

Background note

Programming 2018-2020

Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) component of the DCI/CSO-LA thematic programme

The DCI Thematic Programme "Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities" (CSO-LA) has an indicative allocation of 1,907ml € for 2014-2020. A first Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) was adopted for 2014-17. A second MIP is foreseen for 2018-2020. This note gives a few ideas for discussion and its preparation.

1. Lessons learnt from the MTR

While recent Euro-barometer studies show a strong support of EU citizens for development policy as a whole, there is a rise in Europe of extremism, populism, and fear of the negative impact of globalisation. It is essential that DEAR is adapted to face these challenges.

One lesson from DEAR projects is that their design has been built through a bottom-up approach. While this has allowed a participatory approach and real ownership by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Local Authorities (LAs) in campaigns adapted to local needs, which are key elements for dynamic campaigns, it has also impeded to deal with pressing and strategic European and global issues. The recent move towards more Pan-European actions is going in the right direction but needs to be further strengthened.

Another lesson is that citizen's views are more and more linked to ongoing agendas and events. It is therefore important to have more strategically focussed campaigns, while allowing for a constant adaptation to the rapid evolution of ongoing concerns.

2. Challenges for 2018-2020

There is a growing scarcity of public funds for DEAR interventions at national levels, while the needs to counter misinformation and extremism are growing.

The backlash against globalisation makes DEAR activities and the integration of development education content into curricula more important.

3. Proposals for prioritisation

a) reinforced EU Presidency projects

EU Presidency projects (grants to the CSO national platform of the country holding the EU Presidency) will be reinforced and transformed into joint strategic campaigns on specific thematic areas.

b) more strategic pan-Europeans campaigns

The main thrust of the DEAR component will remain focused on strategic pan-European campaigns on targeted global priorities bringing EU Development Policy and EU answers to global challenges closer to citizens.

Do you agree with such potential analysis and orientations? Would you have any other suggestion?

If yes, what would be for you the main considerations for a good implementation of such orientations?