

ENoP STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2020

VISION

Democracy support in development cooperation is fundamental to a fair, transparent and accountable political system. Fostering pluralistic societies that include its citizens are crucial to the effectiveness and coherence of development aid. Democratic societies based on well-functioning multi-dimensional processes, which include a multi-party political system with plurality of political choices. Political dialogue and exchange is the core for rooting democratic societies.

MISSION

ENoP works in many cross-cutting policy areas such as development cooperation, democracy support, human rights, migration, gender equality and others. The overall aim of ENoP's advocacy work is to put the core aspects of political plurality, democratic participation, political dialogue and democratic elections high on the agenda of the EU.

- Effective contribution of Political Foundations from EU member states and their local and regional partners to democratic transition and consolidation in partner countries;
- Enhance capacities of Political Foundations from EU member states to be engaged in political dialogue and exchange at local, national, regional and global level. Strengthen visibility of the work of Political Foundations at member states and international level;
- Participation of European political foundations in the European Union's programmes and projects for development cooperation, democracy support and political dialogue;
- Regular transfer of experience, gained from the international work of political foundations from EU member states and their local/regional partners, contributes to the policies and programmes of the European Union;
- Political parties are recognized as an essential element for democratization in donor democracy support programs.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Political Foundations act as bridge-builders between civil society and political actors
- ENoP supports the principle of ownership of development strategies and programmes by partner countries
- ENoP considers it of utmost importance to create instruments and activities which are tailored to the specific situation of each partner country
- Democracy is a complex and long term process. We therefore believe that long-term projects are much more effective than single activities and short term activities in partner countries
- Political Dialogue between different groups in society is at the heart of our democracy support approach
- ENoP supports the EU in its efforts to apply existing EU policies more consistently and effectively in order to reach the overall goal of Policy Coherence for Development

BACKGROUND

The “European Network of Political Foundations – independent actors in democracy promotion, development cooperation and political dialogue” was established in 2006 as a cooperation structure, serving as a communication and dialogue instrument between European political foundations and the Institutions of the European Union as well as civil society actors in the fields of democracy support and development cooperation. Further, it provides services to its members to promote their integration into the respective programmes of the European Union.

Bringing together members from six different party families it is aligning different viewpoints and jointly formulating common positions towards the European Union (EU). The network is the voice of more than 60 member foundations from more than 23 countries (within the EU and candidate countries) and is open to new members provided they meet the membership criteria as laid down in its working regulations. The members of ENOP encompass 6 political families represented in the European Parliament, namely: ALDE, EPP, S&D, ECR, Greens/EFA, GUE/NGL. The members are linked to the political families but independent in their decision making and financing of international projects.

ENoP WORKING STRUCTURE AND INTERNAL GOVERNANCE

The working structure of ENoP consists of three bodies: **General Assembly**, **Steering Committee**, and **ENoP Political Board**.

The General Assembly (GA) meets once a year and decides about the political direction of the platform. Every ENoP member is invited to participate at the annual GA. The GA adopts and amends network documents such as the ENoP Statutes and the ENoP Strategic Plan. The GA elects the SC members and the ENoP Network Coordinator, Deputy Coordinator and Treasurer. The SC members are nominated by their party families and elected during the GA. The latter are elected for a two years period. A rotating principle applies. A geographical, party political family and gender balance is envisaged.

The Steering Committee (SC) is composed of 19 members composed as follows: ten full members and six substitutes coming from 6 party families, the ENoP Network Coordinator, Deputy Network Coordinator and ENoP Treasurer. The ENoP SC meets approximately six times per year on invitation of the Network Coordinator. The SC meetings are open to all interested ENoP members, which have observatory status. The Steering Committee supervises the day-to-day activities between the General Assemblies. The GA and SC minutes are distributed among the members in order to inform about the decision processes.

The ENoP Political Board is elected by the GA for a two years period. The Political Board represents ENoP and its members at relevant negotiations and high-level national and international events. The Board members take on an advisory role for the network. It enhances the network's visibility in Brussels and at international level as well as in the member states.

MEMBERSHIP

ENoP is open to new members provided they meet the membership criteria as laid down in the working regulations (ENoP Statutes). Active participation in joint activities is encouraged.

INTERNAL GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The work of ENoP is guided by inclusiveness of member organisations into the participation of joint network events and the decision-making process of the network, the network acts in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner.

INTERNAL EVALUATION PROCESSES

On an annual basis the ENoP Strategic Plan will be updated and evaluated. The Network Coordinators will report on the achievements of the Strategic objectives during the General Assembly. During the year, the Steering Committee will serve as a monitoring body.

POLITICAL FOUNDATIONS IN SUPPORT OF DEMOCRACY IN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Development cooperation and democracy support are closely interlinked with each other. The transition towards democratic societies, the development of pluralistic societies and the inclusion of citizens are fundamental to the effectiveness of development aid. Democratic participation of citizens is essential for inclusive societies with effective and accountable institutions. Supporting democratic institutions and processes through development aid leads to more accountable, transparent and just systems. Political pluralism is a key factor of any democracy and the road towards sustainable development. Democracy is acknowledged as a multi-dimensional process, inside and outside of Europe, from local to international level, including all parts of societies, having active citizenship at its core. A multitude of actors including civil society, trade unions, and business associations as well as accountable party political actors foster political culture.

The members of ENoP represent a diversity of values which is a strong basis for democracy support. Politically affiliated foundations provide an opportunity to build the plurality of qualified political alternatives which are essential in a democracy, but they also support consensus building capacity that decreases polarization. Political foundations can also have a bridge building function and strengthen the links between civil society and political parties. The political foundations in EU member states have performed this function for decades and possess experiences, methods, skills and operational platforms for the EU and the member states to make use of.

The activities of political foundations in the fields of development and democracy support include public campaigning and awareness building, advocacy, and lobbying political institutions and decision makers in their respective home countries. The main focus, however, is on the implementation of development projects and democracy support with local partners in more than 100 developing and transition countries throughout the world.

Inequality can only be addressed and tackled when supporting the development of pluralistic political societies at the same time. Democracy support can only be effective and sustainable by providing assistance to both civil society and political parties. Both Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and political parties play an important role in giving a voice to the people and in the aggregation of interests. The European Network of Political Foundations (ENoP) underlines that strengthening of the political party system in third countries is an essential element of democracy support within development cooperation.

Political foundations support development of civil society in partner countries and strengthen the role of civil society to push for democratic reforms or democratic consolidation, to promote citizen participation in public decisions as well as to hold decision makers accountable.

The less an EU partner country is willing to uphold democratic standards and principles within its national context, the less receptive it will be to cooperate with the EU in the areas of democracy and governance. The EU institutions and the EU member states have taken a clear stance on democracy. The EU can and does engage in support of democratisation processes. The EU institutions and the member states include objectives for good governance and human rights in their bilateral agreements with partner governments. Furthermore, beyond their cooperation with governments, the EU institutions and member states' development cooperation agencies collaborate directly with civil society organisations, to develop democratic practices and enhance a democratic culture.

To reach out to the public and europeanise policy debates it is important that national independent political foundations are recognised. Recent developments have put democracy as a system of government under pressure in the EU itself. Against this background, ENoP through its member organisations might consider to take up again activities of democracy support in some member states to contribute to a strengthening of democratic values and principles.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2014 - 2020

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

ENoP network and ENoP member organisations are recognized not only on EU level but also on member states level and internationally as an important actor in development cooperation and democracy support.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- ENoP members in development and democracy support policy areas are capacitated to actively influence the respective policies;
 - Strategic partnerships and liaison between ENoP and other relevant Umbrella Organisations in the field of development cooperation and democracy support within Europe and outside of Europe are developed.
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ORGANISATIONAL OBJECTIVES

- Coordination and governance structures within ENoP are enhanced. ENoP's activities, policy positions and practical experience are visible through targeted communication and advocacy;
 - Financial Sustainability: additional financial agreements between political foundations in member states and respective ministries and other donors, guarantee a broader and more sustainable financial basis, which allows to maintain necessary structures and activities.
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SPECIFIC THEMATIC OBJECTIVES

- CSOs and political actors in partner-countries are supported to strengthening their role and enhancing their capacity to accompany the electoral cycle;
- EU member states are encouraged to strengthening democratic values and principles;
- The experiences of ENoP members in transitional processes in support of democratic development is applied to EU external relations policies;
- The international donor community is aware of the restrictive situation and shrinking (political) space for CSOs and thus increases measures to foster an enabling environment for CSOs in developing and transition countries. The EU policy framework reflects those approaches;
- Awareness on the Post-2015 agenda and the SDGs in Europe and partner countries is raised, citizens are informed about the targets and enabled to holding governments accountable;
- The experience and knowledge of actors in the South are voiced on European and International level;
- Efficiency and innovation is promoted in cooperation with political parties and civil society actors in partner countries. EU democracy support programmes include political party development in EU consultation processes and implementation of democracy support as an important factor for reaching sustainable democratic societies.

ELABORATION OF THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2014-2020

ENoP network and ENoP member organisations are recognized not only on EU level but also on member states level and internationally as an important actor in development cooperation and democracy support

European Union member states like Sweden, Germany, France and the Netherlands are important players in bi-and multilateral development cooperation. The role of political foundations in democracy support in development cooperation has thus to be strengthened in relation to member states. There are differences in experiences of ENoP members and for many members the experience of EU policy dialogue is limited. Their inclusion in and their lobbying at home for development cooperation policies thus has to be enhanced. In the field of development cooperation and democracy support, important international actors outside of the European Union, especially the United States and International Institutions such as the UN bodies, will be targeted to enhance ENoP's visibility and importance as international actors.

ENoP members in development and democracy support policy areas are capacitated to actively influence the respective policies

ENoP proactively will provide input for EU institutions in the shaping of policies, programmes and instruments through diverse instruments in formal and informal consultation processes. Through continuous exchange of experiences and joint policy work the shared knowledge and wide range of experience of ENoP members is expanded and more ENoP members will be able to participate directly in EU dialogue and to engage in dialogue on development cooperation policy in their countries.

Strategic partnerships and liaison between ENoP and other relevant Umbrella Organisations in the field of development cooperation and democracy support within Europe and outside of Europe are developed

ENoP is a member of the Policy Forum for Development (PFD). In this framework, synergies are created with other CSO networks such as Concord, Human Rights Development Network, Platforma, European Trade Union Cooperation (ETUC) and the European Peace Liaison Office (EPLO). ENoP cooperates closely with other CSO development actors in the preparation and follow up of the PFD. As a member of the Human Rights Development Network, the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) is for instance a close ally for different policy initiatives. Other actors in the field of democracy and party support are the Netherlands International Multiparty Institute (NIMD), the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) and the American party foundations like the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the International Republican Institute (IRI) who all follow a different approach that is complementary to the approach of ENoP members. The partnerships have to be intensified and new actors on international stage need to be identified to further strengthen the European approach to development cooperation and democracy support

Coordination and governance structures within ENoP are enhanced. ENoP's activities, policy positions and practical experience are visible through targeted communication and advocacy

Through enhancing internal and external communication structure and further strengthening the coordination and governance structures of ENoP, ENoP is able to respond timely to external developments. The ENoP Political Board – with Senior political Board members from different European member states – gives ENoP a voice on high-level political discussions and international events.

TARGET GROUP

- Key actors for democracy support, development cooperation and political dialogue in the European Union such as other CSO networks based in Brussels;
- EU Institutions: Representatives of the European Commission, Members of the European Parliament, Committees of the European Parliament, European External Action Service (EEAS), Member State representatives in Ministries and Agencies and the Council Secretariat;
- Member state level such as national ministries, CSOs, political actors and citizens;
- Key actors for democracy support, development cooperation and political dialogue internationally such as American political foundations;
- International institutions that work for democracy support, development cooperation and political party development;
- Partners organisation of ENoP members in developing countries.

CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

Website and Facebook: Events and news on ENoP and its members including best practice examples is posted on the website and on Facebook. The internal member section includes documents for the different Working Groups.

Publications: ENoP Quarterly, the ENoP handout and leaflet in hardcopies to be displayed during conferences and public meetings organised by ENoP and ENoP members.

Public Conferences: Public conferences arranged by ENOP exclusively or in cooperation with representatives from the target groups.

Consultation Input: Contributions shall be made to relevant consultation processes (Structured Dialogue on Development, Enlargement Package, and Multi-Annual Framework consultation).

Bilateral Meetings: Bilateral physical briefing and exchange meetings among ENoP representatives and EU officials or other stakeholders are an important tool for communication. The ENoP Steering Committee and the ENoP Board have an important role in such meetings.

Financial Sustainability: additional financial agreements between political foundations in member states and respective ministries and other donors, guarantee broader financial basis, which allows to maintain necessary structures and activities

Through pursuing a fundraising strategy that targets a variety of actors (besides the European Institutions) the contribution of membership fees can be enhanced and by 2020 a broad financial basis is established with commitments by several member states and other donors.

CSOs and political actors in partner-countries are supported to strengthening their role and enhancing their capacity to accompany the electoral cycle

Political foundations take an active role in international cooperation and dialogue with local civil society, academia, political parties, governments and parliaments. The development of best practices and exchange of experiences within ENOP is closely linked to exchange of experiences and dialogue with local partners.

There is a lack of constructive dialogue or effective cooperation between CSOs on the one hand and party political actors, parliament and government representatives on the other. Mutual mistrust and shortcomings on both sides prevail, hampering reforms and progress. The aim of bringing the actors closer together is a long-term challenge and needs to be tackled in a differentiated way. Political Foundations aim at enhancing the development of reliable, accountable political parties, effective and functioning parliaments based on values and party programmes, respecting transparency and democratic rule as key factors in a democratic system. Political Foundations working in partner countries undertake a careful context analysis of the different societal and political structures present. Distinct from businesses, human rights organisations and other NGOs, Political Foundations play a crucial role as mediators between these spheres.

EU member states are encouraged to strengthening democratic values and principles

Recent developments have put democracy as a system of government under pressure in the EU itself. Against this background, ENoP through its member organisations might consider taking up activities of democracy support in some member states to contribute to strengthening democratic values and principles. In doing so, ENoP contributes to enhance the credibility of the EU external democracy support activities. The ENoP network organisation and ENoP member foundations will contribute to stimulate the public debate within Europe and thus support the Europeanization of policy debates.

The experiences of ENoP members in transitional processes in support of democratic development is applied to EU external relations policies

ENoP members from Eastern European states have a vast experience regarding the transition of their own countries from formerly autocratic regimes to democratic multiparty systems. Their knowledge and experience is used in support to democratisation and transition processes in developing countries and other transition states worldwide. Other ENoP members engage for several decades in development cooperation worldwide.

The international donor community is aware of the restrictive situation and shrinking (political) space for CSOs and thus increases measures to foster an enabling environment for CSOs in developing and transition countries. The EU policy framework reflects those approaches.

The constructive interplay of the political and the civil society is a basic pillar of democracy, touching upon issues such as freedom of expression, democratic participation, accountability and transparency. Long-lasting and comprehensive transition towards sustainable democracy can only be achieved if all actors are able to act freely. However, the space and freedom of civic actors is limited in many partner countries and CSOs have to face a restrictive legal, financial and political environment. Supporting an enabling environment should be a top priority on the EU and international agenda. A conducive environment for CSOs includes legal, administrative, financial, judicial and political regulations and procedures applied within a country.

Awareness on the Post-2015 agenda and the SDGs in Europe and partner countries is raised, citizens are informed about the targets and enabled to holding governments accountable

In 2015 the Millennium Development Goals expire and a new framework for poverty eradication and sustainable development will be agreed on. The Post-2015 agenda, which will be launched in September 2015, will determine the targets for the upcoming decade on development. The new goals will include poverty alleviation, education, gender equality and empowerment of women, child and maternal health, environmental sustainability, reducing HIV/AIDS and communicable diseases, and building a global partnership for development. The success of the implementation of the post 2015 agenda, its review, monitoring and accountability will depend on an inclusive process involving all partners and stakeholders and especially civil society.

The experience and knowledge of actors in the South are voiced on European and International level

ENoP strives to maintain existing cooperation with actors from the South. Based on good experience during the ENoP II project, partners from countries in transition and especially the global South will play an important role in bringing their messages to European and International actors. ENoP will foster the cooperation and exchange between actors from the Global South but also their exchange with European and international counterparts.

Efficiency and innovation is promoted in cooperation with political parties and civil society actors in partner countries. EU democracy support programmes include political party development in EU consultation processes and implementation of democracy support as an important factor for reaching sustainable democratic societies

The political context is constantly changing and democracy support needs to adapt to changing circumstances and continuously develop methods for development cooperation. New knowledge and innovative ideas for strengthening political parties' role in democracy will be developed with local partners and also be put into practice in direct cooperation with local partners. Despite the strong focus of the EU on support to democratic development, the role of political parties in democracy has received too little attention and focus. ENoP and its local partners strive to encourage the EU to further elaborate political party support as an indisputable issue in the EU's comprehensive democracy support agenda.

ENoP will strive to emphasize the crucial function of political parties in fostering national democratic processes in EU partner countries and in development cooperation. In support to political parties, three typical approaches will be outlined: the multi-party dialogue, the all-party technical assistance approach, and the peer-to-peer programmatic party development assistance in developing countries or neighbourhood countries. The multi- and all-party approaches provide a sense of neutrality to party assistance but may suffer in terms of legitimacy, when the international yardsticks of political and civil rights are not respected by a participating party. On a programmatic and organisational level, the peer-to-peer approach develops stronger and more relevant political parties with internal party democracy and clear ethics. It includes capacity-building for political negotiations as well as dialogue and coalition-building to effectively contribute to a more functional political party system.

ACTIVITIES TO IMPLEMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

- Capacity building and transfer of knowledge among ENoP member-foundations in democracy support and development cooperation;
- Participation by ENoP in consultations of the European Union Institutions on programmes and projects in the fields of democracy support, development cooperation and political dialogue;
- Transfer of experience gained from the activities and projects of its members to the relevant work units of the EU Institutions;
- Lobby and advocacy activities to promote the development of a favourable environment and framework for the participation of political foundations in the programmes and projects of the European Union Institutions;
- Dialogue and exchange of information with other stakeholders in the fields of democracy support, development cooperation and political dialogue to clarify and strengthen the role of political foundations;
- Provision of information on key programmes of the European Union in the fields of democracy support, development cooperation and political dialogue to its members;
- Capacity building and transfer of knowledge between South-South actors and North-South actors. Inclusion of partner organisations in the above mentioned working approaches. ENoP members are implementing activities in partner countries to support the development of democratic principles in development cooperation;
- Exchange meetings on global level to better position ENoP as an development and democracy actor on international level.

INSTRUMENTS

- Working groups
- Thematic trainings and seminars
- Public conferences on EU level and at member states
- Bi-lateral meetings, breakfast meetings and expert policy briefings
- Publications (policy paper, studies, handouts, factsheets, policy briefings, etc)
- Fellowship Programme
- Targeted communication tools and instruments

The different **ENoP Working Groups** are the main working instrument for ENoP and generate regular output in the form of policy assessments and analysis, submissions to consultations, and direct interaction with representatives of EU institutions. As the „heart“ of the network and key forum for knowledge transfer the WG's meet frequently. The ENoP Secretariat together with the ENoP WG Chairs enables the members to participate in consultation processes and proactively provide input to EU institutions.

Next to Working Groups, the **thematic trainings and seminars** are the other main capacity building tools of ENoP members to bring more expertise and knowledge to the group, but also to have a forum where WGs can feed in their own expertise. The thematic trainings are organized on request of Working Group members.

In addition, through **public conferences** in EU member states, ENoP enhances the visibility of its members being active in development cooperation, democracy support and human rights worldwide. The public conferences are organized in cooperation with national member foundations.

Bilateral meetings, breakfast meetings and **expert policy briefings** complement the activities and allow a targeted approach with other EU stakeholders.

The **Fellowship Programme** targets ENoP members, especially smaller member foundations and ENoP partners, to enhance their knowledge and understanding about EU policies and programmes and to furnish the two-way dialogue between the EU Institutions and citizens in member states. Their perspectives are given voice towards the EU Institutions in Brussels and on the other hand the EU policies and programmes are explained on member states level when the fellows return back home. 1-2 Fellows will be chosen per year, the fellowship will take three months. At least every second to third fellow has a journalistic background and will be able to contribute to debates on EU development and democracy support policy on national level through targeted media articles.

Publications like policy papers, handouts, factsheets, policy briefings, etc to shape the policy dialogue and consultation process on EU level and internationally. Effective and targeted use of clear **communication tools and instruments**. The ENoP communication and advocacy strategy will be further developed.

THEMATIC FOCUS

ENoP members have selected six thematic areas that are the focus for joint activities and dialogue through working groups within the network. The focus on thematic areas and the working groups linked to them can change during the strategy period through decisions by the ENoP Steering Committee.

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

The Working Group “Development Assistance” is a fundamental element for all further ENoP activities in support of EU external assistance and the dialogue with EU institutions and other stakeholders. The WG will advocate for:

- The EU acknowledges that the socio-economic development of a country is inextricably linked to a vivid democratic political culture, which is manifested by political pluralism, freedom of the media, an active civil society and political participation. Consequently, democracy support is mainstreamed in all EU development policies.
- The EU actively supports the involvement of political actors in development projects in third countries.
- The EU raises awareness and acts towards Policy Coherence in Development in order to promote coherent, justifiable and sustainable EU and member states policies, which do not hinder but encourage the development of developing countries.
- The EU ensures inclusiveness of its policy-making process by consulting civil society, guaranteeing access to documents and adhering to transparent procedures.

AFRICA - EU RELATIONS

The working group's main role is the regular participation in the Joint Africa – EU Strategy (JAES) CSO Steering Group, to follow-up the implementation of JAES and to participate in JAES related consultations and to raise awareness on these issues. Furthermore, the WG continues to focus on global and cross-cutting issues such as migration and security. Internally, it foresees to enhance the number of ENoP members working on subjects related to the JAES, and to provide input to the European-African Dialogue. The WG will advocate for:

- Continued monitoring of JAES implementation at EU level and of the role ascribed to CSO within the different partnerships;
- Raising awareness on EU-Africa affairs and cross-cutting issues from the perspective of Political Foundations;
- Bringing to the table also inputs from our African partners.

DEMOCRACY SUPPORT

Support to democratisation processes is a key component of the work of political foundations worldwide. In addition to the vast field experience ENoP members from Western Europe bring to the table, ENoP members from Eastern Europe provide their own and personal transition experiences. In this very unique capacity, ENoP accompanies and provides input to the

development of EU initiatives for a more effective democracy support agenda. The WG will work towards reaching the following goals:

- The EU includes democracy support in all its external financing instruments specifically, but not exclusively, on EIDHR.
- The EU actively supports political foundations as they are crucial actors in democracy support.
- The EU and individual EU governments explicitly support the right of political foundations to engage with democratic political parties, including opposition parties, in other countries in their struggle for democratic societies.
- The EED will be complementary to existing EU instruments for democracy support. Its main focus is on supporting actors of change, which includes political actors. Political foundations are one of the interlocutors used by the EED in order to implement its projects on the ground.
- ENoP establishes a fruitful and constructive relationship to the EED Board of Governors and the EED Secretariat.
- The work of political foundations is included more clearly in academic work – ENoP reaches out to the research community in order to bring across this message.

ENLARGEMENT/NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Working Group Enlargement and Neighbourhood Policy will concentrate on how political foundations in enlargement and neighbourhood countries can contribute to enhancing and enabling the environment for civil society organizations. ENoP will continuously be involved in the monitoring and design of the new EU neighborhood policy and in particular the role and influence of civil society and citizens. The new EU approach needs to be reflected in the mid-term programming of the current financial period. The programming of the 2021 – 2027 gives the opportunity to further strengthen the role of civil society. The EU enlargement policy has been set on hold for the upcoming 5 years. Therefore it is important to keep the political developments in the Western Balkan countries on the agenda and give further incentives for democratic reforms. Backlashes as regards to the enabling environment are of concern. The WG aims at achieving the following:

- The EU realizes that in times of critical perceptions on enlargement and accession, political foundations are valuable partners in pointing out the achievements and advantages of the EU enlargement and neighbourhood policy to the EU citizens;
- Young people are in the focus of EU policies in the Enlargement and neighbourhood countries. Their socio-economic situation is taken into account and EU instruments like Erasmus + are broadened to even reach out to more young people and develop their skills and opportunities;
- No politics without the voices of women – women in different societal positions play an important role in the neighbourhood countries and in the EU accession countries;
- The EU increases its attention to CSOs in the partner countries – especially on the shrinking space of CSOs – and uses its diplomatic and financial tools to foster the development of CSOs and other relevant societal stakeholders;
- The EU is playing an exemplary role in engaging CSOs in the political and technical process of enlargement and neighbourhood policy, including the phase of policy making and programming;
- ENoP members expertise is integrated in the mid-term and 2021 -2027 EU programming of the financial instruments for the neighbourhood countries and the enlargement.

EU CITIZENSHIP

WG Citizenship is the only ENoP WG which addresses internal European issues and thus complements the other WGs external scope. It provides a platform for ENoP members to engage their constituencies in a pro-European debate and convene members from different party families in joint dialogue. In this WG, representatives from different party families seek for joint solutions to common problems in the fields of migration; active citizenship; youth and social inclusion; European integration. The working group will work towards reaching the following results:

- The EU constantly works further on the improvement of its democratic character by fostering citizens' participation in EU policy -making by using existing instruments more effectively and developing new instruments;
- The EU assures the integration and participation of all citizens by using more bottom-up measures that can truly involve people in EU matters;
- The EU supports EU networks and platforms as they are effective structures that create a link between EU and national level in the field of civil society engagement;
- The EU provides better information/capacity building on EU programmes that are open for citizens. Better use of new media communication tools is implied, including the necessity to ensure inclusiveness;
- The EU works towards a better political integration of the Union, providing more information on European elections, harmonizing the EU election dates, raising awareness of European Parties, providing analyses and information on political debates in MS;
- The EU intensifies and supports programmes such as Erasmus Plus by increasing incentives and/or making experiences abroad a mandatory part of all Bachelor's/Master's studies.

EU FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS/AID MODALITIES

The working group follows the reform process of financial instruments in the framework of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020. The members who bring along project implementation experience under the current instruments will constructively engage in the consultations with EU institutions on the financial regulations as well as on the programming of instruments as such. The working group "Financial instruments" is the focal point for exchange of experiences and for addressing challenges in the implementation of EU-co-funded projects and raises identified problems to the relevant interlocutors within the EC. The advocacy work of this WG targets the following goals:

- Political foundations from the EU remain eligible to access EU funding;
- The EU continues to disburse aid through CSOs instead of relying on international organizations such as the UN;
- The EU simplifies its procedures regarding access to and the implementation of EU funding;
- The EU applies a toolbox of funding mechanisms / modalities as agreed in the Structured Dialogue including the direct award of grants, core funding as well as the possibility of follow-up EU co-funded projects upon positive evaluation;
- The EU ensures support to democracy and to political actors through its external financial instruments, specifically but not exclusively through EIDHR;
- The EU continues to consult with civil society on the design, review and programming of the financial instruments;
- The EU ensures complementarity among all the financial instruments, geographic and thematic.