



Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken

Dialogue & Dissent

New Dutch policy working on an Enabling Environment through support to Civil Society

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Current Dutch funding of CSOs

➤ **High percentage of ODA via CSOs:**

2011: € 1211 million (26% of NL – ODA)

2012: € 1109 million (25% of NL – ODA)

2013: € 1100 million (26% of NL – ODA)

Always in 3 categories: thematic programmes ($\pm 45\%$), directly via embassies ($\pm 15\%$), and capacity building programmes ($\pm 40\%$).

➤ However: **severe budget cuts** in development cooperation:
Decrease in ODA-percentage: 0,8% in 2010 to 0,55% in 2017.

➤ Consequence: **reduction in financial support to CSOs;**
However only slight decrease in percentage of ODA to CSOs:
22% expected by 2016.



Shift in Dutch Policy towards civil society

(implemented from 2016 onwards)

Future collaboration Dutch government with civil society:

Strengthening civil society in lower- and lower-middle income countries

- Attention for **lobby and advocacy** (for in-country service delivery and bringing national issues to global policy arena);
- **Enabling environment** for civil society;
- Dutch CSOs partner in **achieving Dutch policy objectives**;
- **Direct funding** by Embassies and by Thematic Departments continues.



New Policy Framework: Dialogue & Dissent

➤ **Strategic Partnerships for Lobbying and Advocacy (€ 185 million/year)**

"CSOs have an indispensable lobbying and advocacy role to play in society, and this policy framework sets out a strategy to help them fulfil this role, through engaging into strategic partnerships with the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation"

➤ **Innovation Fund (€ 10 million/year)**

Innovative ideas in the area of lobbying and advocacy

➤ **Accountability Fund (€ 15 million/year)**

Direct funding of southern organisations by embassies



Strategic Partnerships?

- A strategic partnership is **more far-reaching** than the relationship between grant provider and grant recipient.
- **Jointly define strategic goals.** Partners' activities can take place in the international arena, in individual low- and lower-middle-income countries, or in the Netherlands.
- Partners will **retain their own identity** and respect each other's fundamental independence. Agreements will be made about roles, tasks, responsibilities and communication.
- Max. **25 partnerships** will be selected to ensure the quality of each partnership while at the same time doing justice to the many themes in the policy agenda. (min € 2 mln., max € 20 mln.)



Selection Process

- Partners are selected on the basis of **quality and strategic potential** (25 maximum)
 - No need to submit detailed programme proposals in first phase.

- Two **stages of assessment**:
 1. A check of the **threshold criteria** (registration, accounts, salaries of directors, timeline activities in countries, etc.)
 2. Checks of the **track record** and **Theory of Change** on which they want to build the future partnership

- The CSOs or alliances selected will **discuss and formulate a joint strategic goal** with the Minister.
 - Based on this strategic goal, partners will submit, in outline, a programme proposal, including a budget.



Other activities in support of an Enabling Environment for CSOs

- The NL Minister is co-chair of the **Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation**
- The NL is also co-chair of the **Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment** – a true multi-stakeholder initiative and forum for dialogue and action
- The NL a member of the Community of Democracies, and active in its **Working Group on Enabling and Protecting civil society**
- As an EU Member State the NL supports and promotes the process of **EU Roadmaps** for engagement with civil society at country level
- The **NL embassies** around the world have to take into account the Enabling Environment when programming aid; they are equally requested to report back
- The NL participates in the meetings of the **International Donor Group** (of donors supporting civil society worldwide)



Thank you !

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