



E-Mail Alerts no. 311

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- **CSOs Respond to Proposed Elements of Financing for Development Agenda**

A very broad international group of Civil Society Organizations has published a critical response to a paper outlining elements of a Financing for Development (FfD) Agenda by the co-chairs of the preparatory process of the upcoming 3rd FfD Conference in Addis Ababa in July 2015. Overall, the document provides an outlook of the policy proposals necessary to ensure a successful outcome of the Conference. However, the activists are concerned that the Elements paper does not follow the outcomes of previous FfD conferences, which raises several problems in terms of whose interests will be heard and what issues will be debated. More information is available [here](#).

[Global Policy Forum]



- **Macedonia: 75 CSOs Demand Changes in the 2nd Draft Decision on the Civil Society Council**

The 2nd draft Decision for establishment of a Council for Cooperation between the Government and the Civil Society underwent drastic changes in the election procedures: the representatives from the civil society will be elected indirectly by a Commission where the majority of members come from the state institutions and the Council President is to be elected by the Government. BCSDN launched a **call for support** of a letter demanding procedure where CSOs can elect their representatives in the Council directly and by public vote, and the president to be elected by the Council and not by the Government. On 11th February the **joint letter** with demands was sent to the General Secretary of the Government of Macedonia with the support of 75 CSOs. More information is available [here](#).

[BCSDN]



- **Public Presentation of the Croatia Monitoring Matrix Country Report for 2014**

Cenzura Plus will organize a public presentation of the Monitoring Matrix 2014 Country Report for Croatia at the Croatian Journalist House in Zagreb on 18th February, 13h. In the course of the event Cenzura Plus will present the findings and results from the second cycle of the monitoring of the enabling environment for civil society development, within the "Balkan Civil Society Acquis: Strengthening advocacy and monitoring potential and capacities of CSOs" project led by BCSDN and locally implemented in Croatia by Cenzura Plus. More information is available [here](#).

[Program JAKO]



- **Republic of Srpska Passes Public Order Law Limiting Freedom of Speech**

Bosnian Serb lawmakers on 5th February passed a controversial law that allows authorities to fine people who post offensive content on social networks - a move civil society labels as limiting freedom of expression. The law was passed by a vote of 46-0 after opposition lawmakers left the session in protest. The regional parliament extended the definition of public space in the existing public order law to include social networks. What would constitute "offensive content" is open to government interpretation. Under public pressure, lawmakers agreed to exclude criticism of the government from the bill. But activists fear the government could still prevent protesters

from using social media to organize demonstrations, by labelling the events violations of public order. More information is available [here](#).

[OSCE]



- **Croatia: NGO Days 2015**

The Open NGO Days in Croatia will be held on 27th to 30th May, 2015. The aim of the Open Days is to familiarize the citizens and the general public with the programs and projects, which are of public interest and public good, carried out by CSOs in Croatia, through organizing various activities within and outside the organizations' premises. During these days, the organizations' doors will be open to all interested citizens. More information is available [here](#).

[Program JAKO]



- **Civil Society Europe Officially Launched**

The official press launch for Civil Society Europe, organized on 3rd February in Brussels, marked the milestone of the coordination in the European Civil Society landscape. Aspirations for change have united about 40 major European networks and platforms of associations behind shared values and a common vision for Europe - social justice, a genuine European democracy and fair access for fundamental rights for all. Civil Society Europe is determined to gain a permanent seat at the table of civil dialogue, to make sure the voice of civic associations and movements is heard, alongside the voice of the social partners and corporate interests. More information is available at the [here](#).

[Civic-Forum]



- **CfP: Co-financing of Serbian CSOs within IPA CSF 2013 (Deadline: 25.02.2015)**

The Office for Cooperation with Civil Society of the Government of Republic of Serbia announced a call for co-financing projects of CSOs who have received financial support from the EU in the framework of the program "Civil Society Support for Republic of Serbia 2013". Eligible to apply are CSOs registered in the Serbian Business Registers Agency, which operate on the territory of the Republic of Serbia and carry projects approved and contracted within the public call of the EU Delegation in Republic of Serbia for granting of funds in the aforementioned program. The competition is open until 25th February, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[Office for Cooperation with Civil Society - Serbia]



- **CfP: Democratisation and Civil Society Development 2.0 – Croatia (Deadline: 18.03.2015)**

The National Foundation for Civil Society Development – Croatia opened a call for expression of interest for participation in the new form of Development cooperation through program support under the title Thematic fund "Democratization and Civil Society 2.0 ". The Thematic fund introduces a new form of support for co-planning, co-decision, co-management and joint implementation of activities organized by CSOs, citizens and the engaged public in the four areas defined within the fund: 1) participatory management of infrastructure, institutions, public goods, and other public resources; 2) expansion of areas of cooperation; 3) Good-economy of solidarity; and 4) Regional cooperation and collaboration at European level. The notifications for expression of interest should send by 18th March, 2015. The full application package is available at this [link](#).

[National Foundation for Civil Society Development - Croatia]



- **CfP: International Fund for Cultural Diversity (Deadline: 15.04.2015)**

The IFCD is a multi-donor fund established to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction in developing countries through support to projects that aim to foster the emergence of a dynamic cultural sector. The project implementation period shall be between 12 and 24 months and the maximum amount that can be requested from the IFCD per project is USD 100,000. Eligible for application are public authorities/institutions and NGOs from developing countries that are Parties to the 2005 Convention, as well as INGOs. Applicants should submit their applications at the on-line application platform by 15th April, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[UNESCO]



- **CfA: NPO Academy – Albania (Deadline: 02.03.2015)**

The NPO Academy is Partners Albania newest initiative, a program which will offer education and development opportunities to non-profit organizations' (NPO) executives. Executives of Albanian NPOs are encouraged to apply to the Academy, comprised of 12 sessions delivered from March to November 2015, to improve their skills related to organizational management, strategic planning, financial management and fundraising, mobilization of supporters to build advocacy and lobbying campaigns and a wide range of issues related to sector sustainability. Interested candidates for the year 2015 are invited to apply by 2nd March, 2015. More information about the program, criteria and application process is available [here](#).

[Partners Albania]



- **CfA: Rotary Peace Fellowship (Deadline: 31.05.2015)**

Each year, Rotary Foudnation selects up to 100 individuals from around the world to receive fully funded academic fellowships the Rotary Peace Centers. Applications for the 2016-17 Rotary Peace Fellowships program are now being accepted. Two types of peace fellowships are available: master degree fellowship and professional development certificate. These fellowships cover tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation, and all internship and field-study expenses. Rotary Peace Fellows are leaders who promote cooperation, peace, and conflict resolution in their communities and around the world. Fellows are chosen for their ability to have a significant, positive impact on world peace throughout their careers. The deadline for candidates to submit applications to their district is 31st May, 2015. Districts must submit endorsed applications to The Rotary Foundation by 1st July. More information is available [here](#).

[Rotary Foundation]



- **CfA: Call for Expression of Interest - Researchers, Function Group IV (Deadline: n/a)**

The European Commission is launching an open-ended selection procedure to create a pool of candidates from which to recruit contract staff. Under this new system, the Commission publishes calls for expressions of interest for different profiles and function groups according to its needs. This first call for expressions of interest aims to create a database of candidates from which to recruit contract staff in function group IV to provide additional capacity in the research field in the Commission and, in particular, in the Joint Research Centre (JRC). This call is open to citizens of Member States and countries associated with the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. More information is available [here](#).

[EC]



- **UPDATED: Guidelines on VAT Exemption Procedures for EU Funded Projects**

The guidelines are a form of instructions, compiled by TACSO, that are intended to ease the process of VAT exemption for newly awarded EU projects located in the IPA countries. Following the first Value Added Tax (VAT) Guidelines that were produced in June 2011, this VAT Guidelines are now updated to reflect the changes, if any, in each of the countries. Since the last updated version in 2013, this version now reflects the changes seen in both Kosovo and Macedonia. In addition, this version does not include Croatia as was the case in the previous versions. The Guidelines can be found at the following [link](#).

[TACSO]



- **Comparative Study on How Hate Speech is Regulated in each of the European Countries**

E-civis Association - Romania published a Comparative Study on legislation sanctioning hate speech and discrimination in the member states of the European Union, aiming to address the issue of hate speech that is often used in electoral campaigns in Romania. The comparative report starts with a legal analysis based on the data and information gathered from the hate speech law and regulations found in the 28 EU countries. Further on, this data has been combined with a thorough examination of system of regulations combating hate speech in Romania in comparison with various models encountered in the European Union. Lastly, conclusions and recommendations on improving the legislative framework in Romania to combat hate speech are provided. The report is available for download [here](#).

[E-civis Association]



- **Kosovar Civil Society Factsheets**

KCSF has published factsheets which provide information and important facts about the development of civil society in Kosovo and the country's European integration process. These factsheets will be updated constantly by KCSF Centre, while other factsheets about other related topics will be added continuously. Currently available are the factsheets on the following topics: civil society legislation; civic participation in decision-making; internal management of CSOs; civil society participation in the EU integration process; EU funds for civil society; Right of association and registration of CSOs; Contact information of institutions and major offices relevant for the work of CSOs. The factsheets are available for download at this [link](#).

[KCSF]



- **CRPM: Online Citizen Portal Needs More Attention from the Macedonian Government**

The Center for Public Policy Research conducted an analysis entitled "Open Government Partnership: Calls for Participation" as part of a PASOS project to support open government. The aim of the report is to boost the government's support of the ENER web portal and the use of electronic tools to increase citizen awareness and participation in policymaking, as well as to provide recommendations to the Government on the subject. The report points out that the poor public relations and communication of institutions with the citizens has played a major role in the distrust that stands between them. The report is available for download [here](#).

[PASOS]



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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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