

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE 2023 WORK PROGRAMME OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS' GROUP

In 2023 and over the next 2.5-year mandate (to begin in April 2023), the Civil Society Organisations' Group will maintain the topic of the **fight against poverty and the role of CSOs in combatting poverty**, as the **overriding priority of the Group**.

During this period, the Civil Society Organisations' Group will seek to render its work **more qualitative and effective** through a more **coherent, structured and focussed approach**, taking advantage of the various policy instruments at its disposal. Concretely, the Civil Society Organisations' Group will take a **three-pronged approach to its work**.

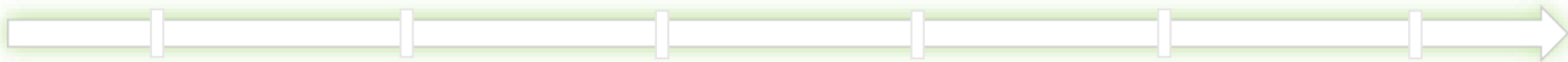
Firstly, the Group will **comprehensively plan its work** along a **limited number of thematic areas**, which will feed into the overall objective of **poverty eradication**. **All of the policy instruments** available to the Civil Society Organisations' Group (studies, Own-initiative Opinions, events, thematic debates at ordinary Group meetings, etc), will be employed to **simultaneously advance the policy contribution of the Group on these specific topics**.

Secondly, the Civil Society Organisations' Group will **strategically and proactively engage with the European Institutions**, in order to promote the selected thematic areas, notably in relation to the forthcoming **Presidencies of the Council of the EU**. The objective will be to establish contacts several months prior to the Presidencies, in order to **influence**, inter alia, the priorities of the forthcoming Presidencies and/or the exploratory Opinions requested to the EESC. To this end, a number of novel activities could be explored, e.g. **ex ante meetings** and **exploratory missions** prior to the Group's conference in the country of the Presidency, or **ex post meetings** in order to present the results of the Group's event.

Thirdly, the Civil Society Organisations' Group will **structure its outreach to and collaboration with external CSOs in order to better advance the Group's priorities**. This will involve a more comprehensive approach to engaging with CSOs, e.g. **feeding topics from the Group's work programme** into this collaboration. According to the thematic area and the objectives to be attained, the Group may seek collaboration with **umbrella or sectoral CSOs**.

The priority areas in 2023 for the work programme of the Civil Society Organisations' Group are the following:

- ✓ Resilient European health and care systems;
- ✓ Climate change, energy poverty and vulnerable groups;
- ✓ Skills, digitalisation and vulnerable persons;
- ✓ The role of CSOs in defending and strengthening European democracy;
- ✓ Empowering youth and protecting children.



JANUARY

9. Extraordinary Bureau

FEBRUARY

15. Consumers and Environment Category
16. Associational Life Category

MARCH

1. Social Economy Category
2. Farmers Category
17. Liberal Professions Category
22. Debate on poverty
28. Extra meeting Presidency
30. Group III extra meeting, Brussels (date TBC)

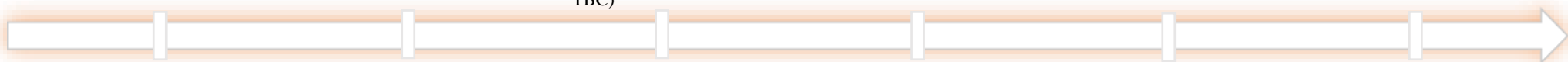
APRIL

MAY

2. Liberal Professions Category and Liberal professional's Day
24-25. or 25-26. Stockholm Group III conference (date TBD)

JUNE

5. Farmers Category
6. Consumers and Environment Category
7. Social Economy Category
7. Associational life Category
23. Youth webinar or in person seminar (date TBC)



JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

27. Consumers and Environment Category

OCTOBER

11. Group III extra meeting, Brussels (date TBC)
17. Liberal Professions Category
17. Associational life Category
18. Farmers Category

NOVEMBER

7. Social Economy Category
?. Spain Group III conference (date TBD)

DECEMBER

1. Group III Bureau or press seminar (date TBC)

