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Press Release

Support Civil Society Organisations in Times of Crisis: European Union and Penabulu Foundation Launch CO-EVOLVE Project

Jakarta, 24 March 2021. Penabulu Foundation with the support of the European Union launched a project titled "Strengthening Indonesian CSOs Capacity and Resilience in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic (CO-EVOLVE)". The project will provide support to 200 local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in 34 provinces in Indonesia and is expected to benefit a further 500 CSOs across Indonesia through serial online training activities, webinars, CSO communication forums, thematic alliance forums, and crowdsourcing platforms.

The CO-EVOLVE project will promote the work of local CSOs in building organisational resilience against the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises, and to advance collective action of CSOs for sustainable development. In particular, CO-EVOLVE will strengthen the enabling environment and capacity of CSOs in mobilising domestic resources to cope with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as support the Indonesian Government in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Today's launch of the CO-EVOLVE project also introduced the crowdsourcing Lokadaya Platform. The event was attended by the Ambassador of the European Union to Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam H.E. Vincent Pilet, as well as government representatives, Prof Muchlis Hamdi, MPA, Ph.D - Special Advisor to the Minister of Home Affairs on Government, Drs. Wariki Sutikno, MCP - Director for Politics and Communication Affairs of the Ministry of National Development Planning/ BAPPENAS, and Dra. Jaleswari Pramodhawardhani, M.Hum. - Deputy V for Politics, Law, Defense, Security and Human Rights, Presidential Staff Office.

“The basic idea of this programme is to invite CSOs to grow together and fight for the position and role of CSOs in Indonesia during the pandemic. This programme also invites civil society organisations to connect with each other and become one of the driving actors to find solutions to community problems in their respective regions” , said Eko Komara, Executive Director of Penabulu Foundation.

In his remarks, EU Ambassador Vincent Pilet said, “The European Union is proud to support this project. The pandemic has hit society hard, therefore we need to build the capacity of CSOs to support their beneficiaries, protect vulnerable communities and advocate policies to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. We expect this initiative will benefit 200 CSOs in the 34 provinces of Indonesia, serving countless citizens and communities” .

The launch of the CO-EVOLVE project was followed by a discussion on the Lokadaya Platform for **“Crowdfunding and Social Justice, Local Resources as a Sustainability Strategy for CSOs”** . It will facilitate the exchange of information and lessons learned related to efforts to raise local resources, especially through digital platforms. The discussion explored the potential for collaboration between civil society, including the mass media/ press and other relevant stakeholders to support the sustainability of CSOs to be able to continue their work and services. The initiators of the discussion were Anton Septian - Executive Editor of Tempo Magazine, PT. Tempo Inti Media, Soraya Oktaviani - Coordinator of Resource Development, Indonesian Foundation for Humanity, and Muhammad Alfatih Timur, Co-founder and CEO of Kitabisa.com.



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Also attending this event were 57 CSO partners from all over Indonesia who had expressed their willingness to become part of the national Lokadaya network at the provincial level, representatives of the government, philanthropic organisations, the private sector, donors, and the media.

CO-EVOLVE, which emphasises service locality and connectivity, will facilitate strategic collaboration between CSOs, National/Local Governments, Philanthropic Organisations, Digital Social Service Providers and the Private Sector. CO-EVOLVE has initiated collaboration with various stakeholders including the Ministry of National Development Planning/BAPPENAS, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the SDGs Secretariat, and Deputy V of the Presidential Staff Office regarding domestic resource schemes for CSOs. CO-EVOLVE also seeks cooperation with other European Union partners that are engaged in the Covid-19 response in Indonesia.

CO-EVOLVE has compiled 4 project development concepts, namely: (1) CSOs Community of Practice (CoP); (2) Green Culture; (3) Lokadaya; (4) Sandbox Labs as an incubation and innovation space.

CSOs Community of Practice (CoP) has 2 (two) directions in developing activities, namely: (1) Capacity building series on the aspects of the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and digital transformation for the Lokadaya network in order to prepare this network to be able to conduct webinars and online training for networks in their region, and to transform the way CSOs work, (2) Development of a Learning Management System (LMS) which will accommodate the learning process, discussion, and growth with CSO activists who are members of the Lokadaya network.

Green Culture is expected to be established through video and a series of audio podcasts that aims to communicate narratives and campaigns for change with the theme derived from the EU Green Deal (Green Farm, Green Energy, Green Transportation, Green Industry, Green Infrastructure, Green Finance, and Green Governance). This media will become a potential space for global donor funding in the future, and it is hoped that it will develop into a communication forum and advocacy alliance.

Lokadaya is a crowdsourcing platform for Indonesian CSOs in their efforts to raise domestic resources. There are 3 (three) main features in Lokadaya, namely: Galang Daya, Partner Profiles, and Story of Change.

Sandbox Labs is a modeling room, a safe confined test room, and an incubation space for the development of local service initiatives based on the use of ICT and big data. Sandbox is expected to be able to produce start-up solutions that maximize the Lokadaya network throughout Indonesia, as well as local solutions that can be widely replicated and applied on a national scale.

About the EU's coronavirus response in Indonesia

To support partner countries in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, the EU has launched the "Team Europe" approach. The objective of the Team Europe approach is to combine resources from the EU, its Member States and European financial institutions. Team Europe mobilised €38.5 billion for fighting COVID globally. Within this amount, Team Europe has mobilised around €200 million (IDR 3.5 trillion) in grants and loans to support Indonesia. €6 million (IDR 108.5 billion) in grants are dedicated to support civil society organisations to address the health and socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 crisis in Indonesia. Team Europe is also contributing €2.2



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billion (IDR 38.2 trillion) to the COVAX facility aiming to deliver 1.3 billion doses of vaccines for 92 low- and middle-income countries by the end of 2021. Indonesia is one of the beneficiary countries. More info: <https://bit.ly/TeamEuropeIndonesia>

About European Union

The European Union (EU) is an economic and political union of 27 Member States. Together, the EU has built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. In 2012, the EU was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for advancing the goals of peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe. The EU is the world's largest trading bloc, and the world's largest source and destination of foreign direct investment. Collectively, the EU and its Member States are the largest donor of Official Development Assistance (ODA), providing more than half of ODA globally.

About Penabulu Foundation

The Penabulu Foundation was founded in 2003 and since then has dedicated itself to strengthening the capacity of civil society in Indonesia through empowerment and sustainability of the position and role of civil society organisations in Indonesia with efforts to strengthen organisational capacities and capabilities; mobilisation, management and distribution of resources; developing equal partnerships between actors and development sector as well as mobilising the widest possible public participation and involvement.

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