



Factsheet on EU support to Civil Society in **Moldova in 2022**

Technical Assistance on Impact Monitoring of EU Civil Society Support
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According to the concept of communication materials agreed with the DG NEAR, data from the project portfolio about the European Union (EU) support to civil society per each country of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) will be provided to the EU Delegations (EUDs) in each of these countries as the primary basis for the EUDs' broader scope of visibility products.

The aim of this document is to provide the factual data and content support to the EUD to Moldova for the production of visibility materials, including but not limited to factsheet or infographic about the EU support to civil society in Moldova in 2022. The content presented in this document is intended for the communications team at the EUD and EUD's communication contractors to further incorporate it into visibility products.

DATA SOURCES

The document provides an overview of the EU support to civil society in Moldova during 2022, with reference to data available in the project portfolio of this TA project. Most part of this data has been also incorporated in the Moldova Country Report for 2022.

The Moldova portfolio of civil society projects includes the EU-funded initiatives, which were either carried out directly by civil society organisations (CSOs) or implemented by international organisations for the benefit of CSOs. Overall, these projects fall under the following categories:

1. Grant projects supporting CSOs (actions or operating grants);
2. Grant projects that have established financial support schemes to third parties (FSTP), including through Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs);
3. Support to CSOs through an indirect management (channelled through international organisations).

The entire project portfolio as organised in the database, encompasses all projects within these categories that were already at the implementation stage by 1 January 2019 or started the implementation after that date. The information about the grant projects operating a FSTP scheme is systematised in a two-layer database, including both the main grant itself and its subsequent subgrant initiatives funded through the FSTP schemes. The project portfolio is updated regularly with new projects (grants and subgrants) when they enter the implementation stage.

As the present factsheet reflects the situation of the year 2022, for the country portfolio in support of civil society only those grant projects were compiled that were ongoing on 1 January 2022 and started until 31 December 2022.

DATA FOR MOLDOVA

Table 1 Key facts about EU civil society support in 2022

Category	Figure
Numbers of civil society grant projects ongoing in 2022	24
EU financial support to ongoing civil society grant projects, million EUR	32.91
Planned budget of FSTP schemes in grant projects with subgranting, million EUR	14.47
Numbers of civil society subgrant initiatives awarded by ongoing grant projects	261
Number of local NGOs and grassroots supported	221

In 2022, there were 24 ongoing grant projects in support of civil society. Among the ongoing grant projects, there are nine that started the implementation before 2022 and were completed in 2022, six projects that started during 2022, and nine grant projects that started before 2022 and will continue the implementation in 2023.

Table 2 Funded grant projects

Category	Grant projects without FSTP	Grant projects with FSTP	Total
Grant projects ongoing in 2022	6	18	24
Total budget, EUR	2,853,350	33,325,541	36,178,891
EU contribution, EUR	2,159,813	30,746,015	32,905,828
Average EU contribution per project, EUR	359,969	1,708,112	1,371,076
Range of grant amounts, EUR	59,956 – 1,000,000	400,000 – 5,000,000	59,956 – 5,000,000

The total budget of these 24 grant projects was EUR 36.18 million, whereas the EU contribution constituted EUR 32.91 million. This includes two largest grants of EUR 5 million to UN Women (CRIS numbers 413989) and People in Need (CRIS numbers 429614).

Out of these 24 projects ongoing in 2022, 18 grant projects (75% of total) established FSTP schemes, and awarded or planned to award subgrant initiatives. The EU contribution to these 18 projects with FSTP schemes was EUR 30.75 million, whereas the total budget was EUR 33.33 million. The average EU contribution per one project with a FSTP scheme constituted EUR 1.71 million, with the amount of financial support to individual projects ranging from EUR 400,000 to EUR 5 million.

The total EU contribution to six projects without subgranting was EUR 2.16 million, whereas the total budget of individual projects was EUR 2.85 million. The average EU contribution per one project without FSTP constituted EUR 359,969, with the amount of financial support to individual projects ranging from EUR 59,696 to EUR 1,000,000.

Table 3 Types of grant beneficiaries

Type of beneficiary	Grant projects without FSTP	Grant projects managing FSTP	Total
National non-governmental organisations	4	8	12
Foreign non-profit organisations	2	9	11
UN Agencies	-	1	1

The grant projects with and without FSTP schemes were mainly implemented by national non-governmental organisations as lead implementing partners. Out of the total of 24 grant projects, 12 projects were administered in 2022 through national NGOs, registered as public associations and foundations. The East Europe Foundation is the key implementing partner with four projects with FSTP schemes ongoing with a total EU contribution of EUR 5.68 million.

The second group of implementing organisations are European and international non-profit organisations that implement 11 ongoing grant projects in total, including most of the projects with FSTP schemes (9). The People in Need and Solidarity Fund PL are the key implementing partners with three ongoing projects with FSTP schemes with a total EU contribution of EUR 8.5 million. One grant project with subgranting with EU contribution of EUR 5 million is implemented by UN Women.

As to the 18 grant projects with FSTP schemes, eight are administered by national NGOs and nine by foreign non-profit organisations, e.g. Internews, European Partnership for Democracy, Gustav Stresemann Institute, Terre des Hommes.

Table 4 Funded grant projects per cooperation sector (based on DAC codes)

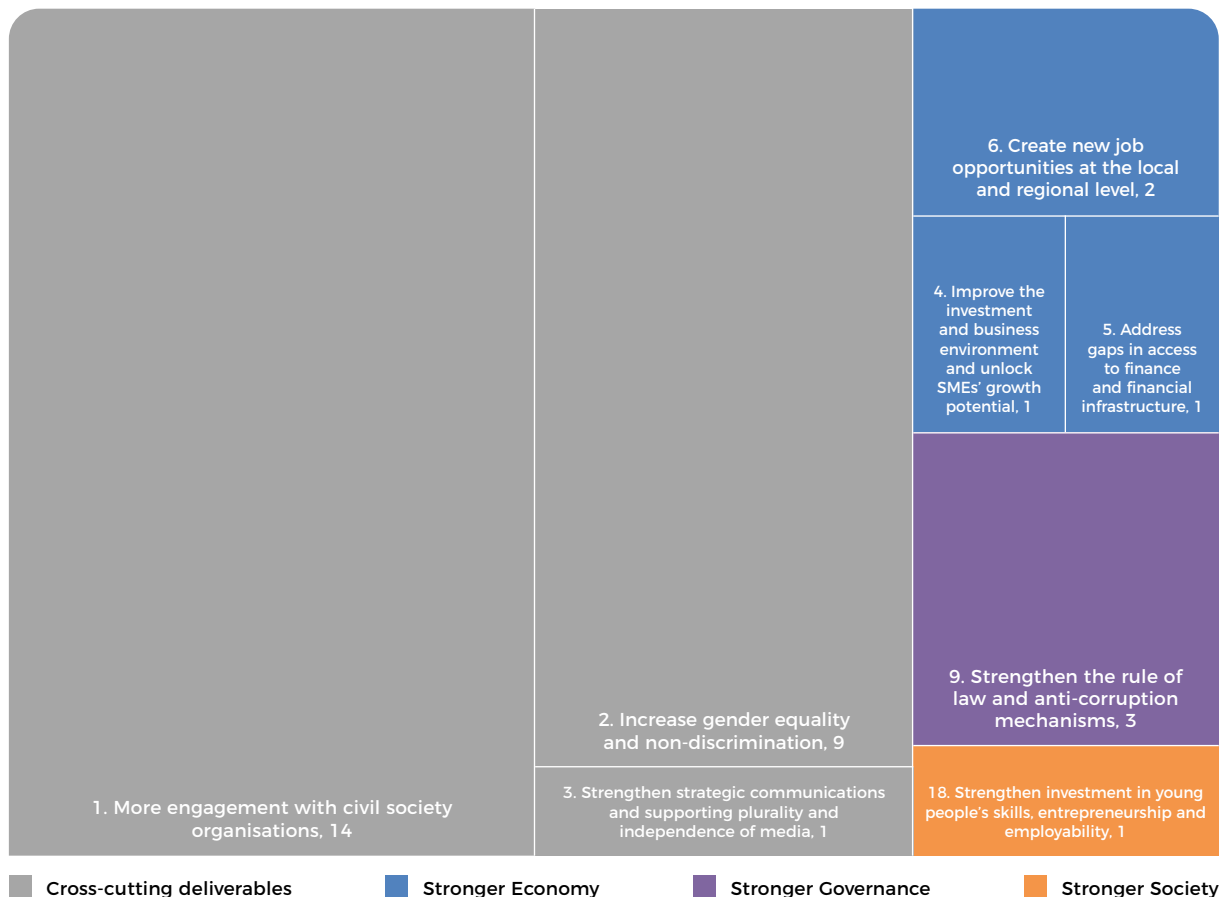
Sector	Grant projects without FSTP	Grant projects managing FSTP	Total
Democratic participation and civil society	-	9	9
Human rights	2	5	7
Media and free flow of information	-	1	1
Elections	2	-	2
Social protection	1	3	4
Rural development	-	2	2
Employment creation	-	1	1
Trade facilitation	-	1	1
Basic life skills for youth and adults	-	1	1
Animal protection	1	-	1

The EU provided support to civil society in a number of cooperation sectors. The EU Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society in Moldova 2021-2027 envisaged support to CSOs to play a more direct role as an essential domestic actor in the implementation of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement, in the implementation of activities in all cooperation sectors, holding the government to account, monitoring reforms and being a genuine partner for the government. It has to be noted that some grant projects in support of civil society are fairly complex, with several components and with objectives that fall under more than one cooperation sector.

The two most important sectors among the civil society grant projects with and without subgranting are the democratic participation and civil society, and the human rights. 16 grant projects out of 24, including 14 managing FSTP are implemented within these sectors. The nine democratic participation and civil society support projects cover a wide range of interventions, increasing capacities of local CSOs to provide social services, empower youth and women, develop social entrepreneurship, promote rural development, public accountability and good budgetary governance at local level. The human rights projects empower women and human rights defenders, fight discrimination against women and promote gender equality, and strengthen child protection.

Another key sector in 2022 with four ongoing grant projects and a total EU contribution of EUR 10 million is the social protection, promoting social cohesion and inclusiveness, and empowering NGOs as social service providers. The rural development sector with two ongoing grant projects received an EU contribution of EUR 3.5 million to support the institutionalisation and functioning of the LEADER approach in rural areas. Two more projects in elections support sector contribute to development of electoral legal framework and increase the transparency of electoral process.

Chart 1 Contribution of civil society grant projects to Priority Areas and 20 Deliverables for 2020



The diverse spectrum of civil society support projects delivered tangible benefits for the wellbeing of communities where they operate, in some cases bringing transformative changes into the lives of people at the grassroots level. All in all, these 24 ongoing grant projects substantially contributed to the 20 Deliverables for 2020 agreed between the EU and the EaP countries. It has to be noted that some grant projects in support of civil society are fairly complex, with several components and with objectives that fall under more than one deliverable.

The projects in Moldova are in total implemented within eight out of 20 deliverables. The most observed are the cross-cutting deliverables (grey colour in the table above), which cover 22 projects in total, with 14 project components contributing to more engagement with civil society organisations, nine contributing to increased gender equality and non-discrimination and one project strengthening strategic communication and supporting plurality and independence of media. The grant projects that implement FSTP schemes usually have a capacity building component, hence, they target the deliverable of more engagement with CSOs.

Among the four Priority Areas, the Stronger Economy (blue colour) and the Stronger Governance (purple colour) are most observed with four and three project components. And one project contributes to improved investment and business environment and unlocked SMEs' growth potential of the Stronger Society Priority Area (orange).

Table 5 Awarded subgrant initiatives included in the database

Category	Figure
Total number of ongoing grant projects with FSTP schemes	18
Planned total budget of FSTP schemes in all grant projects with FSTP, EUR	14,465,744
Number of grant projects with awarded subgrants and included in the database	13
Total number of awarded subgrants and included in the database	261
Average number of subgrants per grant project	20
Total budget of awarded subgrants, EUR	10,948,868
EU contribution to awarded subgrants, EUR	9,473,360
Average EU contribution per subgrant, EUR	36,296
Range of subgrant amounts, EUR	300 – 350,000

The 18 grant projects with financial support to third parties planned subgranting schemes with a total budget of 14.47 million, which is over 47% of the whole amount of EU funds allocated for projects with FSTP schemes.

Out of the total of 18 grant projects implementing FSTP schemes and ongoing in 2022, 13 grant projects provided lists of awarded subgrant initiatives to this database. The other five grant projects with subgranting have recently started the implementation and have not yet awarded subgrants.

The 13 grant projects with FSTP schemes awarded so far 261 subgrants for local and grassroots initiatives, including the largest number of 45 subgrants awarded by the Soros Foundation within the CSOs Acting for Better Social Service project (CRIS number 422368).

Out of the total of 261 subgrants, 89 subgrant initiatives ended the implementation before 2022, 68 ended the implementation during 2022, and 104 subgrant initiatives will continue the implementation in 2023.

The total amount of the EU funds allocated towards these 261 subgrant initiatives was EUR 9.47 million and the total budget was EUR 10.95 million. 146 initiatives or 56% of all were fully financed by the EU. The other subgrants were co-financed by the implementing partners or local authorities with average own contribution of over 27% of the total budget.

The average EU contribution for a subgrant was EUR 36,296, with the amount of financial support to individual subgrant initiatives ranging from EUR 300 to EUR 350,000. The average number of subgrants per one grant project with FSTP in the database was around 20 subgrants.

Table 6 Funded subgrant initiatives per cooperation sector

Sector	Total
Human rights	67
Social protection	93
Rural development	48
Basic life skills for youth	48
Good governance	5

These 261 subgrant initiatives have been implemented across various sectors, but mainly social protection. 93 subgrants awarded by three projects with FSTP aim to empower local NGOs from the social field, support vulnerable women and men, and limit the negative socioeconomic impact of gas and energy crisis.

Another key sector was the protection of human rights with 67 subgrants awarded by three grant projects, aiming at strengthening the mechanisms for fighting discrimination, implementation of gender mainstreaming in local public policies, and building capacity of local women/LGBT organisations and activists. In rural development sector, 48 subgrants awarded by three grant projects aim to support the institutionalisation of the LEADER approach in rural development policy and increase the role of the civil society in improving the rural development processes. Finally, 48 subgrants create basic life skills for youth and five subgrants enhance civil society contribution to good governance at the local level.

Table 7 Types of subgrant recipients

Type	Figure
Local non-governmental organisations	218
Local authorities	4
Enterprises	16
Individuals	20
Grassroots	3

Among the 261 subgrant recipients, 218 (84%) are implemented by local non-governmental organisations. There are four other smaller groups of subgrant recipients: 20 individuals, such as activists, social workers and entrepreneurs; 16 enterprises such as cooperatives, guesthouses and peasant households; four local authorities and three grassroots such as local action groups.