



# DG NEAR Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement region 2021-2027

## 1 What is in the Guidelines?

The Guidelines consist of:

- » a set of standards for Authorities and civil society to meet;
- » a set of indicators against which each IPA Beneficiary can be measured to assess its progress in meeting the standards.

» The standards are based on regional and international legislation and norms that have already been accepted by all in the Western Balkans and Türkiye. «

## 2 What are the objectives?

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE



A conducive environment for civil society to carry out its activities.

**10 objectives 26 indicators**



Cooperation and partnership between CSOs and public institutions.

**3 objectives 10 indicators**



CSO capacity and resilience to carry out their activities effectively are reinforced.

**8 objectives 23 indicators**

## 3 Assessment against the EU Guidelines

- There are 59 indicators defined in the guidelines, linked to sub-objectives.
- Research is conducted by an impartial team of experts.
- A report will be produced annually. The baseline year is 2021.
- Data to assess performance in each of the IPA Beneficiaries will come from multiple sources, including:
  - a survey of CSOs;
  - a survey of Government representatives;
  - legal analysis;
  - review of existing research & secondary data;
  - verified through focus groups and consultation.

## 4 What can the Guidelines be used for?

### 4.1 For public authorities:

- » A framework for Government strategies for cooperation with civil society.
- » Understanding EU expectations for meeting standards regarding civil society in the EU approximation process.
- » Data for monitoring progress in meeting international standards and implementation of civil society cooperation strategies.

### 4.2 For civil society:

- » Supports a shared view on expected results of EU assistance for enabling environment, government – civil society cooperation and CSOs' performance and accountability standards.
- » Data, evidence and analysis for assessments of current state of civil society – informing priorities and underpinning funding applications.
- » CSOs' own development strategies and priorities for strengthening CSO accountability.

### 4.3 For EU:

- » Assist in designing, implementing and evaluating EU support to civil society – priorities, challenges and what works.
- » Provides analysis of the state of civil society, informs progress assessments for annual EC reporting.



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