

# EU Civil Society Contact Group

## Draft 2009 work program

2 December 2009

*This document aims to complement the Civil Society Contact Group 2009-2011 strategic plan by setting out a number of actions to be implemented throughout 2009. The priorities and highlights of the year as foreseen in the strategic plan are the following:*

Issue	Activities
Civil dialogue: making it work better	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Develop clear recommendations on how the EU institutions can strengthen their relations with civil society organisations (basis: civil dialogue study, vision meeting, "access to council" study, Article 11)</li> <li>➤ Develop common narrative about role and value of civil society organisations</li> </ul> <p>EU transparency and accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Contribute to evaluation of European Commission Lobby-Register on basis of our guidelines</li> <li>➤ Monitor inter-institutional work on a common Lobby-Register</li> <li>➤ Monitor revision of regulation on Access to documents</li> </ul> <p>European Parliament elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Dissemination of Toolkit (January – February)</li> <li>➤ Update guide for partnership (update first semester, promotion second semester)</li> <li>➤ Civil society exhibition/fair in European Parliament (preparation first semester, event in autumn)</li> </ul>
EU Budget Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Monitor and input in EU Budget review</li> </ul>
Cross-sectorial campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Initiate cross-sectorial campaign</li> </ul>

Goal 2009-2011	The members of the Civil Society Contact Group share information and skills and engage in campaigns on issues of common interest			
<b>1 Members share information and skills</b>				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Expected actions</i>	<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Who?</i>	<i>Funding</i>
Exchange regularly on policy issues and members activities during steering and working group meetings	-	ongoing	Steering and working groups	core funding
Promote invitations between members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Set up a list-serve for this purpose</li> <li>➤ Update contact list in member only section of website</li> <li>➤ Meet each sector and promote this idea with the relevant people</li> </ul>	By the end of the year During summer  Second semester	coordinator  coordinator  coordinator	core funding  core funding  core funding
Improve communication between members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Bring together communication officers in order to present the Civil Society Contact Group and its members and for networking</li> <li>➤ Include relevant news from members in weekly mailing</li> </ul>	Second semester   Ongoing, to be reinforced after communication meeting	Coordinator and sector's communication officers   Coordinator, communication officers	core funding   core funding
<b>2 Members and their members reinforce their collective identity as civil society actors</b>				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Expected actions</i>	<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Who?</i>	<i>Funding</i>
Cross-sectorial lunch debates	-	3-4 over the entire year	Steering g, working g's, coordinator	core funding
<b>3 Members engage in activities and campaign(s) on issue(s) of common interest</b>				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Expected actions</i>	<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Who?</i>	<i>Funding</i>
Monitor and input in EU Budget Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Meet Commissioner Grybauskaite to discuss consultation, conferences and next steps</li> </ul>	Early 2009	Delegation	core budget

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Meet MEP Boege, chair of the Budget committee to present our principles and check out possibility of civil society hearing</li> <li>➤ Analyse Commission document and prepare follow-up input (if further input possible)</li> </ul>	<p>Early 2009</p> <p>May-August 2009</p>	<p>Delegation</p> <p>Working group</p>	<p>core budget</p> <p>core budget</p>
European elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ensure dissemination of toolkit through partners in new member states</li> <li>➤ Update guide for partnership</li> <li>➤ Plan and implement a civil society exhibition/fair in the EP to take place in autumn</li> </ul>	<p>January-February</p> <p>First semester</p> <p>First year</p>	<p>coordinator</p> <p>Coordinator and members</p> <p>Working group</p>	<p>core budget</p> <p>To be found</p> <p>Core budget and members budget</p>
Explore the possibility of running a cross-sector campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Set up an initial meeting to explore the interest in running a cross-sector campaign on a specific issue e.g. energy</li> </ul>	<p>First semester</p>	<p>Ad-hoc group, coordinator</p>	<p>core budget</p>

Goal 2009-2011	The EU institutions strengthen civil dialogue and participatory democracy infrastructures on the basis of Civil Society Contact Group recommendations			
<b>4 The Civil Society Contact Group formulates clear recommendations on how EU institutions can strengthen their relations with civil society organisations</b>				
Activity	Expected actions	Time frame	Who?	Funding
Develop recommendations on what is needed to make the EU more participatory paying special attention to the issue of NGO funding, representativity of organisations, including the report on 'Access to Council'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Discuss ideas from vision meeting in regular meeting(s) and start to develop recommendations</li> <li>➤ Learn from Social Platform experience on their annual theme 2008 'civil dialogue at national level'</li> <li>➤ Organise a lunch debate to discuss ideas/recommendations</li> <li>➤ Draft a set of recommendations</li> </ul>	first semester  first semester  first semester  first semester	Steering Group  Steering Group  Coordinator  Coordinator or Working Group	core budget  core budget  core budget  core budget
Develop a common narrative about the role of NGOs and the value of civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ On the basis of December 2008 discussion draft a list of arguments</li> <li>➤ comment and agree on the drafted arguments</li> </ul>	first semester  first semester	Working Group  Members/Steering group	core budget  core budget
Disseminate results of "Access to Council" study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ discuss and implement dissemination strategy</li> </ul>	first semester	Working Group	core budget
<b>5 Engage EU institutions in a debate on how to implement the Civil Society Contact Group recommendations</b>				
Activity	Expected actions	Time frame	Who?	Funding
New European Commission campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Discuss common activity</li> <li>➤ Develop and implement common activity</li> </ul>	Early 2009  ?	Steering group  Steering g., coordinator	core budget  core budget
Disseminate the developed recommendations to relevant actors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Set up a meeting with the Secretariat General</li> </ul>	Second semester	Coordinator	core budget

	➤ Raise issue in existing civil society – European Commission fora		Members	
<b>6 Promote transparency of EU institutions and decision-making</b>				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Expected actions</i>	<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Who?</i>	<i>Funding</i>
Monitor inter-institutional work on common lobby-register for the three EU institutions	-	Whole year	Coordinator	core budget
Monitor the revision of regulation 1049/2000 on access to documents	-	Whole year	Coordinator	core budget
Contribute to the evaluation of the register for interest representatives	➤ Discuss the experiences with the register after one year of running and evaluate on the register on the basis of our guidelines	May-June	Working group and steering group	core budget
	➤ Feedback to Secretariat General	?	Working Group	core budget

Goal 2009-2011	<b>The continuity of the cross-sector cooperation in the Civil Society Contact Group is guaranteed through effective working structures and adequate funding of a secretariat</b>			
<b>7 Ensure sustainable funding for the activities of the Civil Society Contact Group</b>				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Expected actions</i>	<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Who?</i>	<i>Funding</i>
Develop and implement a sustainable fundraising strategy	➤ Develop a fundraising strategy	Early 2009	Coordinator+chair+line manager with support from members' fundraisers	core budget
	➤ Implement the strategy	Whole year	Coordinator + chair + line manager	core budget
	➤ Report back to funders	End of the year	Coordinator + line manager	core budget
<b>8 Ensure the successful operations of the Civil Society Contact Group through regular review of its working structures</b>				
<i>Activity</i>	<i>Expected actions</i>	<i>Time frame</i>	<i>Who?</i>	<i>Funding</i>
In the context of the development of the annual work program review working structures	➤ The steering group meets at least 5 times	Whole year	Steering group	core budget
	➤ In the first Steering group meeting of the year on the basis of the work program decides what working groups should be set up and who facilitates them	First steering group meeting	Steering group	core budget
	➤ The idea of working more in a campaign modus is tested	Whole year	Working groups	core budget

A couple of ongoing activities are no included in the work program: mainly communication and information through a weekly mailing as well as the maintenance of the website.

Core budget = Salary coordinator, rent and running cost office