



## E-Mail Alerts no. 316

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## Publications

- **Building Bridges between Civil Society and Party Political Actors in the Western Balkans**
- **Book Launch: State-Building in Kosovo - Democracy, Corruption and the EU in the Balkans**

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- **Development Aid Stable in 2014 but Flows to Poorest Countries still Falling**

Development aid flows were stable in 2014, after hitting an all-time high in 2013, but aid to the poorest countries continued to fall, according to official data collected by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Net official development assistance (ODA) from DAC members totalled USD 135,2 billion, level with a record USD 135,1 billion in 2013, though marking a 0,5% decline in real terms. ODA has increased by 66% in real terms since 2000, when the Millennium Development Goals were agreed. Bilateral aid to the least-developed countries fell by 16% in real terms to USD 25 billion, according to provisional data. Much of this drop is explained by exceptionally high debt relief for Myanmar in 2013, but even excluding debt relief ODA to the poorest countries fell by 8%. Bilateral aid is channelled directly by donors to partner countries and equates to roughly two-thirds of total ODA. More information is available [here](#).

[OECD]



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- **Regional TACSO Conference “Monitoring of the EU CS Guidelines-Year 1”**

On 28th-30th April, 2015, in Belgrade, TACSO organized a regional conference “Monitoring of the EU Guidelines for the Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement Countries 2014-2020 – Year 1”. The aim of the conference is to continuously contribute to steering the processes along the desired changes across the countries set in and by the ‘Guidelines for EU support to civil society in the enlargement countries, 2014-2020’. These Guidelines aim to serve as the key monitoring, reporting and programming EU orientation/streamlining document for matters related to the CSOs located in the Western Balkans and Turkey (WBT). During the Conference participants had the opportunity to discuss possible inputs for the country Progress Report 2015 in relation to the findings for 2015 against the EU CS Guidelines. Also discussed and reviewed were various mechanisms and methods which will allow for organization of the possible national monitoring systems of the EU CS Guidelines. More information is available [here](#).

[TACSO/BCSDN]



- **In Montenegro over 180.000 EUR Granted outside Public Calls**

During 2014, Municipalities in Montenegro have granted a total of EUR 439.540 to CSOs, out of EUR 502.000 planned within their budgets. Half of the funds were awarded through public calls, while the other half was

awarded through other legal basis. Granting funds for CSO projects outside public calls presents a non-transparent and irresponsible practice of managing local budgets, with no established criteria and conditions, having the presidents of the municipalities decide themselves whom to award funds gathered by the tax payers. This approach not only goes against all regulations, but also has serious consequences to the further development of civil society in Montenegro. In the following period, CRNVO will publish an overview of these decisions in the municipalities, allowing for the citizens and the CSOs to get informed in details about how these decisions are made and who gets the municipalities' funds. It is necessary to determine the responsibility for these decisions and as soon as possible define procedures for granting funds that will enable both transparency of the process and a meaningful use of the tax payers' money. Visit [CRNVO's website](#) for more information.

[CRNVO]



- **Slovenia: The First Steps towards Developing the Strategy for Civil Society Development and Volunteering Successfully Completed**

On 21st April, 2015, CNVOS and the Ministry of Public Administration organized a conference called "Co-create SLOVENIA - join forces for the development of a strategy for developing the civil society and volunteering by 2020", in which the Strategy measures were discussed. The conference was opened by the Minister of Public Administration, Boris Koprivnikar, and CNVOS Director Goran Forbici. Mr. Koprivnikar stressed the Ministry's commitment towards preparing a strategy that would enable a greater role for CSOs and volunteering in society. The participants had the greatest influence on the content of the strategy, as the conference was conducted by the open space method, and they could propose topics for discussion and measures to be included in the Strategy. The Government is to adopt the strategy around February 2016. The Ministry of Public Administration will soon publish a website where all information and documents related to the Strategy development will be available. More information is available [here](#) (in Slovenian only).

[CNVOS]



- **Europe-wide Lack of Transparency of Policing of Protests**

There is a serious lack of transparency about the use of various types of equipment during policing of protests according to a report published today by Access Info Europe, following research conducted in 42 countries and territories across Europe by means of access to information requests. The research by the Madrid-based pro-transparency organisation aimed to get a comprehensive picture of the legal framework for, and the actual use of, different types of equipment – including batons, shields, tear gas, and rubber bullets. The troubling findings of this pan-European survey, which has revealed a huge lack of transparency from European police forces, point to a series of recommendations for the respective government bodies and police forces. The overarching recommendation is that all police forces should provide detailed and comprehensive information about police action during protests. It is only in this way that there can be true accountability of police forces and their preparation for and actions during protests. More information is available [here](#).

[Access Info Europe]



- **Limited State Support and Gov-CSO Cooperation in Enlargement Countries: Main Focus of the EE Workshop in Tirana**

On 17th April, in the framework of the BSCDN Annual meeting, the workshop on "The State of the Enabling Environment for CSDev in Enlargement Countries" was held in Tirana, Albania. The workshop served as a basis for discussing the state of freedom of association, assembly and expression for CSOs in 2014 and the impact of EU and the EU integration process on the civil society development in Enlargement countries. In the opening

remarks, Mrs. Venera Harjullahu, BCSDN Board Chair, and Mrs. Romana Vlahutin, Head of EU Delegation to Albania, shared their views on the civil society development in the Western Balkan region, stressing the relevance of the role civil society has in modern democracies. The following panel started with a presentation by Ivana Rosenzweigova, ECNL, on the preliminary findings and recommendations of the regional state of the enabling environment for 2014. Then, Biljana Stojanoska, BCSDN, presented the findings on the state of the EU support to civil society under IPA 2007-2013. The discussion was closed with intervention of Gjergji Vurmo, IDM Albania, on the state of civil society support in Albania. More information is available [here](#).

[BCSDN]



- **Civil Society is the Missing Pillar in EU's Enlargement Policy**

The importance of the civil society for the EU accession process was discussed on the MAXCAP midterm conference that took place from 20th to 24th of April in Istanbul. The conference, attended by notable academics and practitioners was aimed for presentation, peer review and coordination of the project' research and findings devoted to maximizing the integration capacity of the EU. The issue of the value and role of the civil society in the process was raised by Mr. Pierre Mirel, Honorary Director General in the European Commission who referred to it as "the missing 4th pillar" in EU's enlargement policy. Further discussion was opened by BCSDN's Executive Director- Ms. Tanja Hafner Ademi who spoke about the importance for support of the civil society development in enlargement countries during here address at the final round table of the conference. More information is available [here](#).

[BCSDN]



- **International Conference on Citizen's Participation in Political Processes and Decision-Making**

On 29th and 30th April in Split, Cenzura Plus organized an international conference entitled: „Citizen Participation in political processes and decision-making - Mechanisms and tools for participation“. The Conference tackled citizens' participation issues and especially its role in policy development and policy implementation with focus on successful principles, tools, processes, stories etc. of citizens participation at all levels. The conference discussed benefits of citizens' participation for the community through concrete examples from EU countries (Austria and Germany), but also from Croatia and Montenegro. Special part of the Conference was about European Citizens Initiative and analyses of different methodologies for greater citizens' participation that will be useful for practitioners for future work (both CSOs and public authorities) and as platform for preparation of the Standards of Citizens Participation. More than 60 representatives of CSOs and public authorities from the EU countries and Western Balkan participated in the discussions. More information is available [here](#).

[Cenzura Plus]



- **European CSOs Urge End to Fortress Europe Approach to Migration**

Following the death of over 900 migrants on 18th April in a tragic boat incident in the Mediterranean Sea, off the Libyan coast, CONCORD issued a statement criticizing current European approach to migration which is too focused on security and border controls, causing desperate people to decide to engage with traffickers at the risk of their life. CONCORD's proposals for a new EU migration policy are to: open immediate legal, safe channels of migration to ensure that people migrate without risking their lives; share the reception and protection across Europe, including non-EU countries; the EU to take immediate measures to deploy serious rescue operation in the Mediterranean to save lives of the expected upcoming boat flux; to increase investment in inclusive development, decent work and social protection in countries of origin so migration is an option and not a necessity. More information is available [here](#).

[CONCORD]



- **CfP: Balkan Public Policy Fund (Deadline 10.05.2015)**

BCSDN and its members announce the third Call for Proposals for organizations from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia to develop policy or advocacy proposals this time within the scope of the IPA FPA Balkan Civil Society Acquis - Strengthening the Monitoring and Advocacy Capacities and Potential of CSOs. The specific objective is to contribute to the capacity building of CSOs in IPA countries in monitoring and advocating on civil society-related policies covered by the Monitoring Matrix areas or the Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement Countries, 2014-2020. The selected topics per country are available [here](#). The maximum grant amount allocated will be 3000 EUR (100%, no co-financing), 2 grants will be awarded per country, and the grants will be administrated by BCSDN members in the respective countries. All interested organizations should send a CV (in English language), Project proposal and Budget to [fund@balkancsd.net](mailto:fund@balkancsd.net). More information is available [here](#).

[BCSDN]



- **CfP: IPA CBC Programme – Croatia and Serbia 2007-2013 (Deadline: 01.06.2015)**

Agency for Regional Development of Republic of Croatia and the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia are seeking proposals within IPA Cross-border Programme Croatia-Serbia 2007-2013 (financial assistance from the allocations IPA 2012 and 2013). Since Croatia and Serbia have been recently affected by severe flooding, this Call for Proposals is tailored to help both countries recover from the disaster. Under this Call for Proposals an indicative amount of EUR 3,6 million is available for project proposals from both Partner Countries (EUR 1,8 million for Croatia and EUR 1,8 million for Serbia). Any grant requested under this Call for Proposals must fall between EUR 300.000 and EUR 600.000, and between 20% and 85% of the total eligible cost of the action. The initial planned duration of an action may not be lower than 12 nor exceed 24 months. The deadline for submission of proposals is 1st June 2015. The full application package is available at the following [link](#).

[EuropeAid]



- **CfP: IPA CBC Programme – Serbia and BiH 2007-2013 (Deadline: 20.06.2015)**

The specific objective of the 3rd call under the IPA CBC Programme for Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina is maintaining the high quality of the environment of the eligible area as an economic resource by cooperating in joint protection and exploitation initiatives, helping Serbia and BiH in the flood prevention, and recovery operations and emergency response. An overall indicative amount made available under this Call for Proposals is EUR 3.6 million, out of which EUR 1.8 million for Serbia and EUR 1.8 million for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Any grant amount requested under this Call for Proposals must fall between EUR 300.000 and EUR 600.000, and between 50% and 85% of the eligible costs of the action. The duration of the action may not be less than 6 months nor may it exceed 24 months. The deadline for applications is 20th July, 2015. The full application package is available at the following [link](#).

[EuropeAid]



- **CfP: CEI Know-How Exchange Programme (KEP) - Austria (Deadline: 01.07.2015)**

The CEI announced a new Call for Proposals for the CEI Know-How Exchange Programme (KEP) - AUSTRIA. The projects will be co-financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation. KEP AUSTRIA Priority Areas for 2014-2016 are: European Integration and related capacity building; Social and Economic Development, Inclusion

and Equality; Agriculture, Environment and Climate Change. The indicative amount for this Call is EUR 170.000, while the maximum grant amount allocated to a single project is EUR 50.000 (not exceeding 50% of the total value of the project). The awarded projects should end by December 2016. The deadline for submission of project proposals is 1st June, 2015. The full application package is available at this [link](#).

[CEI]



- **CfP: Civica Mobilitas Action Grants - Macedonia (Deadline: 20.05.2015)**

Civica Mobilitas – program for support of civil society in Macedonia – announced a Call for action grants for CSOs that seek to promote their causes and activities, including training of their constituents; strengthening relations with citizens, communities and the general public; and influence for achieving positive social change. The duration of the activities should be at least 12, and at most 24 months. The size of the grant requested should be between MKD 1.000.000 (approx. EUR 16.000) and MKD 1.800.000 (approx. EUR 29.000). The total indicative amount of this call is MKD 25.000.000 (approx. EUR 406.000). The deadline for proposal submission is 20th May, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[MCIC]



- **CfA: ENoP Roundtable - Building Bridges between Civil Society and Party Political Actors in the Western Balkans - 6 May, Brussels**

The WG ENL/ENP of the European Network of Political Foundations (ENoP) is organizing a roundtable exchange meeting related to the latest publication of its policy paper on: “Building Bridges between Civil Society and Party Political Actors in the Western Balkans – The Perspective of Political Foundations”. The discussion will bring together different perspectives, respectively of the Croatian civil society, party political actors, academia and ENoP members, to debate approaches and challenges linked to recent developments in Croatia and the Western Balkans. Furthermore, the discussion will focus on what still needs to be done in order to overcome the obstacles in the complex relationship between party political actors and CSOs. The meeting will take place at the ENoP Office in Brussels, on the 6th May, 2015, starting at 08:30h. For more information, contact [info@enop.eu](mailto:info@enop.eu). More information is available [here](#).

[ENoP]



- **CfA: Belgrade Security Forum 2015 - Call for Papers (Deadline: 20.05.2015)**

Security scholars and researchers are invited to submit proposal papers for the 5th Belgrade Security Forum (BSF) to be held on 30th September to 2nd October, 2015. The Belgrade Security Forum is the biggest international security conference in Southeast Europe, each year bringing together several hundred top level policy and decision makers, NGO leaders, experts, academics and journalists. The general topic of this year's Forum is “Can Europe Redefine Itself?” while the theme of the academic event is “Does the EU need a Foreign Policy?” All accepted papers will be presented during the academic event (30.09), aiming to feed into scholarly insights into the policy event (1-2.10) of the Forum. Afterwards, all presented papers will be peer-reviewed for publication in the Journal of Regional Security. The deadline for submissions is 20th May, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[Belgrade Security Forum]



- **CfA: European and Security Affairs Journal - Call for Papers (Deadline: 03.05.2015)**

IDM has announced the “Call for Papers” Vol. 30 of the European and Security Affairs Journal. With the purpose

of promoting comprehensive research and policy options in the current proposed issues, IDM's Center for European & Security Affairs invites scholars, researchers, public policy practitioners, and MA/PhD candidates to submit their original papers (comparative or single case studies) to be published in the 30th issue of the Journal. This volume of the ESA Journal will be dedicated mainly to the following thematic areas: Good governance and democratic institutions; State institutions' capacity building; Privatization of security; NATO and its "Collective defense policy" in the aftermath of Ukraine's crisis. Deadline for abstracts is 3rd May, 2015, and final deadline for papers is 8th June, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[PASOS]



- **CfA: Scholarship "Shaping Europe-Civic Education in Action" (Deadline: 31.05.2015)**

German Federal Agency for Civic Education and the Robert Bosch Stiftung are awarding up to 16 scholarships to active professionals from Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Greece, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Turkey. Candidates are expected to be actively promoting democracy and social responsibility in their own countries and to be engaged in civic education/CSO-activities etc. The participants will be offered to become an intern in a German institution active in civic education matters. Additionally they will participate in the network of European political education. The working language in the program is German. The deadline for applications is 31st May, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[Global HRE Community of Practice]



- **CfA: CAHR Protective Fellowship Scheme (Deadline: 17.05.2015)**

The call for nominations of the Centre for Applied Human Rights' Protective Fellowship Scheme for Human Rights Defenders at Risk for the 2015/16 academic year is now open. The Centre for Applied Human Rights in York provides human rights defenders at risk an opportunity to enhance their skills and share their experiences with other human rights defenders, academics and students. During their stay they are able to attend human rights courses taught at the Centre and work on a project related to their work in their home country/region. Nominations are accepted from recognised CSOs and/or organisations working specifically with human rights defenders. Organisations can nominate up to two defenders and cannot nominate their own employees. The deadline for nominations is 17th May, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[Centre for Applied Human Rights]



- **Building Bridges between Civil Society and Party Political Actors in the Western Balkans**

This policy paper prepared by the European Network of Political Foundations (ENoP) points out that there is a strong need for further capacity-building and awareness-raising, as well as for a change of mind-set on both sides. As one of the main actors in supporting democracy, the EU has significant leverage in the region. Nevertheless, the observation made by this paper is that the EU has only made partial use of the potential of its instruments and programmes in order to contribute to building bridges between civil society and party political actors in the Western Balkans. Given the unique working methods of Political Foundations, they are in a position to encourage approximation and mutual acknowledgement between the two actors. This paper therefore presents case studies and examples of their work and underlines the benefits of establishing dialogue between civil society and party political actors. On this basis, it proposes some recommendations for EU policy-makers, party political actors and civil society in the region. The publication is available for download [here](#).

[ENoP]



- **Book Launch: State-Building in Kosovo - Democracy, Corruption and the EU in the Balkans**

The West went to war for Kosovo, administered it for nine years, made it independent, supervised it for four years, and gave it unprecedented amounts of aid. The aim was to erect a stable and well-governed democracy. The outcome is a poor, ill-governed and still fragile state, threatening Europe's internal security and the stability of the Balkans. The question why the most ambitious state-building intervention ever attempted by the West has largely failed has not yet been posed. This book offers an answer that moves from the literature on state-building and economic development, draws on the author's own experience, and takes the perspective of the interests of the EU. The book will be **launched** on 11th May at the LSE offices in London. The paper that accompanies this book, containing part of the evidence used in Chapter 5, on the rule of law, is available **here**.

[LSE]




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Friday, 01 May 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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