Project Summary

The 35 years of armed conflict has severely disrupted the social structure and disrupted the harmony of Civil Society, affecting especially the indigenous population. The relationship between a paternalistic Government and the population (in particular the rural communities) was deeply fractured. Following the peace agreement of December 1996 the Technical Assistance of the EC placed a strong emphasis on the evolvement of strong participatory element in the Civil Society.

Overall Objective
To contribute to the consolidation of democratic participation of the Civil Society in line with the government reform for decentralization.

Contract Objectives and Results
To provide the required capacities and implementation support for the effective implementation of the Programme, in particular the strengthening and the participation of the Civil Society in the definition, application and control of political processes, especially on the local level. The Programme included the following five results, e.g.

- Strengthening of the capacities of local leaders
  - for rural development planning and community development
  - for inter-institutional coordination
- Institutional strengthening of producers organisations, e.g.
- agricultural cooperatives
- rural producer associations
- Strengthening of the civil society, e.g.
- training programme for community leaders regarding participation mechanisms
- technical assistance for planning processes
- financing and implementation of diagnostic studies
- Access of civil society to information, e.g. institutional structures and democratic processes including access to information
- Strengthening of social initiatives
  - for an improved self-presentation and participation
  - for improved inter-community coordination

Services provided

Analytical Work
- Initial desk research
- Training needs assessment;
- Participatory analyses on important sectors (education, health, economic development, environment etc.);
- Institutional analyses of selected cooperatives, SMEs, producer associations etc.
- Strategies for institutional development

Institutional Strengthening and Community Development
- Support 450 communes in 45 municipalities (15 % of total)
- Training programme for local leaders on participatory planning through seminars and workshops
- Programme for monitoring and evaluation
- Elaboration of communal, participatory development plans
- Inter-institutional coordination between municipalities and departments
- Assistance in the budgeting and administration of project funds
- Support in the planning and establishment of local schools for women
- Programme for the exchange of experiences between community leaders
- Training programme for managers of small scale enterprises
- Communication and information programme, including awareness rising campaigns regarding civic rights, social equality, gender equality, etc.
- Dissemination programme for the media on democratic participation and public transparency

Guatemala

Strengthening of the civil society

Client
European Commission

Duration

Personnel
- 2 LTE European experts (80 PM)
- 8 PM STE