



EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Civil Society Forum

The role of CSOs in the reforming public institutions and strengthening governance

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Key prerequisites for effective CSO participation in public affairs

- 1) An appropriate legal, judicial and administrative environment for exercising the freedoms of expression, assembly and association, without disproportionate or unwarranted state interference.
- 2) A financial environment enabling CSOs to pursue public interest activities through favorable tax rules for private donations, membership fee and philanthropy
- 3) Rules for inclusive policymaking and monitoring of EU membership related reforms.

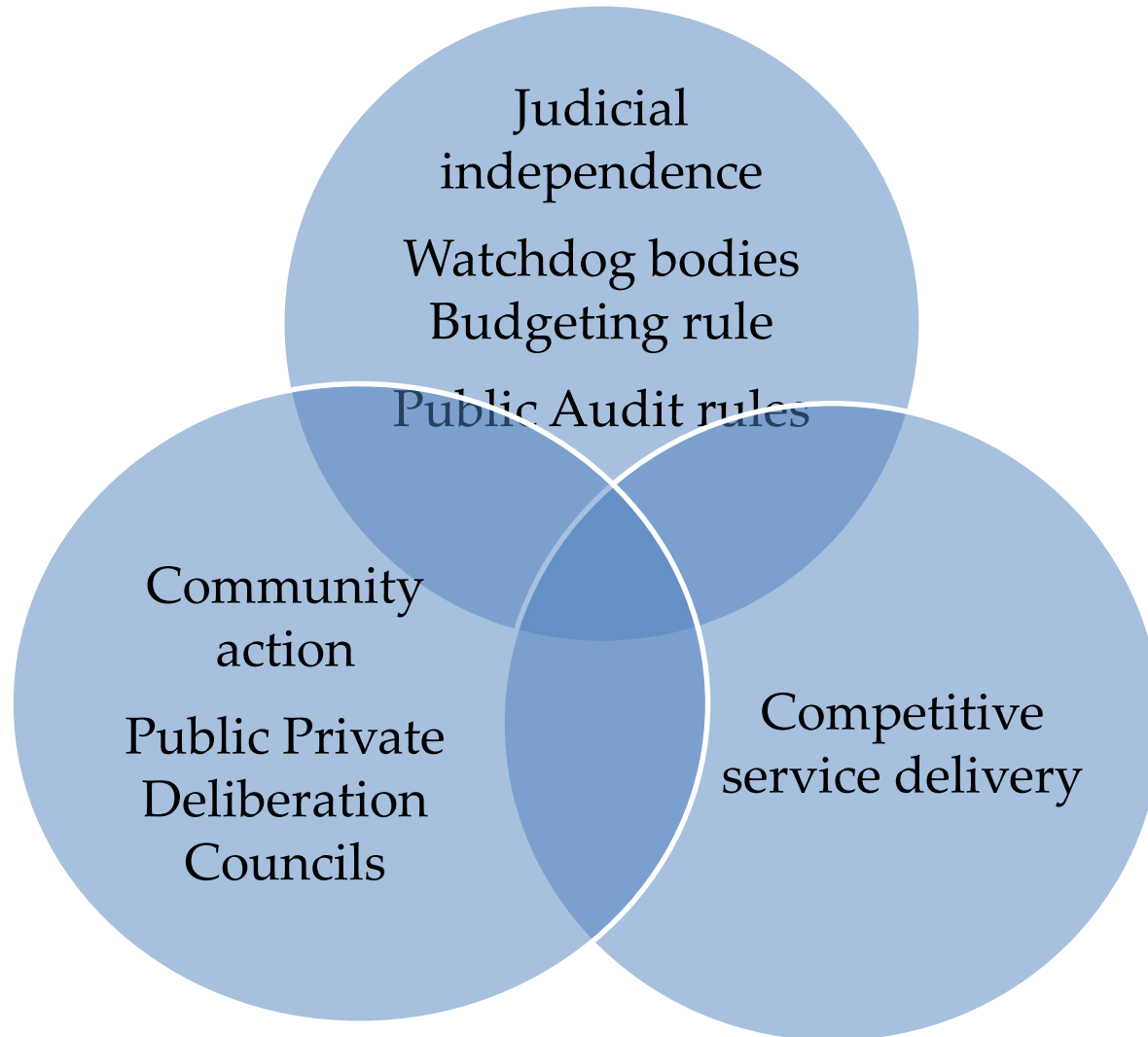
Key reform areas

- Strategic framework for public administration reform;
- Policy development and coordination;
- Public service and human resources management;
- Accountability of administration requires transparency, access to information and possibility of citizens for administrative and legal redress.
- Service delivery;
- Public financial management.

An approaches to institutional reform

- 1) Reforming the structure of the state,
- 2) Strengthening public sector management,
- 3) Working from the demand-side, and
- 4) Empowering communities for service delivery.

Three drivers of public sector reform



The roles in a functioning civil society

- Policy analysis and advocacy;
- Regulation and monitoring of state performance, and the actions and behavior of public officials;
- Building social capital and enabling citizens to identify and articulate their values, beliefs, civic norms and democratic practices;
- Mobilizing particular constituencies, particularly the vulnerable and marginalized sections of masses, to participate more fully in politics and public affairs;
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- Development work to improve the wellbeing of their own and other communities.

Practices and mechanisms for CS involvement in public institutions reform

- Involvement is mainly ad hoc, project based and initiated by CSOs. It comes in the form of shadow monitoring reports, policy recommendations, web monitoring tools, high-visibility events, advocacy campaigns.
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- In parallel, citizen participation is being advanced through institutionalized structures and dialogue through public councils, working groups, advisory bodies and other.

Conclusion

- The “theory of change” reflected in the new EC approach towards public administration reform which is combining strategy, policy dialogue, financial assistance in a more coherent and result-oriented manner.
- The clear guidance towards establishing an enabling environment for civil society development and operation provided by the EU Guidelines for support to civil society in EaP countries, supported by policy dialogue and a mix of funding instruments

Recommendations to EU

- Use policy dialogue in support to the implementation of Guidelines for EU support to Civil Society in enlargement countries
- Establish a formal framework for regular and structured dialogue with civil society on implementation of Guidelines at national and regional level
- Support independent monitoring of the implementation of Guidelines for EU support to Civil Society at national and regional level
- Establish a formal framework for regular and structured dialogue with civil society on PAR at national and regional level
- Monitor the civil society involvement in Public Institutions Reform (PIR) at national level
- Support independent monitoring of the implementation of PiR strategic documents at national level
- Support capacity building of CSOs to engage in PIR at national level
- Support CSO networking to strengthen participation in PIR

Recommendations to national authorities

- Create an enabling environment for civil society development and activity as per the Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries
- Establish formal structures for cooperation with civil society
- Exchange practices of civil society participation in public administration reform
- Design and implement strategy for cooperation with civil society
- Review policy framework for effective public consultations
- Establish a formal framework for regular and structured dialogue with civil society on PIR
- Implement OECD Guiding Principles for Open and Inclusive Policy Making.

Recommendations to civil society

- Engage more actively in policy making and monitoring of implementation of PIR Strategy and Action Plan at national level
- Engage in regular dialogue with the EC/SIGMA on PIR
- Establish/engage in national and regional networks for monitoring of implementation of PIR Strategies
- Strengthen capacities for research and advocacy for better advocacy
- Strengthen internal governance to improve image and credibility
- Establish/engage in national and regional networks to advocate for an enabling environment for civil society development and operations
- Engage in implementation and monitoring of EU Guidelines for Support to Civil Society in enlargement countries at national and regional level.

Thanks for your attention.

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