

EN

Adonis No

EN

EN

2007 Annual Action Programme based on the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) Strategy Paper 2007-2010 and Pilot Project on European emergency judicial assistance

1. IDENTIFICATION

Budget headings	19.04.01 – Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) 19.04.05 – EIDHR Completion (C5 appropriations) 21.04.04 – Pilot project: European emergency judicial assistance 19.01.0407 – EIDHR expenditure on administrative management – technical assistance (TA)
Total cost	EU contribution: €99 200 183
Legal basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Annual Action Programme - Regulation (EC) No 1889/2006 of 20.12.2006 (OJ L 386, 29.12.2006, p.1) - Pilot Project within the meaning of Article 49(6) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1), as amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1995/2006 (OJ L 390, 30.12.2006, p. 1).

2. THEMATIC BACKGROUND

The legal basis [Regulation (EC) No 1889/2006] for the successor programme to the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in December 2006. The Regulation, which entered into force on 1 January 2007, establishes a new financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide (EIDHR). It reflects the high political profile and specific Treaty mandates relating to the development and consolidation of democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Regulation's principal objectives reflect both the Commission Communications on EU Election Assistance and Observation,¹ on the EU's role in promoting human rights and democratisation in third countries² and on a Thematic Programme for the

¹ COM(2000)191, 11.04.2

² COM(2001)252, 08.05.20

promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide under the future Financial Perspectives 2007-2013³ and the EU Guidelines on Human Rights.

Based on the Regulation, the EIDHR Strategy Paper 2007-2010 received a unanimous favourable opinion from the Human Rights and Democracy Committee on 25 June 2007.

The EIDHR Strategy Paper 2007-2010 was subject to a democratic scrutiny procedure by the European Parliament on 16 and 22 June 2007. The European Parliament's comments on the EIDHR Strategy Paper were taken into account in establishing this Annual Action Programme.

The European Parliament's legal scrutiny of the EIDHR Strategy Paper 2007-2010 was concluded on 19 July 2007, and the Commission adopted the EIDHR Strategy Paper on 8 August 2007 (Decision C(2007)3765).

3. SUMMARY OF THE ACTION PROGRAMME

The EIDHR Strategy Paper for the period 2007-2010 identifies 5 distinct objectives:

- Enhancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in countries and regions where they are most at risk (Strategy Paper points 23 to 31 and 66 to 72).
- Strengthening the role of civil society in promoting human rights and democratic reform, in supporting the peaceful conciliation of group interests and in consolidating political participation and representation (Strategy Paper points 32 to 38 and 73 to 76).
- Supporting actions on human rights and democracy issues in areas covered by EU guidelines, including on human rights dialogue, on human rights defenders, on the death penalty, on torture, and on children and armed conflict (Strategy Paper points 39 to 57 and 77 to 82).
- Supporting and strengthening the international and regional framework for the protection of human rights, justice, the rule of law and the promotion of democracy (Strategy Paper points 58 to 60 and 83 to 86).
- Building confidence in and enhancing the reliability and transparency of democratic electoral processes, in particular through election observation (Strategy Paper points 61 to 65 and 87 to 90).

Objective 1 will focus on country or regional situations, where fundamental freedoms are still to be realised or are at serious risk. Objective 2 will be implemented primarily through country-based support schemes for concerted action on local democracy and human rights issues of particular concern. Countries covered

³ COM(2006)23, 25.01.2006

by Objective 2, if and when a situation justifies it, are also eligible under Objective 1. Objective 3 addresses activities related to EU Guidelines on Human Rights issues and will be applicable around the world. Objective 4 will aim at strategic support for international instruments. Objective 5 will support the framework for fostering democratic electoral processes, in particular through EU Election Observation Missions.

In view of the delayed adoption of the EIDHR Strategy Paper, its implementation in 2007 is proposed on the basis of combined indicative allocations for 2007 and 2008, with assistance for selected activities starting in 2008 only. The corresponding publication of calls for proposals is scheduled for October/November 2007 as regards actions included in the AAP 2007 and for the first quarter of 2008 as regards actions to be included in the AAP 2008. The table below gives an overview of the **calls for proposals** in 2007/2008.

EIDHR Action (not including Pilot Projects)	2007/€	Forecast for 2008/€	Total/€
Objective 1 - Enhancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms where they are most at risk (Fiche 1)	11 492 917	16 200 000	27 692 917
Objective 2 - Country-Based Support Schemes (Fiche 2)	31 800 000	35 200 000	67 000 000
Objective 2 – Translational and regional activities (AAP 2008)	-	28 000 000	28 000 000
Objective 3 - EU-China Human Rights Network (Fiche 3)	1 500 000	-	1 500 000
Objective 3 - Support for Human Rights Defenders (Fiche 4)	8 000 000	-	8 000 000
Objective 3 - Support for Human Rights and Democracy actions on Torture and other forms of ill-treatment (Fiche 5)	22 000 000	-	22 000 000
Objective 3 – Death Penalty (AAP 2008)	-	4 000 000	4 000 000
Objective 3 – Children and Armed Conflict (AAP 2008)	-	3 400 000	3 400 000
Objective 4 - Support for global civil society campaigns designed to ensure the effective functioning of the International Criminal Court (Fiche 6)	4 000 000	-	4 000 000
Objective 4 - Support for Master's Degree Programmes in Human Rights and	5 200 000	-	5 200 000

Democratisation outside the EU (Fiche 7)			
--	--	--	--

This decisional process will also include 1 Pilot Project: European Emergency Judicial Assistance within the meaning of Article 49(6) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1), as amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1995/2006 (OJ L 390, 30.12.2006, p. 1).

Actions will be divided as follows:

A. Six global calls for proposals, for an indicative amount of €52 192 917

- €1 492 917 for projects aimed at "Enhancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in countries and regions where they are most at risk", Objective 1 – Action Fiche 1
- €1.5 million for projects aimed at "Supporting actions on human rights and democracy issues in areas covered by **EU Guidelines**" (3 separate calls for proposals) – Action Fiches 3, 4 and 5
- €4 million for projects aimed at "Supporting and strengthening the international and regional framework for the protection of human rights, justice, the rule of law and the promotion of democracy", Objective 4, in particular International Justice – Action Fiche 6.
- €5.2 million for projects aimed at "Supporting and strengthening the international and regional framework for the protection of human rights, justice, the rule of law and the promotion of democracy", Objective 4, in particular Regional Master's Degrees outside the European Union – Action Fiche 7.

B. Country-based support schemes, local calls for proposals and support measures, for an indicative amount of €31.8 million

- €31.8 million for local projects aimed at "Strengthening the role of civil society in promoting human rights and democratic reform, in supporting the peaceful conciliation of group interests and in consolidating political participation and representation", Objective 2.A. 3% of each annual country allocation may cover support measures expenditure accompanying the implementation of the country-based support scheme - Action Fiche 2.

C. Strategic partnerships aimed at "Supporting and strengthening the international and regional framework for the protection of human rights, justice, the rule of law and the promotion of democracy", Objective 4 – Action Fiches 8 to 12

- €4.0 million for an annual contribution to the operations of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Action Fiche 8.

- €2.0 million for a contribution agreement with the International Criminal Court (ICC) aimed at strengthening the ICC and enhancing its universality – Action Fiche 9.
- €0.6 million for a contribution agreement with the Special Court for Sierra Leone aimed at strengthening its capacity and communicating justice – Action Fiche 10.
- €2.0 million for contribution agreement(s) covering the Joint Programme with the Council of Europe – Action Fiche 11.
- €0.6 million for a contribution agreement with OSCE/ODIHR aimed at promoting democratisation and human rights in Eastern Europe (Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine) – Action Fiche 12.

To ensure the financial support of the EIUC as of the beginning of its budgetary year on 1 August 2007, an ad hoc Decision C(2007)3648 was approved by the Commission on 2 August 2007 for an amount of €1.9 million (budget heading 19.04.01).

D. Support for electoral processes - Network for Enhanced Electoral and Democracy Support (NEEDS III project)

- €5.3 million for projects aimed at "Building confidence in and enhancing the reliability and transparency of democratic electoral processes", including assistance for domestic civil society organisations in developing election monitoring capacities and in following up on EU EOM (call for tender) – Action Fiche 13.

E. Pilot Project "European emergency judicial assistance"

- €0.2 million in support for Human Rights Defenders, mainly through directly awarded small grants in response to urgent protection needs – included in Action Fiche 4.

F. Support Measures financed by EIDHR administrative appropriations

- €507 266 for technical assistance activities aimed at covering the technical assistance expenditure needed for the management of the new EIDHR Annual Action Programme, both at headquarters and at Commission delegations, mainly service contracts linked to Commission Framework Contracts FWC CCOM 2007 – included in Action Fiches 1 to 7. This amount is added to the current commitment of €2.85 million approved on 30 April 2007, in line with the Internal rules on the implementation of the General Budget of the E.C. for 2007 and covering the technical assistance expenditure needed for the management of the previous European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights operations, and the preparation of the new EIDHR Annual Action Programme.

As regards **Election Observation**, two decisions have already been adopted by the Commission for the total amount available in budget heading 19.04.03 – €30.1 million.

Community contribution

The Community financing may take the forms listed in Article 13 of the EIDHR Regulation. Grant funding for a project will generally consist of a contribution covering only a proportion of the project's budget. However, in line with Article 169 of the Financial Regulation, an action may be financed in full by the budget only if this proves essential for it to be carried out. The indicative maximum initial duration of a project is 3 years.

Projects awarded funding following a global call for proposals are identified by Commission headquarters, in consultation with delegations, and are predominately managed by EC delegations. The indicative EC contribution to projects identified through global calls for proposals ranges from €150 000 to €2 million.

Projects awarded funding following a local call for proposals are managed entirely by EC delegations. The indicative EC contribution to projects identified through local calls for proposals ranges from €10 000 to €300 000.

Eligible organisations are defined in Articles 10 and 14 of the EIDHR Regulation. In conformity with these articles, specific eligibility criteria to be used to select project proposals are detailed in the respective Action Fiches and will be further detailed in the guidelines of each call for proposals. Essential selection and award criteria to be used to select the proposals are also detailed in each Action Fiche for calls for proposals (Fiches 1 to 7).

Mainstreaming

Gender equality, the rights of the child, the rights of indigenous peoples and the rights of persons with disabilities will be mainstreamed in projects under all objectives. All projects will need to show, whenever relevant, how these issues are taken into account in the design, implementation and monitoring of their activities. In many instances, in particular but not only under Objective 2, there is also wide scope for specific activities with and for these target groups. Principles such as empowerment, participation, non-discrimination of vulnerable groups and accountability will be adequately taken into account.

4. PAST EC ASSISTANCE AND LESSONS LEARNT

The EIDHR has continued to be subject to much scrutiny and evaluation. Several of the lessons learnt have led to specific improvements regarding programming and implementation. During the implementation of the last Annual Work Programme, there has been a shift from project evaluations to more thematic, programme and methodological evaluations. These evaluations cover a wider range of EIDHR projects and have provided a better overview of the impact of the Initiative.

Evaluations carried out under the previous Annual Work Programme: *Evaluation of Abolition of the Death Penalty Projects*, covering all EIDHR assistance in this field since 1998 (2006-2007); *Comparative Evaluation of Human Rights Projects and EU assistance in the Philippines and Cambodia (2007)*, managed by the two delegations, where most of the projects evaluated were EIDHR projects; *Programa Andino de*

derechos humanos y democracia, covering a regional programme that was finalised (2006); *Ongoing Micro-Projects in Ukraine* (2006); *Fight Against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination* (2005); *Evaluation of Torture Rehabilitation Centres*, covering centres in France, the UK, Belgium and Greece (2005); and *Generating Impact Indicators* (2005).

The last evaluation provided EIDHR with indicators for its main objectives of the different campaigns in the last calls for proposals and it also provided tools for EIDHR and applicant organisations to develop specific project indicators. The indicators in the last guidelines of the calls serve as examples of expected results for the projects implemented. It is still too early to see the impact on project management of the increased use of indicators.

The need to enhance local ownership by improving access by civil society organisations from the countries and regions concerned has led to the expansion of locally managed country-specific (micro-project) schemes, a development that continues in this AAP through the Country-Based Support Schemes.

Apart from programme or project-specific recommendations, there are a number of issues that appear in the recommendations of most of the EIDHR evaluations, the major ones being: (i) increased dialogue with implementing partners during the projects, (ii) increased sharing of information and lessons learnt between delegations and Brussels headquarters on the implementation of the programme, (iii) requirement of planning and budgeting for project monitoring and evaluation systems in the guidelines for calls for proposals, (iv) more systematic monitoring, combining project visits by EC task managers with visits of external consultants (ROM), and (v) increased and improved use of logical framework approaches and project cycle management.

The present Annual Action Programme reflects these issues, in particular as regards support measures and coordination. Commission delegations will also be able to spend up to 3% of the respective annual operational country allocation on support measures accompanying the implementation of country-based support schemes (activities in the field of communication, capacity-building actions, meetings with local organisations, etc.).

5. COMPLEMENTARY ACTIONS

Actions included in this AAP complement not only the various instruments of financial and technical cooperation, including both geographic and thematic programmes, but also the various other tools for implementation of EU policies on democracy and human rights, in particular the EU Guidelines on Human Rights. Some actions will also complement the more crisis-related interventions of the Instrument for Stability, namely as regards support for transitional justice.

6. DONOR COORDINATION

Coordination and regular consultation with Member States are ensured through the various political channels and committees at central level as well as at local level

with the EC delegations. In addition, operational exchanges with the United Nations Democracy Fund, including sharing of information on calls for proposals and projects selected, have been initiated and will be developed further.

The EU commitment to multilateralism and the cooperation and strategic partnerships with UN bodies and regional organisations such as the OSCE or the Council of Europe, also supported in this AAP, make for more concerted external action in this domain.

7. COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

Further development of the communication and visibility strategy for the EIDHR programme is foreseen. The main activities carried out or ongoing are:

- Updating of the internet website in accordance with a common new AIDCO template, which will provide a more user-friendly communication tool.
- Production of leaflets/posters/cartoon animation in 6 languages on the theme of abolition of the death penalty – similar material on the theme of torture is expected to be produced, along with a leaflet describing and promoting all the activities of the EIDHR.
- Production and distribution of EIDHR promotional items to delegations for use in training seminars and meetings with local civil society organisations (the production of more promotional material is planned).
- Desk Study compiling all EIDHR projects (2000-2006), which will also lead to the publication of a compendium.

A special effort will be put into communication and visibility actions to support and/or complement EIDHR activities and to make the EU support for democracy and human rights better known. These actions will take different forms and will range from the production of publications to public statements and/or press releases by the Commissioner and conferences on a given issue/theme. They will always meet the requirements of confidentiality and security linked to certain EIDHR activities. Commission delegations will also be able to spend up to 3% of the respective annual operational country allocation on support measures accompanying the implementation of country-based support schemes, including activities in the field of communication.

8. COST AND FINANCING

Budget heading 19.04.01	€7 973 478
Global calls for proposals	€1 673 478
Country-based Support Scheme (min.)	€30 846 000
Support measures financed by operational appropriations (max.)	€54 000
Strategic Partnerships – International Organisations	€ 200 000
Support for electoral processes – call for tender	€ 300 000
Budget heading 19.04.05 (C5 appropriations)	€19 439
Global Call for Proposals (Objective 1)	€19 439
Budget heading 21.04.04	€200 000
Pilot project: European emergency judicial assistance	€200 000
Budget heading 19.01.0407 (C1 & C5 appropriations)	€507 266
Support measures financed by EIDHR administrative appropriations – technical assistance 2007	€507 266
Total amount of the Decision	€99 200 183

Any remaining balance from one action may be reallocated to the budget of another action, preferably within the same strategic objective.

Within the maximum indicative budget of all the specific actions, cumulated changes not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution of the Community are not considered to be substantial, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the Annual Action Programme.

The authorising officer may adopt such changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.