



EUROPEAN UNION



Empowering CSOs, Women, Youth and Marginalised communities as Equal Partners in Democracy

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JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

EU and KAS Launch 15 Million NAD Project focusing on Empowering CSOs, Women, Youth, and Marginalized Communities

Windhoek, 23 January 2024 – The European Union (EU) and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) are delighted to announce the commencement of the project "Empowering CSOs, Women, Youth, and Marginalized Communities as Equal Partners in Democracy" (ECSO) project. This transformative initiative, co-funded by the EU and KAS, aligns with the joint commitment of the EU and Namibia to enhance the participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in governance and development issues.

The ECSO project, spanning 36 months from July 2023 to June 2026, boasts a budget of EUR 736,784 (+/- NAD 15 million), with equal contributions from the European Union and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. Implementation will be spearheaded by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, with support from the esteemed partner, Women's Action for Development (WAD). Focusing on the regions of //Karas, Kunene, and Erongo, where CSOs predominantly address gender dynamics, youth empowerment, and the concerns of marginalized communities, ECSO aims to strengthen these organizations through two core components: capacity building and advocacy activities. These components have been identified as pivotal areas for civil society organizations striving for sustainability and impactful community change.

Building upon the success of two prior EU and KAS-supported projects, ECSO is designed to leverage existing structures. EU Ambassador to Namibia, H.E. Ana Beatriz Martins emphasized the significance of strengthening advocacy skills, particularly for youth and marginalized communities. "This project is intended to equip CSOs with the skills to advocate and complement the Government's efforts in achieving the goals outlined in Vision 2030 for the Namibian people."

Despite Namibia's progressive laws and policies in many civil rights areas, its commitment is hampered by often-patriarchal structures, harmful gender practices and high levels of gender based violence.

The ECSO project is funded by the European Union and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation

Implemented by:



WOMEN'S ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT
(Incorporated Association Not For Profit)

The ECSO project stands as a beacon for fostering a more inclusive and participatory democracy, where CSOs, women, youth, and marginalized communities play equal and vital roles in shaping the future of Namibia.

ENDS.

About the European Union (EU)

The European Union is a political and economic union of 27 member states located primarily in Europe. Committed to fostering cooperation and development globally, the EU actively engages in partnerships to promote democracy, human rights, and sustainable development.

About the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) is a political foundation dedicated to promoting democracy, the rule of law, social market economy, and human rights. With a global presence, KAS collaborates with local partners to empower individuals and organizations in their pursuit of sustainable development.

About Women's Action for Development (WAD)

Women's Action for Development (WAD) is a dynamic organization committed to advancing the rights and well-being of women. WAD collaborates with partners to implement programs that address gender disparities and empower women to become active participants in social, economic, and political spheres.

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