

FPA Watch Group - Draft Work Plan for 2018-2019

MANDATE:

The FPA Watch Group – facilitated by VOICE - represents the views of ECHO NGO partners in the monitoring, review and consultation of all matters relating to the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) that governs the contractual relations between ECHO and its NGO partners. As described in the Terms of Reference of the FPA Watch Group (2016), the main purpose is to work towards a common interpretation and consistent application of the FPA between ECHO and its Partner NGOs. This work plan aims to define the main FPA Watch Group's commitments and outcomes for 2017. The next renewal of the WG will be in the end of 2020.

OBJECTIVES:

-Represent, with the facilitation of VOICE, the views of ECHO NGO partners in the monitoring, review and consultation of all matters relating to the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) that governs the contractual relationship between DG ECHO and its NGO partners -Work towards a common interpretation and consistent application of the FPA between DG ECHO and its Partner NGOs.

COMMITMENTS:

Please, refer to the ToRs 2016. The commitments include: -Defend the general interest of all ECHO NGO partners as related to the FPA -Collect, organise and analyse any difficulties working with the FPA, as well as any planned or potential changes to the FPA, from the view point of ECHO NGO partners -Being the contact representing ECHO NGO partners to which DG ECHO may refer when wanting to discuss any planned or potential changes to the FPA -Share any important issues arising from discussion with DG ECHO with the wider community of ECHO NGO partners -To provide and share input spontaneously or in response to solicitations from the Task Force

MEANS OF WORK:

Meetings Watch Group members attend Watch Group meetings and participate in info exchange in between meetings by email. The Task Force (TF) will meet with ECHO to discuss ideas and comments that have arisen, and to negotiate issues as necessary. Watch Group members are the primary source of comments, feedback and examples, concerning practicalities of implementation of FPA by NGOs. Watch Group members should actively seek examples and give comments on FPA related issues; this feed-in will be sought and coordinated by the Task Force. Papers/documents: - General and detailed comments on ECHO FPA-related draft texts - Internal working notes - for WG/TF internal use only (e.g. in preparation of a meeting) - Working notes to ECHO (on thematic issues) - Surveys and analysis
=>For the year 2018, key issues for input from WG members are as per the issues outlined further in this work plan. WG members can feed in additional suggestions / copies / topics relevant for discussion at any time via VOICE. The Watch Group's discussion of key documents ensures that they are representative of NGO experience and opinion.

A Two year Workplan: In 2018 the FPA WG work plan has been adapted in order to both continue monitoring the ongoing FPA 2014 and to take into account the activities around the next FPA consultation. A new FPA should be drafted by the end of 2018 and the draft of the FPA, General conditions and different tools and annexes will be further discussed through the first half of 2019. Due to these circumstances the FPA WG workplan has been exceptionally designed to cover the two years until the launch of the new FPA in January 2020.

Ref	Issues/ Sector	Indicative timeline	Planned and ongoing activities	Achievements
1	ONGOING MONITORING OF THE FPA 2014			
1.1	Evaluation of the current FPA 2014	February- March 2018	March 2018 TF to launch a survey with the FPA WG to evaluate the FPA 2014	Mai 2018: The survey had been launched and the results shared with the WG June 2018: Presented the survey results to ECHO July 2018: Survey summary is available publicly online
1.2	Monitoring of ongoing funding mechanisms: HIPs Funding decisions, timing and deadlines	2018-2019	2018 TF to continue monitoring the HIP process 2018 (feedback on the process from HIP publication to grant signing and potential top ups)	Nov 2017 HIP were published earlier without the amount WG recommendations were taken into account Jan 2018 VOICE analysed the HIP process 2018

1.3	Monitoring of other FPA 2014 issues	2018-2019	conditions for FPA application provide space to share concerns / issues linked to FPA implementation Audit: consultation on the list of supporting documents required for audit FPA WG to discuss crisis modifiers	March 2018: FPA TF meeting with ECHO audit team to discuss the list of sample documents June 2018: Follow up meeting on audit issues TF, ECHO and the auditors July 2018: Last ad hoc meeting on Audit with ECHO and the auditors: found an agreement on having an indicative list of sample documents
1.4	Monitoring of other funding mechanisms and policies impacting indirectly the FPA	2018-2019	Regular update from VOICE on: the next MFF the Financial regulation ESOP ECA report on NGOs transparency	February 2018 VOICE published a position paper on the next MFF July 2018: VOICE published a position paper reacting to the EC proposal on the MFF and the EU budget 2019
2	NEW FPA CONSULTATION			
2.1	FPA WG Framework paper	January to April 2018	February 2018 TF to provide a first draft March-April WG to comment on Draft Framework Paper April 2018 TF to finalise the whole paper by mid April	May 2018: First version of the framework paper finalised and shared with ECHO
2.2	Scoping the FPA: Brainstorming sessions: ECHO & NGOs partners	April to Autumn 2018		April 2018: First consultation meeting end May 2018: Second consultation meeting + ad-hoc meeting on FPA families June 2018: Third consultation meeting on Audit and PNL/SCO
2.3	FPA consultation	2018-2019	ECHO internal consultations ECHO is sharing thematic concept notes ahead of each brainstorming session	
2.4	Single Form revision & e-tools	2018-2019		
2.5	FPA guidelines	2019		
3	FPA WG DETAILED THEMES			
3.1	Funding cycles mechanisms (HIP, MYF-MYP)	2018	February 2018 TF to provide first draft	Discussed with ECHO on 01 June 2018
3.2	Partnership (partners assessment, localisation, consortia, private sector)	2018	February 2018 TF to provide first draft	Discussed partly with ECHO on 31 May 2018
3.3	Accountability and Simplification (reporting, audit, liquidation, transparency)	2018	March TF to provide first draft	Audit discussed on 29 June and reporting planned in September
3.4	Result-based approach (payment by results)	2018	March TF to provide first draft	Discussed with ECHO on 29 June 2018