

The CSF Steering Committee at its meeting on 26-27 July 2010 selected Civil Society Organisations which are to participate in the second meeting of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum in Berlin (18-19 November 2010).

By due deadline the European Commission received altogether 562 application from Civil Society Organisations from EU Member States, EaP Countries, international networks and from third countries.

According to the decision made by the participants to the first EaP Civil Society Forum, the selection of participants has been the responsibility of the CSF Steering Committee, which was elected in November 2009.

The selection procedure developed and applied by the CSF Steering Committee has been as follows:

1) The Civil Society Forum shall represent a wide range of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs): trade unions, employers' organisations, professional associations, NGOs, think-tanks, non-profit foundations, national and international CSOs/networks and other relevant Civil Society actors from EaP Partner Countries, but also from EU Member States and international organisations and networks. A limited number of CSOs from third countries could participate in the EaP CSF as observers without voting rights.

2) All CSOs fitting the above description and interested in participation in the Forum meeting 2010 were invited to submit expressions of Interest by 2 July 2010.

3) The selection of the participants to the EaP CSF 2010 has been carried out by the CSF Steering Committee in cooperation with European Commission representatives. The selection procedure was twofold:

A. As a first step two lists of recommended participants were prepared by:

(a) EaP Country Facilitators elected by the CSF in 2009 and supported by EaP national platforms, where they exist. In the case of CSOs from EU Member States and international organisations/networks as well as CSOs from third countries, recommendations were prepared by three EU representatives elected by the CSF in 2009;

(b) the thematic working group coordinators elected by the CSF in 2009.

Shortlists were prepared on the basis of the following criteria:

- Diversity of spheres of activity (it is crucial to assure the involvement of all the major components of civil society and at the same time to assure the adequate representation for each of the thematic working groups and subgroups).
- Involvement in ENP/EaP-related matters.

B. Final selection was made by the CSF Steering Committee in cooperation with European Commission representatives on the basis of the following criteria:

- Candidates to be selected had to receive more than one recommendation (see above point 3.A.).
- Diversity of spheres of activity (to assure the involvement of all the major components of civil society and at the same time to assure the adequate representation for each of the thematic working groups and subgroups).
- Involvement in ENP/EaP-related matters.
- Nationality (min 10% participants from each EaP country and min 25% from the EU). Up to 10 participants from third countries may be invited as guests (without voting rights).
- Participation in the previous Forum (min 40% of the new participants and max 60% of those who participated in CSF meeting in 2009).

The final list of CSOs invited to participate in the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum has been decided by the CSF Steering Committee and approved by the European Commission. Altogether 230 CSOs have been invited.

At the beginning of August 2010, the European Commission informed all applicants, including those who were not selected, of the results of the selection. The list of invited CSOs will be made public in due time before the Forum once the European Commission has received confirmations regarding participation in the meeting from all invited CSOs.