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- The concept of “CSOs” embraces a **wide range of actors** with **different roles and mandates**.
- Definitions vary over time and across institutions and countries.

What the EU means by CSOs (EC,2012)

NGOs

- The EU considers CSOs to include **all non-State, not-for-profit structures, non-partisan and non-violent**, through which people organize to pursue **shared objective and ideals**, whether political, cultural, social and economic. Operating from the local to national, regional and international levels, they comprise urban and rural, formal and informal organizations. The EU values CSOs’ diversity and specificities; it engages with accountable and transparent CSOs which share its commitment to social progress and to the fundamental values of peace, freedom, equal rights and human dignity.



EU Member States - shared objective and ideals :

Criteria for membership

- **Political** – stability of institutions guaranteeng democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and minority rights and adherence to the aims of the EU
- **Economic** – existence of a functioning market economy and the ability of market factors to cope with **competitive pressure** and market laws within the EU
- **Legal** – adoption of the entire acquis, **implementation and application**
- **Administrative** – adoption of appropriate administrative structures to ensure the conditions for the gradual and harmonious integration



Coming to the umbrella condition how NGOs could contribute to country EU accession process:

- Changes of NGOs itself, by appropriate capacity building (in the case of *environmental NGOs*, related to Chapter 27 issues)

Possible indicators:

- Active engagement in preparation and implementation of **EU funded projects**
- Direct (and indirect) involvement in **programming processes** on national level
- **Activist approach** in practice, i.e. advocacy, lobbying, media campaigns
- **Expertise approach** in practice (with analysis and shadow reporting)
- **Creation of partnerships**, with other NGOs **AND** other stakeholders



1. Accession steps

Prior
official
candidacy
activities

When a country is ready it becomes an official candidate for membership — but this does not necessarily mean that formal negotiations have been opened.

The candidate moves on to formal membership **negotiations**, a process that involves the adoption of established EU law, preparations to be in a position to properly apply and enforce it and implementation of judicial, administrative, economic and other reforms necessary for the country to meet the conditions for joining, known as accession criteria.

When the negotiations and accompanying reforms have been completed to the satisfaction of both sides, the country can join the EU.



Negotiations under each chapter are based on *the following elements:*

• **Screening** – the Commission carries out a detailed examination, together with the candidate country, of each policy field (chapter), to determine how well the country is prepared. The findings by chapter are presented by the Commission to the Member States in the form of a screening report. The conclusion of this report is a recommendation of the Commission to **either open negotiations** directly **or** to require that **certain conditions – opening benchmarks** - should first be met.

Negotiating positions – before negotiations can start, the candidate country must submit its position and the EU must adopt a common position. For most chapters the EU will set **closing benchmarks** in this position which need to be met by the Candidate Country before negotiations in the policy field concerned can be closed. For chapter 23 and 24, the Commission is proposing that in the future these chapters would be opened on the basis of action plans, with interim benchmarks to be met based on their implementation before closing benchmarks are set.



2. Progress Monitoring: possible NGOs role

Some tools and methods in the EU accession process:

Pre-accession Screening
The Regular Progress Reports
EU Peer Reviews

- **Country specific tools for NGOs
engagement**
ECRAN project implementation

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Twining Programs

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Annual reporting on the Implementation of EU Law

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European Environmental Agency Core set of indicators



Environment in enlargement / region: 2014 EC Progress Report

Environment and Climate Change

Albania	There has been little progress in the fields of environment and climate change
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Overall, there was little progress in the fields of environment and climate change.
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Little progress was made in the areas of environment and climate change
Kosovo*	Overall, Kosovo has not progressed beyond the very initial stages of harmonisation with the Acquis....
Montenegro	Montenegro has made little progress in the areas of environment and climate change.
Serbia	Little progress has been made in the areas of environment and climate change.
Turkey	Turkey has made some progress in aligning legislation in the fields of environment and climate change, whereas enforcement remains weak.

Snapshot 1: Civil society in Serbia in Progress Reporting

GOOD – A LOT OPORTUNITIES FOR CSOs IN SERBIA

- Chanells:

On-line call

GOOD

By invitation

Consultancy Meeting

Question is why text in Progress Report do not corespond to conclusion

- 1. EU Delegation in Serbia

- 2. ECF NGOs Network (ECRAN Project)

- 3. Peer Reviews



• ECF NGOs Network (ECRAN Project)

- - **Environment and Climate Forum**
- [Http://www.ecranetwork.org/ECF/What-is-Environment-and-Climate-Forum](http://www.ecranetwork.org/ECF/What-is-Environment-and-Climate-Forum)

- CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME
- PREPARATORY MEETINGS AND WIDE CONSULTATIONS
- **ANNUAL MEETINGS**
- **OUTREACH AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION**

By sending oppinion related to Progress Report....in the process of preparation

Peer Reviews



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Serbia

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Snapshot 2: Civil Society in IPA programing

**GOOD -
PROCESS**

- **SECO Mechanism: Establishing a partnership to promote the use of international assistance**
- **Within the project “Support to the Department of Planning, Programming, Monitoring and Reporting on EU Funds and development assistance to the Office for European Integration of Serbia, for establishing a partnership to promote the use of international assistance” in March 2011 the mechanism was established, enabling civil society participation in planning and monitoring of EU and other international development assistance.**
- **1st round:** <http://www.cdspredlaze.org.rs/index.asp?language=en-us>
- <http://ambassadors-env.com/en/project/support-to-the-department-of-planning-programming-monitoring-and-reporting-on-eu-funds-and-development-assistance-to-the-office-for-european-integration-of-serbia-for-establishing-a-partnership-to/>
- **Now it is the „second round“ of projects, with leading NGOs changed through Call of interest and process of decision**

**NOT GOOD –
RECOGNITION OF
OPINION**



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Snapshot 3: Governmental Office for Cooperation with Civil Society

• <http://civilnodrustvo.gov.rs/en/> , English page is not updated.....

• „ The Office for Cooperation with Civil Society was established in 2011 by the Government of the Republic of Serbia. After years of advocacy by civil society, the Office has been established as **an institutional mechanism to support the development of a dialogue between the Serbian Government and CSO's.**“ Regulation on

the Office for Cooperation with Civil Society (“Official Gazette RS”, No.26/10)

To underline the difference of State and Society

• Now focus on the role of CSOs in negotiation process

• And towards Strategic document..

GOOD: CSOs had chance to watch on'line Explanatory screenings



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3. Negotiation

- EU accession is SHARED responsibility
- Technically, negotiation is performed by GOVERNMENTAL institutions
- „Space“/“modalities“ of NGOs involvement are country specific and depend from all actors



Possible role of NGos

- Monitor/be informed on all issues related Chapter 27: before, during and after the negotiations
- Prepare NGOs own position on issue NGO is interested/involved; Communicate message
- Find/contact/establish communication with Ministry, Parliament, to be informed
- Contribute to establishment of effective mechenisms



- Content of legislation IS NOT A TOPIC FOR NEGOTIATIONS

- **THE CONDITIONS AND TIMING OF THE ADOPTION, IMPLEMENTATION and ENFORCEMENT of all current EU rules**
- YES



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