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Publications

- **Financial Report of the Members of the Montenegrin NGO Coalition “Saradnjom do Cilja” for 2013**
- **CRNVO Guide for Establishing Social Enterprises**

- **2015 Work Programme for IPA CBC Croatia-Serbia Published**

The indicative work programme for grants under the IPA Cross-Border Programme Croatia-Serbia 2007-2013 has been published on the webpage of the Agency for Regional Development of the Republic of Croatia. The overall objective of the programme is to stimulate cross-border cooperation in order to diversify and improve the regional economy in a socially and environmentally sustainable way, whilst at the same time improving good neighbourly relations across the border. The priority is given to Sustainable Socio-Economic Development. The maximum rate of Community co-financing is 85% of eligible expenditure. The Call for Proposals will most likely be launched in the 1st quarter of 2015. The indicative amount of calls for proposals will be EUR 1,800,000 for Croatia and EUR 1,800,000 for Serbia. More information is available [here](#).

[Program JAKO]



- **Performance-Related Payment Unsuitable to the Realities of Aid Work**

The Department for International Development's (DfID) June 2014 **Payment by Results Strategy** commits them to considering the use of payment by results in all circumstances. This practice of donors paying only when results are delivered lowers an organisation's ability to take the risks of working in fragile countries. Some CSOs also reported not being able to accept such funding in high-risk fragile states and also for more complex work (such as governance-related work). This is because the complexity and uncertainty of the work is not suited to the brute simplicity of payment by results approaches, which are still at an early stage of development. When there are many factors outside the organization's control (conflict, weather etc), it is difficult to measure and verify results. Also when there are many people, organisations and factors contributing to the end goal the value of individual contributions is problematic to identify. More information is available [here](#).

[The Guardian]



- **CNVOS International Analysis of Public Participation in the Drafting of Regulations**

The **International Analysis of Public Participation** includes 22 countries, of which 16 are European Union States. Country by country normative review was prepared in order to show and present the minimum standards of public involvement in each country. Therefore, each of the national reviews was further divided into 15 sections, one for each of the topics elaborated in the normative review. The analysis also includes summary table, consisting of proposed national solutions and a selection of best proposed practices at national and local level. More information is available [here](#).

[CNVOS]



- **Montenegrin Civil Society Demands for Urgent Changes in NGO Law**

The NGO Coalition “Saradnjom do cilja” calls on the Government of Montenegro and the Council for the Development of NGOs to begin the process of amending the Law on NGOs in the shortest possible period of time. According to the Coalition, making changes in the NGO law in the third quarter of the year (as planned in the Work Programme of the Government for 2015 and the Action Plan for Chapter 23) could only mean a continuous obstruction in financing of CSOs in areas most important for EU accession in the next two years. They also call on the Government to accept the Coalition’s suggestions (sent to the authorities two years ago) with various measures for improving the process of financing CSO projects, such as changing the composition of the Commission for verifying projects’ quality to include qualified persons neither engaged in CSOs nor in the the public sector. The Coalition believes the Government is able to implement changes in the NGO law in the second quarter, and a bylaw specifying the financing procedure can be created by the end of the year. For more information, visit the Coalition’s [website](#).

[CRNVO]



- **Croatia: How to Overcome the Obstacles Faced by CSOs?**

Based on the results from the Monitoring Matrix Country Report 2014 for Croatia, Cenzura Plus organized a public debate on the topic "How to overcome the obstacles faced by civil society organizations?" on 20th February in Split. The aim was to stimulate a debate on the key obstacles for creating an enabling environment for civil society development, which have been detected during the research process, such as: belated preparation of strategic and operational documents for the absorption of EU funds by the state authorities, consequently delaying the public calls; encouraging self-censorship by criminalizing free speech and expression; lack of public perception of the situation of potential conflict of interest, and insufficient knowledge of laws on conflict of interest by public officials; lack of clear criteria for selecting project evaluators and lack of transparency of the composition of the committee for evaluation of project proposals; criteria for allocation of state subsidies which are discriminatory towards CSOs; and inadequate implementation of the Law on Freedom of Information. More information is available [here](#).

[Cenzura Plus]



- **What is Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development?**

The enabling environment for civil society is broadly defined as the conditions within which civil society works. Specifically, enabling environment is viewed as the varied array of conditions -- economic, political, social, cultural, legal, and otherwise -- that affect the capacity of citizens, whether individually or collectively, to voluntarily participate in civil society. The enabling environment has increasingly come to be viewed as key to assessing civil society’s health. This booklet developed by BCSDN is a guide through the main elements of the Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development. These elements include: Legal, Regulatory and Financial Environment in which CSOs operate, depicted through 8 steps as set forth in the Monitoring Matrix. The booklet is available for download [here](#).

[BCSDN]



- **Monitoring Matrix – A Success Story**

The Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN) recognizes the importance of developing civil society in the regions and promotes civil society as a value, rather than an administrative issue, as most governments in the regions currently approach it. BCSDN developed a monitoring matrix to influence European Commission civil society support through the 2014-20 Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance Civil Society Facility, a funding mechanism through which the European Union promotes reforms in potential enlargement countries. The matrix is a monitoring mechanism, allowing local civil society organizations and donors to track and evaluate the state

of civil society legislation by measuring clearly defined indicators. The idea is that this framework will set the optimal standards for civil society and will enable governments and civil society organizations to react more quickly to regulatory initiatives in their countries. However, the multi-faceted nature of civil society development can be challenging. Hafner-Ademi explained that it is an “over-arching, cross-cutting, horizontal issue that can be hard to describe to policymakers.” Read more [here](#).

[German Marshall Fund of the US]



- **The EC Action Documents for IPA CSF and Media Programme for 2014-2015 are Published**

The Commission has published the Multi-Country and country Action documents for the Civil Society Facility and Media Programmes for the years 2014-2015 under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II). The action documents outline the funding priorities and modalities for support aimed at strengthening participatory democracies and the EU integration process in WBT Countries. [Here](#) you can find all IPA CSF country action documents for Albania , Bosnia and Herzegovina , Macedonia , Kosovo , Montenegro , Serbia and Turkey, as well as the Multi-Country Programme.



- **Croatia: Adopted Regulation on Criteria for Determining the Users and the Manner of Revenue Distribution from Games of Chance 2015**

On 11th February, the Croatian Government adopted the Regulation on the criteria for determining the users and the manner of distribution of revenues from games of chance for 2015. The Regulation has been prepared based on the analysis prepared by the ministries and other state bodies, also taking into account the conclusions of the Interdepartmental Commission for coordination of policies for financing associations' projects and programs from the state budget. Criteria for allocation are determined in accordance with national strategies and programs for public purposes in respective sectors and in accordance with programs for civil society development. They are determined based on the share of program activities in the total lottery revenue specified in the Law. The distribution of funds allocated under this Regulation will be reported to the Ministry of Finance. More information is available [here](#).

[Office for Cooperation with NGOs – Croatia]



- **Launch of Guidelines on Freedom of Association – 5 March, Geneva**

The Guidelines on Freedom of Association, jointly drafted by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) and the Council of Europe's Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission), will be officially launched on 5 March 2015 in Geneva on the margins of the UN Human Rights Council Spring Session. These guidelines aim to offer advice and expertise on how to legislate on freedom of association-related matters, in a manner that is compliant with international human rights standards and OSCE commitments. They also reflect evolving good state practices, and are intended to enhance awareness of the above rights in general. They will offer a practical toolkit to legislators tasked with drafting laws which regulate or affect associations, but also to associations, members of associations and human rights defenders, to support advocacy in this field of human rights law. More information is available [here](#).

[OSCE]



- **BCSDN Executive Director Meets Commissioner Hahn**

On his first visit to Macedonia on 17th February, 2014 after taking office as Commissioner for European

Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Mr. Johannes Hahn held a **meeting with group of civil society representatives**, including Ms. Tanja Hafner Ademi representing BCSDN. The meeting focused on exchange of views on the country situation and particularly civil society views on how to overcome the deadlock on country's accession process and the role of civil society. Ms. Hafner Ademi presented the work of BCSDN on the enabling environment, stressing the need for the Commission to ask for commitment to implementation of the Guidelines of the EU Support to Civil Society in Enlargement Countries and in Macedonia particularly, to call the Government to change the draft Decision on establishing the civil society Council to enable civil society to elect its representatives and hold majority.

[BCSDN]



- **CfP: EU Partnership for Peace Programme 2014 (Deadline: 01.04.2015)**

The overall objective of the EU Partnership for Peace Programme is to promote conditions for a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and provide a solid foundation at the societal level for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, by strengthening and increasing direct civil society relationships and co-operation based on equality and reciprocity between Palestinians and Israelis. The full application package is available at this [link](#). The overall indicative amount made available under this Call for Proposals is EUR 4,400,000. Any grant requested must fall between EUR 250,000 and 500,000 with 50%-80% of the total eligible costs of the action. The initial planned duration of an action may not be lower than 24 months nor exceed 36 months. The full application package is available at this [link](#).

[EuropeAid]



- **CfP: Cross-Regional Grants Competition for CSOs (Deadline: 30.03.2015)**

The OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) invite non-profit organizations from Europe and Central Asia and the MENA region to submit their project ideas to the Cross-Regional Grants Competition and jointly develop, test, or share innovative and scalable solutions to development challenges from the two regions. The two thematic priorities of this competition are: 1) Affordable energy and water solutions: looking into technological solutions that combat the lack of access to energy or water and 2) Economic governance and employment: addressing the need for a more inclusive labor market while increasing the capacity of people to access it.. The grants of minimum USD 20,000 to maximum 55,000 will support projects over a 12-month period. The full application package is available at this [link](#).

[OFID]



- **CfP: Strengthening civil society in Serbia and Montenegro Phase III (Deadline: 29.03.2015)**

The Norwegian Embassy's project Strengthening of Civil Society in Serbia and Montenegro is now open for applications. This Call aims to finance the functioning of civil society organisations in their work through so-called core funding (e.g. project development, fundraising expenses, board and management development, strategic planning, improvement of financial management systems, core management salaries, staff training, rent of premises etc.). This structure of this year's call is adjusted to those inputs the Embassy received from the civil society organisations during its consultative meetings. The Embassy will hold an info session on the launch of the program on the 27th of February from 13:00 to 15:00 at Sava Center, Novi Beograd. Applications in English should be sent not later than 29th March, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[Norwegian Embassy in Serbia]



- **CfP: OSF Grants for Joint CSO Action - Macedonia (Deadline: 24.03.2015)**

Foundation Open Society - Macedonia (FOSM) announced a call for grants for joint actions of CSOs in the framework of the USAID Civil Society project, providing support to civil society in promoting democratic reforms. The purpose of the call is to provide support to jointly developed actions of civic organizations, partnerships or coalitions that encourage civil society actors of solidarity and uniting around specific issues. At least 12 grants of up to USD 32,000 will be awarded within the component 3) cooperation and mobilization, to formal and informal networks or partnerships of CSOs. This component's activities aim to improve the synergies and associations for strengthening the civic responsibility. The projects should be of 10 to 14 months of duration. Deadline for applications is 23rd March, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[Open Society Foundation]



- **CfP: OSF Grants - Reaching the “Moveable Middle” (Deadline: 06.03.2015)**

Open Society Foundation has announced a Call for co-financing of CSOs supporting LGBTI and reproductive rights in Europe. The goals of this Call are to 1) reach the “moveable middle,” i.e. those who are natural human rights allies but who are not actively engaged on issues related to LGBTI or SRR; 2) reach out to opinion leaders who may not be naturally sympathetic to these rights but who may be persuaded by the right messages and messengers, and 3) develop innovative methodologies, strategies, and tactics to mobilize and build the strength of the human rights movement. The following types of project will be supported: research and advocacy projects; campaigning and mobilization projects; engaging in dialogue with religious actors, opinion leaders other key stakeholders; and Capacity-building needs of NGOs. Applications may be submitted for projects lasting up to 24 months. The average grant will be in the range of USD 30,000 to 100,000. The full application package is available at this [link](#).

[Open Society Foundation]



- **Right Goals, Wrong Tools? - Policy Study on EU Civil Society Support in the Western Balkans**

The German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) published a policy study assessing the EU's support to civil society in the Western Balkans. The study argues that the EU's policy suffers from a lack of political commitment to the long-term empowerment of CSOs. Despite a welcome shift from capacity-building to the creation of an enabling environment, the Commission's overall approach is overly instrumental and fails to strengthen CSOs beyond the accession date. Drawing on the experience of Croatia, Serbia, and Montenegro, the study suggests a number of concrete steps the Commission should take to strengthen the political dimension of civil society support and enable CSOs to become true partners for domestic policy-making. The publication is available for download at this [link](#).

[DGAP]



- **CfA: Tech Awards 2015 (Deadline: 07.04.2015)**

The Tech Awards is an international awards program that honors innovators from around the world who are applying technology to benefit humanity and confront humanity's most urgent challenges. The Tech Awards honors individuals, non-profit organizations and for-profit companies who are using technology to significantly improve human conditions in 5 awards categories: Environment, Education, Young Innovator, Health and Economic Development. The technology used can be either a new invention or an innovative use of an existing technology. Two laureates are chosen in each category. At the annual gala, all laureates are awarded cash prizes of USD 25,000 and an additional USD 50,000 is awarded to one laureate in each of the categories.

Deadline for eligibility form is 7th April, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[AGNA]



- **CfA: World Bank Civil Society Program – 14-17 April, Washington DC (Deadline: 30.03.2015)**

The WBG and IMF Civil Society Teams host a bi-annual Civil Society Program (CSP) in the margins of the Annual Meetings to promote substantive dialogue and an exchange of views between Bank/Fund staff, civil society representatives, government officials, academics, and other stakeholders. The CSP at the Spring Meetings will be held at the WBG and IMF Headquarters from April 14 - 17. It will include: an Orientation Session on the WBG; a CSO Roundtable with WBG Executive Directors; a CSO Reception with Senior Management of the WBG and IMF; and a Civil Society Policy Forum of sessions on topics that cover issues related to the global economy, poverty reduction, inequality and climate change. Guidelines for registering for the Spring Meetings can be found at this link. More information is available [here](#).

[World Bank]



- **CfA: EU- Balkans Conference- 11-12 March- Sofia, Bulgaria (Deadline: n/a)**

This is the Second Annual Conference on EU-Balkans Relations organised by the Global Diplomatic Forum in partnership with the University of Sofia. The Conference will look into the main challenges to stability in the Balkans and challenges to the process of integration of the Balkans to the European Union. It is a gathering of global stakeholders - governments, INGOs, NGOs, media and civil society -involved the region to address these issues to have an insight into the various scenarios that transform the trends in the area. Sessions will explore new and existing trends, challenges and creative solutions to address one the world's most topical and challenging issues for policy makers in the region and develop policy recommendations based on multi-stakeholder consultations at a global level. More information is available [here](#).

[Global Diplomatic Forum]



- **CfA: ICNL Research Fellowship (Deadline: 10.03.2015)**

The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) has announced the availability of 4 new Research Fellowships. The Fellowships will provide the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC for 3-4 weeks during June/July/August 2015 to conduct research on the rights to freedom of expression and/or information as these rights relate to the vibrant functioning of civil society. This action-oriented Fellowship is designed to provide opportunities to engage practitioners and scholars to advance the freedom of expression and/or information by providing them with: support and expertise of ICNL's international staff; access to our extensive library of CSO legal materials; a community of other Fellows with whom to exchange ideas; and meetings with CSO representatives, academics and others in Washington, DC. ICNL will cover the cost of travel to and from Washington, DC as well as room and board for the agreed-upon time period. No honorarium will be offered. More information is available [here](#).

[ICNL]



- **Financial Report of the Members of the Montenegrin NGO Coalition “Saradnjom do Cilja” for 2013**

The publication "Financial Report of the Members of the Coalition of NGOs – Saradnjom do Cilja - for 2013" comprises financial statements of 94 non-governmental organizations that are members of the Coalition of NGOs. Its purpose is to improve the program and financial transparency in the work of the NGO sector in Montenegro, which is one of the objectives for which the Coalition was founded. With this publication, the Coalition aims to contribute to improving the relations between civil society organizations and other stakeholders, stating that transparent work – which involves public disclosure of program and financial reports – is a

prerequisite for strengthening cooperation and creating partner relations between NGOs and other participants in society. Furthermore, transparency also improves the public image and credibility of NGOs in Montenegro. The publication is available for download at this [link](#).

[CRNVO]



- **CRNVO Guide for Establishing Social Enterprises**

CRNVO published a Guide for establishment of social enterprises. This publication aims to encourage individuals to start realizing their social entrepreneurial ideas, but also to contribute to creating an enabling environment for the development of social entrepreneurship in Montenegro. It is a result of the need to have in one place all information on how socially beneficial ideas can be turned into an entrepreneurial business models which contribute to contributes to solving social problems, especially unemployment and poverty. Divided into six chapters, the publication explains the meaning of the concept of social entrepreneurship and describes in detail all the steps that are necessary for the establishment and successful management of a social enterprise. The Guide is available for download [here](#).

[CRNVO]



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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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