

SUMMARY**2009 Annual Action Programme for Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development****Part I : Calls for proposals****1. IDENTIFICATION**

Budget headings	21.03.01 – Non State Actors in Development 21.03.02 – Local Authorities in Development
Total cost	EC contribution: €180,791,086 (BL 21.03.01) €31,520,000 (BL 21.03.02) TOTAL €212,311,086
Legal basis	Regulation (EC) N° 1905/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation (DCI) (OJ L 378 of 27 December 2006, pp. 41-71), see Articles 11, 14 and 22.

2. THEMATIC BACKGROUND

The European Commission has a long-standing relationship with non-governmental and other civil society organisations, as well as local and decentralised authorities, in the area of development. In 1976 a first actor-oriented budget line specifically supporting actions with European Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) was created, and since 1992 a Decentralised Co-operation budget line has been added as another key channel of cooperation with non-state actors and decentralised authorities in the area of development.

The thematic programme 'Non State Actors and Local Authorities in Development', which succeeds former budget lines 'NGO Co-financing' and 'Decentralised Co-operation', aims at supporting small scale initiatives proposed and/or carried out by civil society organisations and local authorities originating from the Community and partner countries in the area of development. This thematic programme recognises the very important role non-state actors and local authorities play in each country's development policies and strategies. Its principal objectives are in line with the Commission Communication on the Thematic Programme 'Non State Actors and Local Authorities in Development'¹ approved in the context of the EC Financial Perspectives for the period 2007-2013.

The programme's three main objectives are:

- 1) To support development actions, implemented by non-state actors or local authorities in close cooperation with the local communities and most vulnerable population groups, aimed at promoting an inclusive and empowered society in partner countries and more specifically at improving populations' access to social services, increasing their participation in policy-making processes, strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations and local authorities in partner countries to participate in poverty reduction and sustainable

¹ COM(2006)19, 25.01.2006

development strategies, facilitating interaction between state and non-state actors in different contexts and supporting an increased role for local authorities in decentralisation processes. These actions should take place in partner countries and consist in small-scale local development activities, covering a wide range of sectors and themes, including economic development, health, education, capacity building and institutional support or rural development. Their overarching objective should be the strengthening of civil society in the partner countries as a pre-condition for a more equitable, open and democratic society.

2) To support small-scale actions in the EU and acceding countries aimed at raising public awareness of development issues and promoting education for development, to mobilise greater public support for action against poverty and fairer relations between developed and developing countries. These actions should take place in Europe and consist mainly in campaigns, publications, information events and conferences, workshops or seminars, where development themes are openly discussed. The targeted groups are not only the population in general but also policy makers at international and national level.

3) To support actions aimed at achieving more efficient cooperation, fostering synergies and facilitating a structured dialogue in the area of development between civil society networks and local authority associations from the EU and acceding countries, within their organisations and with EU institutions. These actions should take place in Europe and consist mainly in seminars, workshops, training sessions, conferences and other capacity building and networking activities targeting the above-mentioned organisations.

The Commission adopted on 21 June 2007 this thematic programme's multi-annual strategy for the period 2007-2010.

The 2009 Annual Action Programme presented below complies with the priorities established in this multi-annual strategy paper and takes into account the comments of the EU Member States and the European Parliament on that strategy.

3. SUMMARY OF THE ACTION PROGRAMME²

A. As regards operations under **Objective 1** 'Actions aimed at promoting an inclusive and empowered society in partner countries', and according to the multi-annual strategy adopted for the period 2007-2010, the programme supports the following actions:

(i) In-country operations (actions taking place in a single partner country), managed by European Commission Delegations

Under this component, and to ensure that the thematic programme complies with the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity set out in Article 11 of the DCI Regulation, priority will be given to actions in countries where: (a) the country situation is not conducive to ensuring non state actor and local authority involvement in the development process, including difficult partnerships³, unstable situations, conflict, poor governance; (b) specific needs of parts of the population are not addressed in the partner country's development

² See also the action fiches joint to this programme

³ Situations of difficult partnership are defined as those where for one of the following reasons the usual cooperation instruments cannot be fully used to support initiatives undertaken by stakeholders other than central governments: (1) countries where cooperation has been suspended, (2) countries where the authorities are not committed to objectives of poverty reduction and to other basic principles of development policy, including good governance and participation of civil society and decentralized authorities, (3) countries where the dialogue on participatory approaches to development is very limited.

strategy and population groups are out of reach of mainstream services and resources, and excluded from the policy-making process.

In establishing the list of targeted countries and amounts allocated to each one of them, attention was paid not only to compliance with the two above-mentioned criteria, but also to the proposed priorities by country, targeted actions and beneficiaries and their added value in relation to geographic and other thematic programmes, as well as to the absorption capacity of non-state actors and local authorities in the country and implementation arrangements of the programme.

A total of **82 targeted countries** where such support was deemed necessary and feasible according to at least one of the above-mentioned criteria were identified. The list and respective allocations per country under the 2009 budget is provided in Action Fiche 1.

As envisaged in the multi-annual strategy paper, as a general rule support for these in-country actions will be managed directly by European Commission Delegations in the targeted countries. Exceptionally, for those targeted countries where there is no possibility of publishing a local call for proposals, grants for in-country operations will be awarded via call(s) for proposals to be centrally launched and managed by European Commission headquarters in Brussels. However, as foreseen in the 2008 Annual Action Programme, implementation of this thematic programme in 2009 is proposed on the assumption that the numerous calls for proposals published either by the EC Delegations or European Commission Headquarters in late 2008 and early 2009 will generate enough good proposals to use both 2008 and 2009 budgets, and so in principle no specific calls for proposals will be published for the 2009 budget. Exceptionally, calls for proposals for the 2009 budget will be published if the assumption above does not materialise or for in-country operations in countries added to the list of targeted countries in 2009. Publication of these calls for proposals should be foreseen for towards the end of 2009/early 2010.

The actions to be funded under this component of the programme should have, as an overarching objective, the strengthening of civil society or local authorities in the partner countries as a pre-condition for a more equitable, open and democratic society. They can, in principle, cover a wide range of activities in the areas of capacity building and institutional support, advocacy, research, awareness raising, monitoring and service delivery to the population (e.g. economic development, health, education, rural or urban development).

The indicative financial allocation for 2009 for this component of the thematic programme amounts to €137,750,000, to be financed by budget lines 21 03 01 'Non State Actors in Development' and 21 03 02 'Local Authorities in Development', for the amounts of €121,650,000 and €16,100,000, respectively.

(ii) Global, multi-country operations, managed by European Commission headquarters

According to the multi-annual strategy paper, part of this programme's financial resources will be allocated to support global, multi-country operations which by their very nature can be assisted more efficiently through this thematic programme than through geographic programmes.

Priority will be given to global, multi-country actions with a multi-actor approach comprising activities aimed at: (i) improving the capacity of non-state actors and local authorities from those partner countries to engage in local, national and international decision making processes; (ii) improving international linkages and networking between non-state actors and

local authorities from the European Community and from the partner countries; (iii) providing innovative service delivery and service delivery in difficult/out-of-reach environments; (iv) strengthening strategic partnerships, networks and cooperation between non-state actors and local authorities from the partner countries; (v) facilitating interaction between state and non-state actors in different contexts and supporting an increased role for local authorities in decentralisation processes.

Priority will be given to actions targeting Least Developed Countries (LDCs), in particular those not included in the list of targeted countries for in-country operations (see Action Fiche 1).

Actions supported under this component of the programme must take place in at least two partner countries eligible for this programme under the DCI Regulation, including those defined as targeted countries under the first component of Objective 1.

Implementation arrangements for these actions will comply with the standard procedure of calls for proposals. However, as foreseen in the 2008 Annual Action Programme, implementation of this thematic programme in 2009 is proposed on the assumption that the call for proposals published by European Commission Headquarters in late 2008 will generate enough good proposals to use both 2008 and 2009 budgets, and so in principle no specific call for proposals will be published for the 2009 budget. Exceptionally, a call for proposals for the 2009 budget will be published if the assumption above does not materialise. Publication of this call for proposals should be foreseen for towards the end of 2009/early 2010.

The indicative financial allocation for 2009 for this component of the thematic programme is €40,637,000, to be financed by budget lines 21 03 01 'Non State Actors in Development' and 21 03 02 'Local Authorities in Development', for the amounts of €30,467,000 and €10,170,000, respectively.

Both in-country and multi-country actions should involve and benefit local civil society, with particular attention to actors from remote regions or representing marginalised groups, through different channels such as partnership, mentoring and capacity building schemes.

As regards specifically local authorities, the Commission will pursue its efforts to further disseminate information on the programme, in order to highlight the value of their role as development actors and improve and increase their participation in the programme. Local authorities show high convergence in terms of values, principles and implementation arrangements. Local authorities also have different skills and expertise to offer vis-à-vis non-state actors, in areas such as water and waste management, urban planning and territory management, health and education, etc. Local authorities have also different funding possibilities which should be taken into consideration when defining more detailed co-financing rules for each type of eligible actor. In this context, better synergy between local authorities and non-state actors will be sought in the implementation of this 2009 Annual Action Programme (AAP), so that the full potential of a multi-actors approach can be explored.

Microfinance activities

In the specific case of actions concerning support for microfinance (including micro-credit) under Objective 1 (Action Fiches 1 and 2), additional conditions will be applied in order to ensure professional and sustainable delivery of microfinance support.

B. As regards operations under **Objective 2** 'actions aimed at raising public awareness of development issues and promoting education for development in the EU and acceding countries', priority will be given to actions covering the following themes: (i) public support for the MDG agenda, with a particular focus on sub-Saharan Africa; (ii) coherence for development, with a particular focus on areas of public interest where common goals with development are important such as migration, trade (including Fair Trade), security, human rights, the social dimension of globalisation and decent work, environment, and HIV/AIDS (iii) media and development.

These activities will be supported through formal and informal channels promoting education for development. A portion of 20% of the funds available for this objective will be allocated preferably to awareness raising/development education actions in the twelve new Member States and proposed by organisations originating from these countries.

Implementation arrangements for these actions will comply with the standard system of calls for proposals. However, as foreseen in the 2008 Annual Action Programme, implementation of this thematic programme in 2009 is proposed on the assumption that the call for proposals published by European Commission headquarters in late 2008 will generate enough good proposals to use both 2008 and 2009 budgets, and so in principle no specific call for proposals will be published for the 2009 budget. Exceptionally, a call for proposals for the 2009 budget will be published if the assumption above does not materialise. Publication of this call for proposals should be foreseen for towards the end of 2009/early 2010.

The indicative financial allocation for 2009 for actions under Objective 2 is €29,500,000, to be financed by budget lines 21 03 01 'Non State Actors in Development' and 21 03 02 'Local Authorities in Development', for the amounts of €25,000,000 and €4,500,000, respectively.

C. As regards operations under **Objective 3** 'actions aimed at achieving more efficient cooperation, fostering synergies and facilitating a structured dialogue between civil society networks and local authority associations from the EU and acceding countries', according to the multi-annual strategy 2007-2010 priority will be given to: (i) information networks and exchange of best practices within and among their organisations; (ii) dialogue and exchange of best practice between different types of stakeholders, including between non-state actors and local authorities; (iii) interaction of such organisations or networks with the EU institutions.

Implementation arrangements for these actions will comply with the standard procedure of call for proposals. However, as foreseen in the 2008 Annual Action Programme, implementation of this thematic programme in 2009 is proposed on the assumption that the call for proposals published by European Commission headquarters in late 2008 will generate enough good proposals to use both 2008 and 2009 budgets, and so in principle no specific call for proposals will be published for the 2009 budget. Exceptionally, a call for proposals for the 2009 budget will be published if the assumption above does not materialise. Publication of this call for proposals should be foreseen for towards the end of 2009/early 2010.

The indicative financial allocation for 2009 for objective 3 of the thematic programme is €3,500,000, to be financed by budget lines 21 03 01 'Non State Actors in Development' and

21 03 02 'Local Authorities in Development', for an amount of €2,750,000 and €750,000, respectively.

D. The amount of €24,086 in appropriations for commitments available under budget line 21.03.01 (C5 appropriations) is set aside for support measures, such as audits, studies, evaluations, etc. of actions funded under the Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development programme

Community support for the above-mentioned actions will, as a rule, take the form of grants for projects. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 169 of the Financial Regulation, these grants will generally consist of a contribution covering only a proportion of the project's budget.

Basic eligibility rules are laid down in Articles 14 and 24 of the DCI Regulation. More specific eligibility criteria for each of the programme's objectives are detailed in the respective Action Fiches. Other relevant and more specific eligibility criteria will be clearly stated in all calls for proposals or procurement procedures.

As envisaged in the 2008 Annual Action Programme, implementation of this thematic programme in 2009 is proposed on the assumption that the numerous calls for proposals published either by European Commission Headquarters or Delegations in late 2008 and early 2009 will generate enough good proposals to use both 2008 and 2009 budgets. **Therefore, as regards actions selected through calls for proposals the 2009 budget will fund actions selected through the above-mentioned calls for proposals, and in principle no specific calls for proposals will be published for the 2009 budget.**

It is also worth mentioning that the programme maintains the same objectives as the 2008 Annual Action Programme, with the only changes concerning the countries selected for in-country actions, and targeted actions. Therefore, the receipt of a sufficient number of good quality proposals in response to calls for proposals launched in 2008 will allow support for the same programme objectives to continue in 2009, as detailed in the 2008 Annual Action Programme.

Exceptionally, calls for proposals for the 2009 budget will be published if the assumption above does not materialise or for in-country actions in countries added to the list of targeted countries in 2009. Publication of these rather exceptional calls for proposals should be scheduled for towards the end of 2009/early 2010.

By allowing the combined use of the two budget years the European Commission aims to reduce the number of good proposals that each year are rejected for lack of funds, knowing that the European Commission is able to co-finance on average only half of the deserving proposals submitted under each call for proposals. This rejection rate represents a significant waste of resources for applicants, in particular small organisations that have invested their scarce resources in the preparation and submission of good proposals. The combination of two budgetary years in a single call for proposals will therefore reduce the level of frustration among our partners and simultaneously increase the predictability of EC-funded actions. Such a system, which is already normal practice in other programmes/budget lines, will also allow more cost effectiveness in long, time-consuming and expensive selection processes.

It should also be noted that by doing so more resources can be invested by the European Commission and all the stakeholders in dialogue and consultation, exchange of information and best practices, training, evaluation and impact studies. Better dialogue with non-state actors and local authorities and coordination with EU Member States and other donors, which already improved substantially in the last few months, will continue to improve the quality of cooperation between the programme's stakeholders and allow discussion and agreement on more strategic issues, so that the potential of the programme and its different eligible actors is fully used.

The Action Fiches attached to this Annual Action Programme show the indicative allocations for each of the actions of the programme to be financed from the 2009 budget.

Mainstreaming

Whenever possible, mainstreaming of human rights, gender equality, children's and older people's rights, rights of persons with disabilities, the environment and climate change, as well as the fight against HIV/AIDS, will be ensured in projects under all objectives. All projects will need to show, whenever relevant, how these issues are taken into account in the design, implementation and monitoring of their activities. Principles such as empowerment, participation, non-discrimination of vulnerable groups and accountability will be adequately taken into account.

Expected results

Considering the nature of this programme, which encompasses a wide range of activities and sectors, the results to be expected from these actions are very diverse. However, the following could be mentioned as examples of expected results: strengthening of the capacity of non-state actors and local authorities to participate in poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies, agreement by governments to mainstream institutional support and capacity building provisions for local development structures, an increased number of trans-national exchanges, confidence building, networking and coordination activities between non state actors and local authorities (North-South or South-South), increased public awareness on global interdependencies between the EU and developing countries and support for action against poverty and more equitable North-South relations, in a better integration of development issues into formal and non-formal education systems in Member States and acceding countries, or strengthening of non state actors and local authority networks and platforms in Europe and acceding countries.

4. PAST EC ASSISTANCE AND LESSONS LEARNT

According to the last evaluation of the former thematic programme 'NGO co-financing', dating from 2000, in general the actions supported through this instrument succeeded in delivering the planned outputs and reached their immediate objectives. Their success rate, in terms of immediate results, was higher than most other cooperation instruments, which seems to confirm the advantage of working with civil society organisations and their added value when it comes to actions targeting directly the most vulnerable groups. However, the evaluation also highlighted the fact that the programme lacked strategic focus and needed to be better targeted on the poorest countries and to define the thematic priorities more clearly. While recognising the right of initiative of civil society organisations to propose actions to be funded by the programme, the evaluation recommended that the budget line should provide a clearer indication of targeted countries and regions where the programme could demonstrate added value as well as thematic priorities and types of activity to be supported. The evaluation

also recommended working directly with organisations from beneficiary countries as the best way to strengthen the capacity of those organisations and beneficiary countries civil society in general. This need has also been confirmed by the majority of different stakeholders.

Furthermore, following the recommendations of previous evaluations, since 2004, the former Decentralised Cooperation budget line has targeted a narrower group of countries and themes and endeavoured to work more closely with local organisations. Accordingly, since then its management has been 'deconcentrated' to the relevant European Commission Delegations, with very encouraging results according to the last evaluation concluded in July 2006.

The new thematic programme 'Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development' builds on experience with those two former budget lines and the recommendations made in their most recent evaluations and aims at a better geographic and thematic focus and better complementarity and subsidiarity with other EC cooperation instruments.

An evaluation of 'EC aid delivery through civil society organisations' was concluded in 2008 and highlighted the added value of combining different instruments and approaches in delivering aid to support civil society. The combination of geographic and thematic instruments and of different approaches (project, sector, macro), as well as the complementarity of the various channels (government, civil society), is regarded as an opportunity to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of EC support for civil society. In this respect, the NSA & LA thematic programme should be implemented having due regard to its complementarity with existing programmes.

The need to enhance local ownership by improving access for non-state actors and local authorities from the countries and regions targeted by the programme has led to the expansion of locally managed country specific actions. This development aims not only to build on the experience with the former Decentralised Co-operation budget line but also on the experience with the Country Based Support Schemes of the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). This more strategic and focused approach also corresponds to the principle of implementing different co-operation instruments as closely as possible to the beneficiaries, which led to the 'deconcentration' of the thematic programmes in 2004.

The action programme proposed for 2009 builds also on the experience acquired so far with the implementation of the 2007 and 2008 AAP. At Delegation level, the data available confirm the advantages of 'deconcentrating' a substantial part of the programme as the best way to adapt it to each country specific needs and conditions, allowing the European Commission to work more closely with its partners and beneficiaries. Although 2007 was the first year when such a large-scale operation was implemented under this thematic programme, almost all the European Commission Delegations were able to publish their respective calls for proposals and ensure a timely selection and contracting of the selected proposals by the end of 2008.

The publication of local calls for proposals also proved to be an excellent opportunity to meet local organisations or international organisations active in the country and exchange with them information and best practices, and provide training which strengthened the capacity of the partner organisations and improved the Delegations' knowledge of local realities.

At centralised level, the calls for proposals published for global/multi-country actions, awareness raising/development education and coordination/networking were very successful in terms of the number of proposals submitted, and therefore the future prospects for those other important components of the programme are very good. A general evaluation of the

awareness raising/development education activities was completed by the end of 2008 and confirmed also the high importance of this component of the programme and the need to step up support for these activities, with a special focus on actions in new EU Member States and a few 'old' Member States, as well as actions aimed at increasing coordination of such activities at EU level. The conclusions and recommendations of this evaluation will be duly taken into account in the mid-term review of this thematic programme scheduled to start by the end of 2009. This mid-term review will be fundamental for framing the strategy for the second period (2011-2013) of the programme.

5. COMPLEMENTARY ACTIONS

Actions included in this AAP complement the various EC cooperation instruments, both geographic and thematic, and in particular actions supported through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). Other thematic programmes under the DCI instrument also offer also numerous opportunities for engagement of both non state actors and local authorities in development activities (Food Security, Environment and Natural Resources, Migration and Asylum and Investing in People, including Health, Education, Gender Equality, Culture, Employment and Social Cohesion and Youth and Children). The of Commission Delegations ensure that complementarity with geographic and other thematic programmes is screened at local level.

6. DONOR CO-ORDINATION

Co-ordination and regular consultation with Member States are ensured through the various political channels and committees at central level as well as at local level through the relevant European Commission Delegations.

In this context, reference should be made to the ongoing project DECIM (Donor exchange, coordination & information mechanism), funded under the former NGO Co-financing budget line, which is entering its third and final year of implementation. EU Member States are closely involved in this project, which is aimed precisely at supporting a donor exchange, coordination and information mechanism to enhance the effectiveness of donors in attaining their goals in the area of civil society development.

Considering that, as explained above, calls for proposals under this thematic programme always generate a large number of good quality proposals that unfortunately, for lack of sufficient financial resources, cannot be funded, the EC will endeavour, through improved cooperation with Member States and other donors and, where possible, emerging new actors in development, to find co-funding arrangements that might allow the financing of those projects. In this context, contacts have been established with some Member States in 2008 to explore the possibility of using the EC selection mechanisms to identify projects to be funded by the Member States' national development programmes. The EC proposes to pursue those contacts in 2009 and expand them to private funds active in the area of development aid.

7. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

A special effort has been made in 2008 to further develop the communication and visibility of the thematic programme 'Non State Actors and Local Authorities in Development' in particular by updating the website in accordance with a common new AIDCO template and by producing videos, leaflets and brochures presenting this thematic programme. The EuropeAid website contains the pages concerning the 'Non State Actors and Local Authorities

in Development' programme, including all working documents as well as overviews of ongoing activities. Such efforts will be pursued in 2009, by increasing European Commission participation in seminars and conferences organised by our partners and through better dissemination of the different materials related to the programme.

Attention will continue to be paid to compliance with visibility and communication rules for each action supported through this programme.

At the local level, and as in previous years European Commission Delegations will be able to spend up to 3% of the respective annual operational country allocation for support measures accompanying the implementation of country-based support schemes, including activities in the field of communication benefiting directly the organisation/partners. These activities or expenditure are thus not aimed at helping the Delegation to manage the programme, such as through technical assistance for the evaluation of proposals or follow-up of the programme.

8. COST AND FINANCING

	BL 21 03 01 (€)	BL 21 03 02 (€)	TOTAL (both BLs) (€)
Objective 1 - Actions aimed at promoting an inclusive and empowered society in partner countries - In-country operations in targeted partner countries - (Action Fiche 1)	121,650,000	16,100,000	137,750,000
Objective 1 - Actions aimed at promoting an inclusive and empowered society in partner countries - Global/multi-country operations in partner countries - (Action Fiche 2)	30,467,000	10,170,000	40,637,000
Objective 2 - Actions aimed at raising public awareness of development issues and promote education for development in the EU and acceding countries - (Action Fiche 3)	25,000,000	4,500,000	29,500,000
Objective 3 - Actions aimed at achieving more efficient cooperation, foster synergies and facilitate a structured dialogue between civil society networks and local authorities associations from the EU and acceding countries - (Action Fiche 4)	2,750,000	750,000	3,500,000
All objectives – Support measures (actions eligible under the thematic programme for audits, evaluations, studies, etc.)	924,086		924,086
GLOBAL AMOUNT	180,791,086	31,520,000	212,311,086

C4 credit appropriations for commitments which may come from revenue increase in the course of 2009 may be added to the allocations available for calls for proposals covered by this Annual Action Programme - Part I.

Within the maximum indicative budget of all the specific actions, the authorising officer may adopt, in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, cumulated changes in this Annual Action Programme (within and between Part I - Calls for proposals and Part II - Targeted projects) not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution of the Community (not considered to be substantial provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the Annual Action Programme).

1. IDENTIFICATION

2. RATIONALE

This thematic programme aims at supporting initiatives proposed and/or carried out by civil society organisations and local authorities originating from the Community and partner countries in the area of development. **The programme's objective 1 is to support operations aiming at promoting an inclusive and empowered society in partner countries in order to (i) benefit populations out of reach of mainstream services and resources and excluded from policy making processes; (ii) strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations and local authorities in partner countries, with a view to facilitating their participation in defining and implementing poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies; and (iii) facilitate interaction between State and non-State actors in different contexts and support an increased role for local authorities in decentralisation processes.**

According to the thematic programme's multi-annual Strategy Paper 2007-2010, support to Objective 1 activities will be provided mainly through the implementation of in-country initiatives and projects.

This Action Fiche defines the implementation modalities of the Objective 1 in-country interventions managed by European Commission Delegations.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION SCENARIOS

3.1. Basic acts and Financing sources

The Regulation (EC) N° 1905/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation (DCI) (OJ L 378 of 27 December 2006, pp. 41-71), adopted on the 18 December 2006, and in particular its article 14, constitutes the legal basis of this programme.

This Action will be financed by budget lines 21 03 01 "Non State Actors in Development" and 21 03 02 "Local Authorities in Development", for an amount respectively of €21,650,000 and €16,100,000. Budget line 21 03 01 will finance actions submitted by non-state actors, while budget line 21 03 02 will finance actions submitted by local authorities.

3.2. Objectives of the programme, fields of intervention/priorities of the year, expected results

In line with the provisions of the DCI Regulation (in particular its article 11), the multi-annual Strategy Paper 2007-2010 foresees that in-country interventions to be supported under this component of the programme should be subsidiary to EC country strategy papers (CSP) and complement other EC thematic programmes, including the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

According to the multi-annual strategy, in-country interventions should be targeted on countries where; (a) *the* country situation is not conducive to ensuring non state actor and local authority involvement in the development process, including difficult partnerships⁴, unstable situations, conflict, poor governance etc.; (b) specific needs of a significant part of the population are not addressed in the partner country development strategy and population groups are out of reach of mainstream services and resources, and excluded from the policy-making process.

These interventions shall comprise small-scale local development activities in a wide range of sectors and themes, including economic development, health, education, capacity building and institutional support or rural development. The overarching objective shall be the strengthening of civil society and local authorities in partner countries as a pre-condition for a more equitable, open and democratic society

A total of **82 targeted countries** were identified where support under this programme is deemed necessary and feasible according to at least one of the above-mentioned criteria.

In establishing the list of targeted countries and amounts allocated to each one of them, attention was paid not only to compliance with the two above-mentioned criteria, but also to the proposed priorities by country, targeted actions and beneficiaries and their added value in relation to geographical and other thematic programmes, as well as to the absorption capacity of non state actors and local authorities in the country and implementation modalities of the programme.

During this exercise, the opinions and views of civil society organisations and other stakeholders at country level concerned were taken into account as far as possible.

⁴ Situations of difficult partnership are defined as those where for one of the following reasons the usual cooperation instruments cannot be fully used to support initiatives undertaken by stakeholders other than central governments: (1) countries where cooperation has been suspended, (2) countries where the authorities are not committed to objectives of poverty reduction and to other basic principles of development policy, including good governance and participation of civil society and decentralized authorities, (3) countries where the dialogue on participatory approaches to development is very limited.

The list of targeted countries and respective country envelopes is presented below under paragraph 3.

Expected results

Considering the nature of the programme, which encompasses a wide range of activities and sectors, and the different priorities and sectors/actors being targeted by the country programmes, the results to be expected from these interventions are very diverse. Those results could consist, among others, in: (i) increased capacity of non state actors and local authorities to strengthen their participation in poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies; (ii) changes in government policy and practice towards NSA and local authorities in favour of their involvement in the development process; (iii) better access of the poorest sections of the population to social services and increased participation of those groups in the policy making processes, including particularly marginalized and vulnerable groups ; (iv) increased interaction between state and non-state actors in different contexts, including non state actor involvement in policy dialogue with government and capacity to play an oversight role.

3.3. Implementation scenario and eligibility conditions

Country-based programmes: country approach, with support schemes managed as a general rule at country level by the relevant European Commission Delegations.

European Community support to the above-mentioned actions will, as a rule, take the form of grants. However, as foreseen in the 2008 Annual Action Programme, implementation of this thematic programme in 2009 is proposed on the assumption that the numerous calls for proposals published either by the EC Delegations in late 2008 and early 2009 will generate enough good proposals to use both 2008 and 2009 budgets. Therefore, as regards actions selected through calls for proposals the 2009 budget will fund actions selected through the above-mentioned calls for proposals, and so in principle no specific calls for proposals will be published for the 2009 budget. Exceptionally, calls for proposals for the 2009 budget will be published if the assumption above does not materialise or for in-country interventions in countries added to the list of targeted countries in 2009. Publication of these calls for proposals should be foreseen for towards the end of 2009/early 2010.

Eligibility: All types of non profit making non-state actors⁵ and local authorities whose headquarters are in a Member State of the European Union or in one of the countries included in the list of targeted countries where the action is taking place are in principle eligible. In addition, all non state actors must be officially registered as such, according to the legislation in force in their respective country and must be able to demonstrate to have regularly carried out activities in the field of development of the kind covered by this programme during at least the last three years. As far as partner countries organisations are

⁵ According to article 24.2 of Regulation (EC) n°1905/2006, the non-State, non-profit making actors eligible for financial support include "NGOs, organisations representing indigenous peoples, organisations representing national and/or ethnic minorities, local traders' associations and citizens' groups, cooperatives, trade unions, organisations representing economic and social interests, organisations fighting corruption and fraud and promoting good governance, civil rights organisations and organisations combating discrimination, local organisations (including networks) involved in decentralised regional cooperation and integration, consumer organisations, women's and youth organisations, teaching, cultural, research and scientific organisations, universities, churches and religious associations and communities, the media and any non governmental associations and independent foundations, including independent political foundations, likely to contribute to the implementation of the objectives of this Regulation".

concerned such requirement can be reduced to two years. When duly justified, the requirement for official registration could be waived.

For the purposes of this programme, associations of local authorities are eligible under the local authorities' envelope.

All actions should be based on an initiative of local partners and should ensure their involvement during all the stages of the action implementation. Non-state actors or local authorities originating from the European Community which propose an action must demonstrate an established and effective partnership with local organisations in the partner countries where the actions are taking place.

Geographical focus:

The list of 82 targeted countries and respective allocations per budget line foreseen for **2009** is provided hereafter.

African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

	Criterion (1)	Criterion (2)	BL 21 03 01 (€)	BL 21 03 02 (€)	TOTAL (€)
Angola	✓	✓	2,500,000		2,500,000
Burundi		✓		500,000	500,000
Cameroun		✓	2,000,000		2,000,000
Cape Vert		✓	650,000	200,000	850,000
Chad	✓	✓	1,250,000	250,000	1,500,000
Congo Brazzaville	✓	✓	1,000,000		1,000,000
Cuba	✓	✓	800,000		800,000
Djibouti		✓	300,000		300,000
DRC	✓	✓	2,000,000		2,000,000
East Timor (**)		✓	0		0
Equatorial Guinea	✓	✓	200,000		200,000
Eritrea	✓	✓	250,000		250,000
Guinea Bissau	✓	✓	2,500,000		2,500,000
Guinea Conakry	✓	✓	1,000,000		1,000,000
Guyana		✓	500,000	200,000	700,000

Haiti	✓	✓	2,750,000	750,000	3,500,000
Ivory Coast	✓		2,000,000		2,000,000
Kenya	✓	✓	3,500,000	500,000	4,000,000
Lesotho		✓	300,000		300,000
Liberia (**)	✓	✓	0		0
Madagascar	✓	✓	1,500,000		1,500,000
Mauritania	✓	✓	1,500,000	0	1,500,000
Mozambique		✓	2,500,000	500,000	3,000,000
PNG (**)		✓	0		0
Namibia		✓	500,000	500,000	1,000,000
RCA	✓	✓	2,150,000	350,000	2,500,000
Rwanda	✓	✓	1,800,000	400,000	2,200,000
Samoa		✓	250,000		250,000
Sierra Leone	✓	✓	2,550,000	450,000	3,000,000
Solomon Islands (**)		✓	0		0
Somalia	✓	✓	2,500,000		2,500,000
Sudan	✓	✓	5,000,000		5,000,000
Swaziland (**)		✓	0		0
Togo	✓	✓	450,000	150,000	600,000
Uganda	✓	✓	2,500,000		2,500,000
Vanuatu		✓	250,000		250,000
Zambia		✓	2,250,000	750,000	3,000,000
Zimbabwe	✓	✓	1,900,000	400,000	2,300,000
TOTAL			51,100,000	5,900,000	57,000,000

Central and South America countries

	Criterion (1)	Criterion (2)	BL 21 03 01 (€)	BL 21 03 02 (€)	TOTAL (€)
Argentina		✓	700 ,000	300 ,000	1 ,000,000
Bolivia		✓	2,500,000	500,000	3,000,000
Brazil		✓	4,000,000		4,000,000
Chile		✓	800,000	200,000	1,000,000
Colombia	✓	✓	2,050,000	450,000	2,500,000
Ecuador		✓	2,000,000		2,000,000
El Salvador		✓	1,700,000	300,000	2,000,000
Guatemala		✓	2,000,000		2,000,000
Honduras		✓	1,500,000	250,000	1,750,000
Nicaragua	✓	✓	2,500,000	500,000	3,000,000
Paraguay	✓	✓	800,000	200,000	1,000,000
Peru		✓	1,750,000	250,000	2,000,000
Uruguay		✓	1,000,000		1,000,000
Venezuela	✓	✓	2,000,000	250,000	2,250,000
TOTAL			25,300,000	3,200,000	28,500,000

Asia countries

	Criterion (1)	Criterion (2)	BL 21 03 01 (€)	BL 21 03 02 (€)	TOTAL (€)
Afghanistan (*)	✓	✓	2,000,000	450,000	2,450,000
Bangladesh		✓	4,000,000		4,000,000
Burma/ Myanmar	✓	✓	2,500,000		2,500,000
Cambodia	✓	✓	2,000,000	2,000,000	4,000,000
China (*)	✓	✓	2,500,000		2,500,000
India		✓	4,000,000		4,000,000

Indonesia		✓	850,000	150,000	1,000,000
Iran (*)	✓	✓	1,500,000		1,500,000
Kazakhstan	✓	✓	450,000	300,000	750,000
Kyrgyzstan	✓	✓	750,000		750,000
Laos	✓	✓	2,050,000	450,000	2,500,000
Mongolia (*)		✓	1,000,000		1,000,000
Nepal	✓	✓	2,000,000		2,000,000
North Korea (*)	✓	✓	500,000		500,000
Pakistan		✓	2,550,000		2,550,000
Philippines		✓	2,500,000	500,000	3,000,000
Sri Lanka	✓	✓	1,000,000		1,000,000
Tajikistan	✓	✓	750,000		750,000
Thailand	✓	✓	3,000,000	1,000,000	4,000,000
Vietnam	✓	✓	1,200,000	300,000	1,500,000
Yemen		✓	1,500,000	450,000	1,950,000
TOTAL			38,600,000	5,600,000	44,200,000

Eastern Europe, Southern Caucasus and Mediterranean (ENPI)

	Criterion (1)	Criterion (2)	BL 21 03 01 (€)	BL 21 03 02 (€)	TOTAL (€)
Armenia		✓	500,000	300,000	800,000
Azerbaijan (*)		✓	750,000	250,000	1,000,000
Belarus	✓	✓	750,000	250,000	1,000,000
Georgia	✓	✓	500,000	150,000	650,000
Jordan	✓	✓	200,000	300,000	500,000
Morocco		✓	850,000	150,000	1,000,000
Syria	✓	✓	250,000		250,000
Tunisia	✓	✓	450,000		450,000

West Bank and Gaza Strip	✓	✓	2,400,000		2,400,000
TOTAL			6,650,000	1,400,000	8,050,000

Criteria as spelled out in the multi-annual strategy document:

- (1) Country situations not conducive to ensuring non state actors and local authorities' involvement in the development process, including difficult partnerships⁶, unstable situations, conflict, poor governance etc.
- (2) Country where specific needs of parts of the population are not addressed in its development strategy and groups are out of reach of mainstream services and resources, excluded from the policy-making process
- (*) Countries whose respective in-country programme may have to be managed by European Commission headquarters**
- (**) These countries received an allocation in 2008. Due to the limited absorption capacity of local NSA & LA and/or the existence of complementary programmes supporting civil society in those countries whose implementation will begin this year, it is deemed appropriate not to grant a new allocation in 2009.**

3.4. Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection and award criteria for the award of grants are laid down in the Financial Regulation and its Implementing Modalities, as well as the Practical Guide to Contract Procedures for EC external actions.

The maximum possible rate of EC co-financing of the action total eligible costs for actions to be funded under this component of objective 1 are the following:

- Partner countries Non State Actors: maximum 90 %
- Partner countries Local Authorities: maximum 90 %
- European Non State Actors maximum 75 %
- European Local Authorities: maximum 75 %

Grants awarded under this component of the programme must fall between a minimum of €20.000 and a maximum of €1.000.000. Under their respective calls for proposals each Delegation may determine the minimum and maximum amounts of grants, provided these amounts stay within the abovementioned limits.

The initial foreseen duration of an action may not be lower than 12 months nor exceed 60 months. Under their respective calls for proposals each Delegation may determine the minimum and maximum durations, provided these stay within the above-mentioned limits.

Microfinance activities

⁶ Situations of difficult partnership are defined as those where for one of the following reasons the usual cooperation instruments cannot be fully used to support initiatives undertaken by stakeholders other than central governments: (1) countries where cooperation has been suspended, (2) countries where the authorities are not committed to objectives of poverty reduction and to other basic principles of development policy, including good governance and participation of civil society and decentralized authorities, (3) countries where the dialogue on participatory approaches to development is very limited.

As regards microfinance activities, additional conditions will be applied in order to ensure more professional and sustainable delivery of microfinance interventions. Details of these conditions will be contained in the guidelines for calls for proposals: they aim at achieving professionalization and sustainability through introduction of minimum requirements as regards the applicant's expertise (i.e. the capacity to provide financial services according to agreed international standards of good practice) and experience (track record in the microfinance field), application of selection criteria on the type and design of the actions, and inclusion of performance measuring and monitoring system concerning the actions.

3.5. Schedule of implementation

In principle, no specific calls for proposals will be published for the 2009 budget (see point 3.3), except in the new countries included in the programme.

3.6. Indicative amount

The indicative financial envelope for 2009 for this component of the thematic programme amounts to €137,750,000, of which €121,650,000 under budget line 21 03 01 "Non State Actors in Development" and €16,100,000 under 21 03 02 "Local Authorities in Development".

4. SUPPORT MEASURES

Applicants will be invited to foresee systematically evaluations under each project's budget. Monitoring and follow up missions by the operational staff or external consultants of the Commission will be conducted regularly. Close information links will therefore be maintained between European Commission headquarters and European Commission Delegations.

European Commission Delegations will be able to spend up to 3% of the respective annual operational country allocation for support measures accompanying the implementation of this component of objective 1 of the thematic programme. Those accompanying support measures must cover activities which are of direct benefit to the organisations/partners targeted by the country programme, such as training seminars and workshops, information sessions or special events to publicise the programme. Support measures do not cover activities or expenditure aimed at helping the delegation to manage the programme, such as technical assistance for the evaluation of proposals or follow-up of the programme.

Other support measures such as audits, evaluations and studies of this component of the programme which are in the exclusive interest of the beneficiaries will be developed, as established in Action Fiche VII.

All support measures must be implemented in accordance with the European Commission's standard procedures for the implementation of external actions.

ANNEX II TO AAP 2009 - PART I: CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

ACTION FICHE I. 2**NON-STATE ACTORS & LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN DEVELOPMENT****OBJECTIVE 1****GLOBAL, MULTI-COUNTRY/REGIONAL INITIATIVES****1. IDENTIFICATION**

Title	Promotion of an inclusive and empowered society in partner countries to facilitate non-state actor and local authority participation in poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies - Support to initiatives to be carried out in partner countries with a global, multi-country or multi-regional dimension.		
Total cost	EC contribution: €30,467,000 (BL 21 03 01) €10,170,000 (BL 21 03 02) TOTAL €40,637,000		
Method/Management mode	Project approach - Centralised Call for proposals managed by European Commission Headquarters - <i>Centralised (direct)</i>		
DAC-code, if applicable	15150	Sector	Strengthening of civil society

2. RATIONALE

This thematic programme aims at supporting initiatives proposed and/or carried out by civil society organisations and local authorities originating from the Community and partner countries in the area of development. **The programme's objective 1 is to support operations aiming at promoting an inclusive and empowered society in partner countries in order to (i) benefit populations out of reach of mainstream services and resources and excluded from policy making processes; (ii) strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations and local authorities in partner countries, with a view to facilitating their participation in defining and implementing poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies; and (iii) facilitate interaction between State and non-State actors in different contexts and support an increased role for local authorities in decentralisation processes.**

This Action Fiche defines the implementation modalities of the Objective 1 global/multi-country interventions, to be managed by European Commission headquarters.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION SCENARIOS

3.1. Basic acts and Financing sources

The Regulation (EC) N° 1905/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation (DCI) (OJ L 378 of 27 December 2006, pp. 41-71), adopted on the 18 December 2006, and in particular its article 14, constitutes the legal basis of this programme.

3.2. Objectives of the programme, fields of intervention/priorities of the year, expected results

According to the programme's multi-annual Strategy Paper 2007-2010, under Objective 1 a substantial part of the programme's financial resources will be allocated to support multi-country and/or multi-regional interventions, networking and coordination activities ensured more efficiently through the thematic programme than through geographic programmes.

Priority will be given to global, multi-country actions with a multi-actor approach comprising activities aiming at: (i) improving the capacity of non-state actors and local authorities from those partner countries to engage in local, national and international decision making processes; (ii) improving international linkages and networking between non-state actors and local authorities from the European Community and from the partner countries; (iii) providing innovative service delivery and service delivery in difficult/out of reach environments; (iv) strengthening strategic partnerships, networks and cooperation between non-state actors and local authorities from the partner countries; (v) facilitating interaction between state and non-state actors in different contexts and support an increased role for local authorities in decentralisation processes.

Considering that there is a clear need to strengthen the capacity of local organisations in developing countries, inform citizens about their rights, increase their capacity to understand government policies and their implications on poverty and inequality, as well as the internal and international context in which decisions affecting their daily life are being taken, all actions to be supported under this component of the programme must include an element of capacity building.

All actions should be based on an initiative of local partners and should ensure their involvement during all the stages of the action implementation. Actions proposed by non-state actors or local authorities originating from the European Union must demonstrate to have an established and effective partnership with local organisations in the partner countries where the actions are taking place.

Geographical focus

Actions supported under this component of the programme must take place in at least 2 countries eligible to this programme according to the DCI Regulation, including those defined as targeted countries under the first component of objective 1. Priority will be given to actions targeting Least Developed Countries, in particular those not included in the list of targeted countries for in-country interventions (see Action Fiche 1).

An indicative financial envelope of €40,637,000, to be financed by budget lines 21 03 01 "Non State Actors in Development" and 21 03 02 "Local Authorities in

Development" for an amount respectively of €30,467,000 and €10,170,000, is reserved for this component of the thematic programme. Budget line 21 03 01 will finance actions submitted by non-state actors, while budget line 21 03 02 will finance actions submitted by local authorities.

Expected results

Considering the nature of the programme, which encompasses a wide range of activities and sectors, and the different priorities and sectors/actors targeted, the results to be expected from these interventions are very diverse.

As regards global/multi-country interventions, those results could consist, among others, in an increased number of trans-national exchanges, confidence building, networking and coordination activities between non state actors and local authorities (North-South or South-South), an increase in local civil society and local authorities' support for and involvement in global and regional development processes and dialogues and/or dissemination of best practices at global or regional level and replication at national or local level. Initiatives and projects with a supranational dimension may lead to an added value vis-à-vis the country programmes and to increased support of local populations and their involvement in regional integration processes.

3.3. Implementation scenario and eligibility conditions

European Community support to the above-mentioned actions will, as a rule, take the form of grants.

Awarding of grants under this component of the programme will comply with the standard procedure of calls for proposals. As foreseen in the 2008 Annual Action Programme, implementation of this thematic programme in 2009 is proposed on the assumption that the call for proposals published by European Commission Headquarters in late 2008 for this component of the programme will generate enough good proposals to use both 2008 and 2009 budgets. Therefore, as regards actions under this objective selected through calls for proposals, the 2009 budget will fund actions selected through the above-mentioned call, and so in principle no specific calls for proposals will be published for the 2009 budget, unless the assumption above does not materialise, in which case the respective call for proposals should be foreseen to be published towards the end of 2009/early 2010.

Eligibility: All types of non profit making non-state actors⁷ and local authorities whose headquarters are in a Member State of the European Union or in one of the countries where the action is taking place are eligible. In addition, all non state actors must be officially registered as such, according to the legislation in force in their respective country for at least five years at the time of the submission of an application and must be able to demonstrate to have regularly carried out activities in the field of development of the kind covered by this programme during that period.

⁷ See article 24.2 of the DCI Regulation (n° 1905/2006).

For the purposes of this programme, associations of local authorities are eligible under the local authorities' envelope.

Actions proposed by non-state actors or local authorities originating from the European Union must demonstrate to have an established and effective partnership with local organisations in the partner countries where the actions are taking place. These local partners should be involved during all stages of the implementation of the action.

3.4. Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection and award criteria for the award of grants are laid down in the Financial Regulation and its Implementing Modalities, as well as the Practical Guide to Contract Procedures for EC external actions.

The maximum possible rate of EC co-financing for actions to be funded under this component of objective 1 of the new thematic programme "Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development" is 75% of the action total eligible costs for European Non State Actors and Local Authorities and 90% of the action total eligible costs for partner countries Non State Actors and Local Authorities.

Grants awarded must fall between €500,000 and €4,000,000.

The initial planned duration of an action may not be lower than 24 months nor exceed 60 months.

Microfinance activities

As regards microfinance activities, additional conditions will be applied in order to ensure professional and sustainable delivery of microfinance interventions. Details of these conditions will be contained in the guidelines for calls for proposals: they aim at achieving professionalization and sustainability through introduction of minimum requirements as regards the applicant's expertise (i.e. the capacity to provide financial services according to agreed international standards of good practice) and experience (track record in the microfinance field), application of selection criteria on the type and design of the actions, and inclusion of performance measuring and monitoring system concerning the actions.

3.5. Schedule of implementation

In principle, no specific calls for proposals will be published for the 2009 budget (see point 3.3).

3.6. Indicative amount

The indicative financial envelope for 2009 for this component of the thematic programme is of €40,637,000, of which €30,467,000 under budget line 21 03 01 "Non State Actors in Development" and €10,170,000 under 21 03 02 "Local Authorities in Development".

4. SUPPORT MEASURES

Applicants will be invited to foresee systematically evaluations under each project's budget. Training, monitoring and follow up missions by the operational staff or external consultants of the Commission will be conducted regularly. Close

information links will therefore need to be maintained between European Commission headquarters and Delegations.

Other support measures such as audits, evaluations and studies of this component of the programme which are in the exclusive interest of the beneficiaries will be developed, as established in Action Fiche VII.

All support measures must be implemented in accordance with the European Commission's standard procedures for the implementation of external actions.

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The Regulation (EC) N° 1905/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation (DCI) (OJ L 378 of 27 December 2006, pp. 41-71), adopted on the 18 December 2006, and in particular its article 14, constitutes the legal basis of this programme.

This Action will be financed by budget lines 21 03 01 (credits C1) "Non State Actors in Development" and 21 03 02 "Local Authorities in Development", for an amount respectively of €25,000,000 and €4,500,000. Budget line 21 03 01 will finance actions proposed by non-state actors, while budget line 21 03 02 will finance actions proposed by local authorities.

3.2. Objectives of the programme, fields of intervention/priorities of the year, expected results

According to the multi-annual Strategy Paper 2007-2010, and in order to maximise the impact and effectiveness of development education actions, under the thematic programme's objective 2 priority should be given to actions covering the following themes:

- Public support for the MDG agenda, with a particular focus on sub-Saharan Africa;
- Coherence for development, with a particular focus on areas of public interest where common goals with development are important such as migration, trade (including Fair Trade), security, human rights, social dimension of globalisation and decent work, environment, and HIV/AIDS;
- Media and development.

These activities will be supported through formal and/or informal channels supporting education for development. Attention will be paid to ensuring that these interventions are integrated with development and education policies at both national and European levels. Preference will be given to cross-border and multi-actor initiatives. While these actions are carried out in Europe, partners in developing countries should play an active part where appropriate. A portion of 20% of the funds available for this objective of the programme will be allocated preferably to awareness raising/development education actions in the twelve new Member States and proposed by organisations originating from these countries.

Those actions consist mainly in campaigns, publications, information events and conferences, workshops or seminars, where development themes are openly discussed. The targeted groups are not only the population in general but also policy makers at international and national level.

All actions should be based on an initiative of an organisation from the country/countries where the action is taking place, and their involvement should be ensured during all stages of implementation.

Geographical focus:

These actions must take place in one or more Member States of the European Union or in acceding countries.

Expected results could be among others, increased public awareness on global interdependencies between the EU and developing countries and support for action against poverty and more equitable North-South relations, changing attitudes and improved public understanding of the issues and difficulties facing developing countries and their peoples, better integration of development issues into formal and non-formal education systems in Member States and acceding countries, better integration of development cooperation objectives in all EU policies with a likely impact on developing countries, and greater mobilisation in new Member States and

acceding countries, including through networking, campaign work, exchange of experience and best practices.

3.3. Implementation scenario and eligibility conditions

European Community support to the above-mentioned actions will, as a rule, take the form of grants.

Awarding of grants under this component of the programme will comply with the standard procedure of calls for proposals. As foreseen in the 2008 Annual Action Programme, implementation of this thematic programme in 2009 is proposed on the assumption that the call for proposals published by European Commission Headquarters in late 2008 for this component of the programme will generate enough good proposals to use both 2008 and 2009 budgets. Therefore, as regards actions under this objective selected through calls for proposals, the 2009 budget will fund actions selected through the above-mentioned call, and so in principle no specific calls for proposals will be published for the 2009 budget, unless the assumption above does not materialise, in which case the respective call for proposals should be foreseen to be published towards the end of 2009/early 2010.

Eligibility: For this component of the programme all types of non profit making non-state actors⁸ and local authorities whose headquarters are in a Member State of the European Union or in an acceding country are eligible. Besides, to have access to funding under this component of the thematic programme, all non state actors must be officially registered as such, according to the legislation in force in their respective country. They must have been registered for at least three years at the time of the submission of an application and they must be able to demonstrate to have regularly carried out activities in the field of development of the kind covered by this programme during that period. As far as organisations from the twelve new Member States are concerned this legal existence requirement can be reduced to two years.

For the purposes of this programme, associations of local authorities are eligible under the local authorities' envelope.

3.4. Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection and award criteria for the award of grants are laid down in the Financial Regulation and its Implementing Modalities, as well as the Practical Guide to Contract Procedures for EC external actions.

As a general rule, the maximum possible rate of EC co-financing for actions to be funded under this objective 2 of the programme is 75% of the action total eligible costs.

Grants awarded must fall between €100,000 and €1,000,000.

Exceptionally, and exclusively for actions proposed by organisations from the 12 newer Member States, the rate of EC co-financing can correspond to 90% of the action total eligible costs and the grant awarded can be as low as €25,000.

The initial foreseen duration of an action may not be lower than 12 months nor exceed 36 months.

⁸ See article 24.2 of the DCI Regulation (n° 1905/2006).

3.5. Schedule of implementation

In principle, no specific call for proposals will be published for the 2009 budget (see point 3.3).

3.6. Indicative amount

The indicative financial envelope for 2009 for this component of the thematic programme is of €29,500,000, of which €25,000,000 under budget line 21 03 01 "Non State Actors in Development" and €4,500,000 under 21 03 02 "Local Authorities in Development".

4. SUPPORT MEASURES

Applicants will be invited to foresee systematically evaluations under each project's budget. A general evaluation of the awareness raising/development education activities was completed at the end of 2008, and its conclusions and recommendations of this evaluation will be duly taken into account in the mid-term review of this thematic programme scheduled to start by the end of 2009. Training, monitoring and follow up missions by the operational staff or external consultants of the Commission will be conducted regularly.

Other support measures such as audits, evaluations and studies of this component of the programme which are in the exclusive interest of the beneficiaries will be developed, as established in Action Fiche VII.

All support measures must be implemented in accordance with the European Commission's standard procedures for the implementation of external actions.

submitted by non-state actors, while budget line 21 03 02 will finance actions submitted by local authorities.

3.2. Objectives of the programme, fields of intervention/priorities of the year, expected results

According to the multi-annual Strategy Paper 2007-2010, in order to support the development and consolidation of dialogue between North-North stakeholder organisations and between these organisations and EU institutions, priority will be given to: (i) information networks and exchange of best practices within and among their organisations; (ii) dialogue and exchange of best practice between different types of stakeholders, including between non state actors and local authorities; (iii) interaction of such organisations or networks with the EU institutions.

These actions will cover mainly seminars, workshops, training sessions, conferences and other capacity building and networking activities targeting the above-mentioned organisations.

Geographical focus:

These actions must take place in one or more Member States of the European Union or in acceding countries.

Expected results could be among others, strengthening of non state actors and local authority networks and platforms, including their capacity to build trans-national alliances and to disseminate best practices, increasing number of multi-actor partnerships established and consolidated exchanges between different types of non state actors and local authorities networks, within their organisations and with Community institutions, strengthening of the capacity of non state actor and local authority platforms in new Member States and acceding countries to play an active role in their countries and at the EU level, including ensuring smooth integration of EU development policies.

3.3. Implementation scenario and eligibility conditions

European Community support to the above-mentioned actions will, as a rule, take form of grants.

As foreseen in the 2008 Annual Action Programme, implementation of this thematic programme in 2009 is proposed on the assumption that the call for proposals published by European Commission Headquarters in late 2008 for this component of the programme will generate enough good proposals to use both 2008 and 2009 budgets. Therefore, as regards actions under this objective selected through calls for proposals, the 2009 budget will fund actions selected through the above-mentioned call, and so in principle no specific call for proposals will be published for the 2009 budget, unless the assumption above does not materialise, in which case the respective call for proposals should be foreseen to be published towards the end of 2009/early 2010.

Eligibility: For this component of the programme all types of non profit making non-state actors⁹ and local authorities whose headquarters are in a Member State of the European Union or in an acceding country are eligible. Besides, to have access to funding under this component of the thematic programme, all non-state actors must be officially registered as such, according to the legislation in force in their respective country. They must have been registered for at least three years at the time of the submission of an application and they must be able to demonstrate to have regularly carried out activities in the field of development of the kind covered by this programme during that period.

For the purposes of this programme, associations of local authorities are eligible under the local authorities' envelope.

3.4. Essential selection and award criteria

The essential selection and award criteria for the award of grants are laid down in the Financial Regulation and its Implementing Modalities, as well as the Practical Guide to Contract Procedures for EC external actions.

As a general rule, the maximum possible rate of EC co-financing for actions to be funded under this objective 3 of the programme is 75% of the action total eligible costs.

Grants awarded must fall between €100,000 and €1,000,000.

Exceptionally, and exclusively for actions proposed by organisations from the 12 newer Member States, the rate of EC co-financing can correspond to 90% of the action total eligible costs.

The initial foreseen duration of an action may not be lower than 10 months nor exceed 36 months.

3.5. Schedule of implementation

In principle, no specific call for proposals will be published for the 2009 budget (see point 3.3)

3.6. Indicative amount

The indicative financial envelope for 2008 for this component of the thematic programme amounts to €3,500,000, of which €2,750,000 under budget line 21 03 01 "Non State Actors in Development" and €750,000 under 21 03 02 "Local Authorities in Development".

4. SUPPORT MEASURES

Applicants will be invited to foresee systematically evaluations under each project's budget. Training, monitoring and follow up missions by the operational staff or external consultants of the Commission will be conducted regularly.

⁹ See article 24.2 of the DCI Regulation (n° 1905/2006).

Other support measures such as audits, evaluations and studies of this component of the programme which are in the exclusive interest of the beneficiaries will be developed, as established in Action Fiche VII.

All support measures must be implemented in accordance with the European Commission's standard procedures for the implementation of external actions.

ANNEX V TO AAP 2009 - PART I: CALLS FOR PROPOSALS **ACTION FICHE I.5**

NON STATE ACTORS & LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN DEVELOPMENT

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title	Support measures		
Total cost	EC contribution - €24,086		
Method/Management mode	Direct centralised management		
DAC-code, if applicable	15150	Sector	Strengthening of civil society

2. DESCRIPTION

Support measures are foreseen for actions eligible under the thematic strategy of the programme NSA-LA, including targeted projects which will be subject to a separate financing decision.

Such measures, not exceeding €200,000 each, are for the exclusive benefit of the programme's beneficiaries (e.g. audits, evaluations, studies, identifications, information sessions, special events, etc.), and might be implemented in the framework of any of the objectives of the programme.

These support measures might not preclude the use, by EC Delegations, of the 3% of the respective annual operational country allocation for support measures accompanying the implementation of the "in-country" component of objective 1 of the thematic programme, as described in Action Fiche I.

All unspent funds will be added to the budget allocations for the calls for proposals covered by this Annual Action Programme.

2.1. Method of implementation

The method of implementation foreseen is centralised direct management, and procedures will be followed as laid down in EuropeAid's "Practical guide to contract procedures for EC external actions".

2.2. Procurement and grant award procedures

The procurement procedures established in the "Practical guide to contract procedures for EC external actions" will apply.

3. Basic act and Financing source

Regulation (EC) N° 1905/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation (DCI) (OJ L 378 of 27 December 2006, pp. 41-71), see articles 11, 14 and 22.

The budget line is 21 03 01 – Non State Actors in Development.