

Towards Efficient Public Procurement Mechanisms in the EU (potential) Candidate Countries

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This partnership strategy is a part of a broader Regional Anti-Corruption Platform (RACP). Western Balkan CSOs committed to curbing corruption initiated the RACP in 2008 as an expression of the need to join regional CSO efforts and capacities to improve the results of CS engagement in fight against corruption. The members of RACP create methodologies; conduct research; create evidence-based public policy proposals; advocate reforms; call to full respect of the rule of law and promote public integrity.

Project objectives

The aim of the strategy is to contribute to improvements in the area of public procurement in the WB countries, all aspiring to open accession negotiations in which public procurements occupy an important place. The main objective of the project is to strengthen civil society pressure upon the Western Balkans governments in establishing efficient public procurement systems and accountability in spending public funds. The project aims at increasing the understanding of EU requirements and conditions in the public procurement management, creating tools for greater CSO and other stakeholders' involvement in decision-making and controlling the use of public funds, building regional CS public procurement monitoring mechanism and informing the process of preparing a coherent and evidence-based accession negotiations platforms regarding chapters 5, 23 and 24 between the EU and the accession countries.

Project activities

The main project activities are: a base-line survey on the level of harmonization of the public procurement systems of the participating countries with the requirements of the EU; creation and launch of the regional web-portal (on-line platform) dedicated to public procurements in the Western Balkans; monitoring public procurement procedures in targeted countries; production of comparative analysis on the coherency and effectiveness of the present public procurement systems; compilation of used methodologies and benchmarks and production of easy-to-use tool (guide) for monitoring public procurements; conducting advocacy campaigns aimed at improving public procurement systems in the region.

Project partners



Results expected

Providing evidence-based comparative analysis on the effectiveness of the public procurement systems in the Western Balkans; easy-to-use standards, progress evaluation tools (guides) for measuring transparency and effectiveness of public procurement arrangements in the Western Balkans countries; transferring best Slovak practices in reaching the EU standards in public procurement; improved understanding among local stakeholders of the EU requirements related to the public procurement systems; encouraged reform process in the area of public procurement in the Western Balkans; improved legislation, and increased efficiency of existing mechanisms. This endeavor will enable CSOs to improve and intensify their activities and engage in an informed dialogue with decision-makers. It will serve to test declared political will of the governments to open the decision-making process for the participation of all interested actors.



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Open Society Foundation, Serbia (OSFS) is a non-government, non-political and non-profit organization that develops and supports systemic developmental policies, programs and activities aimed at the advancement of democratic cultures and all they entail. For 20 years of its existence and operation the OSFS has been committed to systemic reform-prone policies, programs and activities aimed at advancement of democratic changes and culture, i.e. principles of the rule of law, good governance, accountability, participation of citizens in public affairs and respect for human rights.

The OSFS particularly focuses on building a functional democratic state, development and effective implementation of the pro-European public policies; fortifying stability and intensifying cooperation in the Western Balkans region and the speeding up of the internal process of Europeanization. OSF, Serbia widely supports, closely collaborates and takes part in activities of the Serbian and Western Balkans civil society anti-corruption community. OSFS was among the founders and leaders of two civil society coalitions in Serbia that have achieved significant success in effecting transparent and responsible governance: the Coalition for Free Access to Information and the Coalition for Civic Oversight of Public Finances. Through these coalitions and independently, the OSF, Serbia has been applying various methodologies in the fight against corruption, ranging from free access to information, to monitoring the implementation of anti-corruption policies to watchdog activities including strategic litigation. Since 2007 OSFS has been active in assembling and building capacities and influence of regional organizations, as well as in establishing a regional dialogue concerning these issues.

The OSFS has managed one and partnered in several EU funded projects – regional and national. OSFS has 14 full-time employees.



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Established in 2005, the Center for Civil Communications focuses its activities on good governance, nation-wide and locally. CCC's goal is to develop and improve the communication among all social factors in the Republic of Macedonia regarding processes of wider social importance, as well as to monitor, analyse, and enhance the social, political, and economic processes in the country, mainly in the area of anti-corruption, local governance and economic development. CCC is the only CSO in Macedonia that monitors closely the process of public procurements in the country since 2008, issuing quarterly based reports with the key findings and recommendations for both legal changes and changes in the implementation of the Public Procurement Law. In 2011, CCC introduced an instrument to assess effectiveness of public spending – the so-called Index of Rationality comparing prices by which different state institutions buy the very same products, services and works. In addition, CCC holds trainings in anti-corruption and public spending monitoring for other CSOs and journalists on nation-wide and local level, and CCC staff is part of a number of expert teams involved in designing anti-corruption and reform strategies and policies in the country.

Besides its staff of seven people, several external experts work for CCC on a regular basis (public procurement, legislation, and anticorruption). During its almost eight year operation CCC has implemented over 15 projects, proposing hundreds of recommendations for taking measures for enhancing the areas in which it is operating. Among them, IPA financed project “Media and CSOs against corruption”, and an EIDHR financed project “Access to information – Source for better information quality”.



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Open Society Foundation Bratislava (OSF BA) was founded in 1992 as a part of a network of foundations known as Open Society Foundations. OSF BA has a unique position and long-standing relationships with a large number of civil society actors in Slovakia and abroad. It is the only foundation in Slovakia that has for 20 years focused on supporting (grant schemes) and advocating (operation programs) for the development of democracy, strengthening of the rule of law, protection of human rights and freedoms including the rights of minorities, anti-discrimination and equal opportunities.

OSFBA's present strategic priorities include: law and good governance (promotion of rule of law with special attention on human rights protection and citizen participation); education (enhancing quality of education focusing on disadvantaged groups); equal opportunities (overcoming problems resulting from unequal marginalized groups position and fighting against intolerance specifically focusing on Roma); media and communication (improvement of media objectivity regarding marginalized groups, capacity building for journalists, public discussion on sensitive topics); public health (equal health rights focusing on marginalized groups).

In 2004-2009 OSF BA was a Block Grant intermediary within the Fund for Non-Government Organizations, part Human Rights financed from the EEA and Norway Grant Mechanism and Budget of Slovak Republic. Now OSF BA is a EEA and Norway Grants fund operation of the NGO Program Democracy and Human Rights in Slovakia. The program is a part of the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014. Currently 23 people work for OSFBA both on permanent and contracted basis.

Center for Development of Non-Profit Sector (CDNPS)**Address:** Gospodar Jevremova 47a, Belgrade, Serbia**Tel:** +381 11 2626 113**Fax:** +381 11 2626 113**Web:** www.crnps.org.rs**E-mail:** info@crnps.org.rs; abratkovic@crnps.org.rs; istevanovic@crnps.org.rs

Center for Development of Non-Profit Sector (CDNPS) is voluntary, independent, non-governmental and non-profit citizens association aiming to support, promote and help civil society development in Serbia. CDNPS programs are focused on protection and promotion of human and minority rights, education, information, social protection and fight against corruption. Through the collection and distribution of information, education, and other forms of technical assistance, and promoting the role and importance of civil society organizations, and public advocacy for provision of legal and other conditions for the development of civil society in Serbia, CDNPS strives to achieve its mission.

CDNPS has been established in 1996, as a resource center for the emerging civil society in Serbia. The aim was to empower a growing number of newly founded grassroots CSOs in Serbia with necessary skills to carry out projects and bring about the change in democratizing Serbia.

The CDNPS was the first civil society organization in Serbia to receive any EU grant in 2002, aiming at strengthening the civil society capacities. In 2004, CDNPS became the Implementing partner of the EU for the program "Fund to support civil society in Serbia". During the past decade, the focus of CRNPS has slightly shifted from an umbrella organization aiming at CSO capacity building to the issues of civil society financial sustainability and poverty reduction in Serbia. At this time, CDNPS has five employees, six experts/associates engaged under the temporary contracts and few volunteers.



Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector - MANS

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MANS is a non-governmental organization devoted to fighting corruption and organized crime affecting Montenegro. MANS strategic goals for the period 2012-2015 include the following: reduce high level corruption, reduce opportunities for organized crime, increase transparency in areas prone to corruption and organized crime.

In achieving the strategic goals, we provide free legal aid to victims of corruption and organized crime; investigate and report cases of corruption and organized crime; monitor implementation of laws and policies related to corruption and organized crime; research policies and propose solutions; advocate for changes of laws, policies and practices; mobilize citizens to demand reforms in fighting corruption and organized crime.

So far MANS has implemented four national EU funded projects (two through European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and two IPA project. Furthermore MANS has implemented two regional IPA projects with different partners from the Balkan region and the EU. Currently MANS has 30 full time employees and a range of external experts.



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The Open Society Fund Bosnia and Herzegovina (OSF BiH) is an independent non-profit organisation working as a part of the Soros Foundations network, founded in 1993 and aimed at promoting open society. So far, the OSF BiH has invested more than 100 million dollars in education, legal, local governance, media, cultural and other projects.

The OSF BiH's strategic priorities in the period between year 2012 and year 2014 are to: advocate for access to quality education - free from discrimination; stimulate conditions for more effective policies and practice of non-discrimination and human rights to be adopted in BH; advance policies that enable full transparency of government activities; advance democratic governance at the local level by both legislative and performance improvement; help further improve the position of Roma community; facilitate civic identity to confront nationalism and further destruction of the society; enhance civil society to play an educated role in issue-based dialogue with the government.

The OSF BiH, together with 4 regional partners, implemented project BACCI – Balkan Anti-Corruption Civic Initiative 2010/2011, financed by European Commission through IPA 2008 Programme – Civil Society Facility: Support to Partnership Actions “Fight against Corruption, Organised Crime and Trafficking”.



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