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**Report on the implementation of
the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights in 2000**

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COMMISSION WORKING DOCUMENT

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Introduction

This report sets out an overview of the activities in the protection and promotion of human rights and democracy funded by the European Commission in external relations in 2000 under the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), Chapter B7-70 of the EU budget. It examines the major thematic priorities and the regional strategies of such action, provides an analysis of procedural aspects and includes an assessment of the performance of the Commission in this field. During the period covered by this report, over € 97 million from this part of the budget alone was allocated to 142 human rights and democracy projects.

- **The year 2000: consolidation and change**

2000 has been a transitional year for the Commission in its delivery of assistance for the promotion and protection of human rights and democratic values. Following the central role accorded to the respect for human rights and democracy by the Amsterdam Treaty, and the adoption in April 1999 of Council Regulations 975 and 976 (the ‘Human Rights Regulations’), the Community had at its disposal a comprehensive and coherent basis for the implementation of human rights and democracy budget lines.¹ Other significant developments promoted the consistency and coherence of the management of these lines even further. For the first time, the human rights and democratisation unit of the External Relations Directorate General assumed world-wide responsibility for all 11 human rights and democracy budget lines under EIDHR, all of which are now also under the remit of a single Commissioner for External Relations, Chris Patten.

In May, the Commission launched an ambitious reform package for the management of external assistance programmes. It provided for a ‘radical overhaul’ of programming, the integration of the project cycle with a single body in charge of implementation (EuropeAid), the extensive devolution of project management to Commission delegations, and measures to deal with old and dormant commitments.²

2000 was also a year in which the EU restated its commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms through the proclamation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, by the President of the Council, the President of the Parliament and the President of the Commission at the European Council meeting in Nice in December.³ The Charter enshrines the very essence of the European *aquis* regarding fundamental rights, and introduces some important innovations. For example, all personal rights, civil, economic, political and social, are brought within a single instrument, highlighting the indivisibility of human rights and eradicating the traditional distinction between different sets of rights.

- **The role of this report**

It is the fifth report of this nature, published pursuant to the 1991 Council Resolution on human rights, democracy and development.⁴ It addresses only those activities funded as part of the external action of the Community under Chapter B7-70 of the EU budget, and does not

¹Council Regulations (EC) No. 975/99 and No. 976/99 of 29 April 1999, OJ L120

²Communication to the Commission on ‘The Reform of the Management of External Assistance’, Special Report No 21/2000 of 16 May 2000, OJ C 057, available at:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/reform/document/communication_en.pdf

³ OJ C 364 of 18.12.2000, Full text available at: http://www.europarl.eu.int/charter/pdf/text_en.pdf

⁴Resolution on Human Rights, Democracy and Development, Council and Member States, meeting within the Council, 28 November 1991

therefore cover the use of other budgetary instruments, which also make a significant contribution to the observance of human rights and democratic principles, such as external development cooperation and assistance to particular countries or regions, including the ALA, MED, TACIS and OBNOVA programmes. It is important however to emphasise the complementarity of human rights and democracy activities funded under these different instruments with the initiatives supported under EIDHR.

Similarly, the report does not examine the full scope of EU action on human rights and democracy issues within the Union, or in multi-lateral fora, although reference is made to relevant EU policy and action throughout this document. Such a broader vision is presented by the EU Annual Report on Human Rights, adopted by the Council, which lays out a full overview of EU action in third countries and within the Community, and its elaboration of policy in organisations such as the UN, the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

In their Annual Report on Human Rights for 1999, the European Parliament expressed concern that more information should be provided by the EU Annual Report on Human Rights (prepared by the Council) on project funding and its coherence with the objectives of EU policy.⁵ In response, the EU Annual Report for 2000 has been expanded and enhanced, setting out in greater detail the broad range of action undertaken by the Union in defence of human rights and democratic principles.⁶

The Parliament also called for full details of the human rights projects funded through Chapter B7-70 of the EU Budget, because 'the importance of placing full information on the public record should not be overestimated'.⁷ Complementary to the EU Annual report, this Commission report on the use of EIDHR funds fulfils exactly that role. Together with an analysis of EU human rights and democracy policy in particular areas, it allows for the 'panorama of funded activities to be checked against overall strategic objectives.'⁸ Furthermore, in its explanation of procedural matters and in the detailed region breakdown, the report clarifies the different budget channels of EIDHR through which funding for democracy and human rights is made available.

- **Actions supported by the European Initiative for Human Rights and Democracy in 2000**

During this time of change, the EIDHR budget has continued to provide funds to projects in line with the broad range of policy objectives of the EU in the field of human rights and democracy on the basis of the detailed provisions of the Human Rights Regulations. In addition, each year a 'programming exercise' is planned for the Budget Chapter, to take into account particular needs in the field of human rights and democracy. These specific priorities are influenced by a number of factors, including positions adopted by the EU in international fora (many of which are referred to in this report), EU common strategies, Community instruments and EC Financial Regulations, reports from Commission Delegation Heads of Missions. Special attention was also paid to reports and resolutions of the European Parliament, again as reflected in this report, and strategies adopted by the main international

⁵ European Parliament Annual Report on International Human Rights and European Union Human Rights Policy 1999, A5-0060/2000, of 29 February 2000, Rapporteur Cecilia Malmström, available at: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/human_rights/doc/report_99_en.pdf

⁶ European Union Annual Report on Human Rights for 2000, of 26 September 2000, available at: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/human_rights/doc/report_00_en.pdf

⁷ European Parliament Annual Report on Human Rights, *ibid*, at 21

⁸ European Parliament Annual Report on Human Rights, *ibid*, at 21

organisations active in the field of human rights, such as the UN, the Council of Europe and the OSCE. Programming priorities for the use of funds in 2000 were set out as support for:

- The fight against torture, the death penalty and racism and xenophobia
- Human rights education and freedom of expression
- Economic, social, civil and political rights
- The protection of vulnerable groups, especially children
- The promotion and protection of the rights of women
- The promotion of democracy and the rule of law

These specific priorities are inscribed in the overall implementation of the Budget Chapter, and in this report, are highlighted in the different thematic sections described below.

Reflecting the commitment of the EU to build a stronger partnership with civil society organisations and NGOs, who are important partners in the implementation of EIDHR, over 80% of the funds were channelled through such organisations. The Commission has also increased its cooperation with international organisations, in particular the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which received over € 5.9 million for different projects.

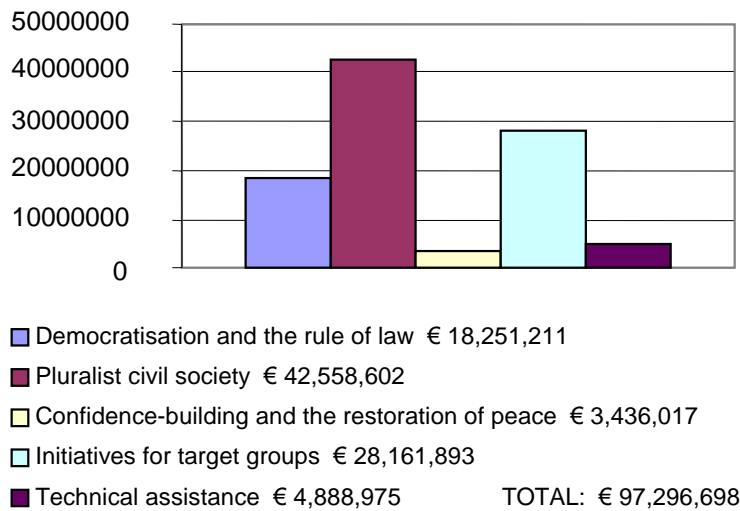
- **The structure of this report**

The report examines actions from both a thematic and geographic point of view, and includes chapters on procedural matters in the management of EIDHR, and an overview of assessments and evaluations of this work.

- **Thematic priorities**

The major thematic areas covered are democratisation and the rule of law (including electoral observation), pluralist civil society, confidence building and the restoration of peace, and initiatives in support of particular target groups, such as women and children. With regard to the thematic breakdown of this report, certain key themes or target groups, such as conflict prevention or journalists may be important elements in many different projects, which focus, however, primarily on a different theme or target group. These projects have therefore been categorised for the purposes of this report, with reference to the primary target group or theme.

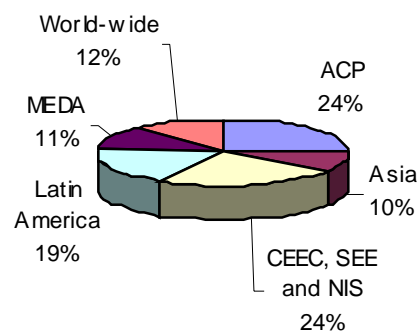
In the thematic section, which constitutes the main body of this report, attention is given to the background to EU action in each area, such as resolutions of the European Parliament, positions of the EU in international fora, and policy statements set out by the Commission. A brief description is then provided of every project funded in a particular area, together with a regional breakdown of the resources allocated. Each section also includes a detailed examination of a sample project funded in 2000.



Specific thematic priorities in 2000 have included projects of electoral observation, human rights education, strengthening NGOs, support for international justice, and the protection of the rights of children, women and the victims of torture.

- **Regional distribution**

The geographical summary examines regional strategies and the use of resources in Central and Eastern Europe and the Republics of the former Yugoslavia, South Eastern Europe, the Newly Independent States and Mongolia (CEEC, SEE and NIS); African, Caribbean and Pacific countries including South Africa and Nigeria (ACP); Latin America; Asia and the Mediterranean and Turkey (MEDA). Background is provided as to the general policy orientation of the EU in each area, and the specific priorities identified by EIDHR. A thematic breakdown of the use of resources in each region is also provided.



Those projects categorised as having world-wide application involve activities in more than one of these regions. It is noteworthy that projects funded in Asia in 2000 represent a 10-fold increase from the period 1996-1999. Allocations to the ACP and Latin American regions have also risen.

- **Procedural aspects**

Part 3 of this report concerns the procedural aspects of the management by the Commission of these funds, including the setting of priorities, the implementation methodology used, and

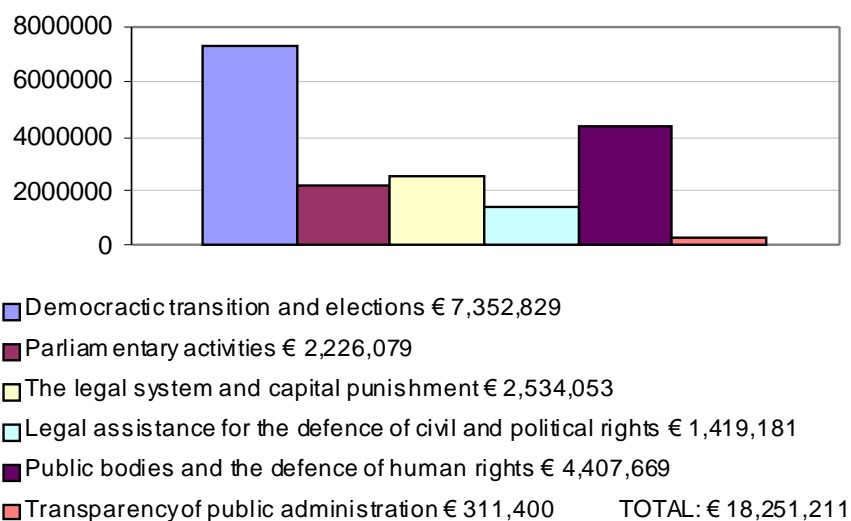
technical assistance provided by external bodies. This chapter is also prospective in character, dealing with the challenges and reform which will occur in 2001.

- **Assessment**

This chapter was introduced in the previous report for 1996-1999 in response to calls from the Parliament for greater clarity regarding the assessment and evaluation of activities funded by EIDHR. In this report for 2000, details of specific programme evaluations have been included on funding in the ACP region and on Joint Programmes with the Council of Europe in Russia and Ukraine. In September, the Court of Auditors published observations on the management by the Commission of EU support for the development of human rights and democracy in third countries, which argued for improvements in a number of areas. The audit is discussed, together with the response of the Commission. Finally, the views of civil society on EU human rights policy and action are examined, in the framework of the EU human rights discussion fora.

1. THEMATIC OVERVIEW

1.1. Democratisation and the rule of law



1.1.1. Democratic transition and elections

- **Background**

In May 2000, the Commission published a new Communication on EU election assistance and observation.⁹ It is intended to contribute to the definition of a coherent EU policy, and responds to a request from the European Parliament for the Commission to assess EU participation in election observation missions. The Communication examines the lessons learned from previous EU missions, including the importance of exploratory missions, observance of all stages of the electoral process, support for regional and local elections, and the need to integrate long-term programmes following elections into other EU development activities. The Human Rights Regulations authorise Community support for the process of democratisation, in particular, for the electoral process and equal participation of the people in this process.¹⁰

- **Activities**

Ten projects were supported in 2000, the majority in the ACP region. Special emphasis has been accorded to electoral observation missions:

- The *Belarussian Helsinki Committee*, in cooperation with *OSCE-AMG* in Minsk, was allocated € 413,300 to establish a system of public observation of the parliamentary and presidential elections in the Republic of Belarus.

⁹ Communication from the Commission on EU Election Assistance and Observation, of 11 April 2000, COM (2000) 191 final, available at

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/human_rights/eu_election_ass_observ/index.htm

¹⁰ Council Regulations (EC) No 975/1999, Article 2.2.f and No 976/1999, Article 3.2.f

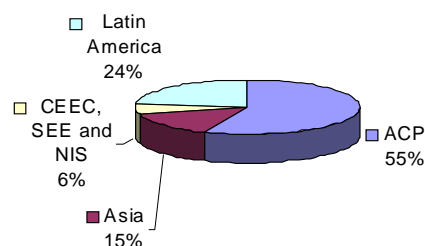
- The *Friedrich-Nauman* organisation was assigned € 591,371 for its project of building a coalition of domestic election observers in Ghana, to be deployed in potentially controversial voting precincts, where tension or conflict might arise due to ethnic or political rivalries between the two dominant parties.
- The *United Nations Development Programme* (UNDP) received €520,000 for the establishment of a UN/EU Coordination and Support Operation in Tanzania, with an EU Election team, including a mission of 70 short term observers.
- The *UNDP* was also allocated € 314,000 to establish a European component within the Guyana Long Term Observation Group, including an EU funded deputy head of mission and 30 short-term observers.
- The organisation *GTZ* coordinated the EU electoral observation missions in Sri Lanka, to which EIDHR provided € 701,385 for the establishment of an EU election observation mission composed of an EU election unit, 28 campaign observers and 40 short-term observers.
- *GTZ* received a further € 1.83 million to organise an EU mission in Zimbabwe, where 190 electoral observers were deployed around the country in over 1700 polling station (see below).
- In Peru, € 1,749,000 was allocated for the establishment of an EU election observation mission composed of an EU Election Unit, 10 Long Term observers and 32 Short Term Observers, for media monitoring of the electoral period, and providing voter education and electoral training.

Support has also been provided to enhance the democratic transition process:

- In the Republic of Guinea, the *Institut für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* received € 241,733 for a programme of support for democratisation concerning information, training and capacity building for elected representatives, local associations and grass-roots organisations.
- The organisation *EISA*, received € 622,000 for an electoral capacity building project in Southern Africa, providing support for a regionally based programme of strengthening the constitutional, legal and practical arrangements for elections, involving the SADC election commissions and civil society.
- EIDHR allocated € 370,000 to the *Citizens Constitutional Forum of Fiji* for an initiative promoting sustainable democratisation in the country through strengthening the capacity of local associations and civil society organisations.

- **Regional distribution**

ACP	€ 4,119,144
Asia	€ 1,071,385
CEEC, SEE and NIS	€ 413,300
Latin America	€ 1,749,000
Total	€ 7,352,829



- **Example: Election observation in Zimbabwe**

In May 2000, EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs welcomed the willingness of the Government of Zimbabwe to accept international observers for the general elections in June. The Political Committee of the EU also emphasised the importance of an early deployment of such observers in order to cover the campaign as well as the elections themselves. The objectives of the EU mission were set out as making a real contribution to the observation exercise, helping to deter intimidation, and making a clear judgement on the electoral process.

The largest observer mission deployed in Zimbabwe enjoyed high visibility and contributed to reducing intimidation and violence

The EIDHR provided € 1.83 million for this observation mission of 190 observers led by Pierre Schori, which was the largest observer mission deployed in the country.¹¹ It was operational nationwide, and contributed significantly to the co-ordination of the election monitoring effort in Zimbabwe.

Mr Schori held meetings with President Mugabe, government ministers, opposition leaders, parliamentary candidates, election officials, and civil society organisations. EU Observer teams, after a three-day training and orientation course in Harare, began to deploy around the country on June 9 and their presence noticeably helped to calm political tensions. Discussions were held regularly with local authorities, political parties, civic groups, church organisations, election monitoring units and the police. EU Observer teams visited 1729 Polling Stations, some 40 per cent of the total number, during the two days of voting, 24 and 25 June. As the EU Annual Report on Human Rights commented, ‘the mission enjoyed an extremely high visibility and contributed to reducing levels of intimidation and violence’.¹²

In his report on the Mission, Mr Schori set out an analysis of the voting process and the conduct of the poll, including an account of the violence and intimidation which marred the campaign. The report stresses the importance of those responsible for political violence and human rights abuses during the campaign being held to account in the courts, and the continuing need to monitor events in Zimbabwe.

¹¹ Project No. T-2000/096, B7-709

¹² European Union Annual Report on Human Rights 2000, *ibid.*

1.1.2. *Parliamentary activities*

- **Background**

Sustaining democratic transition requires practical support for the institutions of state which help uphold democracy, including the legislature. As the Commission's communication on election assistance and observation made clear,

"...it is important to recognise that elections are only one of the prerequisites for democracy and that they are not in themselves sufficient to grant the title of 'democratic' to an entire political system".¹³

The Human Rights Regulations authorise support for promoting the independence of the legislature from the executive, and support for institutional reforms.¹⁴

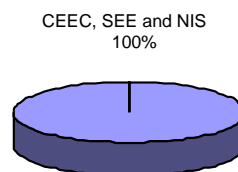
- **Activities**

EIDHR has provided funds for two major projects in 2000 supporting national parliaments in South Eastern Europe:

- The *East-West Parliamentary Practice Project* received a grant of €1,268,320 for its initiative on 'Legislatures and citizens' which seeks to improve working relations between parliaments and NGOs (see below).
- € 957,759 was allocated to the *International Institute for Democracy* for a project promoting parliamentary cooperation. Through workshops and conferences, this project aims to build links and contacts between local parliaments in nine countries in the region.

- **Regional distribution**

CEEC, SEE and NIS	€ 2,226,079
Total	€ 2,226,079



- **Example: Legislatures and Citizens in South Eastern Europe**

The Netherlands based *East-West Parliamentary Practice Project*, a widely experienced NGO in the area of parliamentary assistance, was awarded € 1,268.320 in 2000 for its project 'Legislatures and Citizens'.¹⁵ The initiative aims to improve working relations between parliaments and NGOs in Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Bosnia, FRY, FYROM and Romania. The 36 month project also involves local partners such as the Albanian Centre for Human

¹³ COM (2000) 191 final, *ibid*, at 5

¹⁴ Council Regulations (EC) No 975/1999, Article 2.2.b and No 976/1999, Article 3.2.b, *ibid*

¹⁵ Project No. C-1999/0246, B7-700

Rights, the Democracy Foundation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Free and Democratic Bulgaria Foundation, the Croatian Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, the European Movement Serbia, FORUM (FYROM), the Centre for Democracy and Human Rights of Montenegro; and the Association for Democracy in Romania.

A framework of cooperation between parliaments and civil society, so that genuine democratic representation can occur

The project objectives are to create a framework of interaction and cooperation between parliaments and civil society so that genuine democratic interest representation can develop, targeting MPs, parliamentary staff and representatives of NGOs. Parliaments will benefit from NGO expertise, NGO representatives will learn about the parliamentary process and interest representation, and neighbouring countries will benefit from increased cooperation.

In the first phase of the project, representatives from partner NGOs in each country will meet with law-makers in their respective parliaments to give their opinion on forthcoming legislation. In the second phase, public debates will be staged concerning the draft legislation, and legislation practices in general in each country. An important result of these activities will be the creation of an active and stable network for dialogue at national and regional level in South Eastern Europe. In general, the project should build public confidence in elected officials and raise public awareness about parliament's efforts to take the interests of the people into account. More specifically, the programme should have a clear and direct impact on the effective functioning and collaboration of Parliaments and civil society in this troubled region.

1.1.3. The legal system and capital punishment

- **Background**

A properly functioning legal system is one of the cornerstones of the rule of law and democratic governance. Supporting the institutions of law and promoting legal reform therefore underpins efforts to protect human rights. At the 56th Session of the UN Commission on Human Rights, the EU Presidency reiterated that the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession are 'fundamental prerequisites for the effective protection of human rights' including the non-discriminatory administration of justice.¹⁶

The campaign against the death penalty has for many years been a central policy of the EU in the field of human rights. The Parliament, Council and Commission speak with one voice in their efforts to abolish capital punishment worldwide. The Parliament has reaffirmed its opposition to the death penalty many times, and in a resolution of October 2000, it reiterated its belief that the abolition of capital punishment constitutes part of the *acquis éthique* of the EU, and called on the Commission to report on the initiatives it supports aimed at the abolition of the death penalty and the promotion of a universal moratorium on capital punishment.¹⁷

The Charter underlines the right not to be condemned to the death penalty¹⁸, and the Council has emphasised that the EU is united in its view that capital punishment is 'a uniquely

¹⁶ Statement of the EU Presidency at the 56th UN Commission on Human Rights Resolution 'Independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors and the independence of lawyers' E/CN.4/RES/2000/42

¹⁷ European Parliament Resolution B5-0804/2000, para. 3

¹⁸ Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, *ibid*, Article 2.2

inhuman and irreversible punishment' and that, through its guidelines on the death penalty, the EU will encourage third countries to accede to the 2nd Optional Protocol of ICCPR, and will raise the issue in multilateral fora.¹⁹ The External Relations Commissioner has stated that campaigns supported under the EIDHR to mobilise public opinion against capital punishment will help attain the goal of seeing the death penalty 'consigned to the history books as a form of punishment which has no place in the modern world'.²⁰ The Human Rights Regulations authorise Community support for promoting and strengthening the rule of law, upholding and strengthening the independence of the judiciary, and supporting constitutional and legislative reforms, such as the abolition of the death penalty.²¹ The fight against the death penalty was established as a particular priority in the programming exercise for 2000.

- **Activities**

Eight projects have been supported in this area:

- The London based NGO *Penal Reform International* was allocated € 400,000 for a regional reform programme of the penal and penitentiary systems of Morocco, Jordan and Lebanon, which includes training penitentiary staff, awareness-raising, information, and support for relevant initiatives led by local NGOs.
- €165,969 was provided to *OHCHR* for a project to enhance the capacity of the Indonesian administration of justice sector, with a view to facilitating the prosecution and trial of suspected perpetrators of serious human rights violations which took place in East Timor in 1999.

The EU-China dialogue has been an important forum for the discussion of human rights issues, and two separate projects have been funded by EIDHR in the framework of this dialogue:

- € 70,153 was provided to the *French Ministry of Foreign Affairs* for the EU/China - Legal Seminar on Human Rights in December 2000 in Paris which brought together Chinese and European academics, NGOs, trade unions, as well as the members of the Council working groups on human rights. The seminar focussed on labour rights and criminal justice.
- The *University of Lisbon*, Portugal received € 203,322 to coordinate the EU/China dialogue in May, which addressed the themes of the death penalty, China's ratification of UN human rights treaties, the principle of equal rights between men and women, and the problems faced by minority groups.

Several projects reflect the EU's condemnation of capital punishment:

- The *University of Westminster*, UK received € 675,859 for a project providing internships at the University's capital punishment studies department, establishing specialised databases to support lawyers engaged in capital litigation, and organising a lecture series on capital punishment.

¹⁹ European Union Annual Report on Human Rights, *ibid*, at 29

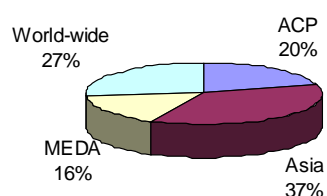
²⁰ Speech by the Member of the Commission responsible for External Relations, European Parliament, Plenary Session, Strasbourg, 25 October 2000

²¹ Council Regulations (EC) No 975/1999, Article 2.2 (a) & (b) and No 976/1999, Article 3.2 (a) & (b)

- The *University of Philippines* received an EIDHR contribution of € 305,593 to establish a research and training centre on DNA and forensic analysis in support of death row convicts in the Philippines (see below).
- The *Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) Human Rights Foundation*, also based in the Philippines, has been supported by an EIDHR grant of € 200,205 to provide legal services to those sentenced to death, including consultation, representation and litigation against human rights violations.
- *Penal Reform International* received € 512,952 for its project of legal assistance for prisoners under sentence of death in the Caribbean, which includes the investigation of miscarriages of justice, initiating domestic human rights actions, applications to international human rights bodies and lobbying for improved prison conditions.

- **Regional distribution**

ACP	€ 512,952
Asia	€ 945,242
MEDA	€ 400,000
World-wide	€ 675,859
Total	€ 2,534,053



- **Example: DNA and forensic services for death row prisoners**

A major step towards the routine use of DNA technology for the fair and swift administration of justice

€ 305,593 was provided by EIDHR to the *University of the Philippines* for their programme of ‘Research, Training and Extension Services on Forensic DNA Analysis’.²² The project specifically targets law enforcement agencies, judges, lawyers and forensic scientists with the aim of enhancing the use of DNA testing in capital cases, with a view to contributing to the gradual abolition of the death penalty in the Philippines.

There are over 1100 death row convicts in the Philippines, most of whom lack the means to hire legal assistance. Challenging these death row convictions with DNA testing could greatly affect the current pro-death public opinion. The project addresses concerns that official investigations performed by the National Bureau of Investigations (NBI) have been hampered by inadequate scientific research facilities, the absence of valid procedures for analysis, and serious funding limitations. A further objective of the initiative is to enhance the capability of the laboratory to handle cases from all the regional centres of the country. In addition, it should facilitate an increase in the number and types of cases that can be dealt with. Other activities include the production of research and scientific publications, as well as training of local and international personnel. The transfer of this technology to the country’s law enforcement agencies, to judges and lawyers, as well as other forensic scientists in Asia, is a major step towards the routine use of DNA technology for the fair and swift administration of justice.

²² Project No. T-2000/005, B7-707

1.1.4. Legal assistance for the defence of civil and political rights

- **Background**

A key component of a just legal order is the provision of proper legal representation for those who cannot afford, or are denied, such assistance. The right to free legal assistance in the interests of justice is recognised by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights as one of the basic elements of a fair trial.²³ The European Parliament has emphasised that all detainees should have the right to properly prepare their own defence before a court.²⁴ The Human Rights Regulations authorise Community support for ‘organisations offering concrete help to victims of human rights abuse’.²⁵

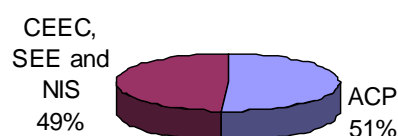
- **Activities**

Three projects have been supported by EIDHR in this area:

- *INTERIGHTS*, the International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights, was allocated € 692,261 for a project to improve access to legal representation for migrants and minorities, including Roma across Central and Eastern Europe (see below).
- In the ACP region, *Penal Reform International’s* initiative on accessible justice in Nigeria was supported by a grant of € 575, 330. It focuses on the development of long term training initiatives, the issue of juvenile justice and children ‘in conflict with the law’.
- The *Legal Resources Foundation* of Harare, Zimbabwe received € 151,590 for a paralegal programme aiming to empower individuals to use the legal system and increase their awareness of legal remedies. Legal aid, assistance and advice will be provided to individuals, and education outreach workshops conducted.

- **Regional distribution**

ACP	€ 726,920
CEEC, SEE and NIS	€ 692,261
Total	€ 1,419,181



- **Example: Access to justice in Central and Eastern Europe**

As a result of the economic changes of the last 10 years in Central and Eastern Europe, many people are unable to afford the cost associated with taking legal proceedings. Many others are unaware of their legal rights and obligations or lack confidence in the ability of procedures to protect their rights. The *International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights*

²³ Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, *ibid*, Article 47

²⁴ European Parliament Resolution A5-0050/2000 para. 38

²⁵ Council Regulations (EC) No 975/1999, Article 2.1 (f) and No 976/1999, Article 3.1 (f)

(INTERIGHTS) was allocated € 692.261 from EIDHR in 2000 for its initiative ‘Promoting Access to Justice in Central and Eastern Europe’.²⁶ The project, implemented in partnership with the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee and the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in Poland, focuses on Hungary, Poland and Bulgaria, and is targeted in particular towards the protection of migrants and minorities, including Roma. This project aims to discover the true scale of the problem and provide solutions to the crucial problem undermining the functioning of the rule of law and access to justice in CEE; the widespread lack of effective access to legal aid, which disproportionately affects vulnerable groups in society.

Improving access to and the fairness of the justice system by diminishing the dependency of outcomes of the legal process on social position and material wealth

In Poland and Bulgaria, the initiative will generate evidence about the functioning of post-communist legal aid models, and elaborate policy, regulatory and institutional recommendations for reform, applicable to all EU applicant States. It aims also to provide a forum for co-ordination and further development of efforts throughout the region, and to design, produce and disseminate materials as practical tools for use in legal aid reform activities.

The long-term region-wide objective of this project is to improve access to justice and fairness of the justice system throughout Central and Eastern Europe, by diminishing the dependency of outcomes of the legal process on social position and material wealth, thereby benefiting vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and groups such as the indigent and ethnic and national minorities. In this way the project aims to make a contribution towards the practical relevancy of human rights for the vast majority of the population in the target countries and ultimately throughout the region. The project builds on preparatory work undertaken by project partners over the last two years and is intended to be part of a long-term effort by a growing group of international and national organisations to strengthen access to justice in the region.

1.1.5. Public bodies and the defence of human rights

- **Background**

In recent years public bodies and national institutions have had an increasingly active role in the protection of human rights. The 56th UN Commission on Human Rights reaffirmed the importance of developing effective, independent and pluralistic national institutions, and welcomed the work of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in this area.²⁷ As outlined in Part 3 of this report, cooperation with OHCHR has been considerably enhanced by the adoption of an agreement in August 1999 between the Commission and the UN Secretariat concerning financial and contractual issues. The Human Rights Regulations provide for the support of local, national, regional or international organisations involved in the protection of human rights.²⁸

²⁶ Project No. C-1999/0344, B7-700

²⁷ 56th UN Commission on Human Rights Resolution E/CN.4/RES/2000/76 ‘National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

²⁸ Council Regulations (EC) No 975/1999, Article 2.1 (e) and No 976/1999, Article 3.1 (e)

- **Activities**

An important implementing partner under the EIDHR, OHCHR, has been involved in four of the ten projects in this area:

- *OHCHR* was allocated € 448,958 for its project of assistance to the national programme of action of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and to the functioning of the Ministry of Human Rights, providing institutional and logistical support to better co-ordinate the action of the government at a national and international level.
- *OHCHR* received a further € 119,364 to support the DRC's National Documentation Centre for Human Rights, to disseminate information on various human rights texts and international instruments and to place up-dated information on human rights at the disposal of national institutions, research workers, journalists and NGOs.
- To help reinforce national human rights capacity in Madagascar, € 118,881 was provided to *OHCHR* for a project providing training workshops and documentary support to the National Commission for Human Rights, the Ministry of Justice and human rights NGOs.
- In Latin America, a grant of € 373,493 was made in respect of *OHCHR*'s efforts to support the implementation of the Human Rights National Plan of Action of Ecuador and related thematic plans, to provide advisory services, education and training activities, and to strengthen the Ombudsman's Office (see below).

EIDHR also funds a Joint Programme between the EC the OSCE/ODIHR:

- € 500,000 has been allocated to this Second Joint Programme for Advancing Human Rights and Democracy in Central Asia, for activities including legislative reform assistance to the governments, national human rights institutions and Ombudsperson offices of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

Other projects supported in this field have involved non-governmental partners:

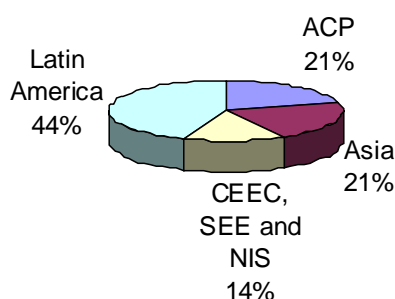
- The *Latin American Ombudsman Federation* (FIO) has been provided with € 1,578,167 for a major programme to institutionally strengthen and reinforce Ombudsperson Offices in the region, through technical co-operation, promotion and training.
- € 448,868 has been allocated to the organisation *Eurocities* for a project seeking to build networks of local municipalities throughout South Eastern Europe, by providing assistance for the development of democratic institutions and practices, urban management and stronger participation by citizens in the democratic process.
- A project training local politicians in Ukraine, with the aim of enhancing communal self-administration and democratic communal development, organised by the German organisation *Bildungswerk Sachsen der Deutschen Gesellschaft* received funding of € 173,549.
- The Portuguese NGO *CIDAC*, received € 217,629 from EIDHR for an initiative promoting the decentralisation of power and development of local authorities in Guinea Bissau. It will

carry out an information and training campaigns in larger towns to heighten public awareness, and identify and promote viable local government models.

- The *South Asian Human Rights Documentation Centre*, based in India, organises an regional project, with an EIDHR contribution of € 428,760, to monitor and strengthen National Human Rights Institutions in 13 countries, including by organising the “Asian Regional Conference on the Role of NGOs in the process of establishing and strengthening National Human Rights Institutions.

- **Regional distribution**

ACP	€ 904,832
Asia	€ 928,760
CEEC, SEE and NIS	€ 622,417
Latin America	€ 1,951,660
Total	€ 4,407,669



- **Example: Implementing the National Human Rights Plan of Ecuador**

OHCHR, supported by an EIDHR grant of € 373,493, will assist the Government of Ecuador in the implementation of its Human Rights National Plan of Action and related thematic plans. The project aims to enhance national capacities and infrastructures in the field of human rights, and provide a range of support to civil society.²⁹ It has four main areas of activities: the promotion and support of the National Plan of Action on Human Rights and of the specific thematic plans; advisory services and legislative reform; strengthening of the Ombudsman’s Office (“*Defensoría del Pueblo*”), and education and training.

Assisting the implementation of the National Plan, and providing the people with an increased role in the design of policies and strategies

OHCHR will also assist Ecuador in complying with its international reporting and human rights obligations and will strengthen the capacity of *Defensorías* at a provincial level. It is designed to raise awareness on human rights amongst the Ecuadorian population, train specific groups, such as journalists and NGOs, and support education programmes, including the elaboration of a National Plan on Education.

OHCHR plans to work closely with the mechanisms established by the Plan, such as the National Commission, relevant government departments (including the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education), the National Congress, the *Defensoria*, the judiciary, and relevant NGOs. The project foresees the co-operation of other bodies and agencies of the UN system, such as UNDP, UNESCO and UNICEF who will provide technical support for the implementation of activities in areas such as education, training, legal development and human rights documentation. Substantive guidance and support will be provided by the High Commissioner’s Office in Geneva.

²⁹ Project No. T-2000/087, B7-703

By supporting the implementation of the National Plan and other thematic plans, human rights will be better protected and the Ecuadorian people will have an increasingly participatory role in the design of policies and strategies. The dialogue and relations between different sectors of society and Government institutions should also be improved. Ecuadorians will benefit from learning how to make use of the services of the *Defensoria*, which will have enhanced its capacity to provide assistance to victims. Particular target groups such as journalists, magistrates, prosecutors, police, prison officials, staff from the *Defensoria*, teachers and NGOs, will acquire a better knowledge of their role in the promotion and protection of human rights.

1.1.6. Transparency of public administration

- **Background**

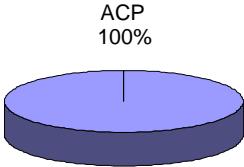
Transparency, accountability and measures against corruption are indicators of effective public management and good democratic governance. The Human Rights Regulations set out that Community operations should aim at promoting good governance, ‘particularly by supporting administrative accountability and the prevention and combating of corruption’.³⁰

- **Activities**

In 2000, EIDHR provided *Transparency International* with € 311,400 for a project concerning popular participation in the elections and representative government in Papua New Guinea aiming to encourage legislative reforms to the electoral process and to promote public awareness of such reforms (see below).

- **Regional distribution**

ACP	€ 311,400
Total	€ 311,400



- **Example: Representative government in Papua New Guinea**

Transparency International has been allocated € 311,400 for its initiative on ‘popular participation in the elections and representative government’ in Papua New Guinea.³¹ The project aims to encourage a number of legislative reforms to the electoral process and to promote awareness of such reforms. Participating in parliamentary elections is new to the majority of the population of Papua New Guinea, as are other principles and institutions of Government. Since independence, a number of problems have been apparent in the system, which have led many to observe that support for democratic transition and reform is a priority.

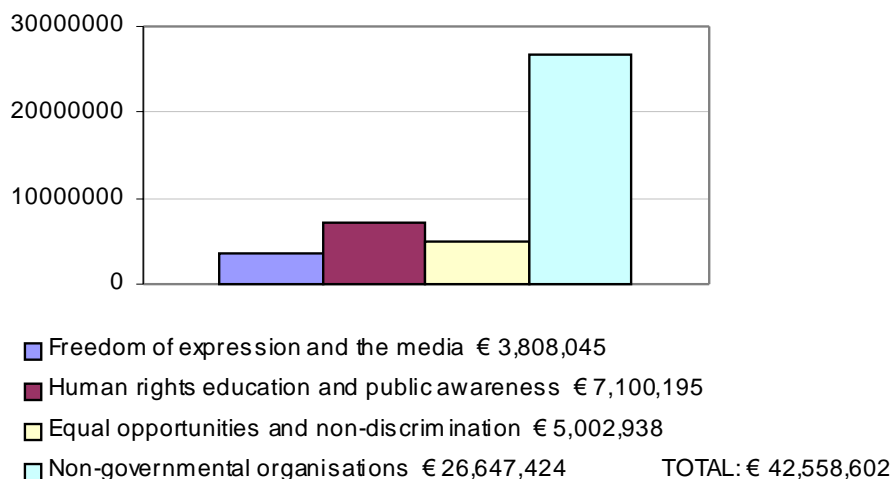
³⁰ Council Regulations (EC) No 975/1999, Article 2.2 (d) and No 976/1999, Article 3.2 (d)
³¹ Project No. C-1999/0395, B7-700

Legislative amendments to enable the electoral process to promote representative and democratic government

This project will promote legislative amendments to deal with the major problems and enable the electoral process to promote representative and democratic government. Following the suggested amendments, an education awareness program will inform the people about electoral reforms as well as stressing the importance of full popular participation in the process.

Transparency International will implement this initiative by holding workshops, engaging experts to advise on and draft reform legislation and by lobbying various governmental departments to introduce the legislation. Seminars and workshops will be held in provincial centres to educate people about the electoral reforms and about the electoral process in general. The population of the country will hopefully benefit from an improved process for the important task of electing responsible and responsive leaders.

1.2. PLURALIST CIVIL SOCIETY



1.2.1. Freedom of expression and of the media

- **Background**

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that everyone has the right to freedom of expression and to share information through the media.³² The European Parliament has been a particularly forthright defender of such freedoms, as emphasised in their Annual Report on Human Rights, which identifies the protection of freedom of speech and the media as a global theme for attention, because it is,

“One of the most basic human rights, and typical of democracies. In many countries all over the world, individuals are sentenced to jail...for expressing their views”³³

At the 56th UN Commission on Human Rights, the EU Member States supported a resolution

³² International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 19 (2).

³³ European Parliament Annual Report on Human Rights, *ibid*, at 35

on freedom of expression in which States were urged to stop violence against, harassment towards and detention of persons exercising their freedom of speech. The Commissioner for External Relations has spoken out against the intimidation of the free press, for example in Serbia, and has reaffirmed the commitment of the Commission to stand by 'brave independent journalists in their hour of need.'³⁴ The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights provides that freedom of expression is a universal right regardless of frontiers, and that the freedom and pluralism of the media shall be respected.³⁵ The Human Rights Regulations provides for the support of projects aimed at the promotion and protection of the freedom of opinion, expression and conscience.³⁶ The freedom of expression was highlighted as a priority area for support by the programming exercise of 2000.

- **Activities**

Eight projects in support of the media and free speech were supported:

- The *European Centre for War, Peace and the News Media* received € 795,346 for a project designed to promote a diverse reporting network and increase the professional capacity of journalists in the Balkans to report on minority and ethnic issues.
- *Internews Europe* was allocated € 384,756 for the support of 'Kosovo Independent Radio' to further the development of independent, local radio, and to strengthen the capacity of municipal broadcasters including through education and training activities (see below).
- The *Institute for War and Peace Reporting*, with an EIDHR contribution of € 500,000 organises the Balkan Media and Human Rights Project to improve the quality and reliability of independent media across the region. The project will transfer professional skills to regional media through practical journalistic activities with a focus on human rights issues.
- The *Terres d' Hommes* project 'Human rights and mass media in Burkina Faso' received support of € 185,209. It involves the production of videos on human rights and democracy issues which will be shown either through national television, or through distribution and debates organised in distant provinces of the country.
- *PANOS*, a Paris-based NGO, coordinate the project 'Media for Peace' with an EIDHR grant of € 750,000. Its objective is to strengthen of the role of the media throughout the continent, by supporting African media in the production of high quality and non partisan information on the conflict.
- *PANOS* received a further €132,400 to provide support for the Portuguese-speaking media in Africa, by facilitating access to diversified information and improving the quality of such information in Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and Mozambique.
- *IFJ's* project 'Media for Democracy in Southern Africa', supported by a grant of € 501,228, aims at promoting independent journalism and democratic media structures, through journalism training and support for the creation and strengthening of representative independent journalists' organisations throughout the region.

³⁴ Commissioner for External Relations, Statement on the sentence against Serb journalist Miroslav Filipovic, July 27, 2000

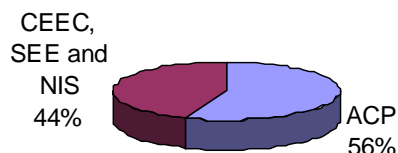
³⁵ Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, *ibid*, Article 11

³⁶ Council Regulations (EC) No 975/1999, Article 2.1(j) and No 976/1999, Article 3.1(j)

- The *European Centre for Common Ground* organises a project on peace building and the media in Angola, with an EIDHR grant of € 559,106. It is intended to facilitate the extension of the role, capacity and liberalisation of the Angolan media, through the training of journalists and the creation of radio and television programmes

- **Regional distribution**

ACP	€ 2,127,943
CEEC, SEE and NIS	€ 1,680,102
Total	€ 3,808,045



- **Example: Kosovo Independent Radio**

Most citizens of Kosovo are still served at the local level only by broadcasters who have neither the equipment nor the skills to present responsible information from a variety of reliable sources. Private broadcasters outside Pristina are still not able to address the complex needs of Kosovo. *Internews Europe's* project to support 'Kosovo Independent Radio' has been supported by an EIDHR grant of € 384,756.³⁷ It intends to further the development of independent, local radio, the medium that can reach most cities and towns of Kosovo and to strengthen the capacity of municipal broadcasters, who must fill the breach while free radio develops.

Increased choice for Kosovar listeners...a more diverse and pluralistic media will in turn encourage a more tolerant civil society

A total of 120 participants from private and municipal stations, and from the university population will receive training that will allow them to better serve their local audiences during the reconstruction phase when accurate delivery of information is crucial. Moreover, training in the fundamentals of journalism and media ethics should encourage participants to adopt a more pluralistic approach that will benefit the progress of democracy in Kosovo.

The project will educate and put on the air young journalists and producers, who will shape the thinking of Kosovo's unusually young population. Dozens of younger Kosovars, chiefly those affiliated with the University of Pristina, will benefit from the establishment of the radio production centre at the University Student Union. Given that the University currently has no journalism programme the centre will fulfil a vital need in providing a place where the younger generation can learn about broadcasting in a constructive and supportive environment. The centre will hopefully spur the development of a fully-fledged broadcast journalism department and thus have an additional impact on students long after the project is completed.

³⁷ Project No. C-1999/0409, B7-700

In addition, the project should have an important impact on the general public in Kosovo, especially those living outside Pristina, who rely on radio for information. Extensive training of station staff will lead to an improvement in the standard of information available to listeners, while the creation of new stations combined with the identification not just of new radio station owners and operators, but also of a cadre of young journalists and producers via the student union, should provide increased choice for Kosovar listeners. A more diverse and pluralistic media will in turn encourage the development of a more tolerant civil society.

1.2.2. Human rights education and public awareness

• Background

Human rights education is necessary in all parts of the world, both to raise public awareness about democratic principles and human rights, and to train professionals for work in appropriate organisations. International organisations are increasingly involved in this area of activity; the OHCHR has recently launched a major database on human rights education, as part of the UN 'Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004)' focusing on the institutions, materials and programmes dealing with the issue.³⁸ NGOs such as Amnesty International have also set up human rights education programmes throughout the world and training workshops for teachers in human rights education.

EU Member States supported a resolution on human rights education at the UN Commission on Human Rights, which called for States to consider the establishment of public access human rights resource and training centres, and where these already exist, to strengthen their capacity.³⁹ The Human Rights Regulations authorise technical and financial assistance aimed at support for education, training and consciousness-raising in the area of human rights.⁴⁰ The priorities defined by the EIDHR programming exercise in 2000, included support for human rights education activities.

• Activities

Sixteen projects in this section were allocated resources under EIDHR:

- The Democratic Labour Market Development Project run by *Salford College* (UK) with an EIDHR grant of € 594,332, is designed to create a system of citizen education in Kazakhstan by training teachers and establishing a national trade union education centre.
- The *Training Centre Foundation* in Support of Local Democracy in Belarus received € 87,417 for its project 'Through Education - Towards Civil Society' aimed at promoting democratic values in the teaching profession in Belarus and establishing a network with like-minded Polish teachers.
- € 120,617 has been allocated to the *Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Moldova* for a project promoting human rights through advocacy, monitoring, and raising awareness in the Republic of Moldova. Activities include seminars and round-tables on human rights, refugees and the independence of the judiciary.

³⁸ available at: <http://www.unhchr.ch/hredu.nsf>

³⁹ UN Commission on Human Rights, 56th Session, Resolution E/CN.4/RES/2000/71 'United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education'

⁴⁰ Council Regulations (EC) No 975/1999, Article 2.1(g) and No 976/1999, Article 3.1(g)

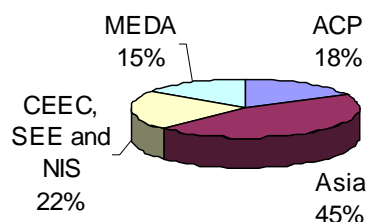
- *OHCHR*'s project of human rights education in the Russian Federation received an EIDHR grant of € 518,368 to support the educational activities of NGOs through the organisation of 2 nationwide research competitions on human rights.
- The Moscow School of Political Studies received € 250,000, in the framework of a Joint Programme with the *Council of Europe*, to introduce the new political class in Russia to the concepts of democracy and the functioning of its institutions in general, and to the functioning of European politics.
- *PANOS* was allocated € 499,081 for a project promoting the adoption and application of new legal and regulatory frameworks strengthening the professionalism and pluralism of the media and developing quality regular media productions on human rights.
- *Démocratie 2000* received an EIDHR grant of € 98,969 for a project in Niger to promote the teaching of democracy and civic culture in primary schools and to design handbooks on human rights for pupils.
- The Centre for Human Rights at the *University of Pretoria* organises the African Masters Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation with an EIDHR contribution of €544,116. It provides students with a solid academic background and the operational skills required by human rights organisations in Africa (see below).
- *The Danish Centre for Human Rights* was allocated € 116,835 for a project to train human rights organisations and institutions in four African countries on reporting to international and regional treaty bodies on the implementation of human rights conventions.
- The 'Culture of Peace Programme' organised by the *Noor Al Hussein Foundation* with a grant of € 953,429, is a creative, interactive and experiential multi-media learning programme which teaches non-violent conflict resolution techniques in schools in Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon and Israel.
- *OHCHR* provides support to the National Human Rights Documentation, Information, and Training Centre in Morocco with EIDHR support of € 126,097. The Centre aims to promote a culture of human rights at all levels of the Moroccan civil society and to provide target groups, such as university professors, school teachers, the judiciary, the police, the media, NGOs, women and children, with adequate documentation, information and training.
- An EIDHR contribution of € 457,396 has provided 14 scholarships for students of the Hong Kong Human Rights Master of Law Programme coordinated by the *Danish Centre for Human Rights*. Students will be recruited from developing countries in Asia and from mainland China to participate in this specialised one-year programme.
- The *British Council* received € 701,150 for the promotion of human rights education and training through community / university cooperation in India. This project seeks partnerships between academics of 2 universities in the UK and 4 in North India with NGOs, in particular to share their experience of human rights curriculum development.
- The *National Forum of Concern on Human Rights in Irian Jaya* was allocated €103,000 for a project on the promotion of democracy and empowerment in the field of human rights in the Irian Jaya Province of Indonesia. It aims to contribute to the promotion of justice and

reconciliation in Papuan society through awareness-raising efforts, practical workshops, training, and lobbying of governmental institutions.

- A project on the teaching of human rights in primary and secondary schools in Cambodia, organised by the *Cambodian Institute of Human Rights*, received an EIDHR grant of € 949,388. It will provide training for 15,900 primary school teachers over two years from January 2001, enabling human rights lessons to be taught regularly and properly to 600,000 to one million of Cambodia's school population, emphasising a commitment to redress gender bias against girls and women.
- The Euro-Burma Office of the *Friedrich Ebert Foundation* received € 980,000 for its initiative in support of the development of democratic structures in Burma/Myanmar, through strengthening co-operation among different political actors and by supporting grassroots participation in the political process.

• **Regional distribution**

ACP	€ 1,259,001
Asia	€ 3,190,934
CEEC, SEE and NIS	€ 1,570,734
MEDA	€ 1,079,526
Total	€ 7,100,195



• **Example: African Masters in Human Rights and Democratisation**

The African Masters Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation emphasises a regional approach to human rights education. 26 students from 14 African countries take part in the programme, which is a joint project of the *Centre for Human Rights at Pretoria University*, Makerere University in Uganda, the University of the Western Cape and the University of Ghana. Students will spend the first six months of the year as a group at the Centre for Human Rights in Pretoria, where they attend advanced lectures on human rights. Thereafter they are split up into four groups and placed with one of the participating universities for the last six months of the year. At the host university they participate in the regular human rights courses offered at those universities, complete their dissertations and do internships.

Concrete measures to train individuals for work in the human rights field... bringing together young people, academics and experts from different cultures in Africa

Conflict prevention, sustainable democracy and the prevention of human rights violations are rooted in the understanding of those rights and how to access them. This requires not only that the general public must be informed of their rights and duties, but also that human rights professionals develop skills and expertise through formal education. The level of human rights education in this region, as in many other parts of the world, is seriously underdeveloped.

Africa has an urgent need for highly trained human rights experts, and it has much to teach about the reality of human rights fieldwork. Civil society can also benefit from the strengthening of its human resources, and graduates of the degree may also become human rights educators themselves. This project proposes concrete measures to train individuals for work in civil society, international organisations and in governments. Another valuable effect of the African Masters will be the input of African expertise to the European and other systems, and *visa versa*. The universality of human rights requires that different regional systems recognise their interconnectedness and are prepared to learn from each other. Bringing together young people, academics and experts from different cultures in Africa will break down barriers, allow for the sharing of experience and ideas and the building of a common understanding of the transnational nature of human rights and democratic principles. South Africa has a wealth of recent experience in the fight for human rights, and the lines of communication developed between those involved in that struggle are a very useful element of this project.

1.2.3. Equal opportunities and non-discrimination

- **Background**

The concept of non-discrimination is at the very centre of international human rights standards, which apply to every person without distinction of any kind. This represents the guiding principle of the EU's activities in this field, which is underlined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights, which prohibits any discrimination based on any ground.⁴¹ The European Parliament emphasises that,

“The equal value of all human beings, independent of gender, race, background or sexual preference, is for most of us a self-evident fact.”⁴²

Article 13 of the EC Treaty, as amended by the Treaty of Amsterdam introduced provisions to combat all forms of discrimination, including on the grounds of racial and ethnic origin, religion and belief, disability, age and sexual orientation. Considerable progress within the EU was made in 2000, including the adoption by the Council in June of a directive implementing the principle of equal treatment of persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin.⁴³ The directive requires the Member States to introduce in their national laws by 2003 a number of provisions prohibiting racism and providing for remedies in the case of discrimination in the fields of employment, education, social protection, health care and access to goods and services.⁴⁴

The fight against racism and xenophobia is major concern of the EU. In April 2000, the Commission services published their contribution to the Regional European Conference, in preparation for the World Conference against Racism, which made a number of recommendations, including that the fight against racism be systematically mainstreamed into the external relations and human rights policies of the EU, and that synergies be created between the work of the Commission and other organisations in this area.⁴⁵ The Human Rights Regulations specify the promotion of equality of opportunity and non-discriminatory

⁴¹ Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, *ibid*, Article 21

⁴² European Parliament Annual Report on Human Rights, 2000, *ibid*, at 26

⁴³ Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin, OJ L 180 , 19/07/2000

⁴⁴ Directive 2000/43/EC OJ L 180, 19/07/2000, p. 22

⁴⁵ Contribution from the Commission Services to the Regional European Conference “All Different – All Equal”, Strasbourg, 11-13 October 2000

practices, including measures to combat racism and xenophobia.⁴⁶ The fight against racism, including activities in support of the World Conference, was selected as a priority area of support in the programming exercise of 2000.

- **Activities**

Six projects were allocated grants, four with the *OHCHR* in preparation of the World Conference against Racism and Xenophobia:

- The Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Conference, Dakar, Senegal received a contribution of € 681,484 to facilitate a detailed and comprehensive input into the preparatory process for the World Conference by representatives of African governments, national institutions, specialised agencies, UN bodies, programmes and human rights mechanisms, and NGOs.
- The Latin American Regional Preparatory meeting for the World Conference, in Chile was allocated € 669,839 to support the participation of NGOs and other experts in the regional conference (see below).
- The Asian Regional Preparatory Meeting in Tehran, Iran received € 776,761. Participants in this regional conference include representatives of Asian governments, national institutions, specialised agencies, the UN and NGOs.
- Emphasising the importance of civil society, € 1,500,000 was allocated for NGO participation in the World Conference itself, to facilitate the involvement of 590 non-governmental organisations and of representatives of least developed countries.

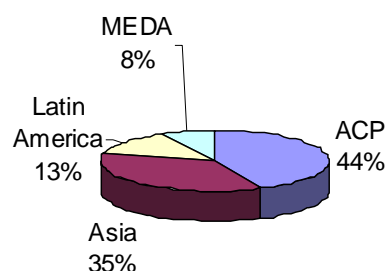
Two other initiatives were funded in the area of non-discrimination:

- The *International Organisation for Migration* (IOM) received € 394,854 for a project to establish a Migrants' Rights Resource Centre, in cooperation with the Moroccan Ministry of Human Rights and in collaboration with national NGOs.
- € 980,000 was provided to assist the *China Disabled People's Federation* provide disabled people of working age in China with an improved range of vocational education and training services, through a project supporting management and training skills, and the provision of equipment.

⁴⁶ Council Regulations (EC) No 975/1999, Article 2.1 (i) and No 976/1999, Article 3.1 (i)

- **Regional distribution**

ACP	€ 2,181,484
Asia	€ 1,756,761
Latin America	€ 669,839
MEDA	€ 394,854
Total	€ 5,002,938



- **Example: World Conference Against Racism Regional Conference of the Americas**

In 2000, EIDHR provided €669,839 to the *Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights* (OHCHR) for the regional contribution to the preparatory process of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in the Latin American and Caribbean region.⁴⁷ The four-day regional preparatory conference in Santiago, Chile, took place from 4 to 7 December 2000. The participants in this regional conference were representatives of Latin American and Caribbean governments, representatives of national institutions, specialised agencies, UN bodies, programmes and human rights mechanisms, and non-governmental organisations. The regional process, and in particular the regional conference, is viewed as an important tool for States and other actors to come discuss their experiences in combating racial discrimination, and the conclusions they have drawn from such efforts.

Assisting regional organisations, national institutions and NGOs to examine their own strategies leading up to the World Conference

Non-State organisations are considered to have a very prominent role to play in the regional preparatory process, because of their expertise and direct involvement in combating racism and racial discrimination and in promoting tolerance and respect for diversity. The main aim of the Community's co-financing is to support the participation of NGOs in the conference, including the cost of the NGO secretariat, which would not be able to function without EU support and which is vital to ensure the co-ordination of NGO participation at the conference.

The regional preparatory meeting helped assist regional organisations, national institutions and NGOs from the region to examine their own thinking and strategies, how they can work among themselves, and how they can continue to work with States in the region. The project is part of a process leading up to the World Conference to be held in South Africa from 31 August to 7 September 2001. After the regional conference and the World conference, the results will have an effect on existing OHCHR programmes combating racism, including at the level of the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and

⁴⁷ Project No. T-2000/088, B7-703

Protection of Human Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the process of the Third Decade to combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

1.2.4. *Non-governmental organisations*

- **Background**

NGOs have an increasingly important role in the promotion of human rights and democratic values. Their activities in the implementation of EIDHR funding, both as coordinating partners and as beneficiaries, are essential. Emphasising the EU's commitment to develop its partnership with NGOs and civil society, the vast majority of EIDHR funds (83%) are channelled through such organisations. As the External Relations Commissioner commented at the UN Commission on Human Rights,

“rightly so...without them, our work would be impossible. I would particularly like to pay tribute to the work of the many NGO defenders of human rights throughout the world.”⁴⁸

In 2000, the EU has continued meeting and exchanging views with human rights NGOs in the context of the ‘EU Human Rights Fora’, this year organised in conjunction with the Portuguese Presidency at the seat of the European Masters Degree in Venice, and with the French Presidency in Paris.⁴⁹ In January 2000, the Commission published an important Communication on building a stronger partnership with NGOs, which sets out proposals for more efficient cooperation and for making better use of the funds provided.⁵⁰ The Human Rights Regulations state that an objective of the Community is to support ‘local, national, regional or international institutions, including NGOs involved in the protection, promotion, or defence of human rights’ and that ‘non-governmental organisations ... community-based organisations and public or private sector organisations’ are partners eligible for financing.⁵¹

- **Activities**

Fourteen projects in support of NGOs were supported in 2000, including micro projects (see Part 3 of this report) and the multi-annual Latin America programme (see Part 2):

- A grant of € 484,869 will facilitate the *European Training Foundation’s* initiative on the promotion of the culture and practice of social and civil dialogue which aims to strengthen the capacities of social partners and non-governmental organisations to actively take part in the process of political, economic and social transformation.
- *OHCHR* was allocated € 131,626 for a project on strengthening capacities and infrastructures for human rights in the Republic of Georgia. Through training on human rights for NGOs and the media, the project aims at supporting institutional reform and new legislation complying with international standards.

⁴⁸ Speech by the External Relations Commissioner at the 56th UN Commission on Human Rights, 27 March 2000, available at:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/human_rights/news/patten/speech_00_99.htm

⁴⁹ Further details on the Human Rights Fora can be found in Part Four of this document under ‘The views of civil society’

⁵⁰ Commission Communication on ‘The Commission and non-governmental organisations: building a stronger partnership’ COM (2000) 11 final

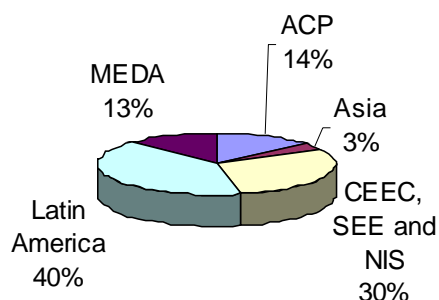
⁵¹ Council Regulations (EC) No 975/1999, Articles 2.1(e) and 4.1. and No 976/1999, Articles 3.1(e) and 5.1.

- Support to local human rights and peace organisations in Somalia is provided by the *Netherlands Organisation for Development*, with an EIDHR contribution of € 346,256. It will coordinate comprehensive training for its 21 constituent member organisations and involve a total of 260 human rights activists.
- Various NGOs will help to underpin democratisation efforts and support conflict mediation and containment initiatives by developing the capacities of civil society organisations in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with a grant of € 1,335,996.
- *The British Council's* project for a Nigeria civil society and human rights information network received € 791,080. It will establish an electronic information resource for civil society which will include material from donors and NGOs on policies, organisations, budgets and programmes in human rights (see below).
- *CONCERN* will help build the capacity of civil society organisations in Mozambique with an EIDHR grant of € 334,691, in particular to promote and strengthen representative and democratic institutions at a national level.
- *Nuova Frontiera-Alisei* received € 831,984 for a programme of awareness-raising for civil society and support for the development of a free press in Mozambique, through the creation of a documentation centre and the development of an information network.
- The Paris-based *Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme* (FIDH) was allocated € 785,600 to develop constructive relations between human rights organisations and local authorities, and to strengthen synergies between the various local organisations in the Mediterranean region.
- *The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions* received an EIDHR grant of € 953,234 for its programme for trade union development in Arab and Northern African countries which focuses on promoting the capacity building of the trade unions through training and organising activities in Bahrain, Kuwait, Mauritania and Yemen.
- € 1,660,838 was provided to the *Arab Institute for Human Rights* for a wide-ranging regional project to strengthen the capacities of human rights NGOs and the role of the media in the promotion of human rights. The project also aims to encourage the introduction of human rights into the teaching programmes of Ministries of education and to develop training activities on the protection of women's and children's rights.
- Under the Micro-Projects Scheme € 840,000 will be managed by *Commission Delegations* in China to contribute to the democratisation process in the country by supporting grassroots projects in the country and promote the EU/China human rights dialogue in a concrete manner.
- *Commission Delegations* in CEEC, SEE NISM will manage Micro-Projects with a value of € 5,751,250 to provide support for local civil society initiatives and their contribution to democracy and protection of human rights organisations involved in re-establishing democracy in civil society, including regional NGOs, trade unions and women's organisations.
- *Commission Delegations* in *Moscow, Kiev and Almaty* will manage 86 Micro-Projects in Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan and Moldova with a total allocation of € 1,600,000.

- In its Multiannual Programme for Democracy and Human Rights in Latin America (which is discussed in greater detail in Part 2 of this report), € 10,800,000 has been assigned to contribute to the promotion of human rights and the consolidation of democracy in countries including Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama and Costa Rica. Grassroots organisations, NGOs, universities and independent institutions will implement the different activities included in each country programme.

- **Regional distribution**

ACP	€ 3,640,007
Asia	€ 840,000
CEEC, SEE and NIS	€ 7,967,745
Latin America	€ 10,800,000
MEDA	€ 3,399,672
Total	€ 26,647,424



- **Example: NigeriaNet: a civil society and human rights information network**

A project team based in Lagos/Abuja will implement this *British Council* project to create 'NigeriaNet' an electronic information resource for civil society, which has received € 791,080 from EIDHR in 2000.⁵² The databases will include material from donors and NGOs on policies and programmes in human rights.

A unified civil society database for Nigeria will be created using information already held by NGOs and donors on programmes, policies, resources and contacts

A unified civil society database for Nigeria will be created using information already held by NGOs and donors on human rights programmes, policies, resources and contacts. Systems will be set up to validate, standardise, input and up date this content. The focus will be on sharing and making accessible that information which is already available from partners, although some original research will be conducted.

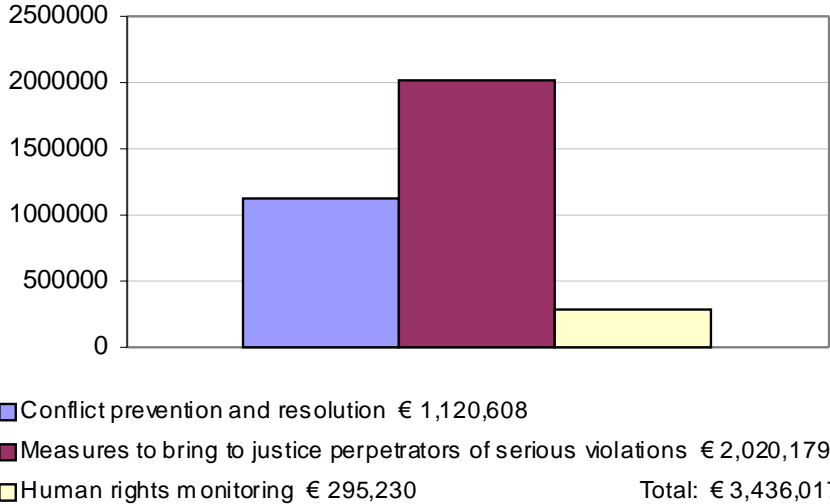
The bulk of the existing information on programmes and organisations is held by donor agencies. The database will therefore require updates regularly from donor organisations on project activity and programme plans in civil society. This would include brief data on projects already at implementation stage, projects in planning as well as details of proposals received for consideration along with funding status information and a contact for further information. Given the underdeveloped reporting and accounting practices amongst some NGOs, confirmation of data provided will be a necessary prerequisite. Once the database goes on-line, errors and *lacunae* in the data will be identified and corrected systematically.

It will be possible to make information in the database available in hardcopy form for groups without regular access to the Internet. NigeriaNet should be viewed in the wider context of increasing Internet exploitation for development purposes in Nigeria; the project will

⁵² Project No. T-2000/036, B7-7020

contribute to other Internet and email capacity-building initiatives such as the OMCT SOS Torture Network, the Ford Foundation and DevNet. It will encourage increasing exploitation of the Internet, both by end-users seeking information and for those intending to reach a wider audience for their publications, in Nigeria and internationally.

1.3. CONFIDENCE BUILDING AND THE RESTORATION OF PEACE



1.3.1. Conflict prevention and resolution

- **Background**

In many violent conflicts throughout the world, the human rights of non-combatants including the most vulnerable members of society are threatened on a massive scale. Conflicts give rise to the most serious individual violations and undermine the stability and prosperity of entire regions. The European Parliament has emphasised,

“...the crucial role of a culture respectful of human rights in achieving peace-making, peace-building, reconstruction and rehabilitation.”⁵³

The Human Rights Regulations specify operations aimed at preventing conflict and dealing with its consequences, including supporting capacity building and early warning, confidence-building measures, promoting humanitarian law, and supporting international, regional or local organisations involved in conflict prevention.⁵⁴ With regard to EIDHR funding, conflict prevention and resolution is a crucial element of many different projects which focus on a particular target group, for example the plight of children in armed conflict (see section 1.4.1.b). These project have been categorised, for the purposes of this report, with reference to the target group or particular focus, rather than on the basis of the more general aim such as conflict prevention.

⁵³ European Parliament Resolution B5-0126, para. 5
⁵⁴ Council Regulations (EC) No 975, Article 2.3 (a) – (e) and No 976, Article 3.3 (a)-(e)

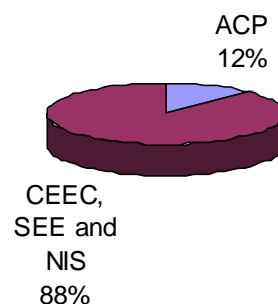
- **Activities**

Two projects have been selected in this category:

- *International Alert*, with an EIDHR contribution of € 980,608 coordinates a confidence building programme in Georgia/Abkhazia which facilitates the implementation of peace-building sub-projects and the training of local people in the skills and knowledge necessary for such work.
- The organisation *RADDHO* has been allocated € 140,000 to facilitate negotiations between the MFDC and the Senegalese government in the peace process in Casamence, Senegal, specifically by encouraging the conditions necessary for dialogue, and to raise public awareness (see below).

- **Regional distribution**

ACP	€ 140,000
CEEC, SEE and NIS	€ 980,608
Total	€ 1,120,608



- **Example: Support of the peace negotiations in Casamance, Senegal**

EIDHR has provided €140,000 to the Dakar-based organisation *RADDHO* for its programme in support of the peace negotiations in Casamance, Senegal.⁵⁵ The aim of this project which targets amongst others members of the MFDC (Movement of the Casamance Democratic Forces) is to restore peace and safety durably in Casamance with a view to creating conditions favourable to the resumption of economic, social and cultural activities.

Facilitating negotiations between the MFDC and the Senegalese government by encouraging the conditions necessary for dialogue

RADDHO intends to facilitate negotiations between the MFDC and the Senegalese government by encouraging the conditions necessary for dialogue, and to raise public awareness through improving understanding, and disseminating information relating to the peace process.

Particular activities envisaged to achieve the dialogue include arranging regular meetings between the actors in various locations, including Gambia and Guinea Bissau, and providing technical support to the main parties to the negotiations. With regard to the awareness-raising aspects, the project will conduct studies, surveys, travelling exhibitions, conferences, debates,

⁵⁵ Project No. T-2000/030, B7-7020

theatre plays and general human rights education. A necessary part of this process will be the staging of press conferences to ensure adequate media coverage of the peace negotiations. The ultimate aim of this project is of course to help reach a sustainable and effective peace translated in agreement between the parties.

1.3.2. Measures to bring to justice perpetrators of serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law

- **Background**

Eight years after the establishment of the first ad hoc international criminal tribunal in the Hague, the concept of international justice and of individual responsibility for human rights abuse has come of age. With the growing stature of the tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, and significant progress towards the establishment of the International Criminal Court, the EU is committed to supporting the fight against impunity for serious violators of human rights and humanitarian law. The European Parliament considers this aspect of international justice to be a major global theme of EU human rights policy, and has emphasised that,

“The EU must develop a strategy in order to encourage the ratification process [of the ICC] and it should be ready to help provide sufficient resources to enable the Court to work effectively.”

The Parliament has created a special budget line under EIDHR to provide support to the UN Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, and for the preparatory work of setting up the ICC. The objectives of budget line B7-706 include the provision of technical assistance to the ad hoc tribunals and training for the tribunals staff, and the provision of financial support for the preparatory work for the setting up and the functioning of a permanent International Criminal Court. The Human Rights Regulations mandate projects which support the ‘establishment of *ad hoc* international tribunals and setting up a permanent international criminal court’.⁵⁶

- **Activities**

Five projects are funded in this area:

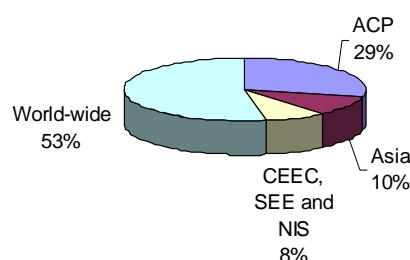
- *Intermedia* was allocated € 579,555 for its project to raise awareness among legal professionals and the general public around the world, and in particular in Rwanda, on the functioning of the international tribunal system.
- *Centro di Iniziativa per l’Europa del Piemonte* received € 551,062 for a project aimed at the creation of a research institute to carry out research and exchange information about the activities of the international criminal tribunals.
- An Asian regional campaign to support the establishment of the International Criminal Court has been established by the *Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development*, with an EIDHR contribution of € 205,760. It aims to promote the Court in South Eastern Asia through dissemination of information and campaigns for the signing and ratification of the ICC treaty in this area.

⁵⁶ Council Regulations (EC) No 975/1999 Article 2.3.(e) 976/1999 Article 3.3 (e)

- The *International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia* (ICTY) received € 169,833 from EIDHR for its Witness Protection Project, which is designed to enhance and expand the provision of protection services to victims and witnesses who testify before a Trial Chamber of the ICTY (see below).
- *No Peace without Justice's* International Campaign for the entry into force and effective implementation of international treaties on human rights, humanitarian law and international criminal law has benefited from a grant of € 514,354 for the promotion of intergovernmental dialogue and collaboration, both at a political and technical level, and at the secondment of legal advisers in international fora.

- **Regional distribution**

ACP	€ 579,555
Asia	€ 205,760
CEEC, SEE and NIS	€ 169,448
World-wide	€ 1,065,416
Total	€ 2,020,179



- **Example: Witness Protection Programme, ICTY**

This project supports the activities of the Victim and Witness Section of the *International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia* (ICTY) with an EIDHR grant of € 169,448.⁵⁷ It aims to enhance and expand the provision of protection services to victims and witnesses who testify before a Trial Chamber of the tribunal. This will be achieved through a comprehensive process including the production of a Witness Protection information package consisting of a video and accompanying booklet, comparative research into the services available to protected witnesses, an evaluation of the current protection measures available to witnesses, and a strengthening of the existing Witness Relocation program through the provision of additional support services.

Improving the effectiveness of the Witness Relocation Programme of the ICTY...providing support and rehabilitation services to witnesses facing grave threats to their lives

The ICTY's goal is to improve the effectiveness of its Witness Relocation Program, which provides support and rehabilitation services to those witnesses who face such grave threats to their lives and safety that they cannot return to their homes if they testify before the ICTY. These witnesses are relocated internally within the Territories of the former Yugoslavia or within another Member State with whom the ICTY has a Relocation Agreement.

One important component of this project is to provide support services to current witnesses within the relocation program, and the ICTY will document the benefit to relocated witnesses of these additional services. The estimated impact on the target group is to encourage potential witnesses to testify at the ICTY by providing accurate information on the services of

⁵⁷ Project No. T-2000/069, B7-706

the ICTY. By providing information witnesses will be in a better position to evaluate what protective measures there are available to them and make independent decisions about testifying. The relocation of witnesses will be better served as a result of this program.

1.3.3. Human rights monitoring

- **Background**

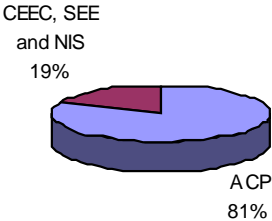
In addition to the projects outlined below, many of the activities described in the other sections of this report include elements of human rights monitoring, an essential aspect of the implementation of international standards. For example, in the training and capacity building of NGOs, and in assistance provided to national human rights institutions, the development and practice of effective monitoring techniques are emphasised. The Human Rights Regulations provide for activities ‘supporting action to monitor human rights, including the training of monitors.’⁵⁸

- **Activities**

- *Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture (OMCT)* was allocated € 239,278 for its Nigeria International Human Rights Advocacy Project, to build on the existing strengths and skills of Nigerian human rights NGOs. It is aimed specifically at appraising the current human rights situation and providing the participants with training on international human rights mechanisms, drafting reports based on the extent to which the Nigerian authorities are fulfilling their obligations under the international instruments they have ratified.
- The *Slovak Helsinki Committee (SHC)* received € 55,952 for a project on ‘Developing the Practical Skills of Human Rights Monitoring and Advocacy’ which aims to improve the capacity of SHC and other NGOs to monitor and advocate for Slovakia's compliance with its international human rights commitments. (see below).

- **Regional distribution**

ACP	€ 239,278
CEEC, SEE and NIS	€ 55,952
Total	€ 295,230



- **Example: Human rights monitoring in Slovakia**

In 2000, a project on developing practical skills for human rights monitoring and advocacy in Slovakia was allocated a grant of € 55,952 from EIDHR.⁵⁹ The initiative, organised by the *Slovak Helsinki Committee (SHC)* aims to improve the capacity of SHC and other NGOs to monitor and advocate for Slovakia's compliance with its international human rights

⁵⁸ Council Regulations (EC) No 975/1999, Article 2.1 (h) and No 976/1999, Article 3.1 (h)
⁵⁹ Project No. C-1999/0384, B7-704

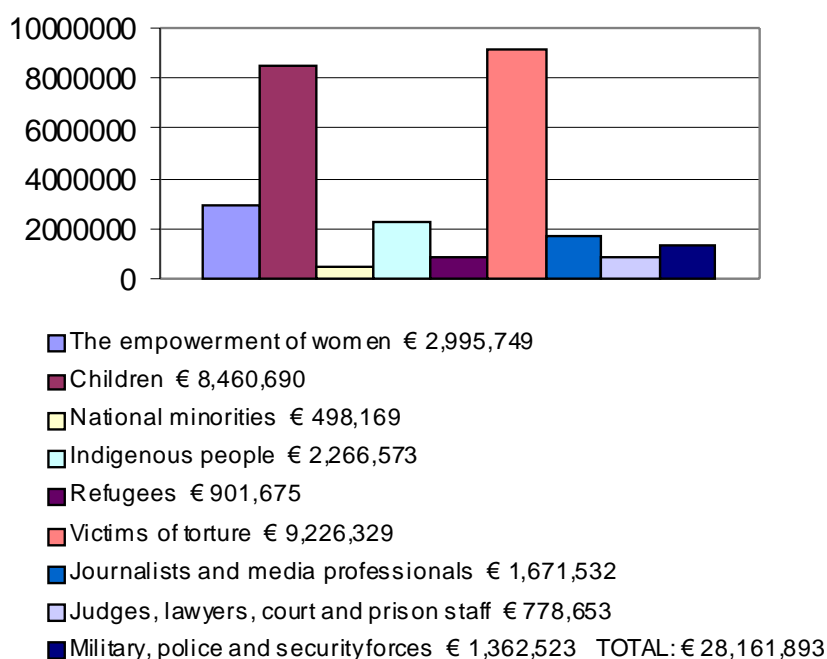
commitments. It will also address methodologies for dealing with individual complaints of human rights violations. The project will train SHC staff and partner organisations to evaluate complaints using international human rights standards in order to determine which cases should be pursued, while at the same time, empowering those who complain to participate in the process of securing their rights.

Monitoring and advocating for Slovakia's compliance with its international human rights commitments... and addressing methodologies for dealing with individual complaints

Another important aspect of the project is the development of 'Advocacy Action Plans' to lobby for full implementation of Slovakia's human rights commitments under international human rights instruments. These plans will include the production of press releases, media campaigns, public interest lobbying efforts, meetings with Governmental officials, and interaction with national and international human rights NGOs and intergovernmental organisations.

Members of the SHC and partner organisations will be trained as researchers by the in country Consultant to the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights (IHF), the SHC's umbrella organisation, and other human rights experts in the use of human rights monitoring and advocacy techniques used by other successful human rights NGOs. They will also be trained to analyse current international and national human rights issues using international human rights instruments as a standard in order to assist the SHC senior staff members in developing policy on these matters. The project should foster a fuller awareness of Slovakia's international human rights commitments among all members of SHC and among the people of Slovakia in general. It will provide a methodology for addressing national and international human rights issues and for advocating for the Slovak Government's full compliance with international human rights instruments.

1.4. INITIATIVES FOR TARGET GROUPS



1.4.1. Groups requiring special protection

(a) The empowerment of women

- **Background**

The EU is concerned that despite the normative framework of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which has been available for over ten years, the reality of human rights protection for women and girls in many parts of the world is increasingly bleak. The European Parliament, in recognising respect for women's rights as a major global priority, has called for the proper implementation of CEDAW and for the elimination, in particular, of violence against women. The Parliament has also recommended enhanced EU support for NGOs working on human rights.⁶⁰ The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights provides that equality between men and women must be ensured in all areas, including employment, work and pay.⁶¹

The Commission was a partner in the ECE Regional Preparatory Meeting on the 2000 Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action together with UNDP, UNIFEM and the Council of Europe. In May 2000 the Commission published a substantial working document on the implementation by the European Community of the Platform for Action adopted at the World Conference on Women in 1995.⁶² The report outlines developments at the level of the Community concerning elements of the Platform, including gender

⁶⁰ European Parliament Resolution A5-0060/2000

⁶¹ The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, *ibid*, Article 23

⁶² 'Implementation by the European Community of the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing 1995' Working document from the Commission Services, May 2000

mainstreaming, armed conflict, poverty, the media and the girl child. It concluded that progress has been considerable, with gender equality becoming a central feature of EU policy-making in all sectors. Despite this success, the Commission recognises that much still remains to be done. The Human Rights Regulations authorise projects for the equal treatment of women as a priority for Community support.⁶³ The 2000 programming exercise identified the promotion and protection of the rights of women as a particular priority.

- **Activities**

The EIDHR supported five projects in this area, with a particular emphasis on the MEDA region:

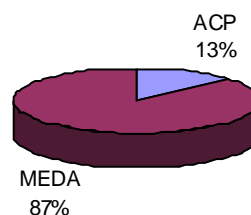
- The *Institut Méditerranéen* (IMED) received € 1,416,220 for a project in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia to increase the operational potential and capacity for impact and action of women's associations, trade unions and of the NGOs working for promotion and the safeguard of women's rights (see below).
- The *National Council for Women*, based in Egypt has established a 'hotline' for women with an EIDHR grant of € 439,934, to provide advice and counselling on issues related to the human rights of women. It is intended to act as a conduit between women from across the nation and the competent government and non-governmental machinery.
- A program for the empowerment of female heads of household in low-income communities in Egypt organised by the *Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women* with an EIDHR grant of €269,776, provides awareness raising campaigns and legal aid to women, and helps promote the development of community-based associations.
- The *Alliance for Arab Women's* project 'Women in decision-making processes' received €466,678 to upgrade the participation of women in all levels of political involvement in Egypt as representatives, candidates and voters, and hence promote their interests in public decisions.
- In Zambia, the *Active Learning Centre* received € 403,141 for a programme of rights education which aims to train 120 trainers from 6 regions of the country. These trainers will work locally in pairs to educate 7200 adults in the principles of democracy and the rights of women and children.

In addition to these gender-specific projects, a gender perspective is mainstreamed in a number of EIDHR projects.

⁶³ Council Regulations (EC) No 975/1999, Article 2.2 (e) and No 976/1999, Article 3.2 (e)

- **Regional distribution**

ACP	€ 403,141
MEDA	€ 2,592,608
Total	€ 2,995,749



- **Example: Women's Citizenship and Equal Opportunities in Maghreb**

The project, coordinated by the Italian organisation *IMED*, with an EIDHR grant of € 1,416,220, will be carried out in partnership with women's associations, trade unions and NGOs in central Maghreb.⁶⁴ It aims to contribute to the promotion of women's rights and to the democratic development of the Maghrebian society through the strengthening of the operational capacity and communication potential of civil society organisation working in these fields. The main areas of activity include the creation of three multi-purpose Centres for Women in Algiers, Tangier and Tunisia with information booths, and the provision of legal advice, psychological assistance, courses, training and awareness-raising activities.

Legal assistance on family, employment and criminal law, information on health and psychological well-being and support for women victims of violence and sexual harassment

The Centres will provide free expert advice, either by personal interview, or telephone which will include legal assistance on family, employment and criminal law, information on topics connected with health and psychological well-being, and support for women victims of violence and sexual harassment. Courses will be organised for the permanent personnel, advisers and volunteers of the Centres on methodologies of communication, counselling, the rights of women, and the use of new technologies.

Specific training programmes for the users of the Centres will include literacy courses, and seminars on work discrimination, problems relating to divorce and repudiation, discrimination in the political sphere, violence and sexual harassment. There will be three public awareness campaigns. The first will deal with women's basic rights, aimed at young students of secondary schools, the second with labour laws and the protection of women from sexual harassment, targeting specifically women working in the public services. The third campaign will deal with 'personal status' and family law, targeting women who lack basic education. The project also aims to create a network for information and communication on women's rights through the associations, NGOs and trade unions taking part in the project and other organisations working in the field of women's rights, citizenship and equal opportunities in Maghreb countries.

⁶⁴ Project No. T-2000/101 , B7-705

(b) Children

• Background

The EU Annual Report for 2000 identified the rights of the child as an issue of particular importance to the Union, whose policies in this area are based on the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the most widely ratified human rights instrument. Only Somalia and the United States, of all UN member States, have yet to accept CRC. Among the themes outlined by the EU as requiring special attention include violence against children, and their abuse and sexual exploitation. The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights emphasises that in all actions related to children, the child's best interest must be a primary consideration.⁶⁵

The European Parliament is a strong defender of the rights of the child, and has enumerated several areas of concern including the right to education, combating child pornography and sexual trafficking, and it has highlighted the scourge of international organisations which organise the abduction, sale, abuse and killing of children.⁶⁶ The Parliament has also called for the prompt ratification of the draft Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, and ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour. As can be inferred from the large allocation of resources in the 2000 budget to projects concerning the rights of children, the EU views this area as a special priority. The Human Rights Regulations state that Community action should focus on those discriminated against or suffering from poverty or disadvantage, including children.⁶⁷ The protection of vulnerable groups, especially children, was highlighted as a specific priority of the 2000 EIDHR programming exercise.

• Activities

Reflecting the importance of this thematic priority for the EU, the twelve projects selected in this area amount to over € 8.4 million:

- *Bundeskoordination Schüler Helfen Leben*. received € 680,454 for its 'Youth Net' project designed to meet the need for multiethnic co-operation among young Bosnians through projects, workshops, and campaigns.
- *CARE* received € 513,312 for a project on the promotion and protection of young domestic workers in Togo, aimed principally at improving their conditions of work, and maintaining a regular dialogue with employers on labour rights.
- *Terre des Hommes* received € 521,810 for an initiative concerning the improvement of the living conditions of minors in dispute with the law in the Republic of Guinea, through various activities for the promotion of the Rights of the Child, legal assistance to imprisoned minors and help with reintegration into society, school and work following their release from prison.
- A project on street children in Guinea, run by the Belgian Red Cross with an EIDHR grant of € 604,280 is intended to bring immediate help to such children and provide them the

⁶⁵ The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, *ibid*, Article 24

⁶⁶ European Parliament Resolution A5-0060/2000, paras. 69-78

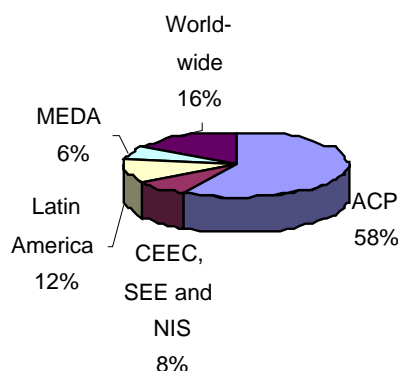
⁶⁷ Council Regulations (EC) No 975/1999 p.p.14 and No 976/1999 p.p.14

means of reintegrating themselves with dignity in their local communities. Approximately three to four hundred children will be involved.

- *Earth Action Network* receives € 490,000 for its project on ‘The Convention on the Rights of the Child: Building Global Support for Implementation’ which focuses on child soldiers, homeless children, child labour and basic education. It also aims to raise the awareness of civil society, especially youth, on the need to protect and promote the rights of the child.
- *UNICEF*’s major programme on the community reintegration of children associated with the fighting forces in Sierra Leone received funding of € 2 million for the care, protection and reintegration of children associated with the fighting forces and other children separated from their families because of the conflict (see below).
- The *Land Centre for Human Rights* in Egypt was allocated € 182,454 for its campaign against child labour in the Egyptian agrarian sector. It provides legal aid to child victims of discrimination, violence and mistreatment, issues field work reports and monitors violations of human rights in rural areas. The project will issue a series of newsletters on legal rights, run a training courses for lawyers, NGOs and volunteers, and set up network against child labour in rural areas.
- The *European Network on Street Children Worldwide* was allocated € 873,046 for the project ‘Satellite Street Children’ which works worldwide to promote the rights of the child by providing street children with the knowledge and the skills to actively enforce these rights within their own environment.
- The organisation *CODESPA* was allocated € 342, 959 from EIDHR in 2000 for a project to improve the living conditions and help reintegrate to the community street children in Tetuan, Morocco.
- *BICE*’s project on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Latin America received € 1 million to provide backup for and expand the programmes of NGOs in 11 countries that work with children and young people in difficult circumstances, particularly child workers, detained children and street children.
- € 1,252,375 was allocated to *ALISEI* to promote children's rights and protect them from violence and exploitation by combating child trafficking, modern forms of slavery and the exploitation of minors in Gabon, Benin, Togo and Nigeria.

• **Regional distribution**

ACP	€ 4,891,777
CEEC, SEE and NIS	€ 680,454
Latin America	€ 1,000,000
MEDA	€ 525,413
World-wide	€ 1,363,046
Total	€ 8,460,690



- **Example: Community reintegration of children, Sierra Leone**

The rebel war in Sierra Leone which started in 1991 has been characterised by mass displacement of civilians, looting, destruction of homes and infrastructures, misuse of economic resources and terrible atrocities inflicted on the civilian population, including amputations, rape, mutilation, killing and abductions. Children in Sierra Leone continue to be victims of the ongoing conflict; the lives of hundreds of thousands of children have been affected through constant displacement, exposure to traumatic events, loss of family members, abduction and conscription into the fighting forces and continuous violations of their basic human rights.

The demobilisation and reintegration of all children associated with the fighting forces, and those separated from their families and communities

Over 10,000 children are estimated to have been separated from their families. Over the years through extensive work by child protection agencies, many children have been reunified but thousands more continue to await reunification. This process is hampered by the non release of abductees from behind rebel lines, delays in the disarmament and demobilisation process and restricted access to many areas around the country.

The overall goal of the Community Reintegration Project, funded by an EIDHR grant of € 2 million, is to ensure the respect and fulfilment of the rights of children associated with the fighting forces, as expressed in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in other international human rights instruments.⁶⁸ UNICEF through the Child Protection Network continues to support programmes for the care, protection and reintegration of children involved in the fighting and those separated from their families because of the conflict. These services include tracing and support for family reunification, emergency interim care, provision of basic social services to communities to facilitate reintegration, psychosocial support to children with their families, and support for the sensitisation and mobilisation of communities on the protection needs of children. It also provides capacity building activities for the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs and participating NGOs.

(c) **National minorities**

- **Background**

Minority rights are an important part of the international human rights framework, protected by Article 27 of the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the UN Declaration on Minorities and various regional instruments such as the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities and the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The European Parliament has made clear the commitment of the EU to this vulnerable category, particularly with regard to the applicant countries for EU membership, calling on the Council and the Commission to 'enhance the ability of these countries to pass and implement laws aimed at countering discrimination' against

⁶⁸ Project No. T-2000/010B, B7-704

minorities.’⁶⁹ Linguistic rights are specifically protected by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.⁷⁰

Minority rights taken into consideration by the Commission relate to the preservation of ethnic and cultural identity, particularly language, religion, cultural traditions, equality of treatment in social and economic life, the right to citizenship and protection against acts of hostility and violence on account of ethnic, cultural or linguistic identity.⁷¹ The Copenhagen criteria, adopted by the Council in 1993 requires that candidate countries for membership to the EU have ‘established respect for and protection of minorities’ and the Human Rights Regulations authorise Community support for minorities and ethnic groups.⁷² The position of the Commission on questions of minority rights also takes into account consultations with the appropriate international authorities, for example concerning the candidate countries, with the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities, the Council of Europe, the Helsinki Federation and Amnesty International.

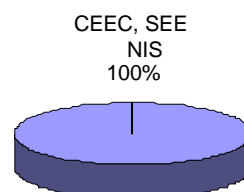
- **Activities**

Two projects have been assigned funding in this category both coordinated by international organisation:

- *OSCE–ODIHR*’s project on mainstreaming, empowering and networking Roma as full participants in post-crisis management, good governance and the development of a sustainable civil society in South-Eastern Europe has been supported with an EIDHR grant of € 250,000.
- The *Council of Europe* has been allocated € 248,169 for policy development on Roma issues, with a view to fostering a comprehensive approach to Roma affairs to assist the governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the design and implementation of policies directed to improve the situation of Roma (see below).

- **Regional distribution**

CEEC, SEE and NIS	€ 498,169
Total	€ 498,169



- **Example: A comprehensive approach to Roma Affairs**

The Roma populations throughout South-Eastern Europe have been particularly affected by the instability and turmoil of the last decade. Their precarious current situation must be considered as a serious threat to social cohesion and stability in this region. The project, ‘Fostering a comprehensive approach to Roma Affairs’, supported by an EIDHR grant of € 248.169, is based on the experience of the Council of Europe in supporting policy guidelines

⁶⁹ European Parliament Resolution A5-0060/2000, paras. 24-27

⁷⁰ The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, *ibid*, Article 22

⁷¹ Answer given by Mr Verheugen on behalf of the Commission, 2 December 1999 to Written Question E-1927/99 by Reino Paasilinna, MEP, OJ C225 E/33

⁷² Council Regulations (EC) No 975/1999 Article 2.1 (d) and No 976/1999 Article 3.1 (d)

on Roma in Central and Eastern Europe since 1994.⁷³ It aims at promoting policies, which are in line with the Guiding Principles adopted by the COCEN Group of the European Union on Roma issues at the Tampere Summit in December 1999.

Improving official policies concerning Roma, and the active participation of Roma themselves in the design of these solutions and policies

The project aims to assist the governments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the design and implementation of policies directed at improving the situation of Roma. In particular, the Council of Europe will organise, at bilateral and multilateral level, various round-tables, brainstorming sessions, think tanks, and studies of existing legislation.

These exercises should improve official policies concerning Roma on the one hand, and an active participation of the Roma themselves on the design of proposed solutions and policies, on the other. Studies of current legal obstacles preventing Roma from fully accessing basic rights and services will be conducted at national level, as well as a case study in the Tuzla Canton (Bosnia and Herzegovina) along the same lines. Governmental authorities in charge of Roma/minority issues will be assisted in developing a responsible vision of the type of community relations required to promote minority rights and the subsequent strategies which should be adopted.

It is expected that the project will lay the basis for a sustainable improvement of the situation and living conditions of the Roma communities in the countries involved. Roma civic organisations should also gain a more pre-eminent role in the life of the countries, as they will have to be involved at all stages of the policy-making process. The result should be the setting-up of partnerships with the authorities at national and local level and, as a consequence, a reinforcement of and a better co-ordination among Roma organisations.

(d) Indigenous peoples

• Background

Under ILO Convention 169, governments are legally obliged to consult indigenous peoples on matters which affect them. Problems faced by indigenous peoples have been addressed by the UN Commission on Human Rights in 2000 including the questions of indigenous land rights, and a draft UN Declaration on Indigenous Rights. In a resolution supported by all EU member States, the Commission on Human Rights recommended the establishment, as a subsidiary body of ECOSOC, of a 'permanent forum on indigenous issues'. Subsequently, ECOSOC decided to establish the Permanent Forum as an advisory body with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues within the competence of ECOSOC, relating to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights.⁷⁴

The Commission has outlined its priorities in this area as including training and education, capacity building, developing economic strategies and promotion the participation of indigenous peoples at an international level.⁷⁵ The Council has also made clear that

⁷³ Project No. T-2000/053B B7-700

⁷⁴ UN Commission on Human Rights 56th Session, Resolution E/CN.4/RES/2000/87 'Establishment Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues'

⁷⁵ Working document of the Commission of May 1998 on Support for Indigenous Peoples in the Development Cooperation of the Community and the Member States, SEC (98) 773 final

indigenous peoples have the right to choose their own development paths⁷⁶, and the Human Rights Regulations provide for Community support to indigenous peoples.⁷⁷

- **Activities**

EIDHR has supported five projects in 2000 concerning indigenous peoples:

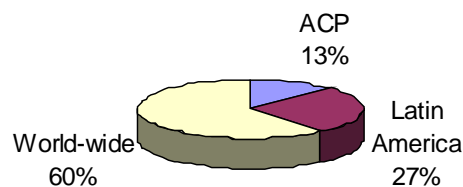
- *The Saami Council's* interregional project to train indigenous peoples on international human rights standards and policy-making received € 668,502. It will provide indigenous representatives with the opportunity to learn about international human rights standards and mechanisms, and will include three training programmes, to be organised in indigenous areas.
- Indigenous peoples' rights in the Commonwealth are explored in a project by *Institute of Commonwealth Studies* with a grant of € 290,792 for a three year research and advocacy project. In conjunction with representatives of indigenous peoples it fosters information about key issues affecting them in Commonwealth states, and will present these findings to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and to the UN World Conference on Racism in 2001 (see below).
- *The Rainforest Foundation and International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests* was allocated € 350,014 for an interregional project concerning 'Indigenous peoples' view of the development and implementation of the EU resolution on Indigenous peoples'. It will focus on researching and describing case studies of EC development co-operation and its relationship to indigenous peoples.
- A comparative study on indigenous culture, customs and traditions organised by the *Saami Council* with an EIDHR contribution of € 353,868 highlights the positive contributions that indigenous peoples have made and continue to make as regards law and democracy in the context of the protection of culture and of customary law.
- *The Latin American Association for Human Rights* aims to establish a radio network for the Amazonian basin, to contribute to communication with Amazonian peoples, to their strengthening as peoples, and to the defence of their way of life and that of the Amazonian ecosystem. It has received a grant of € 603,397 from EIDHR.

⁷⁶ Council Resolution of 30 November 1998 on Indigenous peoples within the framework of the development cooperation of the Community and the Member States

⁷⁷ Council Regulations (EC) No 975/1999 Article 2.1 (d) and No 976/1999 Article 3.1 (d)

- **Regional distribution**

ACP	€ 290,792
Latin America	€ 603,397
World-wide	€ 1,372,384
Total	€ 2,266,573



- **Example: Indigenous peoples' rights in the Commonwealth**

This three year research and advocacy project of the *Institute of Commonwealth Studies*, funded by an EIDHR grant of € 290,792 has two interrelated aspects.⁷⁸ Firstly, it will bring together, in conjunction with representatives of indigenous peoples themselves, information about key issues affecting them in Commonwealth states, including legal problems, land rights, questions of cultural identity or assimilation, development and the environment; and economic and social rights. The research, covering some 20 states and 160 million persons, will focus on best practice which will be of interest to the Commonwealth as a whole and to European Union states involved in development cooperation with the countries concerned. The second aspect will be to present these findings to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, scheduled for September 2001 in Canberra, Australia and to the UN World Conference on Racism in 2001, and then stimulating follow-up at an intergovernmental and non-governmental level.

Research on legal problems, land rights, cultural identity, development and the environment covering 20 states and 160 million persons

The methodology of the project will require the collection of statistics and the distribution of questionnaires to government agencies, indigenous groups, and NGOs which work with indigenous peoples. In the process of analysing this information, comparisons will be drawn with the lifestyles and opinions of majority communities in their own state, and also with tribal peoples in other Commonwealth countries.

These comparisons will provide crucial evidence for the report to the Commonwealth Heads' meeting in 2001. For a submission to the UN World Conference against Racism in the same year it will also be necessary to analyse how indigenous groups are regarded by majority communities in Commonwealth states. The impact of globalisation, including economic liberalisation and new information technologies, will be monitored with special attention. Commonwealth governments will be encouraged to recognise that indigenous rights are an integral part of any serious programme for the realisation of human rights, and NGOs concerned with women's and children's issues, or with the environment, will perceive the needs of indigenous peoples as relevant to their own aims and performance.

⁷⁸ Project No. T-2000/034, B7020

(e) Refugees and displaced persons

• Background

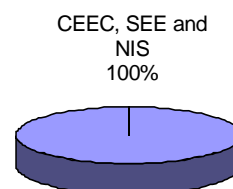
Despite their longstanding protection in international law, large numbers of refugees and displaced persons continue to suffer serious violations of their human rights. The European Parliament has drawn attention to the ‘hundreds of thousands who still live in refugee camps in appalling conditions’ where appropriate shelter and protection against abuse is often lacking.⁷⁹ The Council has recalled that the EU in recent years has been collectively the largest donor to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and has urged States to allow UNCHR unhindered access to affected areas.⁸⁰ The Human Rights Regulations which outline that Community operations should focus on *inter alia* refugees.⁸¹

• Activities

The project funded in this area is organised by the Czech Helsinki Committee, who received € 901,675 to develop solutions to further professionalise the study and practice of forced migration, targeting NGOs, public officials, academics and students in the field of forced migration in Central and Eastern Europe (see below).

• Regional distribution

CEEC, SEE and NIS	€ 901,675
Total	€ 901,675



• Example: Information Delivery for Academics and Practitioners

Throughout the 1990s, the Czech Republic, and the wider Central and Eastern European region has faced the large scale migration of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants from the Balkans, countries of the former Soviet Union as well as from Africa and Asia. The *Czech Helsinki Committee* has identified an urgent need for a comprehensive programme to help strengthen the capacity of institutions and NGOs working with refugees and migrants, to provide accurate and updated information about the region, and to introduce forced migration studies into local institutes of higher education.

Solutions to professionalise the study and practice of forced migration targeting NGOs, public officials, academics and students

The main aim of this project, supported by an EIDHR contribution of € 901,675, is to develop ‘hybrid’ or interrelated solutions to further professionalise the study and practice of forced migration for NGOs, public officials, academics and students by creating a solid information resource easily accessible world-wide.⁸²

⁷⁹ European Parliament Annual Report on Human Rights, *ibid*, at 37

⁸⁰ European Union Annual Report on Human Rights, *ibid*, at 51

⁸¹ Council Regulations (EC) No. 975/1999, p.p. 14 and No. 976/1999, p.p. 14

⁸² Project No. C-1999/0069, B7-700

The project will establish models for information, documentation, training and academic research, and offer methodologies and practices sufficiently flexible to respond to new challenges. The use of new information technologies is essential to the project, which will be at the leading technological edge of developments in this area.

(f) Victims of torture

• **Background**

The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights makes clear that no one shall be subject to torture, or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.⁸³ The European Parliament views the fight against torture as a global theme of EU human rights policy, and it has called for the universal ratification of the Convention against Torture (CAT), which prohibits the practice absolutely. The Parliament has also supported establishment of an effective individual complaints mechanism and the elaboration of an optional protocol to CAT which would provide for the international inspection of places of detention, in the manner of the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture.⁸⁴

The External Relations Commissioner, at the UN Commission on Human Rights in 2000, asserted that no-one 'could argue with the proposition that it is a universal human right not to be tortured.'⁸⁵ The Human Rights Regulations authorise supporting rehabilitation centres for torture victims and for organisations offering concrete help to victims of human rights abuses or to help prevent torture or ill-treatment.⁸⁶ The 2000 programming exercise identified the fight against torture as a particular priority for EIDHR.

• **Activities**

The EIDHR remains the largest donor of funds in this area world-wide, and the fifteen projects supported amount to over € 9.2 million:

- The *Human Rights Foundation of Turkey's* project concerning treatment and rehabilitation centres for torture survivors received € 600,000 for the treatment and rehabilitation of approximately 70 torture survivors per month in 5 Centres (see below).
- € 145,144 was allocated to the *Palestinian Israeli Centre for Legal Defence of Human Rights* to help Palestinian torture victims to claim their legal rights, particularly in receiving compensation for physical and mental injuries caused by security officials during detention and interrogations.
- The *National Coordinator on Human Rights* in Peru received € 586,258 for a project of psychotherapeutical attention to victims of political violence, torture and family violence, and to train the providers of such assistance to improve their operational skills.
- *Südost Europa Kultur* was allocated € 896,259 to develop an interdisciplinary, long-term, grass-roots approach to support democratic change in Bosnia and Herzegovina, through the establishment of local, regional, national and international networks and the provision of therapy for torture and trauma survivors and self-help groups for survivors of violence.

⁸³ The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, *ibid*, Article 4

⁸⁴ European Parliament Resolution A5-0060/2000, para. 90

⁸⁵ Speech of the External Relations Commissioner, 56th Session of the UN Human Rights Commission, *ibid*.

⁸⁶ Council Regulations (EC) No 975, Article 2.1 (f) and No 976, Article 3.1 (f)

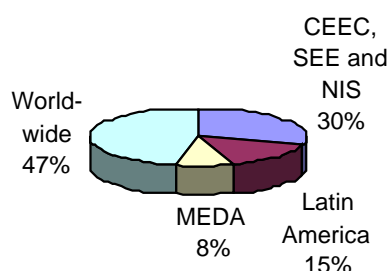
- *International Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (ICRT)* received €800,000 for its initiative on raising general awareness on torture related issues and for the benefit of rehabilitation centres world-wide to develop a documentation centre which produces, collects and disseminates information on torture.
- The *Omega Foundation's* project 'Arming the Torturers' which aims to track the supply of electro-shock torture and repressive technologies to torturing States received € 275,456 from EIDHR to provide NGOs with scientific and technical data on the transfer of military, security, police (MSP) technologies which facilitate human rights violations.
- The *Initiative für Flüchtlinge Refugio* has received € 946,965 for a project of health care, rehabilitation and support for survivors of torture, gross human rights violations and war and their families in Germany. Centres in Munich, Bremen, and Berlin will offer psychotherapeutic, psychological and medical treatment as well as counselling in order to support the economical and social rehabilitation of victims.
- € 655,532 has been allocated to the *Geneva Initiative of Psychiatry* for rehabilitation services and assistance to victims of torture and refugees traumatised by experience of violence through support to rehabilitation centres in Kiev and Moscow. The project aims also to strengthen regional cooperation between rehabilitation centres in the NIS and to create a regional centre to conduct research and publication activities on torture.
- The *Italian Council for Refugees'* project of hospitality and care for victims of torture has been supported by an EIDHR grant of € 518,654. It offers social and legal counselling, psychological support and medical treatment for asylum seekers, refugees and persons under humanitarian protection who are survivors of torture.
- *Equipo Argentino de Trabajo e Investigación Psicosocial (EATIP)* was allocated € 800,000 for a project concerning the rehabilitation of torture survivors and their relatives in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay. The initiative aims also to contribute to the fight against impunity, and to develop the ability of health professionals to contribute to the prevention of torture and to the rehabilitation of torture victims.
- Establishing a Balkan network for the rehabilitation of torture victims is the aim of the *Medical Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims* in a project supported by € 663,419 from EIDHR. It will provide comprehensive care including medical, psychological, social and legal assistance to victims of torture.
- The *Redress Trust* received € 499,384 to improve torture survivors' access to justice and reparation in a worldwide programme. It will involve case-work, lobbying for law reform, research, advocacy, campaigning, and public awareness activities.
- Victims of torture among former political prisoners and refugees are the target groups of a project organised by the *ICAR Foundation* which aims to establish medical rehabilitation centres for torture survivors in Moldova, Poland, Romania and Hungary, with an EIDHR contribution of € 537,112.
- The *Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture (OMCT\SOS-Torture)* was allocated € 476,068 for a worldwide project on violence against women which aims to transmit urgent appeals specifically concerning violence against women, submit reports to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, and submit information

relating to gross violations of women's rights, including violence and torture against women, to UN human rights treaty bodies.

- *Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture* (OMCT\SOS-Torture) coordinate a programme on the protection from torture and other grave violations for children, with a contribution of € 826,078 from EIDHR in 2000. It responds to an estimated total of 65 urgent appeals through a worldwide network (90000 recipients through e-mail), supports international human rights mechanisms by issuing country reports, and providing an international consultation to develop a plan of action which defines abuse within the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

• **Regional distribution**

CEEC, SEE and NIS	€ 2,752,322
Latin America	€ 1,386,258
MEDA	€ 745,144
World-wide	€ 4,342,605
Total	€ 9,226,329



• **Example: Torture survivors in Turkey World-wide**

The *Human Rights Foundation of Turkey* (HRFT), provides free medical, psychological and social services to torture survivors and their relatives, trains health personnel, and conducts research on the issue. HRFT has established Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres in 5 provinces of Turkey since 1990 and, additionally, makes efforts to reach torture survivors in provinces where there are no such centres. Their project, supported by an EIDHR grant of € 600,000, provides for assessment of individual cases and overall treatment and rehabilitation work, including the treatment and rehabilitation of approximately 70 torture survivors per month in the 5 Centres.⁸⁷

Free medical, psychological and social services to torture survivors and their relatives, and training for health personnel

Each of the Centres has an Executive Board composed of the staff working at the Centre and volunteer medical professionals. Following the first interview and medical examination, the case of each applicant is carried to the Executive Board of the Centre.

Applicants who fit the admission criteria are provided with the necessary treatment and rehabilitation services. Those who need further examination are referred to volunteer physicians and other health personnel working outside the Foundation, more than 300 of whom lend their professional support to the HRFT. All the torture related problems of the applicants are handled in this way, and the expenses are covered by the Foundation. The project also involves an annual statistical evaluation of individual results of the treatment and rehabilitation, and scientific research on *sequilae* and the verification of torture.

⁸⁷ Project No. C-1999/0002, B7-704

1.4.2. Priority groups for protection and awareness-raising

(a) Journalists and media professionals

• Background

Journalists are a key constituency of those activities in support of freedom of expression and the media described in Part 1.2.1. They are particularly vulnerable to attack for defending the freedom of expression, and therefore supported as a vulnerable group by EIDHR. The Parliament has insisted that all attacks on journalists should be investigated and every effort made to bring the perpetrators to justice. It has called for an EU campaign for the physical safety of journalists. In its Annual Report on Human Rights for 2000, the Council reiterated its concern about the ‘harassment and intimidation’ of journalists⁸⁸ and the EU Charter emphasises that the freedom to receive and impart information should not be interfered with by public authorities.⁸⁹ The Human Rights Regulations provide for support of a free press and the promotion of a responsible media.⁹⁰

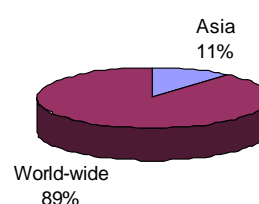
• Activities

Two projects targeting journalists have been supported:

- *Reporters sans Frontières* received € 1,487,000 for their project in support of journalists in Africa and Asia. It involves gathering information on imprisoned journalists, fact-finding missions, a support fund for imprisoned journalists and information and education campaigns (see below).
- The organisation *Association Ouest Fraternité* was allocated € 184,532 as coordinator of a training programme to give professional support to Vietnamese journalists through the transfer of technical know-how as well as analysis and debates on journalistic ethics in the context of the respect for human rights.

• Regional distribution

Asia	€ 184,532
World-wide	€ 1,487,000
Total	€ 1,671,532



• Example: Journalists imprisoned in ACP and Asian countries

Reporters sans Frontières (RSF) has long been one of the Commission's partners in the implementation of activities aimed at safeguarding and fostering independent media. This project is targeted at imprisoned journalists and their families and comprises of four complementary components: a system for gathering and disseminating information on the

⁸⁸ European Union Annual Report on Human Rights, *ibid*, at 57

⁸⁹ The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, *ibid*, Article 11

⁹⁰ Council Regulations (EC) No. 975, Article 2.2 (c) and No. 976, Article 3.2 (c)

cases of imprisoned journalists, fact-finding missions, a support fund for imprisoned journalists, and information and education campaigns on the imprisonment of journalists.

Gathering information and fact-finding on imprisoned journalists, a support fund and education campaigns

The support fund for imprisoned journalists will assist imprisoned journalists and their families. It will be used to cover lawyers' bills, medical care, and financial assistance. Gathering and disseminating information will chiefly involve increasing resources for investigating the cases of imprisoned journalists.

RSF's network of correspondents (more than 70 around the world) will focus more on imprisonment and extra correspondents may be recruited to follow up individual cases. To be effective, investigating the cases of imprisoned journalists and bringing pressure to bear on the authorities must be accompanied by steps to mobilise public opinion; countries flouting the freedom of the press should know that they cannot do so with impunity. Fact-finding missions will permit detailed research into the cases of individual journalists in prison and they will enable RSF to intervene directly with the authorities to obtain a journalist's release. The missions will also pave the way for assessing or monitoring the legislation of countries imprisoning journalists with a view to suggesting amendments.

These activities will give rise to a variety of publications and other output, such as RSF's annual reports for 2001 and 2002 which will highlight the cases of imprisoned journalists. In the run-up to World Press Freedom Day, the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other events, radio commercials and media campaigns will be prepared on the subject of imprisoned journalists and distributed to the media and RSF's partners. Reports will be distributed on RSF fact-finding missions concerning the cases of individual journalists and on the legal amendments necessary in certain countries.

(b) Magistrates, lawyers and court and prison staff

• **Background**

EU member States supported a resolution on the independence of the judiciary at the UN Commission on Human Rights in 2000, which drew attention to 'increasingly frequent attacks on the independence of judges, lawyers and court officers' in areas where grave violations of human rights are taking place.⁹¹ It also stressed the importance of training for judges and lawyers in the field of human rights. The Human Rights Regulations provide for support to uphold the independence of the judiciary and for a humane prison service.⁹²

• **Activities**

Two Joint Programmes with the *Council of Europe* have been supported in this area:

- The first concerns the preparation of educational assistance material, and support for independent media and local government in Moldova, with an EIDHR contribution of € 300,000. It is aimed *inter alia* at providing support to a reform of the judicial system and training legal professionals on human rights.

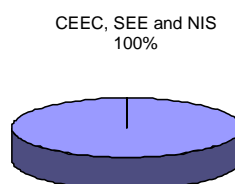
⁹¹ UN Commission on Human Rights, 56th Session, Resolution E/CN.4/RES/2000/42 'Independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors and the independence of lawyers'

⁹² Council Regulations (EC) No. 975, Article 2.2 (a) and No. 976, Article 3.2 (a)

- The second is a programme of cooperation to strengthen democratic stability in the Northern Caucasus, which trains judges, prosecutors and police officers, receiving a grant in 2000 of € 478,653 (see below).

- **Regional distribution**

CEEC, SEE and NIS	€ 778,653
Total	€ 778,653



- **Example: Cooperation for democratic stability in the Northern Caucasus**

This EC/Council of Europe programme, allocated € 478,653 in 2000, focuses on the situation in the North Caucasus region of the Russian Federation in the light of a crisis in the Chechen Republic.⁹³ Special attention will be paid to the elaboration, adoption, harmonisation and codification of legislation at the regional level in the North Caucasus will aim to strengthen the rule of law and the protection of human rights, and ensure better access to the law for citizens and legal practitioners.

There is a pressing need to increase awareness among prison staff of the rule of law

The training of judges, prosecutors and police officers from the North Caucasus is essential to promote the rule of law. Study visits will be organised to the institutions and member-states of the Council of Europe, taking into account the different legal systems and traditions in order to improve and extend training methods for these professionals.

The aim of the project will be to consolidate the independence and improve the efficiency of the judiciary, and the responsibility of other actors in criminal investigations, such as prosecutors or police staff. Further objectives of these activities include the improvement of the conditions of inmates, particularly the most vulnerable, and an overall reduction in the prison population. There is a pressing need to increase awareness among prison staff of the rule of law and of fundamental rights; training for prison staff and the trainers themselves will aim to enhance the protection of human rights in prison and to improve prison regimes.

(c) Military, police and security forces

- **Background**

The Geneva Conventions and other instruments of international humanitarian law set out standards of behaviour for the military in relation to human rights. The military, police and security forces must respect human rights law as agents of the state and should be guided by declarations such as the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and the OSCE Code of Conduct, International Humanitarian Law, conflict prevention and peacekeeping. The European Parliament has called on all States to amend Article 147 of the Fourth Geneva Protocol to define rape, forced impregnation, sexual slavery, forced sterilisation and other forms of sexual violence as grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions.

⁹³ Project No. T-2000/061, B7-701

The Parliament has condemned the sexual misconduct of soldiers involved in peacekeeping operations and the use of child soldiers and it has expressed its condemnation of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment inflicted on persons arrested or detained by law enforcement officials or prison staff.⁹⁴ The Human Rights Regulations cite an objective of Community funding as ‘supporting national efforts to separate civilian and military functions, training civilian and military personnel and raising their awareness of human rights’.⁹⁵

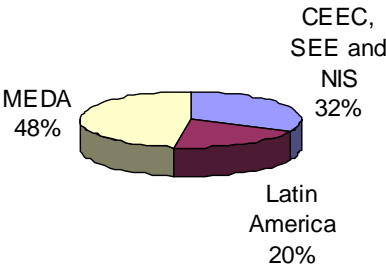
- **Activities**

Three projects have received EIDHR support in this field:

- The *International Society for Human Rights* (ISHR) has been allocated € 438,715 for a project of human rights training for the Ukrainian military to promote awareness and understanding of the role of the armed forces in a democratic society (see below).
- An *OHCHR* project on police-community relations and human rights in Nicaragua has been assigned € 274,422 for the establishment of a system for the police force to process human rights complaints from citizens. It intends also to train police officers in techniques of crime prevention and the development of strategies to ensure human rights are respected, especially for women, minors, and persons in detention.
- The Swedish based *Raoul Wallenberg Institute* receives an EIDHR grant of € 649,386 for a human rights training course targeted at the Palestinian security services. It aims to improve knowledge of international human rights standards among security services and promote an internal human rights policy in the operational guidelines of the Palestinian security services.

- **Regional distribution**

CEEC, SEE and NIS	€ 438,715
Latin America	€ 274,422
MEDA	€ 649,386
Total	€ 1,362,523



- **Example: Human rights and the Ukrainian military**

EIDHR provided € 438,715 for a project, organised by the *International Society for Human Rights* (ISHR), concerning human rights and the armed forces of Ukraine. It is designed to promote awareness and understanding of the role of the military in a democratic society, to advance the application in Ukraine of the concepts prescribed in the OSCE ‘Code of Conduct on politico-military aspects of security’ and to support confidence-building measures related to human rights within the armed forces. It will include a ‘Train the Trainer’ seminar in Germany,

⁹⁴ European Parliament Resolution A5-0050/2000, para. 27
⁹⁵ Council Regulations (EC) No 975, Article 2.2 (g) and No 976, Article 3.2 (g)

a start-up meeting in Kiev, to be followed by 30 seminars, mainly for military commanders, on the OSCE Code of Conduct, International Humanitarian Law, conflict prevention and peacekeeping, the International Criminal Court (ICC) in garrison cities across Ukraine. Lectures for students will be given in 10 military academies. A pocket-sized brochure for new soldiers with simple language and illustrations, will be published and delivered to the Ministry of Defence. An interim meeting and an evaluation conference will assess and conclude the project.

1000 students at military academies will have the opportunity to learn about the position of the Ukrainian armed forces and human rights

Two Ukrainian NGOs are involved as partners and will directly benefit from this project: the ISHR Ukrainian Section and the Ukrainian Association of Soldiers' Mothers Committees, which has groups in most towns with a military presence.

This partnership is essential for the continued development of human rights work in Ukraine after the project itself is completed. A total of 900 present and future military commanders of the Ukrainian Armed Forces will be directly involved in the training programme. In addition, at least three classes of draftees will read the 'soldiers' brochure'. Furthermore, 1000 students at military academies will have the opportunity to learn about the position of the Ukrainian armed forces in relation to international treaties, conventions, law and peace-keeping mechanisms.

2. GEOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

2.1. ACP countries

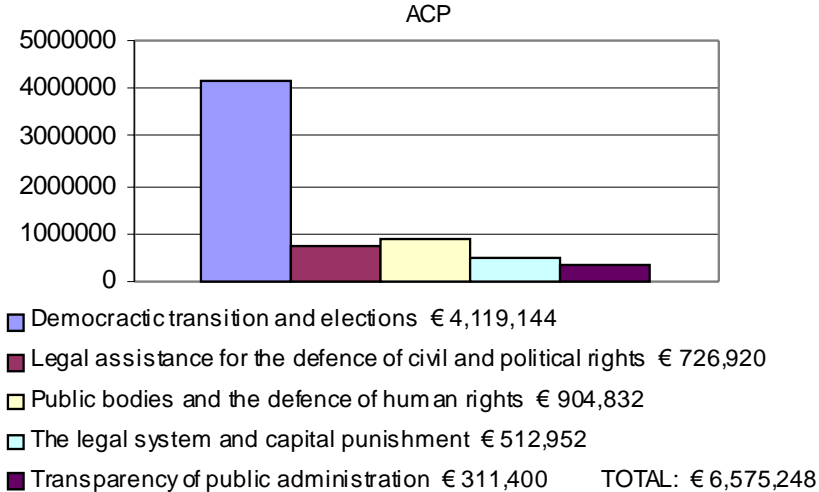
- **Budget Lines B7-7020 and B7-7021**

Support has been provided to this region by EIDHR principally through Budget Lines B7-7020 and B7-7021. Budget Line B7-7020 is intended to promote human rights and democratisation in developing countries, in particular the ACP region. It had the general objectives of promoting the rule of law and governance; strengthening civil society; protecting the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups; conflict prevention; and providing technical assistance to facilitate free and fair elections, state institutional capacity building and gender equality. In 2000, specific priorities for this Budget Line were highlighted as support for vulnerable groups, support for civil society, improving awareness, support for the media and institution building.

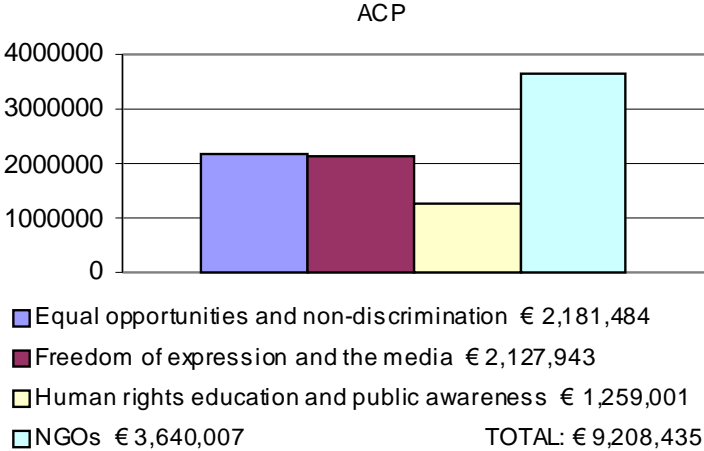
Budget Line B7-7021 was targeted towards the countries of Southern Africa, including Angola, Botswana, Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It has the general objectives of promoting the rule of law and governance; strengthening civil society; promoting gender equality; and conflict prevention. Priorities for 2000 in this Budget Line were set out as providing support for civil society, improving awareness, supporting free media and institution building. Projects supported under both budget lines are intended to mutually complement and reinforce action funded by other instruments of development cooperation, such as those used in National Indicative Programmes.

- **Use of the budget**

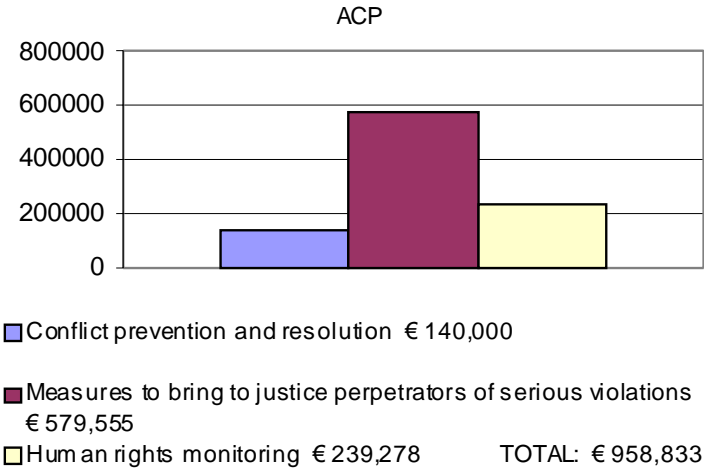
Democratisation and the rule of law



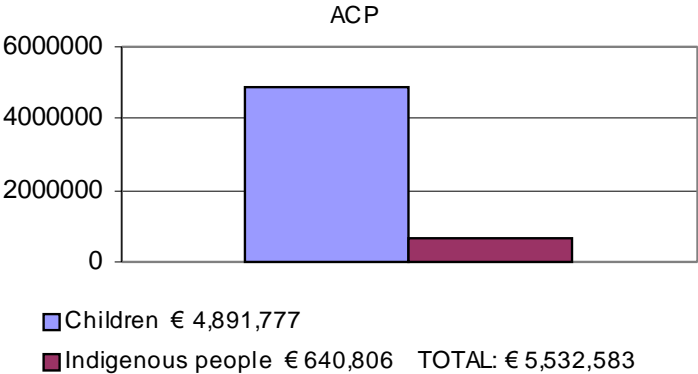
Pluralist civil society



Confidence building and the restoration of peace



Initiatives for target groups



2.2. Latin America

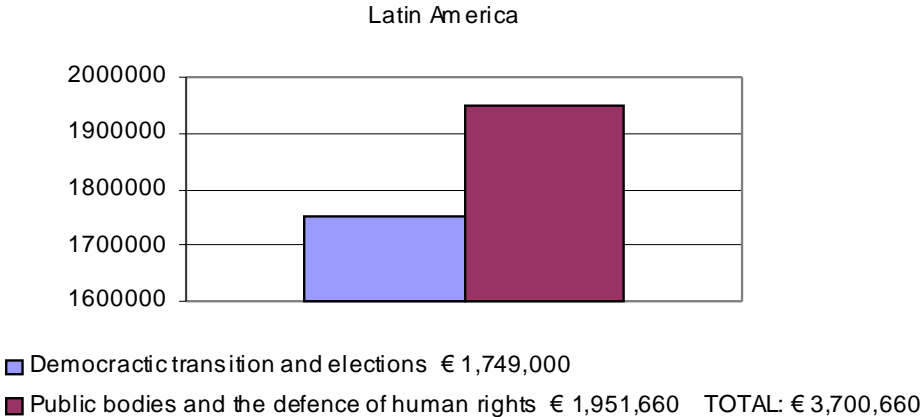
- **Budget Line B7-703**

EIDHR provided assistance to the countries of Latin America mainly through Budget Line B7-703. Its general objectives have been set out as promoting the consolidation of the process of democratisation; strengthening and development of a responsible civil society; and supporting vulnerable groups including children, women, indigenous and displaced persons.

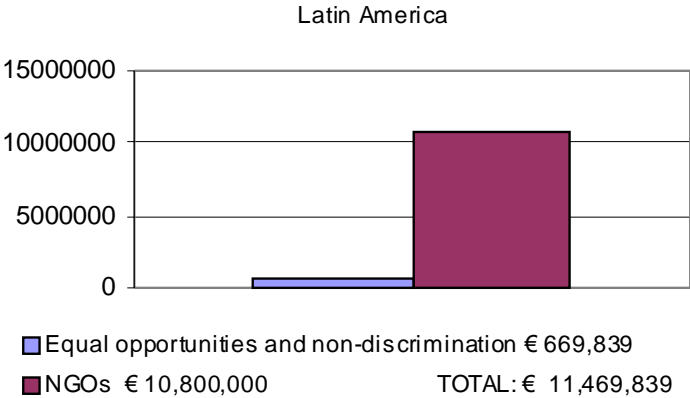
In 2000, the specific priorities of the Budget Line were defined to a large extent by an evaluation conducted at the end of 1997. Based on the advice of experts, member states, and Commission Delegations a new strategy was designed with the objective of developing high impact programmes of a multi-annual nature. Although a multi-annual proposal was presented and a commitment made in December 1998 on this basis, due to delays in implementation, the project was set aside as of December 1999. A key aim for this Budget Line in 2000 therefore was to present this multi-annual programme involving in Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama and Costa Rica. The specific objectives of the programme include promoting information campaigns, training and education, and supporting civil society.

- **Use of the budget**

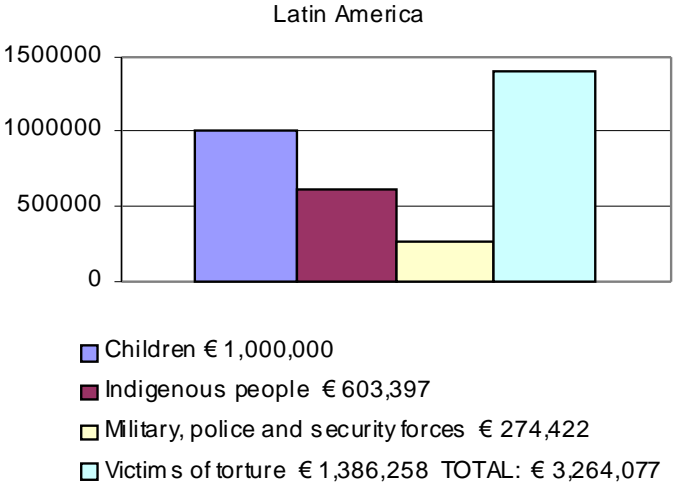
Democratisation and the rule of law



Pluralist civil society



Initiatives for target groups



2.3. Central and Eastern Europe and the Republics of the Former Yugoslavia, the New Independent States and Mongolia

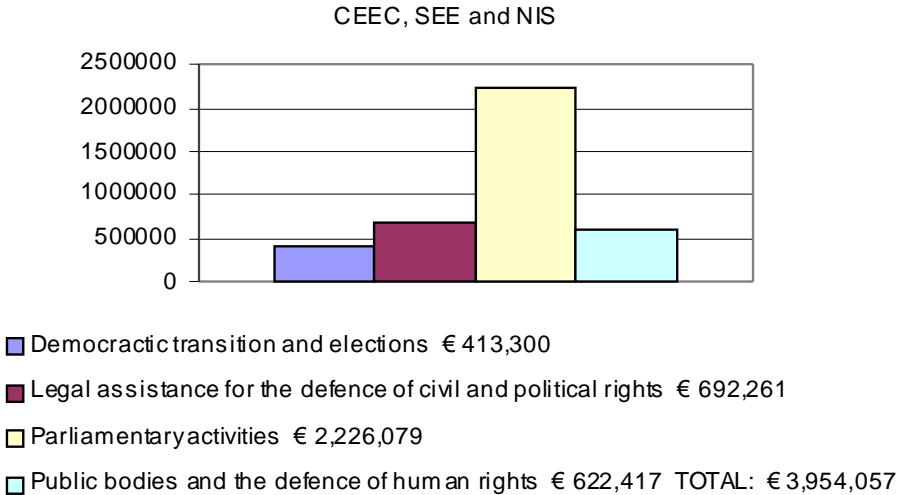
- Budget Lines B7-700 and B7-701**

Support for Democracy for these regions was provided by EIDHR under Budget Lines B7-700 and B7-701. Budget Line B7-700 covers Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Former Republic of Macedonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, and Slovenia. The general objectives of this Budget Line have been set out as the development of democracy, the rule of law and civil society; supporting the peace process, appeasing tensions and developing democracy; promoting freedom of press and the media; encouraging interethnic dialogue; supporting organisations involved in re-establishing democracy in civil society; promoting equality for women; and the protection of vulnerable groups. Particular priorities in 2000 included supporting projects identified under the Stability Pact, and to micro-projects managed by the delegations, particularly concerning countries in the former Yugoslavia and Albania.

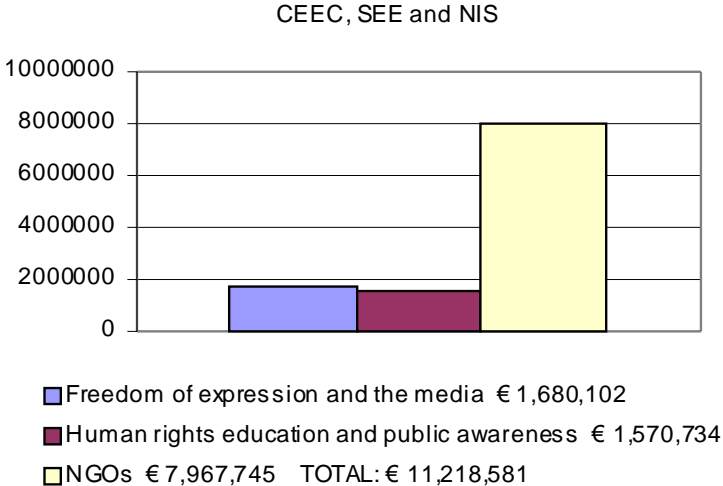
Budget line B7-701 provided support for democracy in the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union (NIS) and Mongolia. Its general objectives were the promotion of democracy, the rule of law, and the implementation of human rights; the protection of minorities, and the development of civil society; the establishment of infrastructure necessary for public and democratic life; supporting awareness-raising; strengthening civil society and supporting civic education and independent media. In 2000, priorities for the Budget Line were programmed as including human rights education and awareness-raising, training for the military, training for lawyers and the judiciary, support for local government development, independent media and the development of Joint Programmes with international organisations.

- **Use of the budget**

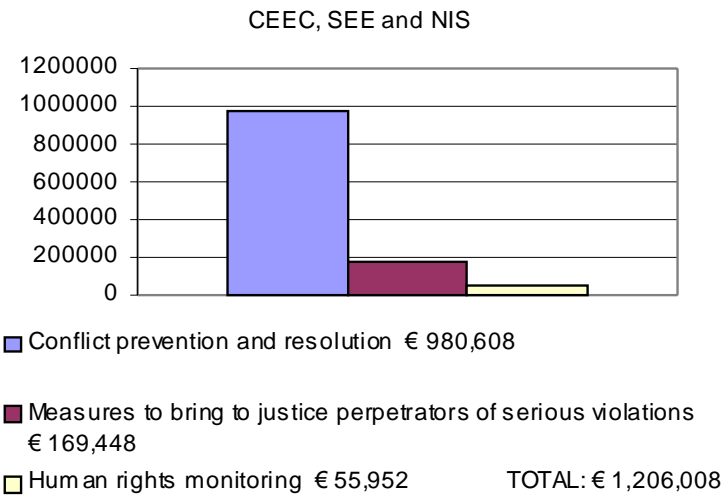
Democratisation and the rule of law



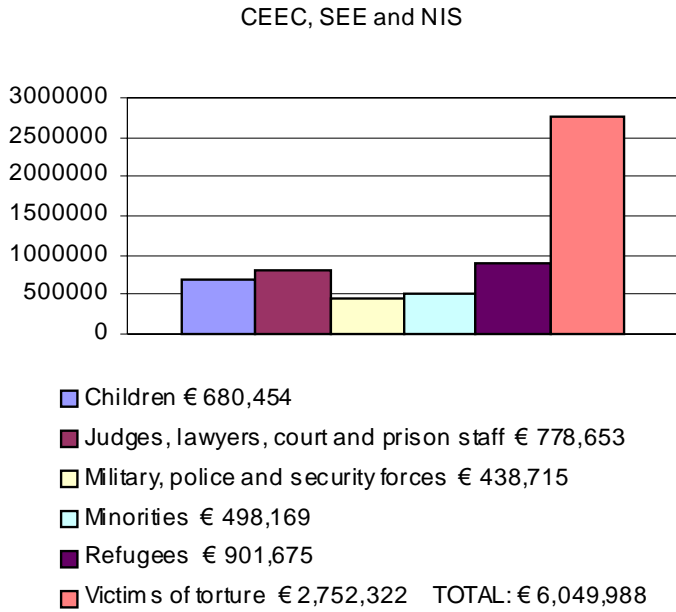
Pluralist civil society



Confidence building and the restoration of peace



Initiatives for target groups



2.4. MEDA

- Budget Line B7-705**

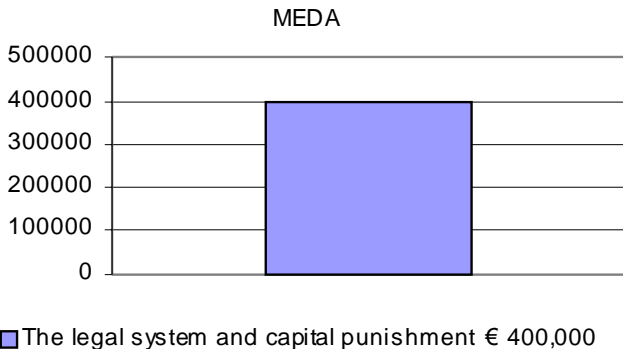
The EU's policy towards the Mediterranean region is governed by the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, launched at the 1995 Barcelona Conference, between the European Union and the twelve ‘MEDA’ countries: Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, Lebanon, Malta Morocco, Syria, Turkey and Tunisia. This partnership works through bilateral association agreements and MEDA Framework Conventions, which include a clause defining human rights as an ‘essential element’ of the agreement, constituting therefore a binding legal commitment by each MEDA country to respect human rights. The ‘MEDA

Regulation’ provides the legal basis for Community support to human rights and democracy activities in these countries.

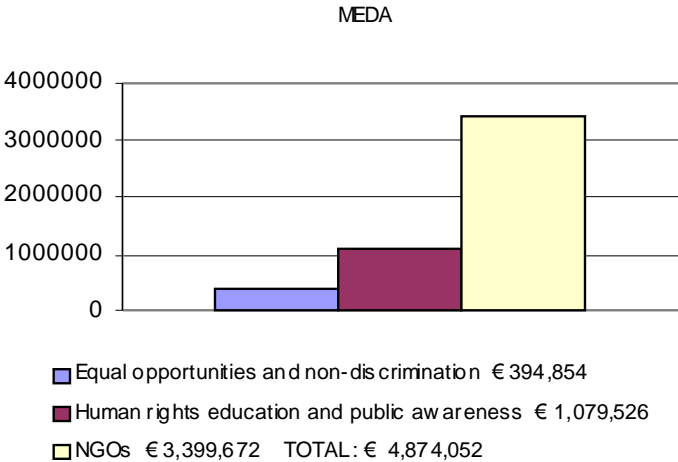
EIDHR assistance in this region was provided under Budget Line B7-705, or the ‘MEDA Programme for Democracy’. Its general objectives have been set out as the promotion of human rights and democracy, the development of civil society and the rule of law, the development of Euro-Mediterranean inter-parliamentary relations, the abolition of the death penalty, the promotion of the rights of children and women, and the promotion of inter-ethnic dialogue. Specific priorities for the Budget Line in 2000 were identified as the promotion of the rights of women and children, the abolition of the death penalty, the promotion of inter-ethnic dialogue and co-operation with OHCHR in the region.

- **Use of the budget**

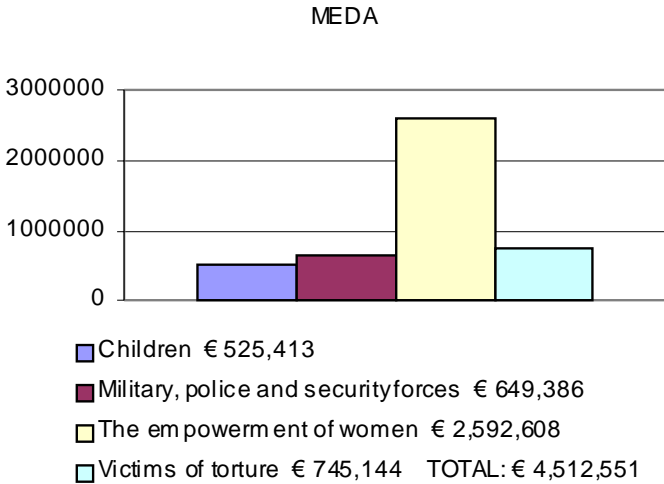
Democratisation and the rule of law



Pluralist civil society



Initiatives for target groups



2.5. Asia

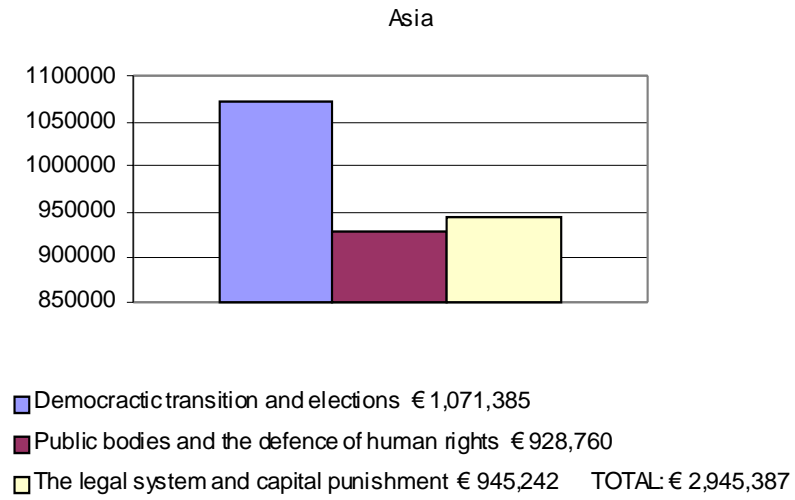
- Budget Line B7-707**

Human rights initiatives in Asia are funded mainly through Budget Line B7-707, the general objectives of which are the promotion of human rights and democracy in Asia, the development of civil society and the prevention of conflicts. Specific geographic attention is paid to China, East Timor, the autonomous region of Xinjaign, Hong Kong and Macao and Inner Mongolia. In 2000, specific priorities were identified as support for the abolition of the death penalty, freedom of the press, human rights education and training and cooperation with the OHCHR. A ‘targeted project’ approach was favoured in 2000, with most initiatives selected on the basis of proposals submitted by Commission Delegations.

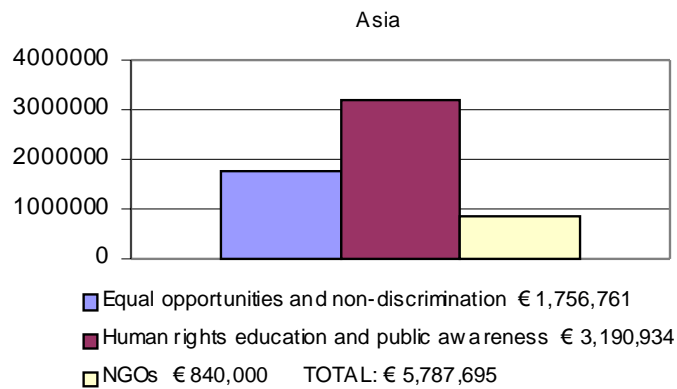
It is important to emphasise the necessary complementarity between the use of EIDHR funds and those of other EU activities and instruments of the EU Budget, particularly external cooperation activities funded Chapter B7-300. Political dialogue has also been a key feature of relations between Asia and the EU, including through the ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) process and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The EU has continued its policy of dialogue with the People’s Republic of China on issues of democracy and human rights, and seminars with legal and human rights experts from China and the EU have been an integral part of this process.

- **Use of the budget**

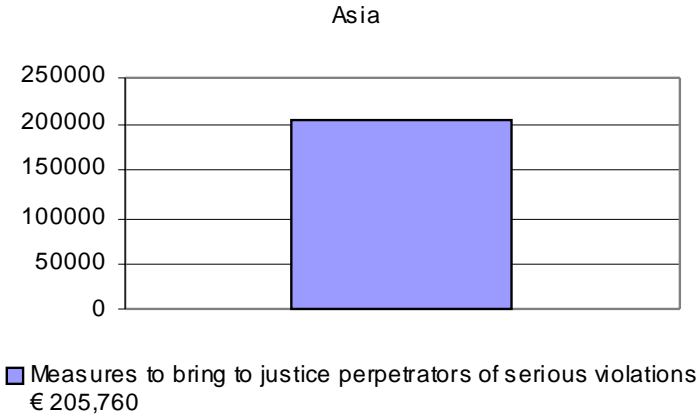
Democratisation and the rule of law



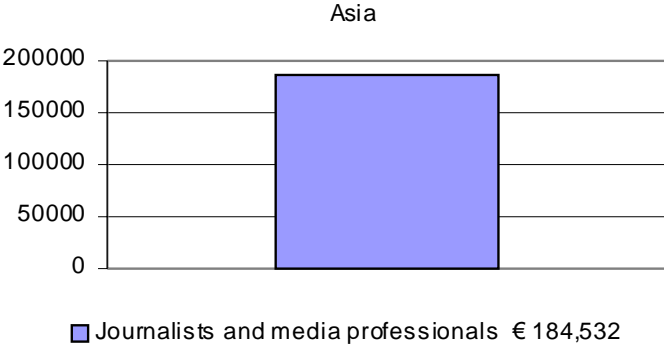
Pluralist civil society



Confidence building and the restoration of peace



Initiatives for target groups



3. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

3.1. Management of EIDHR in 2000

As suggested in the introduction of this report, 2000 should be seen as a transition year in the delivery of assistance under EIDHR, as its management structures and implementation methodology underwent a number of significant changes. This was the first full financial year in which the Human Rights regulations were available, providing a coherent framework and a legal basis for all human rights and democratisation activities under Chapter B7-70 of the EU budget⁹⁶. In 2000, for the first time, the 11 human rights budget lines were unified within the remit of one unit in the Directorate-General for External Relations and also for the first time they were placed under the responsibility of a single Commissioner, allowing for increased consistency and efficiency in their management.

Concerning the implementation figures for EIDHR in 2000, when only 57% of payments were made in respect of projects approved by the end of the year, previous arrangements have adversely affected the effectiveness of delivery. The distribution of responsibilities in the management of the Budget Lines, as described in section 3.1.1. below, meant that until October 1999, six different services, and until March 2000, four different services were responsible for human rights and democracy activities. Payments were also affected by the complex procedures required to reach a Commission decision and for the preparation and signature of contracts, by insufficient human and technical resources, and the suspension of the Budget Chapter for six months in 1999, following the European Court of Justice ruling C-106/96 of 12 May 1998. Between 1998 and 2000, these elements above have had a cumulative, knock-on effect in the Budget Chapter, and explain why decisions were taken late in each budget year, meaning payment delays until the following year. This in turn entails that the payment figures appear insufficient at the end of the budgetary year. New approaches developed to address such problems are discussed below.

3.1.1. Unified responsibility

Until October 1999, responsibility for human rights and democracy activities in third countries was shared among at least three Directorates (DG External Relations, Development and Enlargement) and six Units within those Directorates. In October 1999 the new Commission decided to unify the management of budget lines B7-7020, 7021, 7022, which had been formerly managed by DG Development with the other human rights and democracy budget lines B7-700, 701, 704, 706, 709 within the Human Rights and Democratisation Unit (DG External Relations B1). Procedures for the identification, appraisal and financing of projects financed from those 8 budget lines were homogenised by the end of 1999.

In March 2000 responsibility for the remaining budget lines of Chapter B7-7 (B7-703, 705, 707) was entrusted to Unit B1. At the same time, in agreement with DG Development, budget line B7-612 was also brought under the responsibilities of B1, allowing for a coherent approach to the theme of children's rights. Following these two measures, coherence in the overall management of Chapter B7-7 was remarkably enhanced, as they allowed for re-uniting the first four stages of the project cycle for the whole set of instruments. In April

⁹⁶ Council Regulations 975/1999 and 976/1999 of 29 April 1999, *ibid.*

2000, Unit B1 produced a programming document for the use of all budgetary instruments. Although it had a restricted scope, being limited to December 2000, it represented significant progress; for the first time all Chapter B7-7 budget lines were included in the same programming document. This resulted in enhanced coherence between different budget lines and an improved focus in projects on the achievement of objectives.

The newly-unified EIDHR facilitated another significant objective: a better co-ordination with other international organisations in the field of human rights and democracy. This resulted in a comprehensive set of co-operation projects with UNHCHR, which had been set out as a priority by the new External Relations Commissioner and the Human Rights and Democracy Committee. It also provided an opportunity to improve co-ordination with the Geographical Services, which contributed to project identification and selection.

3.1.2. Priorities in 2000

EIDHR in 2000 allocated funds to projects in support of with the wide range of policy objectives of the EU in the field of human rights and democracy, as set out in the detailed provisions of the Human Rights Regulations. As described in the introduction, each year a 'programming exercise' is planned for the Budget Chapter, to take into account particular needs in the field of human rights and democracy. These specific priorities were determined by Unit B1 of the External Relations Directorate General, taking into consideration positions adopted by the EU in international fora, EU common strategies, Community instruments and EC Financial Regulations, reports from Commission Delegation Heads of Missions. Special attention was also paid to reports and resolutions of the European Parliament, and strategies adopted by the main international organisations active in the field of human rights, such as the UN, the Council of Europe and the OSCE. All the projects with a geographical remit were identified in close cooperation with the geographical units concerned and with the Commission delegations in the field.

The Programming Document produced for EIDHR on this basis, was presented to the Human Rights and Democracy Committee in June 2000, set out six specific priorities in the context of the overall use of funds in 2000:

- The fight against torture, the death penalty and racism and xenophobia (with a view to participation in the World Conference against Racism and Xenophobia in September 2001)
- Human rights education and freedom of expression
- Economic, social, civil and political rights
- The protection of vulnerable groups, especially children
- The promotion and protection of the rights of women
- The promotion of democracy and the rule of law

These specific priorities were inscribed in the overall implementation of the Budget Chapter, and have been described in the different thematic sections of Chapter 1 of this report..

The links between the Commission and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) were substantially strengthened in the context of the preparation of the World Conference against Racism and Xenophobia as well as in other fields, on the basis of joint priorities. Cooperation with other UN agencies, such as UNICEF, was also enhanced.

Attention was paid to the gender dimension of all projects, in line with the Commission's mainstreaming strategy and with Council Regulation 2836/98 on integrating gender in development cooperation.

3.1.3. Partner organisations

The main partner organisations eligible for funding under Chapter B7-7 are NGOs and international organisations; a complete list of potential partners is contained in Articles 4 and 5 of the Human Rights regulations.

(a) Non Governmental Organisations

NGOs are an essential partner for the Commission in the field of human rights. They act as policy advocates and project implementers on the ground and they contribute to the establishment of a solid democratic base. A dialogue has been established between the EU institutions and the NGOs on the basis of the Declaration adopted by the EU in December 1998 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.⁹⁷ The first 'EU Human Rights Discussion Forum' was organised jointly by the Finnish Presidency and the Commission in Brussels in November 1999. Follow-up events were organised in Venice in coordination with the Portuguese Presidency in May 2000, and in Paris in December with the French Presidency. The results of these meetings are discussed in greater detail in Part 4 of this report.

In 2000, the Commission provided funding to NGOs through targeted projects, microprojects and the Call for Proposals process. In total, over 80% of funds under EIDHR were channelled through such organisations.

(b) International Organisations

The Commission works with international organisations where it is effective to make use of their expertise and networks to achieve Community objectives. The aim is to avoid duplication and to maximise synergies and the exchange of experience, while ensuring EU visibility. The Commission now has considerable experience in the framework of the Joint Programmes with the Council of Europe (see the evaluation of such Joint Programmes in Part 4 of this report).

Regular contact has been maintained between OHCHR and the Commission since the creation of the High Commissioner's Office, in particular on the occasion of the annual meetings of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. Cooperation on a more systematic basis was made possible by the conclusion of an overall Commission/UN Secretariat agreement on contractual issues, in August 1999. On the occasion of the Commission on Human Rights, which he addressed in 2000, Commissioner Patten announced significant contribution to OHCHR, in particular to facilitate activities surrounding the World Conference against Racism and Xenophobia, and he reaffirmed that 'this Commissioner is a big supporter of the UN Commissioner for Human Rights.'⁹⁸

⁹⁷ Declaration of the European Union on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, Vienna, 10 December 1998, available at:
http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/human_rights/doc/50th_decl_98.htm

⁹⁸ Speech of External Relations Commissioner, Chris Patten, at the 56th UN Commission on Human Rights, *ibid.*

This approach has been strongly supported by Member States, both in the working group of the Council (COHOM) and in the Human Rights and Democracy Committee. The evolution of the EU's human rights policy requires a strengthening of links with OHCHR (and other international human rights organisations) in order to ensure coherence and complementarity. In 2000, as outlined in Part 1 of this report, projects coordinated by OHCHR have been supported by EIDHR funding of over € 5.9 million. A further € 2 million was provided to UNICEF.

3.1.4. Problems concerning existing commitments

The programming initially planned was considerably re-adjusted, and therefore delayed, in the light of the fact that firstly, approximately € 24 million committed under the 1998 budget had been rendered void. Due to a need to clarify the rules for financial accounting procedures used by Delegations to manage microprojects, the € 24 million committed in 1998 was not contracted in 1999. Under the Financial Regulations, funds committed during a financial year have to be contracted by the end of the following year at the very latest. 1998 credits for microprojects and for one project in China were therefore rendered void. The projects in this situation were micro-projects in CEEC, NIS and China, the multi-annual human rights programme in Central America and a project to promote the rights of disabled persons in China. In view of the political commitment to fund these projects, they were recommitted under the 2000 budget, with obvious repercussions on the 2000 programming exercise, as these funds have had to be made available at the expense of new projects.

3.1.5. Methodology in 2000

The methodology used to identify and manage projects for funding in 2000 was designed to support sustainable, quality projects and to match the in-house resources available to manage them. Commitments made in 2000 also took careful account of the resources available to follow up these projects in 2001 and beyond. On this basis, the Commission made commitments to 142 projects, as described in detail in Part 1 of this report. The system of selecting projects for funding under EIDHR must necessarily take account of the diverse conditions and needs in different regions, and therefore a number of different approaches are adopted. In 2000, the following methodology was used to fund projects:

(a) Projects issued from the 1999/2000 Call for Proposals

Certain project submitted in the 1999/2000 Call for Proposals were not funded under the 1999 budget, due to limited funds available, and were therefore carried over for financing in 2000. 43 such projects were funded for an amount of € 20.9 million (21.5% of the total funds allocated under EIDHR). The Call for Proposals is a method set out by the Commission's 'Vade Mecum on Grant Management' whereby the priorities of the Commission are publicised with a view to encouraging applications from civil society organisations capable of implementing projects in furtherance of such objectives.⁹⁹

(b) Targeted projects

This method is systematically used for projects developed with international organisations (for example, the UN, Council of Europe, OSCE, UNHCR, International Tribunals). It is also used for urgent projects and for initiatives developed in the framework of country strategies

⁹⁹ The Vade-Mecum on Grant Management (for applicants and beneficiaries) European Commission, November 1998, available at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat-general/sgc/info-subv-common/shortvad-en.pdf>

with the active involvement of Delegations of the Commission in third countries. In 2000, some of the projects issued from the 1999/2000 Call for Proposals have become 'targeted projects', because it was felt that these met Commission priorities, but required further development. The targeted approach was used extensively in 2000 in view of the need to harmonise procedures across the different budget lines. 88 projects were funded in this way for a total amount of € 63.3 million (65% of the total budget allocated under EIDHR).

(c) Micro-projects

These projects are managed by the Delegations of the Commission in third countries. They allow the Delegations to fund small-scale projects implemented by grassroots organisations. The scheme has been applied only for projects in Central and Eastern Europe and the NIS (where the range is € 3,000 to € 50,000 for individual projects), and in China (where the maximum amount is € 100,000). In 2000, funding was provided to cover micro-projects which were cancelled in 1998 for technical reasons and new projects, for a total amount of € 8.2 million (8.4% of total funds under EIDHR). Such projects were in some cases (e.g. in CEE) selected through local calls for proposals, but this approach has not been used on a systematic basis.

(d) Technical assistance

Given the expiry of the contract with the European Human Rights Foundation (EHRF) on 31 May 2000, it was essential that the contract be prolonged by direct agreement. This was for a limited period which enabled the continued management of the Commission's human rights activities while preparations are made to implement the reform measures. Given the continuing need for technical assistance, as well as the satisfactory performance of the EHRF (whose assistance in managing EIDHR budget lines B7-700, 701, 704, 706 and 709 has been recognised by Member States, the European Parliament and the NGOs with whom it works), the risks of allowing the contract to lapse were considered to outweigh the disadvantages of a further direct agreement.

On 30 May, the Commission decided that the contract with the European Human Rights Foundation should be extended for 12 months. The amount allocated to this contract was €2,456,900 (50.2% of total amount of € 4,891,300 available for technical assistance).

3.1.6. New approaches to improve management

A number of approaches have been developed to improve the management of Chapter B7-70 and help avoid problems such as delays in payment appropriations, as discussed above. Such developments include the harmonisation of Country Strategy Paper methodology, to include systematic references to human rights and democracy, and the Commission's plans for the reform of external assistance. The Commission Communication of 16 May 2000 on the Reform of the Management of External Assistance sets out plans for a 'major overhaul' of the implementation of EIDHR.¹⁰⁰

The Communication is intended to 'shake up' the Commission's management of external assistance, in the following main areas: an overhaul of programming to better reflect the EU's policy objectives and priorities, the integration of the project cycle from identification of projects through to their implementation, the creating of a single body responsible for

¹⁰⁰Communication to the Commission on the Reform of External Assistance, *ibid.*

implementation, extensive devolution of project management to Commission Delegations, and measures to eliminate old and dormant commitments.

In structural terms, the main impact of these reforms is that, since January 2001, management of the project cycle moved entirely from the Unit B1 to the newly created Commission Service 'EuropeAid', which will incorporate the Common Service for External Relations (SCR), take over substantial numbers of staff from other Commission services and directly employ technical external assistance staff previously managed by EHRF, which will now be wound down as an organisation. From the Unit B1 alone, 14 of the 24 members of staff have moved to EuropeAid.

4. ASSESSMENT

4.1. Specific programme evaluations

Assessments of particular human rights and democracy programmes of the Commission were carried out in 2000 by the Evaluation Unit of the ‘Common Service for External Relations’ (SCR), which was responsible for evaluating all the external cooperation programmes of the European Commission. Evaluation was defined by the SCR as a ‘systematic and objective assessment’ of the design, implementation and results of projects. The responsibilities of the SCR have, since January, 2001 been taken over by the new organisation EuropeAid. In 2000, evaluations relevant to EIDHR commitments included an evaluation of activities in the ACP and an evaluation of programmes with the Council of Europe.

4.1.1. ACP evaluation

A major evaluation of European Community aid concerning human rights and democracy actions in ACP countries was published by the Commission in August 2000. The evaluation found that individual projects have been carefully selected, and in many cases ‘achieved valuable results, with some fulfilling a crucial need at a particular time in the country.’¹⁰¹ However, it suggested that the objectives of a strategic approach, continuity and measurable impact have not been attained. The linking, in a systematic fashion, of the general stated objectives, specific project objectives and results, and the ability of the Commission to monitor and evaluate these projects has also been limited. The evaluation found that changes in procedures and institutional organisation in the Commission have imposed severe constraints on project performance.

The ACP evaluation made certain recommendations to better ensure continuity and impact. It argued that there is a need for more precise reflection on the content and constraints surrounding the three fields of human rights, democracy and conflict prevention, and a framework to integrate more explicitly the goals of promoting human rights and development. The role of the Commission in the promotion of human rights should be defined much more strongly in terms of economic, social and cultural rights, and the right to development. A greater amount of analysis of the role of the Commission in setting strategy should be carried out, and at the level of project management, there is a need to speed up procedures and strengthen monitoring systems. In addition ‘tying the visibility of the EU to the pursuit of human rights...would seem highly appropriate’.¹⁰²

4.1.2. Joint Programmes with the Council of Europe in Russia and Ukraine

In September 2000, an evaluation of Joint Programmes between the European Commission and the Council of Europe in the Russian Federation and Ukraine was published.¹⁰³ The evaluation found that the Joint Programmes have been highly valued by most of those who have come into contact with them, providing an effective and efficient method of approaching

¹⁰¹ ‘External evaluation of European Community Aid concerning actions in the field of Human Rights and Democracy in ACP states 1995-1999, SCR evaluation 951518, at 4

¹⁰² *ibid.*, at p.5

¹⁰³ Evaluation of Joint Programmes between the European Commission and the Council of Europe for strengthening federal structure and local government, introducing human rights protection mechanisms, and supporting reforms of the law and legal systems in the Russian Federation and Ukraine, available at: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/euopaed/evaluation/reports/tacis/951557_rep.pdf

some of the ‘apparently intractable problems of turning former Soviet countries into fully fledged European democracies’. While there was found to be room for improvement in the efficiency with which they are run, and in the clarity of their specific objectives, the evaluation found that the Joint Programmes would appear to be reaching parts of the establishment in each of these countries, especially in the Russian Federation, that few other programmes could claim to do. In the context of ever-increasing emphasis on the importance of human rights and democracy and the rule of law as the right of all European citizens, these programmes offer insights and lessons into how such ideas can be put into practice, in a realistic and long-term way.

The report made a number of recommendations for improvements to increase the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability of these and future joint programmes. Concerning the Commission, it suggested that its partnership relationship with the Council of Europe should be actively developed. This would enable the ‘potential synergies and added value of the Joint Programmes with Tacis and Tacis Democracy programmes to be realised and developed further’. The report recommended that changes in organisational structures and procedures should be encouraged which will ensure minimal delays on the signing of agreements and their implementation, and that consideration should be given to the development of a realistic and visible role for the EC within the Joint Programmes. The evaluation recognised that this would need to be consistent with EU policy objectives, staff resources and with the need to achieve complementarity and, where possible, synergies with other EU programmes.

The report also made recommendations with regard to the role of Council of Europe. It suggested that when working with in-country partners and counterparts within the Commission, a rational approach to programme planning and implementation should be developed, which could ‘provide a framework for identifying needs, risks, strategic and operational objectives, implementation processes and processes to evaluate performance and results’. It further suggested that financial and management reporting should be as clear and relevant as possible, to support accountability and transparency for individual activities and for identifiable results, and for the programmes as a whole. Internal organisational development within the Council of Europe should be introduced ‘so as to improve internal communication and co-ordination, to develop and support project design, implementation and monitoring skills, and to ensure regular reflection and learning about the programmes’. The evaluation also suggested that more attention should be given to the sustainability of the Programmes, in particular in the area of publication and dissemination.

Finally, the report made a number of comments concerning local partners in Russia and Ukraine. It suggested that internal co-ordination and co-operation between ministries, courts, independent agencies and NGOs should be developed, supported and strengthened. Internal monitoring and evaluation of projects and a ‘strategic approach to the identification of needs, priorities and capacity and commitment to implementation is essential for effectiveness and sustainability’. The evaluation concluded by emphasising the fact that,

“the general public is the ultimate beneficiary of these programmes needs to be constantly borne in mind, at all stages of design and implementation”¹⁰⁴

¹⁰⁴ Evaluation of Joint Programmes between the European Commission and the Council of Europe, *ibid*, at 93

4.2. Management of EU support for the development of human rights and democracy in third countries

In August 2000, the Court of Auditors published observations on the management by the Commission of EU support for the development of human rights and democracy in third countries.¹⁰⁵ The wide-ranging audit argued for improvements in a number of areas, some of which are highlighted below.

The main audit findings were divided into three categories. Firstly, in respect of programming, the Court identified some areas of weakness. Generally it found that there is a need for the Commission to improve the way in which measures to support human rights and democracy are defined in country strategies. In many cases, projects were proposed by local communities and organisations, and then appraised and decided on by the Commission; although such a demand-driven approach is appropriate in this area in order to enhance ownership, it should be applied within a more clearly defined framework of priorities and selection criteria. For Central and Eastern European programmes, procedures were most systematic with calls for expressions of interest on a regular basis. When selecting projects, the Court suggested that the Commission did not pay sufficient attention to assessing the capacity of implementing bodies. It recognised that the procedures of the Commission in this area, however, have been improved in the call for proposals in June 1999.

Secondly, the Court examined the outcome of the programmes and found that projects were too thinly spread over too many intervention areas which limited their impact on the democracy and human rights situation in third countries. Individual projects were relevant in addressing human rights and democracy issues in the countries concerned, but there was a lack of predefined indicators to measure their effectiveness and impact. Insufficient attention was paid to the continuity of the activities, which limited the long-term effects of Commission support, and a strategy on how to obtain greater visibility for the European Union's involvement was not always carefully thought out. Although the general findings of programme evaluations were positive, some of them confirmed the Court's concerns about the broad nature of the objectives, weak impact and the lack of management resources.

Thirdly, throughout the audit the Court identified a number of shortcomings in respect of programme management by the Commission. In order to overcome the insufficient staff resources allocated by the Commission to the management of the different programmes, each of the implementing DGs had recourse to the subcontracting of additional external management resources. Each of the solutions adopted was found to be inappropriate. In a significant number of cases, the contractual conditions applied were those for grants; in reality, however, the relationship between the implementing body and the Commission was a service one, which requires different contractual arrangements. Contract provisions and finance mechanisms were not standard, financial monitoring of contracts was weak, which led to the payment of non-eligible expenditure, and recommendations of evaluation reports were not implemented.

In the opinion of the Court, its findings illustrated that the approach of the Commission to the management of the programmes was inappropriate. Inadequate staff resources and systems meant that the Commission was not able to follow in detail the implementation of large numbers of frequently small contracts. The Commission should therefore adopt a different

¹⁰⁵ Special Report No 12/2000 on the management by the Commission of European Union support for the development of human rights and democracy in third countries, together with the Commission's replies, OJ C 230

approach which focuses more on what is achieved by partners with the funds received, while obtaining reasonable assurance that the funds are used correctly for the purpose for which they are granted.

The Commission's reply to these comments was published with the Court of Auditors' report, and its main points are summarised below. The Commission considered the Court's report to be very helpful in assessing whether Community action is justified and in identifying obstacles to be overcome to ensure that such action is both more transparent and more consistent.

With regard to the Court's comments on achieving greater consistency, the Commission shared the view of the Court that there should be more systematic assessment of the human rights and democracy situation of each beneficiary country and reference to this in each country strategy; a fresh framework for this to be done more systematically is being pursued. In some parts of the world the Commission has built respect for human rights and democracy into country strategies. Particularly, for example, in the candidate countries for EU membership, with specific accession requirements on human rights and democracy standards, and in ACP countries, where EDF-financed human rights projects are part of country-specific strategies and indicative programmes.

Concerning project identification, a variety of complementary methods are used to take account of the diversity of human rights needs and the multiplicity of situations. These methods aim to match Commission priorities with NGO demands, given that demand-driven projects are more likely to match the real needs of the beneficiaries than supply-driven projects and have, therefore, better chances of sustainability. The Commission always tries to evaluate the capacities of the organisations selected for project funding, however the choice of NGOs can be very limited. In respect of the Court's comments on achieving greater transparency, the human rights programmes which have the greatest impact are rarely those set up by the major European NGOs, but tend to be small-scale projects implemented by local NGOs. In this way, local civil society is able to grow in strength and build up the social fabric necessary for democracy.

The Commission takes a keen interest in the use of indicators to measure aspects other than merely the impact and success of human rights projects. In March 1998, it presented a communication on democracy and good governance, which identified a number of features which could serve as indicators, and since then, it has sought to take this research further.¹⁰⁶ However, it should be noted that analogous research carried out by other organisations, such as the OECD and OHCHR, has not so far produced any definitive results. When the Commission first tried to evaluate human rights projects in the ACP countries, it was faced with a serious problem posed by the lack of appropriate indicators. It was only over the course of many years and through conducting many evaluation exercises that it was able to identify a number of suitable criteria.

Certain actions cannot be assessed in terms of their sustainability, as they are, or should be, temporary. Where circumstances permit, Community-supported projects will seek to hold discussions with the government so as to draw up a joint strategy for improving the human rights situation. In such cases, the aim is that projects concerning democracy, the rule of law and even human rights should gradually come to be funded by the budget of the government in question, in so far as that is feasible. To this end, a number of instruments are provided,

¹⁰⁶ Commission Communication on 'Democratisation, the rule of law, respect for human rights and good governance: the challenges of the partnership between the European Union and the ACP States' COM(98) 146

including budget lines, financial incentives, national indicative programmes and political dialogue, which require the collaboration of both parties. Programme evaluations undertaken by the Commission were generally positive and confirmed the significant contribution made to the process of supporting democracy and protecting human rights. The Commission agreed with the Court's comments on the need to increase the visibility of EU action in this domain.

Finally, with respect to the Court's views on improving management, the Commission always tries to take appropriate steps to meet its needs in terms of skills and resources. Working groups have been set up to study the various options available for outsourcing these functions. The Commission notes the insufficient distinction which exists between grants and other types of contracts, and has shown its intention to clarify the distinction by introducing rules for grants in the planned modifications of the Financial Regulation. The Commission is now taking action to standardise contract provisions and financial mechanisms, and recent simplified standard rules for procurement provide for payments of eligible real expenses only.

Since the Court conducted its audit, the conclusions from the evaluation of projects implemented as part of the Phare and Tacis democracy programmes have been incorporated into the new Human Rights Regulations which were subsequently adopted.¹⁰⁷ The call for proposals launched in July 1999 also takes these conclusions into account in the context of the new regulatory framework. Furthermore, plans included in the Communication on the reform of external assistance, discussed in Part 3 of this report, address a number of the Court's concerns.

4.3. The views of civil society

In 2000, the EU continued its policy of strengthening the ties between policy makers in the institutions and civil society organisations active in the field of human rights. The conference 'The European Union and the Central Role of Human Rights and Democratic Principles in the Relations with Third Countries', organised jointly by the Portuguese EU Presidency and the Commission, followed the success of previous 'human rights fora' where leading figures from the Commission, the Parliament, the Council and Member States meet with the implementing partners and beneficiaries of the EU's programmes of assistance.

The conference, which took place June 2000 in the Monastery of San Nicolo in Venice, the seat of the EIDHR funded European Masters Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation, was a very useful opportunity to exchange ideas with NGOs about the practical aspects of EU human rights work and future orientations. Keynote speeches from a Member of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs and Human Rights, the Director of the Human Rights Unit of the Portuguese Presidency, the Director of the European Masters Programme, the Head of the Human Rights and Democratisation Unit of the European Commission and Amnesty International's EU representative, were followed by a series of workshops.

These workshops, each involving representatives of the institutions and NGOs, discussed the issues of EU human rights policy in the context of globalisation, human rights clauses, the 'human rights dimension' in practice, and human rights education, training and information in EU external relations.¹⁰⁸ In each case, a detailed series of recommendations for action were produced, and a frank assessment presented of the performance of the EU in implementing its human rights and democracy policy. As the rapporteur of the session commented, the

¹⁰⁷ Council Regulations (EC) No 975/1999, and 976/1999, *ibid*.

¹⁰⁸ The full report of this conference is available at: <http://hrd-euromaster.venis.it/othactiv.htm> under 'EU human rights conference'

Conference provide the opportunity to discuss,

“...operational specifics and think in a more sustained way about how the Union can refine its instruments to ensure that it can effectuate change... the quality of the debates and conclusions at this exercise fully vindicates the Council and Commission in opening up the dialogue.”

A second EU human rights forum took place in Paris in December 2000. Organised by the French Presidency of the EU and the Commission, the conference was attended amongst other by the French Prime Minister, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, senior representatives of the EU institutions and leading figures from the human rights NGO community, including representatives of Fédération Internationale des Ligues des droits de l’homme, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. With a similar format to the Venice conference, workshops focussed on instruments available to the EU in its human rights activities in external relations, human rights defenders, campaigns on the death penalty and torture (including Amnesty International’s proposals for EU policy on the eradication of torture), and the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

A further opportunity for dialogue and exchange of views between the EU and its partners in civil society is provided by the regular ‘Human Rights EU Contact Group’ which takes place at the European Parliament. It is a platform for exchange between NGOs, MEPs, government representatives and officials of the EU institutions. Given the success of these initiatives, and the human rights fora, which has been recognised by the European Parliament and welcomed by NGOs, it seems inevitable that the EU and its partners in the promotion and protection of human rights will continue this critical and essential dialogue.¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁹ European Parliament Resolution A5-0060/2000, para.14