

## REPORT

### **Info Workshop for participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) in the consultation process for IPA II programming 2018-2020 held in Mostar, Brcko, Banja Luka and Sarajevo**

#### **Introduction**

On basis of dynamic an opening phases of consultation process for CSOs participation for IPA II programming, TACSO Project in BiH provides support to the use of sectoral consultation mechanisms through CSO education activities on the EU enlargement process and IPA programming.

Following this, TACSO project in BiH in partnership with the Directorate for European Integration of BiH (DEI) has organized four (4) Info Workshops entitled „Participation of CSOs in IPA II consultations“ as a continuation of activities contributing to further strengthening the inclusion of CSOs in consultations processes related to IPA II. These activities were recommended at the meeting of Local Advisory Group of TACSO Project in BiH (LAG) held on June 30, 2016, as well as in the [TACSO BH NAR Report \(2016-2017\)](#). On these Info Workshops, the on-line platform mechanism for consultations '[e-consultation](#)' was presented, with the aim of ensuring the contribution of civil society to the consultation process of the content of sectoral documents.

#### **1. Objectives of the workshop were:**

- To improve the understanding of the CSO on the IPA II programming and programming process in Bosnia and Herzegovina in general, the sectoral approach to IPA II programming and the introduction of the Indicative Strategic Document for BiH for the period 2014-2017, as well as the Draft of the document 2018-2020 covering the following areas of EU assistance: Democracy and Governance; Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights; Competitiveness and Innovation; Education, Employment and Social Policy; Transport; Home affairs.
- To familiarize the CSOs about the programming dynamics, types and procedures for engaging civil society in consultations for drafting Strategic Plans document and corresponding Action Plans.
- To present the opportunities provided by the web platform 'e-consultation' and registration on the web platform.
- To introduce the CSOs with strategic budget support - mandatory role and civil society participation in each sectoral reform agreement.
- To present the connection of European Commission Questionnaire (EC) for BiH – Sectoral Chapters and participation of CSOs on the basis of their missions in further contribution to the Reform Agenda in BiH

Participants of the Info Workshops were civil society organizations registered in BiH who were interested in taking part in the IPA II programming process in the areas mentioned for IPA II for the period 2018-2020:

- Democracy and governance;
- Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights;
- Competitiveness and Innovation;
- Education, Employment and Social Policy;

- Transportation;
- Home Affairs.

## 2. Dates of Info Workshops according to cities

Location	Date of implementation of workshop	Duration of workshop
Mostar	19.04.2017.	13:00-16:00
Brcko	25.04.2017.	13:00-16:00
Banja Luka	26.04.2017.	11:00-14:00
Sarajevo	05.05.2017.	11:00-14:00

## 3. Programme of Info Workshops:

- 15 min. Registration of participants
- 15 min. Review of the current state of cooperation between sectors between CSOs and government institutions
- 15 min Access to sectoral planning and programming of IPA II
- 15 min. Questions and answers
- 20 min Break and refreshment
- 30 min Presentation of the on-line platform 'e-consultation' and the importance of the proactive role of CSOs.
- Registration of CSOs on a web platform
- 30 min. Self-Assessment of CSOs by Sector- discussion aspects
- 20 -30 min. EC Questionnaire for BiH, Chapters of Questionnaires, thematic areas and participation of CSOs in the answers to questions from the Questionnaire
- 10 min Evaluation of the workshop and closure

### Moderators of the Info Workshops were resource people of the Directorate for European Integration:

Mr. Midhat Dzemic - Head of Department of the Directorate for European Integration of the Council of Ministers of BiH, EU Assistance Coordination,

Mrs. Danijela Vucetic- Professional Advisor for Promotion, Communications Officer for IPA II

## 4. Results of the Info Workshops

Total number of participants of the Info Workshops was 72 (70 CSO and 2 representatives of institutions).

### 4.1 TACSO BiH has offered self-assessment questionnaires to the organizations of the Workshops on the basis of following criteria:

- Assess the level of knowledge of the dynamics of civil society involvement in the consultation process in IPA II programming in BiH;
- Assess your organization's knowledge of EU fundraising projects as well as use of the logical framework methodology;
- Assess your organization's knowledge of BiH EU membership process;
- Evaluate your organization's knowledge of EU policies and standards for the mission area whose fulfilment is dedicated to your organization;
- Assess the knowledge of the Strategic Documents for BiH, is BiH strategic planning documents relevant to your organization's mission;

- How many of your organization's activities correspond to questions from the EC Questionnaire for specific thematic areas in the chapters/sectors that are within the scope of your organization's mission;
- Does your organization take part in the writing of Alternative reports/Shadow reports that lead the CSO on the topic of monitoring the European integration process in BiH;
- What is your proposal for better sectoral organization and networking of CSOs in BiH?

**Findings of self-assessment are that:**

**47%** of present CSOs responded that they participate in contributions and writing alternative reports and reports from shadows – these CSOs rated themselves with marks from 3 (good) to 5 (excellent) in all first six categories.

**53%** of present CSOs responded that they did not participate in contributing and writing alternative reports and reports from shadows – these CSOs rated themselves with marks from 1 (insufficiently) to 3 (good) in all first six categories of questionnaire.

The recommendations of all participants (100%) for better sectoral organization and networking are that CSO capacity building works on the sectoral approach, to organize sectoral forums, as well as to sectoral organize initiatives of CSO.

**4.2** According to the findings of the evaluation, 95% of the participants of the Info Workshops have found the information and knowledge gained at the workshop very (64%) and partly (31%) significant.

The relation of the time for presentations and the opportunities for participation of CSOs in the dialogue with the presenters, asking questions and getting answers as well as mutual discussion were evaluated as following:

- a) Insufficient time for discussion and dialogue - **3%**
- b) Sufficient time for discussion and dialogue – **37%**
- c) Optimum relation of presentations and time for discussion and dialogue – **40%**

The number of CSOs registered during the Info Workshop on the Web Platform was 23%, while 77% of the CSO participants stated that they would register after the workshop.

All presented materials of the Directorate for EU Integration during Info Workshops are on the TACSO website at the following link:

[http://tacso.org/news/training-opp/default.aspx?id=15039&template\\_id=73&langTag=bs-BA](http://tacso.org/news/training-opp/default.aspx?id=15039&template_id=73&langTag=bs-BA)