



“SIGN for Sustainability”

EuropeAid/132438/C/ACT/Multi
2012 / 306-172

Project objective

The project's overall objective is to increase sustainability and impact of civil society in Western Balkans in giving citizens a voice and influence in public sector reform processes. To achieve this, partners will apply top-down and bottom-up approaches when tending to bring the change: decision makers will be targeted for relevant policy changes; on the other hand partners will work closely with indigenous and grassroots level civil society in order to ensure citizens' voice is heard and recognized and their trust in CSOs increased.

In particular the project is aiming to achieve following:

1. To contribute to development of more enabling environment for philanthropy development, corporate social responsibility (CSR), civic activism and inter-sector dialog on regional and national level.
2. To achieve greater citizen participation in decision-making on issues of public concern by improving transparency and accountability of CSOs.

Project activities

The project activities revolve around three main issues: improving legal framework for philanthropy, transferring know-how and promotion of best practices, increasing support and engagement of citizens to CSOs.

Inception phase is envisaged to last six months and it will consist of five types of activities which are:

- I) Baseline study research or compiling existing data for policy changes
- II) Regional cooperation, networking and transfer of EU partner know-how
- III) Promotion of national and regional networking and cooperation
- IV) Developing minimum standards of fundraising for CSOs in the Western Balkans
- V) Participation at opening and inception conferences.

Implementation phase of the project includes period of 42 months and includes activities that are designed to contribute to implementation of the overall strategy and main objectives of the project. The main activities in question are: organizing policy consultations/round tables, developing policy and legislative recommendations, promotion of national and regional networking and cooperation in local philanthropy, CSR and local resource mobilization, Sustainability Academy, National Philanthropy, CSR and Local Resource Mobilization High profile events , Regional Conference on local philanthropy, CSR and local resource mobilization, Regional Conference on local philanthropy, CSR and local resource mobilization, Sub-Grants for local actions in four project countries, developing standards of Fundraising Excellence for CSOs in the region an signing of them by CSOs.

Project partners:



Results and outputs of the Project

The main results expected in this Project are:

- Improved legal framework for philanthropy development, CSR and local resource mobilization in the region. The outputs of this result would be baseline studies about existing legislation and fiscal regulation and developed policy recommendations, policy and legislative recommendations for each of the countries
- Transferred and promoted know-how and best practices for philanthropy, CSR and local resource mobilization through national and regional CSO networks . The output of the result would be functional network for promotion of philanthropy, 80 CSOs trained in fundraising from local resources , annual awards for companies, organizations, institutions and individuals with best strategies for philanthropy
- Increased support and engagement of citizens to CSOs actions addressing issues of public concern the output of which would be CSOs applying standards and demonstrating transparency in their fundraising activities, as well as providing annual reports showing increase in locally raised funds.



THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION
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



Short description of the partners



FONDACIJA „BALKANSKI FOND ZA LOKALNE INICIJATIVE – BCIF“

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Balkan Community Initiatives Fund (BCIF) has a long term aim to help build the stable and sustainable communities in Serbia. BCIF has been active in Serbia since 1999, first as a British charity organisation and since 2004 as domestic foundation. Up until today BCIF has given over 800 grants in the amount of 3.4 million euros by financing initiatives that cover a large number of issues such as support to vulnerable groups (children, impoverished, persons with disability) as support to citizens to become actively involved in improving lives in their communities through different grant programmes.

The Foundation is conducting systematic campaign for enlivening and rebirth of philanthropic ideas and opinions in Serbian society, by a range of activities. The most important project in this cycle is **the first prize for corporate philanthropy in Serbia – VIRTUS** prize, which is traditionally held every year. Balkan Community Initiatives Fund is also actively working on raising awareness of the citizens as individuals on the importance of giving and on the awakening of solidarity, by especially developing mechanisms for transparency and the building of trust in foundations. It is also continuously working on improvement of legal and fiscal framework that would be stimulant for companies and individuals who wish to contribute to public good.

The Foundation is currently coordinating Serbian Philanthropic Forum, informal platform that gathers 120 companies, foundations, civil society organisations and institutions interested in promotion of philanthropy, development of mechanisms for philanthropic giving, advancing of the system of transparency of giving as well as legal and fiscal framework for giving.



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Mozaik Community Development Foundation is a social enterprise that provides financial and advisory support to citizens' actions of common interest in communities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mozaik was established in 2002 with the aim to strengthen social cohesion within communities by empowering people to initiate common actions, mobilize local resources, influence local governments and conduct joint actions to address local issues.

In 2012, Mozaik supported 340 community development initiatives, to a total value of over 1.000.000 EUR, out of which 51% came from individual contributions, local businesses, NGOs and state institutions. During the implementation of community initiatives, over 3.500 volunteers were registered providing 55.830 hours of voluntary work. The data shows that Mozaik is the national leader in mobilization of local resources.

Mozaik has 20 professional and experienced full-time employees and leads the network of community advisors. We have developed and successfully implemented seven projects funded by the EU and are partners in two more.



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Fund for Active Citizenship – fAKT is an indigenous civil society *grantmaking* foundation, encouraging and supporting citizens of Montenegro to become agents of progressive and sustainable social change.

fAKT program supports democratization process in Montenegro, contributing to social change that is characterized by a growing number of people participating actively and responsibly in social and political life of their society. The program is embedded in three main pillars of work:

- 1) Building capacities of people, as individuals and in association, to participate fully and actively in the life and governance of their society, through grantmaking and learning opportunities.
- 2) Promoting public dialogue on structural and systemic obstacles to participation.
- 3) Developing local philanthropy

At the heart of fAKT is the idea that local people and groups are best placed to respond to local challenges. Grantmaking is therefore our key development tool: grants to local groups empower them to address a range of local needs, including education, youth and women's programs, social care and community development. 147 (hundred and forty seven) grants have been awarded to date (February 2008 – December 2012), total amount being 1.003.455 EUR.



VIA Foundation

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VIA Foundation is a Czech foundation established in 1997. Via provides both funds for specific projects in local communities as well as training and other assistance and expertise to local CSOs in the Czech Republic. Since it was established, Via supported nearly 2,000 community projects in over 260 cities.

VIA is one of the most active grant-making organisations in Czech Republic. Since it was established it had managed (as grant-maker) 2000 community projects in over 260 cities, towns and villages. Via provides both funds and training and other assistance. Via has an Endowment Fund worth 1.9 million EUR and receives its funding from diverse sources that include over 40% from corporations and 9% from individuals.

The Via Foundation supports and promotes the growth of the Czech philanthropic environment in a variety of ways. These include holding corporate seminars, providing fundraising training for non-profit organizations, and annually presenting several prestigious awards for philanthropy in the Czech Republic.

Center for Institutional Development-CIRa

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Center for Institutional Development - CIRa is an independent, intermediary and support civil society organization established by the local staff of the USAID Democracy Network Program (DemNet) for civil society development in Macedonia in September 2003. As an intermediary support organization CIRa provides various services and support to other civil society organizations, local and central governmental institutions and businesses in Macedonia and SEE.

CIRa is recognized by its cutting-edge practices and models for achieving sustainability of the organizations and institutions, by providing support for diversification of the sources of funding, including self-financing activities (Social enterprise model), fostering activities of mobilization of local resources from individuals and corporations, as well as service delivery by contracting with the government and development programs in the country and in the region. CIRa in its portfolio has various types of grant support: project grants, institutional development grants, challenge (philanthropy development) grants, infrastructural grants etc. CIRa has been also managing and re-granting corporate grants as well as the funds established by donations of individuals. CIRa has comprehensive Grant Management Procedures that are built on the highest standards and donor procedures (USAID, SDC, and EC).

CIRa is committed to initiate, research, promote and lobby for creation of nourishing and supportive legislative environment for the civic sector in Macedonia. This includes advocacy and lobbying aimed at promotion of local philanthropy, tax incentives for individuals and business willing to donate to CSOs, promotion of social responsible businesses, social entrepreneurship, promotion of volunteerism, building indigenous support infrastructure for CSOs and other mechanisms that contribute to creation of vibrant and sustainable civic sector in Macedonia.



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