



Balkan Civil Society Acquis

Strengthening the Advocacy and Monitoring Potential and Capacities of CSOs

EuropeAid/132438/C/ACT/Multi
2012 / 306-577

Project objectives:

1. Strengthen foundations for monitoring and advocacy on issues related to enabling environment and sustainability of civil society at regional and country level;
2. Strengthen structures for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) integration and participation in European Union (EU) policy and accession processes at European and country level.

Project activities:

Monitoring, advocacy, research/analysis, capacity-building, information-sharing, coalition/network-building, re/sub-granting.

Project partners:



Results expected:

Priority area 1:

1. Mechanisms for monitoring environment designed and applied;
2. EU Progress Reports highlight key enabling environment issues and address them in coherent manner; and
3. Key stakeholders support activities concerning monitoring, EU engagement and law reform initiatives

Priority area 2:

1. Funding policies and laws for civil society at EU and national level are drafted/revised and are applied based on transparent mechanisms;
2. Government institutions recognize the economic value of CSOs and designs key strategies for economic and human-resource sustainability

Priority area 3:

Local CSOs develop strategies for action and are represented at EU level dialogue structures

Priority area 4:

Donors at national and regional level coordinate and collaborate with CSOs relying on principles of local ownership and sustainability of support

Priority area 5:

Local capacity developed to initiate, lead and advocate on EU policy matters in accountable and transparent manner

Priority area 6:

Regional network strengthened and able to present strategic programs.

The Mid-Term strategy 2012-2014 was the basis of Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN) application for the Framework Partnership Programme. Through establishing a regional monitoring system on enabling environment for Civil Society Development, advocacy on the funding, economic and fiscal-related policies and improved civil dialogue, promotion of sustainable exit strategy of foreign donors, support to advocacy capacity-building of local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and improved 3Cs (communication, coordination and cooperation), the Plan will allow the network to consolidate its work in the next 3 years and direct the development of civil society towards the needs of local organizations and actors as well as provide for a structured, consistent pressure to national institutions.



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Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) Civil Society Facility (CSF)

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission





BALKAN
CIVIL
SOCIETY
DEVELOPMENT
NETWORK

Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN)

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BCSDN is a network of 15 civil society organizations from 10 countries and territories in South East Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Romania, Montenegro, Slovenia, Serbia and Turkey). The partner organizations are equal in their rights and duties as members of the network. The principles of cooperation, partnership, tolerance, dialogue and respect for others are the main working principles of the Network. Our mission is to empower the civil society and influence European and national policies towards more enabling environment for civil society development in order to ensure sustainable and functioning democracies in the Balkans. Our goals and objectives are to (1) increase the role of civil society by strengthening its voice in policy- and decision-making at national, regional and EU level; (2) Promote the civil dialogue between the civil society actors, state institutions and the European Union in order to influence the public policies; (3) Develop advocacy knowledge and skills among civil society actors as a base for greater impact; and (4) Strengthen communication, coordination and cooperation between the civil society actors in the Balkan region. BCSDN comprises the Council, the Board, the Executive Office, which has two full-time staff, and the Executive Director.

BCSDN was established following the initiative for the Capacity Building Hub Programme, which was part of a larger initiative called the WCC South-East Europe Ecumenical Partnership. By bringing together churches, ecumenical and civil society organizations, this initiative aimed at promoting their co-ordination and co-operation. The Capacity-Building Hub Programme, implemented by the [Macedonian Center for International Cooperation \(MCIC\)](#), focused on strengthening individuals/staff and organizational capacities and skills of involved agencies.

The initial pilot programme ran from 2001 to 2003. In December 2003, the Balkan Civil Society Development Network was launched as an informal network. On 6 July 2009 in Skopje, Macedonia, the network held its Founding assembly and since 30 September 2009 is registered as a separate legal entity (foundation).

As an informal network, within the framework of CARDS Regional 2003 Network to Network 2005-2007, an EU funded project, the capacities of BCSDN were strengthened and the organization was enabled to establish contacts and grow into a regional network. Since 2009 BCSDN has been supported by BTD, DFID, APRODEV, OSI East-East, KBF, SlovakAid and USAID/ICNL. BTD has been a core supporter of BCSDN and its activities since its formalization in 2009. Through projects implemented in 2010 and 2012 BCSDN has worked on Civil Dialogue and Donors Strategies development, which will be further developed with the Mid-Term strategy 2012-2014, supported by IPA CSF partnership action. BCSDN has already established the Balkan Public Policy Fund with Pontis Foundation and has secured funding from SlovakAid. This action will also continue in the framework of the new IPA support. The Monitoring Matrix - one of the core activities that will be implemented through IPA CSF support was initially supported in 2012 by USAID/ICNL LIF programme. In cooperation with its members, BCSDN has worked on IPA and other EU projects as a partner organization.



European Network of National Civil Society Associations

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The European Network of National Civil Society Associations (ENNA) was incorporated by royal decree on March 2011 as an international not-for-profit association. ENNA receives structural support from the European Commission's *Europe for Citizens Programme*, and a general purpose grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. ENNA is a membership organisation, bringing together organisations, platforms, and associations that work at a national level to promote the cross-sectoral interests of the not-for-profit/public benefit/civil society sector. ENNA works on topics that affect all not-for-profit actors regardless of whether they work solely on social issues, environmental issues, socio-cultural activities, or any other topic of societal interest. The organization brings together a membership that works directly and indirectly with over 80.000 European civil society organisations.



European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL)

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ECNL is a non-governmental organization which works on strengthening of a supportive legal environment for civil society in Europe, with a focus on Central and Eastern Europe, by developing expertise and building capacity in legal issues affecting not-for-profit organisations and public participation. ECNL provides cutting-edge expertise and professionalism in the field of civil society organizations' law and its related areas, engages with both government and civil society organizations in the role of an "honest broker"; applies a regional perspective to domestic problems for the benefit of all partners; respects the cultural sensitivity of local partners and the realities of the concrete legal, cultural, political and social environment and adopts a holistic and progressive approach reflecting the principles and value-base of the pluralistic democracies toward which Central and Eastern Europe countries are approaching.



CNVOS - Centre for Information Service, Co-operation and Development of NGOs

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Web site: www.cnvos.si

CNVOS was established at the beginning of 2001 as an independent non-profit and non-governmental organisation by 27 Slovene non-governmental organisations. Today, it has over 600 member organisations active in different policy fields: environment, youth, human rights, social issues, equal opportunities, culture, regional development, development cooperation etc. The Centre contributes to promoting non-governmental organisations as an important part of civil society in Slovenia, and to the better implementation of their roles and realisation of their missions. The Centre's mission is to ensure the sustainable development of NGOs in Slovenia by providing a comprehensive, effective and professional information service, consultancy, education, research, policy making, advocacy, networking and promotion.



Opportunities Associates Romania (OAR)

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Founded in 1993, OAR is a fully registered Romanian non-profit, non-governmental, private voluntary organization established with American support. Dedicated to training and consulting, OAR is overseen by a functioning board of directors. Its mission is to strengthen democratic processes by supporting the development and sustainability of the non-profit, government and private sectors.



Third Sector Foundation of Turkey - TUSEV

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TUSEV was established in 1993 by Turkey's leading CSOs, and has now grown to a supporting network of over 100 associations and foundations that share a vision of strengthening the legal, fiscal and operational infrastructure of the third (non-profit) sector in Turkey. TUSEV's programming is designed to: Promote a legally and fiscally enabling environment for nonprofit organizations, Encourage strategic and effective giving, Facilitate partnerships across the public, private & third sectors, Support and engage the international community in learning about and collaborating with the Turkish third sector and Conduct research on the sector's role, needs and dynamics to serve as a basis for civil society strengthening initiatives.



Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM)

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IDM is an independent, non-governmental organization, founded in November 1999 in Tirana, Albania. It works to strengthen the Albanian civil society, to monitor, analyse and facilitate the Euro-Atlantic integration processes of the country and to help the consolidation of good governance and inclusive policy making. IDM carries on its objectives through expertise, innovative policy research, analysis and assessment-based policy options.



Center for Development of Non-Governmental Organizations (CRNVO)

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CRNVO is a non-profit, non-governmental organization, founded and registered in September 1999. Its goal is to strengthen and to develop the position of the civil society sector in Montenegro and to open the way towards a greater democratization of the state and the society as a whole.



Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC)

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MCIC was established in 1993, upon domestic initiatives with support from the Dutch Interchurch Aid (DIA) and the World Council of Churches (WCC). MCIC has grown into independent, civil, not-for-profit organization, ready to face the challenges and to create models or alternatives for problem resolution. Since its establishment, MCIC has implemented more than 1,300 projects, as part of 60 programs, amounting to over 45 million euro, in the following sectors: water supply and sanitation, rural development, health and education, employment and civil society, democratization, trust, immediate aid and activities on Balkans. Its objectives are: social cohesion and poverty reduction; Sustainable local and rural development; Good governance, participation and people-based policy; Rooted and dynamic civil society, which influences public policies; Acceptance of cultural diversity, interdependence and dialogue; Support for Euro-integration process and enhanced regional cooperation.



Foundation "Spirit of Love" Diakonia Agapes

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Diakonia Agapes was first established in 1992, It is a faith based organization that works on development and humanitarian emergency actions by the Autocephalous Orthodox Church of Albania. Diakonia Agapes started its operations providing humanitarian assistance during emergency periods, and then also started community development actions, especially work with the most vulnerable groups in society. DA's goal is to contribute to the development of human and material resources in Albania. Diakonia Agapes objectives are: To build long-term cooperation relationship with organizations, associations, institutions and individuals in Albania as well as abroad, which shares common goals and who are interested in further developments in education, development, social care and humanitarian support; Continue to establish a strong framework for the design of projects in the field of education, development, social care and emergency aid, to mobilize all the resources needed for these purposes, to implement them and to cooperate with organizations, associations, institutions, and other individuals in their realization; To inform the public of the international and domestic situation and development needs in Albania.



Kosovar Civil Society Foundation (KCSF)

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Founded in 1998, and officially registered in December 1999, priority mission of KCSF has been to strengthen civil initiatives by providing support through information, services and trainings to NGOs and other relevant civic institutions in all sectors of Kosovar civil society. While still committed to this aim, KCSF has recently been giving more attention to the process of European Integration, by raising awareness about the EU within Kosovo society and providing information and analytical tools to professionals that deal with these issues.



Association Humanitarian Organization VESTA

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VESTA Association was founded in 1998 in Tuzla, a city in Bosnia and Herzegovina renowned for its multi-ethnicity. VESTA Association is named after VESTA, the goddess of the hearth, home, and family in Roman mythology. It is a non-governmental, non-profit and non-party organization which, through its own programs and through partnerships with other media and non-governmental organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, advocates active citizen participation through civil education programs and leads initiatives of social change that encourage equality among all community stakeholders as well as sustainable, locally-focused economic development.



Civil Society Promotion Center (CPCD)

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CPCD is an independent and highly professional organization which provides quality programmes and services as a support to the development of civil society. The organization cooperates with many partners in B&H and in the region and represents an important factor in the fight for better quality of life of the citizen. CPCD's mission is to strengthen the civil society development in B&H by providing constant support in the development of civil society organizations and their mutual cooperation and networking, establishing standards for effective relationship with the government and the profit sector representatives, promoting activism and by promoting the non-profit sector as a quality and unavoidable actor in the socio-economic development of the country. CPCD's values are transparency and openness, dedication, integrity, team work and excellence.



Association for promotion of human rights and media freedoms "CENZURA PLUS"

Address: Šetalište Bačvice 10, 21 000 Split

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Web site: www.cenzura.hr

CENZURA PLUS is a non-profit, civil society organization from Split, Croatia, established in 2003 by a group of human-rights activists and it arise from history and experience of producing the first independent TV show that explored limitation of media freedoms in post-war Croatia, since mid 1990s. It promotes human rights, media freedoms and works on the development of civil society, through methods of independent media (TV) production, out-institutional education and public advocacy, with the aim of building modern, democratic and fair society in Croatia.

In previous 5 years it has developed numerous activities and today is one of the leading civil society organizations in its lines of work in the south part of the country.

Civic Initiatives

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Civic Initiatives, Citizens' Association for Democracy and Civic Education has been founded in May 1996 by a group of prominent NGO activists that were involved in the anti-war movement and non-nationalist democratic opposition since 1990. Its vision is a society of equal and active citizens who decide about their lives in a democratic, civil state of law with full respect of human rights. The mission of the organization is to strengthen civil society through education, promotion of democracy and support of active citizenship.



Partners Albania, Center for Change and Conflict Management

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Partners Albania, Center for Change and Conflict Management is an independent Albanian NPO, with a mission to advance civil society and a culture of change and conflict management in Albania. It is a member of Partners for Democratic Change International, a partnership of Centres in 20 countries, committed in providing conflict resolution training and services to the civic, NPO, municipal and national government, and business sectors in their countries and worldwide.



Albanian Civil Society Foundation

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ACSF is an Albanian non-profit Organization which aims to promote and develop the Civil Society in Albania, prioritizing the urban areas away from the capital and focusing on the peripheral areas in particular. ACSF puts its efforts for the communities of these areas, in close cooperation with them, local CS Organizations and Local GVT, for the Civic Education and Participation of the community, in order to create an open, righteous, equal and sustainable Developed Democratic Society in the Republic of Albania.



Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization (EHO)

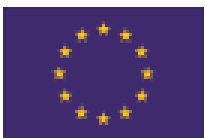
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EHO is a humanitarian, non-factional, non-governmental and non-profit association of citizens, actively involved in the building of a cohesive civil society in Serbia by working in the following areas: poverty reduction, development of interchurch cooperation and promotion of human rights. The work and activities are entirely project-based and resources for project are provided through calls for proposals from national and international donors who, in accordance with their own strategies, support the following program areas: Social development and support, Inter-church cooperation and Health-educative program.



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