

## Global assistance to strengthen civil society and improve related regulatory frameworks

The Civil Society Roadmap Facility provides strategic support and guidance to the EU and other relevant stakeholders in the process of developing, implementing and monitoring civil society roadmaps

**#5**  
Gender  
equality

**#10**  
Reduced  
inequalities

**#16**  
Peace, justice  
and strong  
institutions



Representatives of the National Youth Council and networks of women's organisations at a focus group organised in N'Djamena (Chad) during consultations for the development of the Civil Society Roadmap



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At the European level, the involvement of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in European Union (EU) external cooperation and development policy has a long history, dating back to the 1970s. It has evolved substantially over time, shaped by political factors and respect for human rights, which in turn have shaped successive development models and cooperation approaches.

The last decade has witnessed a radical change as the EU, championed by the European Commission and a number of Member States and echoing international trends, has progressively embraced a paradigm shift in their relations with CSOs. The underlying assumption now being that development and governance are complex, multi-actor and multi-layered processes. The EU now regards CSOs as key development 'actors' in their own right. They bring a unique added value by fostering democracy, governance, justice, and human rights.

### The role of roadmaps

Roadmaps (RMs) were first mentioned in a 2012 EU Communication. Welcomed by other key European institutions, namely the Council and the European Parliament, RMs are meant to improve the impact, predictability and visibility of EU actions and to ensure consistency and synergy of support to CSOs through the various sectors covered by EU external relations. They are also intended to progressively trigger coordination and sharing of best practices with EU Member States and possibly other international actors active in support of CSOs (such as non-European donors, UNDP, the World Bank, USAID, etc.).

The exercise to develop the RMs was launched in January 2014 through a joint European External Action Service (EEAS)/Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG INTPA) note addressed at EU delegations. The joint nature of the

note mirrors the two-fold approach – political and developmental – that has underpinned the RM process since its outset.

Throughout the initial period 2014–2017, under the leadership of INTPA G2 and with the support of the Roadmap Facility in several countries, a total of 107 RMs were finalised and implemented in varying degrees, using a combination of research, policy dialogue and operational support (i.e. funding through both thematic and bilateral programmes). All in all, progress made through the introduction of the RMs was reported to be positive. The process of drafting the RMs itself created an opportunity for the EU to think more strategically and develop a joint vision for its engagement with CSOs in each country.

In 2017, as the end of the first phase of the action was approaching, several EU delegations – a number of them with the support of the Roadmap Facility – started reviewing and updating their RMs for the period of 2018–2020 and beyond. They took into consideration the new overarching 2030 Agenda as well as the EU commitments outlined in the EU New Consensus on Development. To date, more than 75 second generation RMs have been finalised for the period 2018–2020 and are being implemented at different levels using, once again, a combination of means ranging from research and policy dialogue to operational support, capacity development, funding of projects, and support to networking.

The stock-taking exercise done in 2019 showed that, compared to their predecessors, the second generation of RMs running from 2018–2020 have evolved from a fundamentally analytical exercise, where the EU broadened its knowledge of the civil society landscape, to a strategic tool which is reportedly more inclusive and effective and better designed.

**Donor**  
European Commission

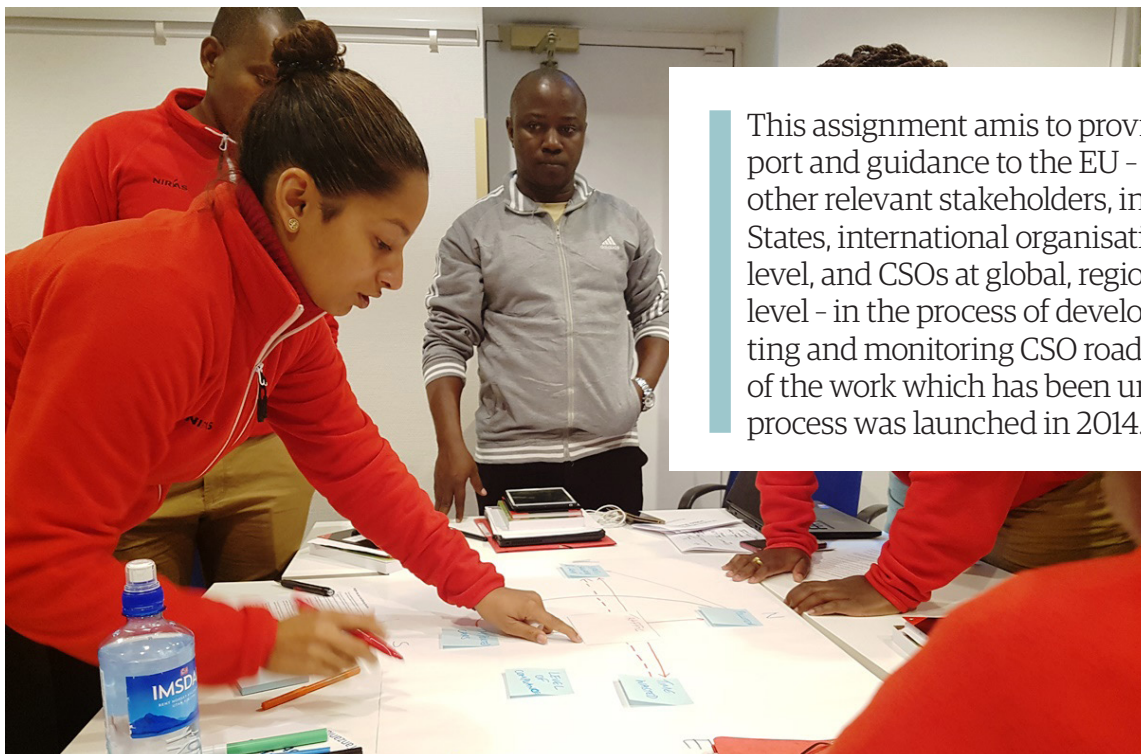
**Client**  
INTPA G2

**Location**  
Africa, Asia Pacific, EU  
neighbourhood coun-  
tries, Latin America and  
Caribbean

**Contract value**  
€ 1,422,380

**TA value**  
€ 879,880

**Duration**  
April 2021–2024



This assignment aims to provide strategic support and guidance to the EU - and conceivably other relevant stakeholders, including Member States, international organisations at country level, and CSOs at global, regional and/or country level - in the process of developing, implementing and monitoring CSO roadmaps, on the basis of the work which has been underway since the process was launched in 2014.

## Project scope

NIRAS has defined four groups of activities that cover the deliverables suggested:

- + Update and finalisation of RMs post 2020
- + Implementation of the RMs post 2020 and support to EU delegations in an enhanced engagement with CSOs
- + Monitoring and evaluation of the EU RMs
- + Communication strategies on the RMs

### NIRAS is part of the way forward for a new generation of CSO roadmaps

Today, civil society around the world is undergoing far-reaching changes and facing unprecedented challenges as the world continues to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the environmental crisis grows, governments and other non-state actors are constricting the civic space, new forms of informal and more fluid activism are emerging, and a digital technology revolution is taking place. At the European level, the EU is entering a new phase, as it is completing its debates around its new post-2020 funding instruments.

With a project period of 36 months and based on the lessons learned from previous RM Facilities, NIRAS has been contracted to answer in a tailor-made way to the support requests of EU delegations in relation to the CSO RM process, once filtered by INTPA G2.

NIRAS's support will cover any of the countries eligible under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), depending on the request formulated by the delegations. The specific aim of this assignment is to provide strategic support and guidance to the EU (namely EUDs and DG INTPA) - and conceivably to other relevant stakeholders, including Member States, other international organisations at country level, and CSOs at global, regional and/or country level - in the process of developing, implementing and monitoring the RMs on the basis of the work which has been underway since the process was launched in 2014. This will be achieved through the establishment and running of a dedicated demand-driven support mechanism - the Roadmap Facility - acting both at global and country level, and allowing for the mobilisation of highly qualified technical assistance.

### Improving the enabling environment for civil society throughout EU cooperation efforts

At the global level, the support will build on and further expand the work done by the two previous Roadmap Facilities while strengthening the focus on the promotion of an enabling environment, in close cooperation with INTPA G2. As with the previous Facilities, global support is based on a comprehensive strategy, articulated around the following six activities:

- Development of global/regional analytical studies;
- Development of methodological tools;
- Design of information and communication material;
- Support to identification and monitoring of programmes and projects;
- Drafting of a stocktaking report;
- Organisation of workshops/seminars/exchange of experiences on civil society and the Roadmap for EU/EU delegation staff.

Similar to the previous Facilities, NIRAS's mandate is not to function as a classical technical assistance facility in the sense of strictly "acting on behalf of", but rather as a support function aimed at assisting the EU, who remains in the driver's seat throughout the RMs process.

In continuity of the work of the previous Roadmaps Facilities, this Facility will continue to act as a "helpdesk" providing ad-hoc and quick assistance to EUDs in close coordination with INTPA G2 ensure a strong pedagogical dimension, and pay due attention to the overall process as well as acting as a knowledge hub for collecting and sharing relevant information.