

# Civil Society in Strategic Partnerships

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EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY MANAGEMENT  
CENTRE EUROPÉEN DE GESTION DES POLITIQUES DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

# ECDPM

- Independent foundation specialising in ACP-EU and AU-EU relations
  - Facilitation of dialogue
  - Practical policy relevant analysis and information
  - Capacity and partnership development
- Non partisan support to official parties involved in Joint Strategy process
- Public consultation on Joint Strategy
- NOT speaking on behalf of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)



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# Structure of Presentation

- I. Major progress in participation in 1990s
- II. Civil society in Joint Strategy process
- III. Civil society in Joint Strategy &  
Action Plan
- IV. Concerns reported by civil society
- V. Windows of opportunity civil society  
in implementation Joint Strategy

# 1990s major progress in civil society participation

- Emergence of multi-actor governance
- Beyond Lome IV debate: raising awareness among CSOs on ACP-EU
- EC Green Paper process
- Cotonou Partnership Agreement
- CSPs, NIPs, EPAs

# Joint EU-Africa Strategy (civil society in process)

- Various initiatives/meetings in EU and Africa
- Europe-Africa civil society Forum, NGOs, EU-Africa business, African churches, etc..
- <http://europafrika.org>
- <http://europafrique.org>

# Joint EU-Africa Strategy (civil society in strategy document)

- ‘People-centred partnership’
- ‘Promote development of a vibrant and independent civil society’
- ‘active involvement civil society in implementation and monitoring’



# Joint EU-Africa Strategy (civil society in Action Plan)

- Mapping existing European and African CSOs
- Invite CSOs to express themselves ahead of Troika meetings
- Joint expert groups (with CSOs) on all priority actions of Action Plan
- Regular meetings between CSOs and EU Council and CSOs and AU on progress with implementation

# Concerns reported by CSOs

- Perception of 'ritualistic' exercise
- Lack of time & ownership of process
- Problem of organisational capacity
- Quality of dialogue and participation: 'does it really make a difference'?



# Windows of opportunity in implementation joint strategy

- Mapping: who is who in African civil society/ fostering greater representation of different segments of society
- Involvement in monitoring mechanisms
- Network of policy research institutes and think tanks (EARN)

Thank you for your attention...

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*For more information on  
ECDPM's work on ACP-EU and AU-EU  
relations:*

*[www.ecdpm.org](http://www.ecdpm.org)*



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