

## SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR THE 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM (BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, 28-30 NOVEMBER 2016)

Participants will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:

- **Eligibility** – applicants must be non-governmental, non-partisan (not affiliated institutionally to a political party) organisations that respect democratic values. They should also be bona fide, independent organisations in their own right.
- **Diversity of spheres of activity** – to ensure the involvement of all the major components of civil society and adequate representation for each of the thematic working groups<sup>[1]</sup> and subgroups<sup>[2]</sup>.
- **Involvement in the EaP** – applicants should be involved in activities relevant to Eastern Partnership priorities.
- **Involvement in the EaP CSF** – we invite applicants who were actively involved in the activities of previous Civil Society Fora, its national platforms and working groups, as well as those who are ready to be actively contributing to the work of the CSF in 2016/2017.
- **Rotation** – whereby eligible, independent CSOs that have not participated in previous Annual Assemblies are given priority over those that have already participated.

The EaP CSF Steering Committee in consultation with the European External Action Service/European Commission will carry out the selection of the participants to the EaP CSF 2016. The selection procedure will be twofold:

### I. Preparation of three shortlists:

- (1) By EaP Country Facilitators elected by the Annual Assembly in 2015 and supported by national platforms. The CSOs/networks representing EU Member States and third countries, as well as international organisations/networks are shortlisted by the EU Coordinator of the Forum.
- (2) By the thematic Working Group Coordinators elected by the EaP CSF in 2015.
- (3) By the EU delegations in the six EaP countries.

### II. The final decision is made by the EaP CSF Steering Committee from the shortlisted organisations

The decision is made on the basis of the above-mentioned criteria while bearing in mind the following:

- Balance in numbers in each Working Group between EU participants and EaP participants.
- Involvement in activities relevant to EaP-related priorities.
- Country (a minimum of 10% participants from each EaP country and a minimum of 25% from the EU as a whole).
- Participation in the previous Forum (with a minimum 40% of new<sup>1</sup> (at least half of them CSOs that have never participated in EaP CSF Annual Assemblies) participants and up to a maximum 60% of those who did participate in the CSF Assembly in 2015) insofar as the number of new applications is high enough to make this formula possible. The formula applies primarily to each country list and to the EU participants, but will also be applied as far as possible in the respective working group allocations.
- Contribution to the activities of the Civil Society Forum, the work of the national platforms and working groups, in previous years (based on the evaluation of National Facilitators/Coordinators and Working Group Coordinators) – for those who participated in previous fora and intention and capacity to contribute to the work of the CSF in 2016/2017 and relevance of activities of the applicant's organisation to EaP CSF based on the information provided in the application form – for the new applicants.

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<sup>1</sup> Those who have not participated in the previous Annual Assembly of the EaP CSF