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Activities of the Civil Society Resource Centre in June – August 2019



CSOs' Capacity Building Program

In the period June-July, the Civil Society Resource Center conducted an online questionnaire analysis of CSOs to determine the capacity building needs of CSOs. According to the results of the questionnaire and the analysis, the program will cover the following training topics:

- Fundraising
- From project idea to successful project application
- Financial operation, financial transparency and accountability
- Research and research methods
- Monitoring and evaluation of programs, results and impact of CSOs' operations
- Citizens' participation in decision-making at the local level
- Communication and visibility of CSOs



Open Call for Action Grants for Advocacy

In August, the Civil Society Resource Center prepared its second open call for grants for CSOs.

The purpose of the call for small advocacy action grants is to support local organisations in preparing and implementing advocacy initiatives, contributing to better local policies and activities at the local level. Not more than ten grants will be awarded at the call, each between EUR 2,000 and EUR 3,000.

The call is published on 10 September and the deadline for applications is 10 October.

Three information sessions for the call will be organised on:

- 17.09.2019 from 12:00, in Tetovo

The open call for the selection of trainers is ongoing and the training implementation will last from October 2018 until February 2020.



Organised visits of the Mobile Resource Centre

In June the Civil Society Resource Centre organised a visit of the Mobile Resource Center in Kumanovo.

During the meeting, the representatives expressed the need for assistance concerning project cycle management, from writing applications to project implementation. Organisations face complicated administrative procedures thus they use outsourcing for these services, however, the organisations themselves remain weak.

Read more about MRC in [Kumanovo](#).

- 18.09.2019 from 12:00 in Veles
- 19.09.2019 from 12:00 in Prilep

[Open call](#) (in Macedonian)



Tailor-made workshops for organisational strengthening

In the period July - August, the Civil Society Resource Centre organised three tailor-made workshops on strategic positioning of four organisations.

At the workshops, each mentor worked individually with an organisation. This focused their individual needs, and the participants worked together to strengthen their own association.

[Read more](#)

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

Responded to 448 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.

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

175 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 19 monthly overviews of funding opportunities for CSOs with 199 open calls in total. Read the [monthly overviews of funding opportunities](#) for CSOs.

Prepared and shared 50 weekly overviews with information about opened law-making processes and draft-laws published on ENER and 13 monthly overviews from the monitoring of the openness of the law-making processes. Read the [weekly and monthly overviews](#).

Up-coming Events of the Civil Society Resource Centre

[Calendar of activities](#)

- **Information session on open call for grants**, 12:00 – 14:00, 17 September 2019, the Cabinet Hall (Municipality building), Dervish Shara bb, Tetovo
- **Information session on open call for grants**, 12:00 – 14:00, 18 September 2019, the Conference Room (Municipality building), Panko Brashnar, 1, Veles
- **Information session on open call for grants**, 12:00 – 14:00, 19 September 2019, the Youth Information and Counselling Centre INFO SEGA, Tsar Samuel, 18, Prilep
- **Mobile Resource Centre in Kavadarci**, 27 September 2019, Kavadarci

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

In the period June - August, the Council for Cooperation with and Development of the Civil Sector held two sessions on 4 July and 27 August.

During these two sessions, a number of topics were discussed, including the National Strategy for the Development of the Concept of a Society and Interculturalism in the Republic of North Macedonia, the selection of representatives of the Council for the allocation of funds intended to fund the programs of the activities of the associations and foundations from the 2019 Budget, nomination of a participant in the Conference for the Promotion of the Convention on the Violation of the Cultural Heritage in Cyprus, etc.

[Read more about Council sessions](#) (in Macedonian)

The final conference of the project "Strong CSOs for Positive Social Change" was held in Skopje on 26.06.2019, supported by the European Union and implemented by the Foundation

for Local Community Development Stip, Center for Sustainable Development Alka and Institute for Community Development from Tetovo.

The conference presented the key findings of the project, as well as the changes that the project made during the implementation period, with a particular focus on supporting CSOs from municipal budgets.

[Read more about the conference](#) (in Macedonian)

The implementation of the 10-year Parliament Support Program started in June, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and implemented by the National Democratic Institute, the Institute for Democracy Societas Civilis - Skopje and the Center for Change Management. The program aims to support the reform efforts of the Assembly towards a stronger role the oversight of the executive power, the laws for higher quality, greater openness, transparency and citizen participation in the work of the Assembly.

The total budget of the program is 11 million Swiss francs.

[Read more](#)

The Center for Civic Communications announced in June the ranking of institutions according to the Active Transparency Index, i.e. the proactive disclosure of public information, made in March 2019, which includes all ministries, government and municipalities.

[Active Transparency Index 2019](#) (in Macedonian)

The Balkan Civil Society Development Network has released the tenth analysis of the annual European Commission Enlargement Reports and assessment of the progress made in the area of civil society development and dialogue with public institutions. The analysis is set against BCSDN's Monitoring Matrix on Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development.

[Read more about the analysis](#)

On July 12, 2019, the Network for Protection against Discrimination promoted the report on the implementation of the Law on Prevention and Protection against Discrimination 2011-2018. The purpose of the report is to collect data on the implementation of the Law so far and to analyze the overall work of the Commission since its establishment.

[Read more about the analysis](#) (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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