



CIVIL SOCIETY  
RESOURCE  
CENTRE

Newsletter #1  
February 2019



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is funded by  
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i, the citizen!

*Dear Reader,*

*We are pleased to share with you the first issue of the Newsletter of the Civil Society Resource Centre. In this issue we give a brief outline of the achieved results and activities in the first year (15<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019), an overview of the planned activities for the next month, as well as the key information relevant to the civil society which and taken over by other stakeholders.*

*In the next issues of the Newsletter, which will be monthly, you will be able to read about the implemented activities and the achievements of the Civil Society Resource Centre, the activities planned for the up-coming period and the actions and information by other stakeholders which are of great importance for the civil society in the country.*

*With respect,*

*The Civil Society Resource Centre team*

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## Activities of the Civil Society Resource Centre in the first year



ОТВОРЕНО  
ВЛАДИНО  
ПАРТНЕРСТВО

### **The Resource Centres in Skopje, Gostivar and Shtip fully operational**

The Civil Society Resource Centre operates through three resource centres in Skopje, Shtip and Gostivar. The resource centres provide information, advice and guides in areas important for CSOs' operation. Furthermore, CSOs can use the premises of the resource centres for organising their own events.

Read more about:

- [Opening of the Resource Centre in Skopje](#)
- [Opening of the Resource centre in Gostivar](#)
- [Opening of the Resource centre in Shtip](#)

### **The consultations with CSOs about Open Government Partnership supported**

The Civil Society Resource Centre supported Ministry of Information Society and Administration in the consultation process on development of the new Open Government Partnership Action Plan 2018-2020

Read more about:

- [Four thematic meetings about the new OGP Action plan](#)
- [„The Open Government Partnership at its best days”](#)



### **Organised meetings of the Mobile Resource Centre**

The Mobile resource centre informs local and grass-root organisations about the situation in the civil society, the services provided by the resource centres, facilitates networking and cooperation among different organisations but also it gives opportunity for local organisations to share their experiences, needs and challenges.

Read more about the visits of the Mobile Resource Centre in [Strumica](#); [Mavrovo and Rostushe](#); [Veles](#); [Brvenica](#); [Vrapchishte](#); [Makedonska Kamenica](#); [Kochani](#); [Tetovo](#), [Bitola](#), [Tearce](#), [Delcevo](#).



### **Sub-granting, a mechanism for supporting smaller organisations**

On 30<sup>th</sup> October in Skopje, the Civil Society Resource Centre organised the Debate "Sub-granting, experiences, lessons learned, opportunities and challenges". Regional and national experiences, practices and lessons learned from re-granting were shared on the debate. Many proposals for improving this mechanism resulted from the debate.

[Read more](#)

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## Trainings for capacity building of CSOs implemented

The implementation of the capacity building programme for CSOs within the Civil Society Resource Centre started in December. In the first year 5 trainings were implemented.

Read more about:

- [Training on Good Governance](#)
- [Training on Institutional Development and Organisational Strengthening](#)
- [Training on Visibility and Presentation of CSOs' Results](#)
- [Training on Resource Mobilisation](#)
- [Training on Transparency and Accountability of CSOs](#)



## Analyses and reports prepared

In the past period the Civil Society Resource Centre prepared the following analyses and reports:

- [Report on monitoring the enabling environment for civil society development in the country 2017](#)
- [Report from the network identification survey in the country](#)  
(in Macedonian only)



## Better implementation of the Strategy needed in the next period

Representatives of CSOs and state institutions participated in the Debate where the Strategy for cooperation with and support to civil society 2018 – 2020 was presented as well as the dynamic of its implementation.

[Read more](#)

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## Support provided by the Civil Society Resource Centre in the period 15 February 2018 – 15 February 2019

**Responded to 259 help-desk requests.** Interested organisations may pose their questions using the [request for support](#) or to contact directly the offices of the resource centres in Skopje, Shtip and Gostivar.

**185 E-mails with relevant information send to the CSOs' mailing list.** If you want to receive information, joint the [mailing list](#).

**75 events organized in the premises of the Civil Society Resource Centre by other CSOs or other stakeholders.** If you want to uses the premises, fill in the [respective request](#).

**Prepared and shared 13 monthly overviews of funding opportunities for CSOs with 139 open calls in total.** Read the [monthly overviews of funding opportunities](#) for CSOs.

**Prepared and shared 30 weekly overviews with information about opened law-making processes and draft-laws published on ENER and eight monthly overviews from the monitoring of the openness of the law-making processes.** Read the [weekly and monthly overviews](#).

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## March Events of the Civil Society Resource Centre

[Calendar of activities](#)

- **Debate**, 21 March 2019, Skopje
  - **Mobile Resource Centre in Prilep**, 28 March 2019, Prilep
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## **Key information for civil society and enabling environment for CSOs**

In this part of the Newsletter we will regularly inform about important information about the civil society that are undertaken and implemented by other stakeholders

In October the Government adopted its third Strategy for cooperation with and development of the civil society with action plan 2018-2020. The Strategy contains thirty one measures divided in three priority areas: Normative, institutional and financial framework for civil society development; Democratisation, active participation of the civil society in the social processes, in policy creation and monitoring with special focus on the EU integration process. Some of the measures foreseen with the Strategy are: changes to the Law on Associations and Foundations; changes to the Law on games of chance and entertainment games; establishing transparent model for state funding with establishing a fond for institutional development of CSOs and co-financing EU-funded projects...

[Download the Strategy and the Action Plan](#) (in Macedonian only)

In April the Council for cooperation with and development of the civil society was established as an advisory body to the Government for promotion of the cooperation, the dialogue and for stimulating the civil society development in the country. The Council comprises 31 members, 16 are CSOs' representatives selected on an open call and the remaining 15 members are from the state institutions. In the period 16<sup>th</sup> April – 15<sup>th</sup> February, the Council held nine sessions and some of the issues discussed are: Council for cooperation with and development of the civil society; Participation of the public in the decision making process in the area of environment; Conclusions from the public debate on the reform of the manner of financing organisations of disabled people; proposal to the Law on social protection; development of proposal for a model for CSOs' involvement in the EU-accession process...

[More about the competences, the work and the members of the Council](#) (in Macedonian only)

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The project “National Resource Centre for Civil Society Organisations” or shortly Civil Society Resource Centre is funded by the European Union and implemented by Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation and the project partners Association for Democratic Initiatives (ADI) from Gostivar and Media Plus from Stip. The project duration is 15.02.2018-14.02.2021 and the total budget for the project is 507.820 EUR.

The project overall objective is empowered civil society that actively takes part in decision making and contributes to strengthened participatory democracy in the country, whereas the specific objective is to provide services for building the capacities of CSOs to be effective and accountable independent actors and to contribute to environment that is conducive to civil society. The primary target group of the project are civil society organisations in Macedonia, however, the project will also target relevant state institutions and other civil society actors.

Three resource centres are opened in Skopje, Gostivar and Shtip.

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МАКЕДОНСКИ  
ЦЕНТАР ЗА  
МЕГУНАРОДНА  
СОРАБОТКА



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