



E-Mail Alerts no. 314

Table of Contents

Donor Strategies

- **Analysis: EU Funds for Supporting Civil Society Development in the Western Balkans 2007-2013**

Enabling Environment

- **All Monitoring Matrix Country Reports 2014 Now Available: National Presentations to Follow**
- **Serbia: Second Draft of the National Strategy for Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development 2015 – 2019 Published**
- **Incomplete Chain - Policy Brief on Minimum Standards for Public Consultation in Kosovo**
- **MCIC: Report on the Implementation of the Strategy for Cooperation between the Government and Civil Society in Macedonia (Jun 2012 - Dec 2014)**
- **Special Rapporteurs Kiai and Heyns Join Forces to Draft Recommendations on Managing Protests**

News

- **Public Consultation with CSOs and CSO Networks in the Western Balkans and Turkey**
- **Turkey: National Registry of Associations Opened to Public**
- **Croatia: New Regulation Adopted on Non-profit Accounting Reporting and Registry of Non-profit Organizations**
- **SOLIDAR and Volonteuropa: Empower Civil Society to Monitor Fundamental Rights**

Funding

- **CfP: MATRA 2015 - BiH (Deadline: 06.05.2015)**
- **CfP: European Social Innovation Competition (Deadline: 08.05.2015)**
- **CfP: CEI Co-financing Cooperation Activities (Deadline: 20.05.2015)**
- **CfP: NED Grants for Advancing & Strengthening Democratic Institutions (Deadline: 19.06.2015)**
- **CfP: Croatian Government Co-financing CSO Projects within the EU 2015 Programme (Deadline: 01.12.2015)**

Training and Education

- **CfA: TRIALOG Partnership Fair on Development Cooperation – 4-6 May, Vienna (Deadline: 17.04.2015)**
- **CfA: Open Society Fellowship Program (Deadline: 03.08.2015)**

Publications

- **Media Freedom and Integrity in the Western Balkans: Recent Developments**
- **Civil Society and Government: Participatory Policy Formulation in Serbia**
- **MAXCAP Working Papers No. 5 & 6 Published**
- **Aid to Civil Society: A Movement Mindset**
- **2015 BNP Paribas Individual Philanthropy Index**

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- **Analysis: EU Funds for Supporting Civil Society Development in the Western Balkans 2007-2013**

The EU has been supporting civil society and the enabling environment in which civil society in Enlargement countries operates through the IPA Civil Society Facility Instrument that was established in 2008. Since then, BCSDN has been following this issue, and in beginning of 2013 published its first analysis - the Infographic on IPA CSF 2007-2011. As IPA I is closing down and in the frame of the planning of the EU assistance for the forthcoming period, BCSDN has updated and broadened the analysis to assess how the EU has supported the civil society in Western Balkans for the entire 2007-2013 period. How much funds has EU devoted to the development of CS in the WB for the 2007-2013 period? How were these funds used? And how much is the EU funding in comparison to the funding provided by the states? BCSDN has prepared a 4 page policy brief (in English and Macedonian language) answering these questions, which you can read [here](#).

[BCSDN]



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- **All Monitoring Matrix Country Reports 2014 Now Available: National Presentations to Follow**

The Monitoring Matrix Reports on Enabling Environment (EE) for Civil Society Development (CSDDev) 2014 for all 8 countries are now available on the Monitoring Matrix [website](#). The reports present the developments in EE in 2014, outlining the key conclusions and recommendations for improvement. The 2014 reports are focused on 12 (out of 24) core standards including also a number of selected standards for each country as defined in the Monitoring Matrix for EE for CSDDev. The reports are to be presented to national stakeholders in the following months, starting with the **MCIC presentation** of the Macedonian report that took place on 31st March and **CRNVO's** presentation of the Montenegrin report on 1st April. The presentation of the Serbian MM report by **Civic Initiatives** is tentatively scheduled for 7th April, and **KCSF's** report for Kosovo for 22nd April. Follow [BCSDN website](#) and the MM website for the presentations' dates in the other countries. The country reports

are the basis upon which BCSDN and ECNL are currently preparing the regional report, which is to be published at the end of this month.

[BCSDN]



- **Serbia: Second Draft of the National Strategy for Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development 2015 – 2019 Published**

The Office for Cooperation with Civil Society of the Government of the Republic of Serbia published a second draft of the National Strategy for enabling environment for civil society development for the period 2015 – 2019, which is available to the interested public and professional community on the website

<http://strategija.civilnodrustvo.gov>. The second draft is a result of ten consultative meetings held in ten cities in the country during October and November 2014, and based on suggestions collected until 1st of December through electronic form. Additionally, the monitoring of the progress of the (future) strategy implementation will be centred on baseline studies which are now in preparation and which will comprise information on the enabling environment for civil society obtained from relevant authorities. The Office invites the interested public to send comments and suggestions by 15th April, 2015, and thus contribute to the creation of this important strategic document. More information is available [here](#).

[Office for Cooperation with Civil Society - Serbia]



- **Incomplete Chain - Policy Brief on Minimum Standards for Public Consultation in Kosovo**

The Kosovar Civil Society Foundation (KCSF) during the previous year has been working on defining the minimum standards for the public consultation process at government level. Apart from reviewing the international principles and practices in the field of civil society participation in decision-making, KCSF has also consulted numerous representatives from the civil society and public institutions. This process has resulted in a policy brief on Minimum Standards for public consultation process, a document which contains an analysis of the current legal framework and its level of implementation, main challenges of public consultation process and a detailed list of standards and sub standards that would have to be implemented by all government level institutions. More information is available [here](#).

[KCSF]



- **MCIC: Report on the Implementation of the Strategy for Cooperation between the Government and Civil Society in Macedonia (Jun 2012 - Dec 2014)**

In June 2012 the Government of the Republic of Macedonia adopted a new strategy for Cooperation with civil society for the period 2012 - 2017, with the financial support of the EU, prompting a need for continuous and regular monitoring of the Strategy implementation. MCIC has prepared a public policy document that covers the implementation period from June 2012 to December 2014. Almost half (48%) of the measures envisaged in the strategy do not show any progress. In order to achieve efficiency in the implementation of the Strategy, which so far has seen varying degrees of implementation per measure, and especially low levels of realization of the key measures for development and sustainability of civil society, the key institutions involved in the Strategy implementation need to take into account the recommendations of the reports and to make additional efforts to implement them. The publication is available for download [here](#).

[MCIC]



- **Special Rapporteurs Kiai and Heyns Join Forces to Draft Recommendations on Managing Protests**

Special Rapporteurs Maina Kiai and Christof Heyns have embarked on a new joint project aimed at compiling a set of practical recommendations for the proper management of assemblies worldwide. Public assemblies are a central feature of the modern world but often boil over and lead to bloodshed. Societies are often not sure how

best to deal with such protests and the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) wants to provide guidance in this regard. The project – which was mandated by HRC Resolution 25/38 in 2014 – will run throughout 2015, with the final report being presented to the HRC at its 31st session in March 2016. The recommendations will be drafted jointly by Kiai, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, and Heyns, who serves as the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions. More information is available [here](#).

[Freeassembly.net]



- **Public Consultation with CSOs and CSO Networks in the Western Balkans and Turkey**

On 13th March the EC published the **Annual Work Programme for Grants 2015**, which identifies the grants that are planned to be awarded during the year, notably through Calls for proposals (CfP). The AWP is indicative, and interested parties should also closely monitor the **Call for proposals & Procurement notices** where the individual calls are published with detailed guidelines. In the second half of April a multi-country call, as well as calls in almost every country, will be published. As announced, DG NEAR will soon be launching the IPA Civil Society Facility (CSF) 2014 CfP "Support to regional thematic networks of Civil Society Organisations". TACSO will manage consultations on the indicative outline of the key elements planned to be included in the Guidelines for Applicants for the IPA CSF 2014 CfP. CSOs are invited to share their comments (in English) by 13th April to comments@tacso.org. More information is available [here](#).

[TACSO]



- **Turkey: National Registry of Associations Opened to Public**

The Ministry of Interior, Presidency of Department of Associations - one of the official legal entity structures for member based CSOs in Turkey - opened the National Registry of Associations for public access, providing contact information of over 100.000 Associations in Turkey. With the list of different types of Foundations being available on the website of the Directorate of Foundations, another official legal entity for CSOs in Turkey, it is now possible for the public to review all registered CSOs in Turkey. This development is expected to open grounds for comprehensive research on CSOs and enhance outreach of projects on civil society development in Turkey. More information is available [here](#).

[TACSO]



- **Croatia: New Regulation Adopted on Non-profit Accounting Reporting and Registry of Non-profit Organizations**

Based on the Law on financial operations and accounting for non-profit organizations, a new Regulation on reporting on non-profit accounting and registry of non-profit organizations has been adopted. This Regulation prescribes the form and content of financial reports and statements of inactivity, the period for which financial reports are to be prepared and obligations and deadlines for their submission. It also regulates the minimum content and deadlines for the submission of reports on spending budgetary funds and how to organize, create, delete and change data in the Register of non-profit organizations. The Regulation is available for download [here](#).

[Office for Cooperation with NGOs - Croatia]



- **SOLIDAR and Volonteurop: Empower Civil Society to Monitor Fundamental Rights**

European Parliament Committee for Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs published a study titled 'The impact

of the crisis on fundamental rights across Member States of the EU', highlighting the implications of the crisis on fundamental rights, especially in relation to education, healthcare, work and pension and the restraints on freedom of expression and assembly for citizens within the European Union. SOLIDAR and Volonteuropa, in line with the EP study published, call upon the European Institutions to empower CSOs to monitor applications of fundamental rights in Member States and report back to the Commission's Vice-President for fundamental rights to ensure that every Commission proposal or initiative complies with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

More information is available [here](#).

[SOLIDAR]



- **CfP: MATRA 2015 - BiH (Deadline: 06.05.2015)**

MATRA - a Dutch programme that aims to support the transformation of societies - is now open for project proposals. MATRA's general objective is to contribute to the development of a plural democracy, grounded in the rule of law, with room for dialogue between government and civil society; to build capacity and strengthen the institutions of civil society and government; and to strengthen bilateral relations. Project proposals should relate only to the following themes: 1) Voice of civil society/ increased accountability; 2) Policy monitoring and influencing legislation; 3) Respect for human rights; and 4) Access to information/ freedom of speech/media. The maximum contribution amount is BAM 150.000 (approx. EUR 77.000) and the minimum is BAM 50.000 (approx. EUR 26.000). The maximum project duration is 24 months. Deadline for applications is 6th May, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[Netherlands Embassy in Sarajevo, BiH]



- **CfP: European Social Innovation Competition (Deadline: 08.05.2015)**

The 2015 European Social Innovation Competition has launched, with EUR 50.000 in prize money for the top three projects. Based around the theme 'New Ways to Grow', the competition aims to support individuals and organisations with entrepreneurial, game changing ideas for social innovation projects that sustain not only financial value, but also social progress for citizens, government and enterprises alike. Selected by a jury, the European Commission will award the three top ideas a prize of EUR 50.000 each, to be presented at an awards ceremony, in Brussels in November 2015. The Competition is open to everyone (individuals or legal entities except public administrations) resident in EU Member States and countries participating in the Horizon 2020 programme, and the deadline for submitting ideas is 8th May, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[EC]



- **CfP: CEI Co-financing Cooperation Activities (Deadline: 20.05.2015)**

Public and private institutions registered in a CEI Member State as well as international and regional organisations are invited to apply to the CEI Cooperation Fund for innovative actions favouring mobility and networking. Proposals need to focus on capacity building by transferring and sharing know-how, in particular from EU CEI Member States to non-EU CEI Member States. The activities can take the form of conferences, seminars, workshops, and training activities. Applicants can request a CEI contribution up to the maximum amount of EUR 15.000, and the CEI contribution cannot exceed 50% of the total cost of a given Cooperation Activity. Applications should be submitted by the deadline of 20th May, 2015. The full application package is available [here](#).

[CEI]



- **CfP: NED Grants for Advancing & Strengthening Democratic Institutions (Deadline: 19.06.2015)**

The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) invites CSOs, associations, independent media, and other similar non-government organizations around the world to apply for 2015 grant funding. NED yearly funds hundreds of projects of organizations that are working to advance democratic goals and strengthen democratic institutions. The foundation provides more than 1000 grants per year to organizations promoting democracy in more than 90 countries. Grant amounts vary depending on the size and scope of the projects, but the average grant lasts 12 months and is around USD 50,000. The deadline for applications is 19th June, 2015. The full application package is available at this [link](#).

[NED]



- **CfP: Croatian Government Co-financing CSO Projects within the EU 2015 Programme (Deadline: 01.12.2015)**

The Office for Cooperation with NGOs of the Republic of Croatia has announced a public call for submitting applications for co-financing of CSOs projects contracted within the EU Programme for 2015. CSOs that are registered and operate on the territory of the Republic of Croatia can apply for co-financing of their projects contracted with the European Union within the 2015 Programme for supporting civil society development in Croatia. The deadline for applications is open until 1st December, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[Office for Cooperation with NGOs - Croatia]



- **CfA: TRIALOG Partnership Fair on Development Cooperation – 4-6 May, Vienna (Deadline: 17.04.2015)**

Trialog is now accepting applications for the 5th edition of the TRIALOG Partnership Fair on Development Cooperation which will take place between the 4th and 6th of May, 2015, in Vienna, Austria. This year's Fair will represent a meeting space between donors and CSOs, an opportunity to exchange information about donors' plans and priorities and civil society's views on needs in the local context, as well as a partnership development event. The Fair will facilitate partnerships, cooperation, learning and exchange at an international level for joint projects. Key actors engaged in the global efforts aimed at achieving justice and equality and contributing to poverty eradication (donors, representatives of the European Commission and CSOs) will contribute either as speakers, facilitators or participants. Deadline for applications is 17th April, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[TRIALOG]



- **CfA: Open Society Fellowship Program (Deadline: 03.08.2015)**

The Open Society Foundations is seeking applications for its Fellowship Program from individuals seeking innovative and unconventional approaches to fundamental open society challenges. The fellowship funds work that will enrich public understanding of those challenges and stimulate far-reaching and probing conversations within the Open Society Foundations and in the world. Full-time fellows will receive a stipend of USD 80,000 or 100,000, depending on work experience, seniority, and current income. Stipends will be prorated for part-time fellows. In addition to the stipend, fellows will receive a project budget which may include expenses such as travel, visa costs, part-time research assistance, conference fees and health insurance. More information is available [here](#).

[Open Society Foundation]



- **Media Freedom and Integrity in the Western Balkans: Recent Developments**

Media freedom has declined sharply in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia and Serbia over the past several months. Direct and indirect interference by the authorities in everyday coverage is commonplace. Values of media freedom and freedom of expression will remain meaningless unless properly enacted in domestic law and enforced fairly and impartially. Hence, there is a pressing need for better laws and regulation to shield reporters and editors from undue influence. Responsibility falls squarely on the governments of the Western Balkans and on those - primarily the European Union - that provide assistance. At the same time, governments, the EU and foreign donors must think of ways to go beyond a legal-institutional approach to freedom of media and to develop innovative ways to support independent media. The publication is available for download [here](#).

[European Fund for the Balkans]



- **Civil Society and Government: Participatory Policy Formulation in Serbia**

Up to this point, the issue of a systemic approach to civil society participation in the process of policy making in Serbia has not been resolved. In its last Progress Report, the EC notes that "civil society is a crucial component of any democratic system and should be recognized and treated as such by the state institutions". Notably, the EU has leverage to emphasize civil society participation mainly in relation to the accession process. Beyond this sphere, the resources and expertise of the civil society should be recognized and taken advantage of by the government and other public institutions. This is supported by the increasing complexity of the course of reforms, the challenge of legislative harmonization, and the lack of human capacity in the public administration as part of the EU integration process. In this regard, substantial effort needs to be invested to assure an evidence basis from the beginning of the planning of a policy, which is the basis of a sound and comprehensive reform. The publication is available for download [here](#).

[European Policy Centre]



- **MAXCAP Working Papers No. 5 & 6 Published**

Two new working papers have been published within the MAXCAP project this month. The Working Paper No. 5 "The Effects of the Eastern Enlargement on the Decision-Making Capacity of the European Union" by D. Toshkov argues that enlargement has had a rather limited impact on legislative production and duration, and that it is extremely hard to disentangle this impact from other contemporaneous institutional and socioeconomic developments. The Working Paper No. 6 "Contextual Policy Reading of Public Opinion Data and Recent Trends in Attitudes towards European Integration" by G. Dimitrov, K. Haralampiev and S. P. Stoychev argues that pro/contra EU enlargement attitudes are a construct of diverse, multifaceted relationships; citizens' attitudes are clearly polarized in most countries and there is a steady, increasing trend for negative attitudes to prevail; and that the structural causes for these polarizations are, most significantly, nationally specific and go down to 13 levels of factor influences. The papers are available for download [here](#).

[MAXCAP]



- **Aid to Civil Society: A Movement Mindset**

Supporting local agents of nonviolent change is critical to preventing violent conflict and advancing democratic development. Civic campaigns are key drivers of social and political development, as is clear from issues-focused movements in Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, and most recently the Middle East and North Africa. Effectively aiding civic movements that are fluid, diverse, decentralized, and often loosely organized is tricky. Drawn from a review of the literature and numerous interviews with international policymakers and civil society leaders, this report explores both the ways donors engage civil society and creative new approaches to supporting non-traditional actors. The publication is available for download [here](#).

[USIP]



- **2015 BNP Paribas Individual Philanthropy Index**

Philanthropy is expanding worldwide, on average increasing by 5 points in 2015, as the 2015 BNP Paribas Individual Philanthropy Index by Forbes Insights reveals. This index shows a growing philanthropic interest in Europe, which is nearing a tie position with the US due to the increase of current donations and pledges. According to the report, the primary cause of mobilisation for philanthropists is health and their first motivation is the sense of duty. The growing needs and the multitude of charitable organisations make the choice difficult for philanthropists and family/relatives advices remain the key drivers for philanthropic decisions. This “BNP Paribas Individual Philanthropy Index” measures and reflects the commitment of philanthropists in four regions – Europe, Asia, the Middle East and the United States through a survey of some 400 high net worth individuals. The report is available for download [here](#).

[BNP Paribas]



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