

# Call for Participants - Civil Society Actions at the National Level

## Introduction

This call is issued by the Civil Society Forum on Drugs (CSFD). The CSFD is an expert group to the European Commission. Its membership comprises 45 civil society organisations (CSOs) coming from across Europe and representing a variety of fields of drug policy, and a variety of stances within those fields. Its purpose is to provide a broad platform for a structured dialogue between the Commission and the European civil society which supports drug policy formulation and implementation through practical advice. The momentum for the CSFD's formation can be traced back to the [Green Paper on the Role of Civil Society in Drugs Policy in the European Union](#).

As part of its work in 2018 and 2019, the CSFD is seeking to stimulate implementation of the [EU Action Plan on Drugs](#) at national level, and with particular reference to the work of CSOs. The Action Plan has been adopted by all EU Member States and is a great achievement both for its progressive content and for the meaningful involvement of civil society in its preparation. To enhance understanding of, and focus on, the EU Action Plan at national level, the CSFD will work to identify case studies of CSO involvement in drug policy at a national level. The case studies will highlight both examples of good practice and examples of challenges in CSO engagement.

## Background Information

CSOs play a vital role in the implementation of drug policies. An involved civil society can bring new information to decision-makers in a variety of ways, including through research, experience working in close contact with particular populations and through bringing diverse opinions and ideas<sup>1</sup>. The Pompidou Group (2016) has noted that CSOs bring “*knowledge and independent expertise to the process of decision making and policy making*”<sup>2</sup>. This can add to policy-makers’ understanding of an ‘on the ground’ environment which is often in flux. Greer *et al* (2017) note that civil society delivers things that state, market and family cannot deliver<sup>3</sup>, and working to increase communication between these areas will allow policy makers to benefit from CSO experience, allowing policy to be informed by those who are most familiar with the daily realities of working under existing policy structures.

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<sup>1</sup> See, for example, Greer, S., Wismar, M. and Kosinska, M. (2017). What is civil society and what can it do for health? In: S. Greer, M. Wismar, G. Pastorino and M. Kosinska, ed., *Civil Society and health - contributions and potential*. [online] World Health Organisation, pp.15-16. Available at: [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/349526/Civil-society-web-back-cover-updated.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/349526/Civil-society-web-back-cover-updated.pdf?ua=1) [Accessed 22 Feb. 2018].

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p.1

<sup>3</sup> Greer, Wismar and Kosinska (2017), p. 14

Additionally, research from other policy arenas indicates that good civil society involvement can create a better acceptance of policies – when civil society is involved, popular legitimacy increases<sup>4</sup>. The process can be perceived as more transparent and accountable – important features of good governance. As the Pompidou Group (2016) has noted, civil society involvement creates added value to the policy and planning process itself, *‘enhancing the legitimacy, quality, and understanding and longer term applicability of the policy initiative’*<sup>5</sup>. Thus, a structured and formal engagement of civil society can better equip states to plan, implement and measure policy initiatives, thus directly contributing to national and EU drugs strategy objectives.

Nonetheless, in the CSFD’s experience, the degree of civil society involvement in the formation and implementation of drug policies at national level can often be limited. There are likely a variety of reasons for this, including a lack of awareness, knowledge and experience among both policy makers and CSOs as to the value civil society involvement can bring to policy processes. The CSFD is committed to working towards improving this situation, and this call forms part of that work.

### **What is the call about?**

This call is aimed at civil society organisations<sup>6</sup> operating in the area of drugs and drug policy across Europe<sup>7</sup>. We are looking to identify eight case studies in total – four each in two categories. The two categories are:

1. Case studies of positive CSO engagement in policy processes at national level. Case studies in this area will be described and shared as good practice examples.
2. Case studies of challenges in implementing the EU Action Plan on Drugs at the national level. Case studies in this area will be described and the relevant CSOs supported to develop and

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<sup>4</sup> See, for example,

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/257408083\\_Effects\\_of\\_civil\\_society\\_involvement\\_on\\_popular\\_legitimacy\\_of\\_global\\_environmental\\_governance](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/257408083_Effects_of_civil_society_involvement_on_popular_legitimacy_of_global_environmental_governance)

<sup>5</sup> *Op. cit.*, p.2

<sup>6</sup> For the purposes of this call, ‘civil society’ is defined using the definition suggested by the Council's Horizontal Drugs Group in its thematic debate on the subject in September 2005 was *“the associational life operating in the space between the state and market, including individual participation, and the activities of non-governmental, voluntary and community organisations”*. The call is aimed at civil society organisations and thus excludes individuals. Applicants should be non-governmental, voluntary and community organisations operating in the space between state and market and focused on drug policy.

<sup>7</sup> ‘Europe’ in this context includes member states of the European Union, as well as candidate and potential candidate countries

implement advocacy strategies, which will serve as example and can support similar activities in other countries.

For both categories, applicant CSOs should be:

- be legal entities that are capable of drawing down funds from state and EU sources
- be incorporated in a European (EU member state, accession, candidate or potential candidate) country

Further specific criteria for each category are set out below.

### **Category 1 – Good Practice Examples**

#### Overall objective:

To showcase good practice examples of CSO engagement in drug policy at national level.

#### Activity:

To produce a case study report which is c. 3000 words in length, written in English and has been prepared according to an agreed template

#### Specific criteria for positive Case Studies

- The CS action/advocacy activity has already been carried out.
- The CS action is linked to specific topics of the EU Action Plan on Drugs.
- The CS action can serve as good practice example and inspiration for others/can have a leverage effect
- The CS action had a positive result. Certain success factors can be identified and shared.

#### Support:

A stipend of €800 is payable for each case study

### **Category 2 – Challenges for CSO engagement**

#### Overall objective:

To identify and address specific challenges in CSO engagement in drug policy at the national level

Activities:

- To set out a problem analysis and short action plan to address the issue
- To implement the action plan
- To organize a policy dialogue meeting with key stakeholders
- To provide a final report which is c. 5,000 words in length written in English and has been prepared according to an agreed template

Specific criteria for national civil society actions

- The CS action/advocacy activity has not yet been carried out.
- The CS action is linked to specific topics of the EU Action Plan on Drugs.
- The CS action can serve as good practice example and inspiration for others/can have a leverage effect.
- Civil society actions include:
  - Problem analysis
  - Development of the action/strategy
  - Implementation of the action/strategy
  - Evaluation and reporting
- The implementation phase includes the organisation of a Policy Dialogue Meeting.
- Participating CSOs will get ongoing support in the development and implementation of their strategy.

Support:

A stipend of €2500 per case study is available, to include organisation of the dialogue meeting

# Call for Participants - Civil Society Actions at the National Level

## Application Form – Category 1

All applications to be submitted to [jacqueline.kenny@aldp.ie](mailto:jacqueline.kenny@aldp.ie) by 15 September 2018. Late applications will not be accepted

### Applicant Details

Name of Organisation:

Focus of organisation's work:

Scope of the organization (local, national or international):

Address:

Email:

Website:

Name of the contact person:

### Case study details

What is the action you have carried out that is the topic of your proposed case study?

What is its relevance the EU Action Plan on Drugs?

Why did you address this topic?

Who was targeted with your action?

In which way did you address the topic?

Which kind of tools did you use?

Who was involved?

What was the result of your action?

What were the success factors of your action?

How can this action have a leverage effect/positive effect to other CSOs?

# Call for Participants - Civil Society Actions at the National Level

## Application Form – Category 2

All applications to be submitted to [jacqueline.kenny@aldp.ie](mailto:jacqueline.kenny@aldp.ie) by 15 September 2018. Late applications will not be accepted

### Applicant Details

Name of Organisation:

Focus of organisation's work:

Scope of the organization (local, national or international):

Address:

Email:

Website:

Name of the contact person:

### Case study details

What is the topic of the EU Action Plan on Drugs, which you want to address with your action?

Why do you want to address this topic (describe the problem)?

Who will be targeted with your action?

What would you like to achieve with your action?

In which way do you want to address the topic?

Which other stakeholders would you like to involve?

Which challenges will you face in the implementation?

Which kind of specific support will you need to implement your action?

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
1 August 2018	Launch of the call
15 September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deadline to submit application</li> <li>- Selection of organisations, based on pre-defined criteria</li> <li>- Selection will be made by members of the working group 1 and 3.</li> <li>- CSFD Members which submit an application are excluded from selecting the case studies.</li> </ul>
30 September 2018	Final selection of action plans
October 2018 – May 2019	<p>Problem analysis</p> <p>Development of action plan/strategy</p> <p>Implementation of action plans</p>
February 2019	Consultation meeting with national stakeholders to discuss implementation national advocacy plans (Budapest) – 8 persons
May 2019	Organisation of 4 national Policy Dialogue Meetings
July 2019	Finalisation and reporting of national actions
August 2019	Launch on website