

	digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020131 Total estimated cost: EUR 3 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 3 000 000			
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>				
<b>13. Type of financing</b>	<b>Direct management</b> through: - Procurement and - Grants			
<b>14. Type of measure</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Cooperation facility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measures in favour of Civil Society			

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

Civil society in Sri Lanka is rich and diverse in terms of history, size, areas of work, capacities, and resources. The civic space has largely remained dynamic in Sri Lanka as reflected in the mass demonstrations of the first half of 2022. However, recently passed legislations, such as the Online Safety Act or those in the making such as the NGO Bill could have potentially a bearing on the functioning of civil society organisations (CSOs). Some CSOs report about significant constraints, especially those working on sensitive topics.

In this context, the action “Strengthening the Sri Lankan Civil Society as Actors of Development and Governance” will strengthen the capacity of CSOs, in particular regarding the organisational/institutional advocacy and management skills, targeting in particular community-based organisations, women and youth associations outside Colombo and engaged in the priority areas of the Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027. The support will be provided in line with the EU-Sri Lanka CSOs Roadmap 2021-2024, the Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy for Sri Lanka 2021-2024 as well as the Country-Level Implementation Plan (CLIP) for the Gender Action Plan (GAP) III. Besides providing organisational, advocacy, networking and other capacity development, the action will be also used to enable a structured dialogue between CSOs and the EU as well as dialogue with the Sri Lanka authorities and to support implementation of service delivery actions in the context of the economic crisis through a small grants' facility. Civil society will be supported to be seen as a credible partner in development, which at the time of the recovery from the economic crisis has particular relevance in income generation and contribution to social support and protection.

The action will be implemented through service and grant contracts. As a fall-back option implementation through indirect management with an international organisation with partner/s having expertise and experience on similar interventions and having established links with the relevant stakeholders, will be considered.

## 2 RATIONALE

### 2.1 Context

Civil society in Sri Lanka is rich and diverse in terms of size, areas of work and capacities and resources. According to some CSOs, the enabling environment for those organisations working on sensitive issues has deteriorated in recent years, and the relationship between these CSOs and public authorities in Sri Lanka has at times being