



CIVIL SOCIETY
RESOURCE
CENTRE

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i, the citizen!

Activities of the Civil Society Resource Centre during 15th February – 31st March 2019



Organisations jointly and through transparency to decreased politicization

The Civil Society Resource Centre organised the debate “Politically active but nonpartisan CSOs, acting for the public benefit” on 21st February in Skopje. International trends of freedom and restrictions to the political activity of CSOs were shared at the event, further on it was discussed about the neutrality of the organisations in their involvement in policy creation. In addition, it was discussed about the opinion of the public and the political parties about CSOs’ role. Key-note speakers were: Gordan Georgiev, university professor, Katerina Hadzi-Miceva Evans from European Centre for Not-for-Profit Law; Irena Ivanova



Multiple discrimination – challenges and possible solutions

The Civil Society Resource Centre organised the debate on multiple discrimination in its premises in Skopje on 28th March. The legal frame, the current situation, the experiences and practices of combatting multiple discrimination were presented and discussed at the event. Further on, it was discussed about the measures for protection from multiple discrimination, particularly intersectional discrimination. Key-note speakers were: Zaneta Poposka from OSCE Mission to Skopje; Gjulten Mustafafova from Ministry of Labour and Social Policy;

from EU Delegation and Emina Nuredinoska from Macedonian Center for International Cooperation.

[Read more](#)



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 latest visits of the Mobile Resource Centre in [Struga](#); [Vinica](#) and [Sveti Nikole](#)

and Igor Jadrovski from Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.

[Read more](#)



Organisations became familiar with working in networks, partnerships and coalitions

On 27-28th February, in Skopje, the Civil Society Resource Centre organised the sixth and the last training from the first training cycle planned for the first project year. This training was on thematic networking, partnerships and coalitions. Seventeen CSOs' representatives were introduced to the possibilities for cooperation in the civil society, partnership building with associations, as well as different methods, techniques and tools for communication, strengthening partnership relations and coalition building.

[Read more](#)

Support provided by the Civil Society Resource Centre in the period 15 February 2018 – 31 March 2019

Responded to 299 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.

218 E-mails with relevant information sent to the CSOs. If you want to receive information, joint the [mailing list](#).

108 events organised in the premises of the Civil Society Resource Centre by other CSOs or other stakeholders. If you need to use the premises, fill in the [respective request](#).

Prepared and shared 14 monthly overviews of funding opportunities for CSOs with 146 open calls in total. Read the [monthly overviews of funding opportunities](#) for CSOs.

Prepared and shared 35 weekly overviews with information about opened law-making processes and draft-laws published on ENER and nine monthly overviews from the monitoring of the openness of the law-making processes. Read the [weekly and monthly overviews](#).

April Events of the Civil Society Resource Centre

Calendar of activities

- **Information session on open call for partnership grants for organisational development** 15 April 2019, Civil Society Resource Centre, Skopje
- **Information session on open call for partnership grants for organisational development** 18 April 2019, Strumica
- **Information session on open call for partnership grants for organisational development** 19 April 2019, Kicevo
- **Information session on open call for partnership grants for organisational development**, 22 April 2019, Bitola
- **Mobile Resource Centre in Debar**, 23 April 2019, Debar
- **Mobile Resource Centre in Radovis**, 24 April 2019, Radovish

Key information for civil society and enabling environment for CSOs

This section of the Newsletter is dedicated to important information for the civil society in the country undertaken by other stakeholders

During its eleventh session, held on 19th March, the members of the Council for cooperation with and development of the civil society among other issues discussed about the **Information on the financial support to associations and foundations from the Budget in 2018 and planned funds for 2019**.

According to this Information prepared by the Unit for cooperation with NGOs, 428.903.454,00 MKD were distributed to 888 associations and foundations in 2018. 389.990.426,00 MKD of these funds were awarded on open call to 853 associations and foundations, whereas 37.857.781,00 MKD were allocated without an open call to 35 associations and foundations. The document also contains information about the funds planned to be awarded to associations and foundations in 2019.

According to the draft-minutes from this Council session, the Council obliged the Unit for cooperation with NGOs to revised the Information with information about: the legal basis for the financial support to CSOs within individual institutions, consultations with CSOs for defining the priorities for financing, how the open calls were published and announced, CSOs' participation in evaluation committees, publishing the decisions on the distribution of funds and the reasons (legal basis) for awarding funds without an open call.

[Download the Information on financial support to associations and foundations from the Budget in 2018 and planned funds for 2019](#) (in Macedonian)

[Download draft-minutes from Council session held on 19th March 2019](#) (in Macedonian)

On 25th February in the premises of the Civil Society Resource Centre, the first meeting was held between the new members of the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption and the Platform of



CSOs against Corruption. Ideas for cooperation and synergy were discussed in order to fight corruption more effectively. The new members of the Commission were elected using more transparent selection procedure where CSOs' representatives were actively involved. The

selection procedure was implemented in line with the new Law on Prevention of Corruption and Conflict of Interest which came into force in January 2019.

[Read more](#) (in Macedonian)

[Read more about the new members of SCPC](#)(in Macedonian)

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 the country, 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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