The Multiannual indicative programme (MIP) 2018-2020 for the thematic programme "Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Local Authorities (LAs)" will set out the European Union's strategy and objectives as regards work with these key actors. It will be based on a number of key policy frameworks at international and EU level:

- the [2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/2030agendapage.shtml), recognizing the fundamental contribution of the Local and Regional Government to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- the [European Consensus on Development](https://consensusondevelopment.org/), in particular regarding the role of CSOs as promoters of democracy and engaging with the citizens
- the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development](https://addisababaagenda.org/about/)
- the [new Urban Agenda](https://www.newurbanagenda.eu/)
- the [UN Framework Convention on Climate Change](https://unfccc.int)
- the recent [EU Communication on resilience](https://ec.europa.eu/info/publication/eu-communication-resilience_en)
- the [Gender Action Plan](https://ec.europa.eu/gender)

In the perspective of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), in 2017, the European Commission proceeded to undertake a Mid Term review to assess CSO-LA programme objectives achievement. The report highlighted the programme relevance and coherence with EU policy objectives and its complementarity with geographic interventions. However, it also emphasised the need for a more politically-driven and integrated implementation.

The MIP 2018-2020 will aim at taking into account the evolutions and lessons learned described above. To this end, the EU proposes to base its strategic response on three objectives:

1. **Support civil society organisations (CSOs) in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.** The general degradation of the environment in which CSOs operate is the most serious concern for the upcoming programming period. The EU proposes to continue to strengthen CSOs' capacities and promote an enabling environment for CSOs to perform as actors of governance in their own right. It could also maintain and consolidate its support to the structured and permanent dialogue enshrined in the Policy Forum on Development and strengthen partnerships through the existing Framework Partnerships Agreements (FPAs). At the same time, several new initiatives could be envisaged:
   - The EU could develop its relations with foundations in a more strategic manner, via a structured dialogue, ad-hoc partnerships with networks of foundations and possibly targeted funding.
   - The MIP could empower youth through civil society networks and diaspora groups with actions based on the themes discussed at the 5th European Union – African Union Summit and could support the establishment of a CSO platform that would function as a hub for actions to prevent and counter violent extremism;
   - The EU could further support the fight against inequalities via the existing FPAs whose work specifically targets SDG 10, "reduce inequalities within and between countries".
   - The EU could strengthen partnerships with CSO networks working on resilience and national budget analysis.

2. **Empower local authorities in development policy.** The EU could strengthen associations of local authorities (ALAs) as actors of governance in order to increase their impact on policy-making
processes, good governance and general development outcomes. Furthermore, it could support cities in localising the SDGs:

- **In metropolitan areas**, the focus could be on creating potential for underpinning wider, inclusive growth and local job creation by becoming regional hubs and attracting investments;
- **With regards to secondary cities**, actions could be dedicated to territorial planning and social-economic interaction with primary cities on one side and with rural and productive areas on the other.

The main vehicle for implementation proposed is twinning for more strategic and long term partnerships, peer-to-peer cooperation, transfer of know-how and to enhance political leverage aiming at achieving urban development reforms. At all levels, the priority would be to strengthen ALAs’ capacity in the crucial functions of urban planning and design, land management, land tenure, public finance management, design and implementation of fiscal policies for municipal finance mechanisms and revenue generation and to create the conditions for investments and job creation.

3. **Foster Development Education and Awareness Raising in Europe (DEAR)**. DEAR should remain an integral element of development, aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the European Consensus on development in order to critically engage citizens and CSOs-LAs in global debates. It could also contribute to greater policy coherence between EU development actions and its other policies that could have an impact on the achievement of the SDGs. As part of this objective, the EU proposes to:

- **Strengthen the Presidency projects** (projects with the platform of the EU country holding the EU presidency) transforming them into joint strategic campaigns on specific thematic areas to be identified with the relevant presidencies by supporting them with a stronger framework and making more funding available;
- Launch more focussed and strategic **pan-European campaigns** on targeted priorities bringing EU Development Policy and EU responses to global challenges closer to citizens.