



## E-Mail Alerts no. 310

### Table of Contents

#### Donor Strategies

- **Norwegian Embassy Opening a Dialogue with the Civil Society**

#### Enabling Environment

- **TACSO EU Guidelines Meeting - BCSDN's Monitoring Matrix Country Reports Will Address Indicators from the Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in Enlargement Countries**
- **Civil Society Advocacy Resulted with Improvements of the Fiscal Legislation for NPOs in Albania**
- **Kosovo: Government-Civil Society Cooperation in 2014**
- **Croatia: Rulebook on the Register of Associations Published**

#### News

- **The European Commission and Parliament Are Implementing New Rules on Transparency Register**
- **Launch of the Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue**
- **action/2015 – Campaign for World Leaders for Eradicating Poverty, Preventing Climate Change and Tackling Inequality**

#### Funding

- **CfP: PeaceNexus Fund – New Organisational Development Call 2015 (Deadline: 11.02.2015)**
- **CfP: Black Sea Trust - Enhancing Social Cohesion of Turkish Society (Deadline: 28.02.2015)**
- **CfP: Democracy and Human Rights – Croatia (Deadline: 20.03.2015)**
- **CfP: Supporting Innovative Initiatives for Children and Youth in Local Communities – Croatia (Deadline: 20.03.2015)**
- **CfP: Tiet Foundation Grants for Innovative Human Rights Activities/Projects (Deadline: 31.03.2015)**

## Training and Education

- **CfA: Roma Placement Program (Deadline: 05.02.2015)**
- **CfA: SELDI Policy Forum: Good Governance Agenda for Southeast Europe: the Role of Civil Society and the European Parliament – 24 February, Brussels**
- **CfA: World Bank Civil Society Policy Forum 2015 – Call for Session Proposals (Deadline: 25.02.2015)**
- **CfA: Call for Nominations for the 2015 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize (Deadline: 03.04.2015)**

## Publications

- **Human Rights Watch World Report 2015**
- **Freedom in the World 2015**
- **Turkey: Good Governance and Self-Regulation Models for CSOs Report**
- **Activizanship - The European Civic Forum's Magazine**
- **EU Delegations Report 2015: Mutual Engagement between EU Delegations and CSOs**

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- **Norwegian Embassy Opening a Dialogue with the Civil Society**

Representatives from various CSOs were invited by the Norwegian Embassy in Serbia and Montenegro to give input to the embassy on their challenges and how their needs could be best met through the Embassy's support programmes. Of about 3 million Euros in support from Norway to civil society and local communities, up to 1 million Euros will be earmarked for a programme to cover operational costs for key CSOs. Topics such as rule of law, good governance, anti-corruption, human rights, minority rights, entrepreneurship and economic development would be thematic focus areas for support. Civil society representatives have participated in two meetings so far, one in Nis (26.01) and another in Novi Sad (30.01), discussing the current situation in the civil society, the need for financial support and best solutions for sustainability of CSOs. The embassy will hold its next consultative meeting in Podgorica on 6th February. A closing ceremony will be organized in Belgrade in February, when a new Call for Applications will be presented for the program for support to civil society. More information is available [here](#).

[Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway]




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- **TACSO EU Guidelines Meeting - BCSDN's Monitoring Matrix Country Reports Will Address Indicators from the Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in Enlargement Countries**

TACSO organized a regional meeting in Brussels, held on 22-23th of January, 2015, to coordinate two main processes: 1) the establishment and capacity building of the Resource Centers (RCs) in almost all beneficiary countries from the WB, except Albania, which will take over the TACSO services, and 2) agreeing upon the optimal monitoring system for the EU Guidelines. Representatives of the DG Enlargement Unit D.7, TACSO Country Offices and BCSDN EO and member organizations took part in the meeting. One of the main conclusions is that BCSDN Monitoring country reports will assess the fulfilment of the indicators, and national

targets and benchmarks set up in the EU Guidelines, except for the CSO Capacity area which is beyond the scope of the Monitoring Matrix – this will be one of the tasks of the new RCs. The BCSDN's Monitoring Matrix country reports will contain direct formulations which address the EU Guidelines indicators, without further changes of the Monitoring Matrix design and methodology. Read more [here](#).

[BCSDN]



- **Civil Society Advocacy Resulted with Improvements of the Fiscal Legislation for NPOs in Albania**

The last Council of Ministers decision regarding Added Value Tax (VAT) (in line with the VAT Law nr. 92/2014) introduced a series of important changes with regard to VAT for the economic activity of non-for-profits. The changes come as result of a long-standing effort over the years, and part of the platform the sector discussed and agreed with the government at the conference of December 2013. Improvement of the fiscal regime for the non-for-profits is part of what Partners Albania, with the support and participation of the Task Force for the enabling environment for civil society, has had in focus in the last year among other issues. Partners Albania is working to prepare an analysis of the last fiscal changes in the legal framework affecting the NPO sector, helping the sector to better understand, implement and take advantage of these changes. In a nutshell, the changes bring the clarity which has been missing in the last decade by creating lots of ambiguity especially with regard to economic activity of non-for profits. Read more [here](#).

[Partners Albania]



- **Kosovo: Government-Civil Society Cooperation in 2014**

During the last year the Council for cooperation between the government and civil society on Kosovo has put a lot of effort to developing the cooperation processes between the government and civil society. The Office on Good Governance has prepared and published in December 2014 an informative report summarizing the entire cooperation process of the government with civil society and in particular the implementation of the strategy of the Government of Kosovo in this field. The informative bulletin is available for download at this [link](#). More information can be found at this [website](#).

[Council for Cooperation between the Government and Civil Society - Kosovo]



- **Croatia: Rulebook on the Register of Associations Published**

The Ministry of Administration of the Republic of Croatia has published a rulebook on the register of associations. These regulations prescribe the form and content of the Register of Associations and Register of Foreign Associations, the application requirements for both Registers, the requirements for registering changes in the registers, the content of an extract from the register, classification of associations, ways of submitting applications for registration, official registration and keeping the Register of Associations and the Register of Foreign Associations, collections of documents, termination of associations as legal entities and termination of activities of foreign associations in the Republic of Croatia. The Rulebook is available at this [link](#).

[Program JAKO]



- **The European Commission and Parliament Are Implementing New Rules on Transparency Register**

A new version of the EU Transparency Register has been launched following joint work by the European Commission and the European Parliament. This 'second generation' of the Register implements the provisions of the revised Inter-institutional Agreement signed between the EP and the EC in April 2014. The new system brings changes to the way human resources invested in lobbying are declared, requires additional information

about involvement in EU committees, forums, intergroups or similar structures, and legislative files currently followed; it also extends the requirement to declare estimated costs related to lobbying to all registrants. Additionally, a streamlined 'alerts & complaints' procedure allows for greater scrutiny and more efficient treatment of allegedly misleading information, and new incentives are given to increase the added value of registering.

More information is available [here](#).

[European Commission]



- **Launch of the Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue**

From January 2015, ALDA and the Balkan LDAs are starting the implementation of the operating grant – Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue, a new platform in the Balkans which aims to establish a network of organisations that will contribute in structuring regional thematic cooperation and coordination between civil society and public authorities from targeted countries to improve environment for youth activism and participation, in particular of young people with fewer opportunities. Through the course of the project a series of conferences, trainings, exchanges, workshops and meetings will be held in five targeted countries from the region. More information is available [here](#).

[ALDA]



- **action/2015 – Campaign for World Leaders for Eradicating Poverty, Preventing Climate Change and Tackling Inequality**

According to new research, almost a billion extra people face a life of extreme poverty if leaders duck key decisions on poverty, inequality and climate change due to be taken at two crucial summits in New York and Paris later this year, with billions more continuing to face a life of hardship. That's the warning by more than a thousand organisations in more than 120 countries around the world which are launching a new campaign called action/2015 calling on local and world leaders to take urgent action to halt man-made climate change, eradicate poverty and address inequality. action/2015 – announced by Malala when she accepted the Nobel Peace Prize – is one of the biggest campaigns ever to launch – combining environmental, human rights, development organisations and faith networks. The campaign is calling on world leaders to agree plans to eradicate poverty, prevent dangerous climate change and tackle inequality at these summits. Read more about the campaign [here](#).

[CIVICUS]



- **CfP: PeaceNexus Fund – New Organisational Development Call 2015 (Deadline: 11.02.2015)**

The PeaceNexus Foundation has announced the new call for the Grants 2015 PeaceNexus Fund which provides funding support for peacebuilding CSOs to 'better manage their change, growth and learning processes'. The purpose of the grant is to support CSOs in increasing their ability to deliver on their missions, by investing in their organisational development, thereby directly contributing to their impact and sustainability. The CfP is open to peacebuilding CSOs that operate internationally (in at least five countries) and to local organizations operating in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia. The overall envelope available for this call is CHF 250,000 (approx. EUR 243,000) and it is anticipated that between 5 and 10 grants will be awarded.

The deadline for submitting an Expression of Interest is 11th February, 2015. More info is available [here](#).

[Fund for NGOs]



- **CfP: Black Sea Trust - Enhancing Social Cohesion of Turkish Society (Deadline: 28.02.2015)**

The Black Sea Trust (BST) announced a new Call with the aim to support activities of civic non-partisan organizations, research and policy institutions, coalitions, and initiatives from Turkey aimed at enhancing social cohesion in Turkish society. BST invites proposals from organizations from all regions of Turkey, to address the issues of social cohesion in the following areas: 1) Minimizing the gap and facilitating the dialogs between secular and religious perceptions of what is a good society; 2) Addressing the consequences of years-long armed conflict in Southeast Turkey caused by the Kurdish independence movements; and 3) Strengthening the CSO – government dialog. The average grant will be around USD 25,000 and maximum duration of projects is 12 months. The deadline for applications is 28th February, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[The German Marshall Fund of the US]



- **CfP: Democracy and Human Rights – Croatia (Deadline: 20.03.2015)**

The aim of this Call, launched by the National Foundation for Civil Society Development, acting as the Fund Operator for the implementation of the EEA and Norway NGO Programme in Croatia, is to raise awareness and involve citizens in the process of advocacy, non-formal education and campaigns to the principles of good governance and strengthening the rule of law strengthened, and for democratic institutions to become more efficient and developed. Under this Call, application can be submitted in two categories: individual applications and applications in partnership of at least 3 organisations. The range of grants for individual applications is from HRK 150,000 (EUR 20,000) to HRK 262,500 (EUR 35,000) and for applications in partnership of at least 3 organisations from HRK 262,500 (EUR 35,000) to HRK 600,000 (EUR 80,000). Project implementation shall last from 12 months up to a maximum of 18 months. Deadline for submission of applications is 20th March, 2015.

The full application package is available at this [link](#).

[National Foundation for Civil Society Support - Croatia]



- **CfP: Supporting Innovative Initiatives for Children and Youth in Local Communities – Croatia (Deadline: 20.03.2015)**

The aim of this Call, also launched by the National Foundation for Civil Society Development, is the development of successful and sustainable projects that contribute to the development of democratic principles and active citizenship as well as improving the quality of life of children and young people in local communities in the Republic of Croatia. Eligible applicants for the Call Supporting Innovative Initiatives for Children and Youth in Local Communities are associations and foundations (that are not founded by public institutions), registered in the Republic of Croatia. The range of grants is from HRK 75,000 (EUR 10,000) to HRK 150,000 (EUR 20,000). Projects implementation shall last from 6 months up to a maximum of 12 months. Deadline for submission of applications is 20th March, 2015. The full application package is available at this [link](#).

[National Foundation for Civil Society Support - Croatia]



- **CfP: Tiet Foundation Grants for Innovative Human Rights Activities/Projects (Deadline: 31.03.2015)**

Tiet Foundation aims to support organizations around the world that maximize impact and create change. Its grant programs seek to support high-impact, low-cost solutions to the world's toughest problems - in particular, social injustices. Its latest grant cycle is now open and organizations can request funding of up to USD 5,000. It mostly supports projects in the areas of: 1) Social/economic inequalities and 2) Marginalized populations (women, older adults, people with disabilities, LGBTQI, indigenous/native people, refugees/internally displaced persons, etc.). Funding is given to organizations that are either direct service providers or work in the field of advocacy. Funds may be used for general organization support or for a project. More information is available [here](#).

[Funds for NGOs]



- **CfA: Roma Placement Program (Deadline: 05.02.2015)**

Organized by the Center for Policy Studies (CEU) and supported by the National Endowment for Democracy (USA), the Roma Placement program supports young Roma MA and PhD graduates to build professional skills and to promote their engagement in public affairs at CSOs in Macedonia and Serbia. CEU intends to support not-for-profit organizations in mainstreaming equality and social diversity in their employment and staff building practices, by creating four, maximum one-year long employment opportunities for graduates of Roma origin. The ultimate goal is to make the Roma part of the staff of mainstream organizations working in different fields of public affairs. CSOs from Macedonia and Serbia are invited to put themselves forward as candidates for employing young Roma professionals until 5th February, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[PASOS]



- **CfA: SELDI Policy Forum: Good Governance Agenda for Southeast Europe: the Role of Civil Society and the European Parliament – 24 February, Brussels**

On 24th February, SELDI will present the key findings and policy recommendations from the first two years of the initiative at the European Parliament in Brussels. The conclusions from the SELDI Regional Anti-Corruption Report: Anti-Corruption Reloaded: Assessment of Southeast Europe will be discussed with representatives of the civil society, the European Commission, and the European Parliament. Given the major significance of the good governance and anti-corruption issue in Southeast Europe and the prospects of the countries from the region of joining the EU, the event will aim to contribute to promoting the civil society - state dialogue in identifying effective counter-measures and possibilities for future collaboration among all stakeholders. More information is available [here](#).

[SELDI]



- **CfA: World Bank Civil Society Policy Forum 2015 – Call for Session Proposals (Deadline: 25.02.2015)**

The World Bank Civil Society Policy Forum convene from April 14 – 17, 2015 and will comprise 40-50 policy sessions on a wide range of topics such as poverty reduction, inequality, safeguards, climate change, fiscal transparency, global financial crisis spillovers, public debt limits, and gender. As in previous years, CSO representatives attending the Civil Society Policy Forum at the 2015 IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings are encouraged to submit proposals for policy sessions on thematically relevant, social and economic development topics. The Civil Society Team will receive proposals from until 25th February, 2015. A tentative Civil Society Policy Forum schedule will be available on the civil society team's website in mid-March. More information is available [here](#).

[World Bank]



- **CfA: Call for Nominations for the 2015 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize (Deadline: 03.04.2015)**

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) has issued a call for nominations for the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize, which will be awarded for the third consecutive year on 28th September next in Strasbourg. The Prize aims to reward outstanding civil society action in defending human rights in Europe and beyond. Candidates should have made a real difference to the human rights situation of a given group, been instrumental in uncovering systemic violations on a large scale, or have successfully mobilised public opinion or the international community for a given cause. The Václav Havel Human Rights Prize, consisting of a sum of

€60,000, a trophy and a diploma, is awarded annually by the Parliamentary Assembly, in partnership with the Václav Havel Library and the Charta 77 Foundation. The deadline for submitting nominations is 30th April, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[Council of Europe]



- **Human Rights Watch World Report 2015**

Human Rights Watch's 25th annual World Report summarizes human rights conditions in more than 90 countries and territories worldwide in 2014. In its 656-page World Report 2015, which aims to document human rights concerns across the world, international campaign group Human Rights Watch said progress in this area remains slow in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo and Serbia. According to the report, governments in the Western Balkans should step up their efforts to improve human rights protection to further their European integration. "It's time the Western Balkans governments demonstrated they are serious about European Union values like equal treatment of minorities and accountability for serious crimes," said Lydia Gall, Balkans and Eastern Europe researcher at Human Rights Watch. Read more [here](#).

[Human Rights Watch]



- **Freedom in the World 2015**

In a year marked by an explosion of terrorist violence, autocrats' use of more brutal tactics, and Russia's invasion and annexation of a neighbouring country's territory, the state of freedom in 2014 worsened significantly in nearly every part of the world. For the ninth consecutive year, Freedom in the World, Freedom House's annual report on the condition of global political rights and civil liberties, showed an overall decline. Indeed, acceptance of democracy as the world's dominant form of government—and of an international system built on democratic ideals—is under greater threat than at any point in the last 25 years. The report's findings show that nearly twice as many countries suffered declines as registered gains, 61 to 33, with the number of gains hitting its lowest point since the nine-year erosion began. Read the full report at this [link](#).

[Freedom House]



- **Turkey: Good Governance and Self-Regulation Models for CSOs Report**

The report "Good Governance and Self-Regulation Models for CSOs" is prepared as a follow up to the Quality Management Systems Conference organized at regional level by TACSO in 2011. The report aims to introduce to Civil Society Organizations in Turkey the different models that organizations worldwide have developed to be accountable and transparent and improve the quality of work they are performing. Transparency, accountability and quality management models as well as assessments in the report will be enlightening particularly for those right-based CSOs that aims to strengthen social ownership, advocates and provides services for a specific target group. The report is available for download [here](#).

[TACSO]



- **Activizanship - The European Civic Forum's Magazine**

The publication of the first issue of European Civic Forum's bi-annual magazine "Activizanship" at the beginning of December came as closure for 2014 as much as it opened a new door for the future. Its aim is to capture current trends and transformations affecting civil society across Europe and worldwide, to connect ideas and experiences about changing the world from grassroots up, and to prospect the role of citizens' movements, assemblies and organisations in revitalising civic and political space. Divided into 3 Chapters, Activizanship#1 opens on the role of social movements. The second chapter explores the possibilities offered by the commons in fighting the economic crisis and political disenchantment. Finally, the third chapter discusses the role CSOs have

to play in reviving the common good. The publication is available for download [here](#).

[EFC]



- **EU Delegations Report 2015: Mutual Engagement between EU Delegations and CSOs**

According to the new report by CONCORD which looks at the mutual engagement between EU delegations and CSOs across the world, EU Delegations and civil society still need to improve dialogue for better development cooperation. Positive trends show that EUD-civil society dialogue is increasing and there are a number of interesting experiences to learn from, and the elaboration of roadmaps for EUD engagement with civil society is viewed as a major step in the right direction, however major challenges remain in the dialogue. The overall aim of the report is to contribute to improving the engagement between EU delegations and CSOs, gather examples of good practice and lessons learned, give feedback and make recommendations to the EU (delegations and headquarters), to EU member states, and to the civil society community. The report comes at a timely moment as this month the European Year for Development 2015 was launched with a dedicated focus on Europe in the world. Read more [here](#).

[CONCORD]




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Sunday, 01 February 2015

BCSDN E-mail alerts is a regular service of the Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN) with the aim to provide timely, effective and useful information on funding, training, education and other opportunities to its members and other interested CSOs in the region. E-mail alerts are managed by the BCSDN Executive Office. They are distributed bi-weekly, 1st and 15th of every month.

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