calls for Proposals in the second part of next year. Key words: protection of children against conflict-related exploitation and violence; youth employment as a conflict prevention and peace-building vector. International and national civil society actors as effective implementing partners.

21 % addressing global, trans-regional and emerging threats (“article 5”). This includes organized crime, counter-terrorism. North Africa in focus.

Questions for the EU Delegation:

We were told at the NGO consultation on the *Instrument contributing to Peace and Security* held in Brussels in October that for “article 4”, you want to focus on Latin America in 2015. We ask you to consider funding for Paraguay from the IcSP given the important work on youth and conflict prevention […] that we are experienced with.

**European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights**

The EIDHR aims at the promotion of democracy and human rights. It has worldwide coverage outside the EU and can act independently of the consent of governments of the countries concerned. No eligibility restrictions apply. We understand, from informal sources, that there would soon be a call for proposals of 300 000 EUR in Paraguay.

Questions for the EU Delegation:

Will we soon see a call for proposal for EIDHR in Paraguay? Will it include an objective related to children’s rights?

*A current cash problem is delaying most EU Call for Proposals in the area of development funding right now: Member States have not agreed to disburse the actual EU budget payments. Negotiations are ongoing right now in Brussels.*

**Background on the Development Cooperation Instrument:**

The DCI focuses on poverty eradication; the MDGs; democracy, the rule of law, good governance, human rights and international law. It covers Latin America, Asia, Central Asia, Gulf States, South Africa, and a Pan-African programme. The geographic programmes support bilateral and regionalcooperation with developing countries, while its two following thematic programmes have no geographic limitations:

1.1.1 **Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities (CSO-LA)**

This programme focuses on country-level to enhance CSO and LA contributions to governance and development processes. CSO will be supported as partners in promoting social development (esp. access of the most vulnerable to social services), and stakeholders for inclusive and sustainable growth. Key words: capacity building of national CSOs, innovations, social services where local authorities lack capacity, socio-economic initiatives, job creation etc. No government agreement is needed to activate the programme locally. Eligibility is in general restricted to national CSOs/NGOs, partnerships with European CSOs are encouraged when these “add value” and respond to a local demand. EU Delegations will receive 70% of these funds, meaning that the majority of the funds will be allocated at country level, through call for proposals. The remaining 30% is earmarked for wider umbrella NGO networks such as CONCORD.

1.1.2 **Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC)**

Covers global programmes for

a) **Environment and climate**

b) **Sustainable energy**

c) **Human development**: health, education, women’s empowerment and rights, children and youth, non-discrimination, employment and social inclusion, growth, culture.

Health: all funds to CSOs are expected to go via Global Fund which disburses one-third of its resources to CSOs.

Education: Most of the funds will be allocated to the Global Partnership for Education to which the EC has pledged €375 million. Opportunities for CSOs will focus on “Education in Fragile Contexts” but this funding is foreseen for 2015 and onwards.

Children & Youth: The focus is on supporting the establishment of national systems, tools and strategies to ensure the comprehensive well-being of children, leading to the full enjoyment of their rights in societies where those rights are promoted and protected. These priorities will be tackled through: 1) support systems to ensure that children have access to an identity as “child first rights”, 2) fighting harmful traditional practices and social norms, 3) establishing national and local systems and strategies aimed at protecting children from all forms of violence. The budget is between €49 - 73 million, implemented through calls for proposals promoting grassroots organisations, and through UN and EU member states to address structural problems in the partner countries.

Employment, decent work, skills, social protection and social inclusion: The focus includes youth employment and to the elimination of the worst forms of child labour; social inclusion of groups and individuals subject to marginalisation and discrimination. Decent work and other relevant fields will receive between €122 -172 m. Whether or not CSOs can access funds will be specified each year (AAP).

d) **Food security and sustainable agriculture**

Total budget 2014–2020: €1,425m.Mostly global initiatives, but CSOs will have a specific implementing role in “Supporting the poor and the food- and nutrition insecure to react to crises and strengthening resilience”, which can mean intervening in countries not covered by bilateral programmes, at regional, national and subnational levels, to help the most vulnerable groups recover from shocks and crises and build resilience. CSO funding will take place through Calls for Proposals.

e) **Asylum and Migration**