

## Background note

# Programming 2018-2020

## Local Authorities (LAs) 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*

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The programme has allowed strategic achievements (e.g. FPAs, and impacts of LA on Agenda 2030 and the New Urban Agenda. They helped boosting the role of LAs as development and political actors. Nevertheless, there are still too many dispersed primacies involving too many actions without aggregated perspectives and impact.

While it is important to continue supporting local level, decentralisation and local governance, the galloping urbanisation calls for a stronger emphasis on sustainable urban development. This should be done as part of a rural-urban nexus integrated in a broader territorial approach to local development.

Another important lesson is that the strong focus of the programme on supporting LAs as actors of governance should be less dispersed and therefore targeted on fewer countries.

### *2. Challenges for 2018-2020*

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Local authorities still suffer from structural weaknesses. Many municipalities depend on central governments and have de facto no institutional and political autonomy. This has repercussions in terms of services, capacities, transparency and risk of corruption.

Planners and administrators are challenged by the complexities of social and economic issues, as well as by the need of infrastructure of their territories. In particular, many cities, especially in Africa and Asia, are unprepared to face the challenge of rapid urbanisation. Often, national governments and LAs face these challenges with limited resources, inappropriate institutional and legal framework, lack of urban management policies and tools, and absence of appropriate financial mechanisms to mobilise resources and guide investments.

### ***3. Proposals for prioritisation***

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#### ***a) Strengthen LAs as actors of governance***

This component will continue the partnerships and dialogue with associations of local authorities (ALAs) through the Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs). It will also consolidate the Global Partnership Initiative (GPI) on LAs under the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC).

#### ***b) Support LA to localise the 2030 Agenda***

##### ***At Country Level***

- Continuing to support country priorities with a focus on countries where LA have a role and space through a decentralisation process. Specific attention will be given to graduated and fragile countries.
- Support the development and capacities of national Associations of LAs for enhancing LAs as actors of governance.
- Where LA could have an added value, support their action on gender, the root causes of migration (including job creation), fragile states, and climate change.

##### ***At urban level***

- Support urban planning process via an Urban Planning Facility for the sustainable management of urban and rural areas. Include the links between urban areas and rural communities, with a view to reduce disparities amongst the different parts of the territory in a country.
- Support urban mobility in relation to Climate change and its impact on economic growth and inequalities. Support LAs in mobilising relevant stakeholders to ensure service provision, including the establishment of public-private and public-civil society partnerships for quality service delivery, ensuring a sustainable urbanisation process.

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

***If yes, what would be for you the main points/elements for a good implementation of such orientations?***

