



Press Release

Increasing Non State Actors' capacity: Launching of the 2nd phase of the Euro-Ethiopian Civil Society Fund

(5 October 2012) On October 1st 2012, the second phase of the Civil Society Fund has been launched. This fund is a joint initiative of the European Union and the Ethiopian Government, under the 10th European Development Fund, for a total budget of €6 million for four years. It is expected to increase the budget in the next future.

The second phase of the Civil Society Fund aims to enhance the contribution, the participation and the engagement of Non State Actors (NSA) in governance and development activities and to assure the delivery of more effective and efficient services to the Ethiopian population. The fund will provide grants, capacity building support through training and coaching, and fund management support. Those activities will increase human, material and technical capacity of NSA and improve their sustainability, accountability and constituency. The grants will target the European Union-Government of Ethiopia cooperation priority sectors such as environmental advocacy and governance.

The steering committee, in charge of overseeing and validating the overall direction and policy of the fund, will include civil society organizations, government representatives and the European Union in view of fostering dialogue and trust among them.

This second phase of the Civil Society Fund follows up on the successful completion of the first phase. Over 6 years a total of 56 grant contracts have been awarded and more than 400 civil society organizations have benefited of the capacity building activities provided by the programme in all regions of Ethiopia. The project portfolio showed a rich diversity in interventions with projects ranging from providing support to women and children facing abuse, campaigning for holistic Women's Empowerment to popularizing alternative dispute resolution and capacitating local courts.
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