



E-Mail Alerts no. 318

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- **Democracy Promotion in Kosovo - Mapping the Substance of Donor Assistance and a Comparative Analysis of Strategies**

This recent article by Adam Fagan contributes to a growing literature focusing on the substance of donor-driven democracy promotion in Kosovo and presents a picture of donor behavior in flux. Drawing on extensive empirical research between 2010 and 2012, the research provides greater insights into which donors are providing what sort of assistance; how the content and focus of aid are decided and formulated; and the behavior of the EU and other large donors compared with small bilaterals and private foundations. The conclusion reached is that, although overall levels of aid to Kosovo have remained relatively stable since 2008, donor behavior is in flux, with evidence of an emergent distinction between what larger donors offer and the provision of smaller bilaterals and private foundations. This, it is argued, has serious implications for the capacity of the EU to continue providing extensive aid across a wide range of issues and policy areas as part of its pre-accession assistance. The paper is available [here](#).

[MAXCAP]



- **Guide to Potential Domestic and Foreign Sources of Funding in Serbia for 2015**

The 12th edition of the Guide for potential domestic and foreign sources of funding, prepared by Civic Initiatives in cooperation with 3 Government bodies (SIPRU, GOfCSO, SEIO), gathers in one place all the information on available calls and funding by international and national donors, as well as state institutions. Users of these funds can be CSOs, municipalities, small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurs and individuals. The intention of the authors of the Guide is creating a comprehensive base of information on funding opportunities for different activities that will contribute to the democratization of society and greater participation of citizens, as well as will encourage cooperation between different actors in society. The Guide is available [here](#).

[SIPRU]



- **BCSDN - EP Debate at European Parliament “Norms over Forms: Empowering Civil Society in the Western Balkans and Turkey” - 4th June, Brussels**

BCSDN is organizing a debate “Norms over Forms: Empowering Civil Society in the Western Balkans and Turkey” hosted by Ms. Ulrike Lunacek, Vice-President of the European Parliament (The Greens/EFA) that will take place at the European Parliament, Brussels, on 4th June, 2015. The event will bring CSO representatives from Western Balkans and Turkey to present the key challenges for the civil society operating environment in these countries. The aim is to raise a discussion with MEPs and other EU stakeholders on how the EU accession process can promote a stronger and more empowered civil society that enhances political accountability and fosters deeper understanding of accession-related reforms. The issues to be presented are findings from the Monitoring Matrix **Regional Report for 2014** based on extensive monitoring conducted by BCSDN's member organizations through the jointly developed tool - **Monitoring Matrix on Enabling Environment**

for **Civil Society Development**. More information is available [here](#).

[BCSDN]



- **Only 48% of Measures in Macedonia Government Civil Society Strategy (2012-2017) Started**

On 22nd May, 2015, in Skopje, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC) organized presentation of the state of affairs on the Implementation of the Government Strategy for Cooperation between the Government and Civil Society (2012-2017) in Macedonia for the period June 2012 to December 2014. The aim of the event was to present the progress in the realization of the measures from the Strategy implementation and to raise a discussion on the findings and recommendations from the **policy document**. Half-way through its implementation period, 48% of measured envisaged in the Strategy were started and only 2 have been fully implemented so far. The Unit for Cooperation with CSO and Ministry for Labor and Social Policy are the two institutions that lead and implement most of the measures. In addition to presenting the policy document, the event served as an opportunity to identify future challenges in the cooperation and in the implementation of the planned activities by both representative of Ministry contact point for civil society and CSO themselves. More information is available [here](#).

[BCSDN/MCIC]



- **UN Special Rapporteur Factsheet: Civil Society's Ability to Access Resources**

The UN Special Rapporteur Maina Kiai's announced the release of the latest in the factsheet series: An instalment on civil society's ability to access resources. The factsheet summarizes the legal issues and challenges surrounding civil society's ability to access resource, presented in an easy-to use "yes/no" format, with hyperlinks to source materials. It draws heavily from the Special Rapporteur's 2013 report to the UN Human Rights Council and features guidance on: the recognition of the importance of the ability to access resources in international law; the effect of registration on an association's ability to access resources; permissible and impermissible restrictions on the ability to access resources; the importance of the ability to access resources; and more. In addition, it summarizes the report's recommendations and provides links to selected international legal instruments dealing with the subject of civil society's ability to access resources. The factsheet is available [here](#).

[Freeassembly.net]



- **Civil Society Involvement in the EU-WB Berlin Process**

The Vienna Western Balkans Summit will take place on 27th August, with the participation of heads of EU member states and WB countries. It is a continuation of the so-called "Berlin Process", which was initiated in August 2014 by the German Chancellor Angela Merkel to show further political commitment to the future enlargement of the European Union towards the Western Balkans. On the day of the Summit, civil society representatives will have the possibility to present their concrete proposals to the present politicians, therefore kicking off a process of further civil society engagement until the next Summit in August 2016. EFB with the support of ERSTE Foundation, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and Karl Renner Institute are organizing a series of discussions/workshop to discuss civil society position at the Summit. The first such **workshop** was held in Belgrade, 26th May, where BCSDN was presented as a best practice of regional cooperation in setting the agenda vis-à-vis the EU and national Government, alongside other initiatives such as the Igman Initiative, RECOM etc. Upcoming workshops are planned to take place in Tirana and Sarajevo.

[BCSDN]



- **Insights on the Current Protests, the Political Situation and Civil Society in Macedonia**

Emina Nuredinoska of the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC) and Tanja Hafner Ademi of the Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN) spoke to CIVICUS about ongoing protests in Macedonia and the current state of civil society. The interview discusses reasons for and main drivers of the protests, violations by the state, such as detentions, limitation, lack of investigation into use of force, vis-à-vis the freedom of peaceful assembly standards, and the general situation with civil society development in the country. The full interview is available [here](#). Analysis of the current situation in Macedonia was also the focus of a debate organized by Cenzura Plus on 26th May in Split, where speakers were Macedonian publicists and journalists. The debate on protests against the current regime, the nationalist rhetoric and hate speech in the media, and the role of media in the crisis. A report on the discussion (in Croatian only) is available [here](#).

[CIVICUS]



- **Around 500 CSOs at the Open Days in Croatia 2015**

For the fourth consecutive year, from 28th to 30th May, CSOs from all Croatian counties have organized a series of events in which interested citizens presented socially beneficial programs and projects carried out in their local communities. Around 500 CSOs organized joint activities for raising awareness of local government on the need for citizen participation in the creation of public and green spaces, presented innovative projects to improve the quality of life of citizens, awarded prizes to the best student entrepreneurial ideas, held creative workshops and performances, conducted training for various target groups etc. The **event** presented an opportunity to further strengthen solidarity and confidence in the local communities and a reminder of the important role that CSOs play in solving local problems and creating a network of support. More information on organizations that opened their doors to the public and the activities conducted as part of this event are available at www.daniudruga.hr, as well as the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/DaniUdruga.

[H-Alter]



- **CfP: BPPF Call Extended for CSOs in Kosovo (Deadline: 04.06.2015)**

BCSDN and KCSF announce the reopening of Call for Proposals for organizations from Kosovo to develop policy or advocacy proposals 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 MM areas or the Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement Countries, 2014-2020. More specifically the project proposals in Kosovo should focus on: Sub-area 3.3 - Legal barriers and opportunities for CSOs to obtain state contracts and its implementation. The call is open for CSOs in Kosovo, the maximum grant amount is EUR 3000 (100%, no co-financing), and the grants will be administrated by KCSF as a member organization of BCSDN. More information is available [here](#).

[KCSF/BCSDN]



- **CfP: Strengthening Regional, European and Global CSO Umbrella Organizations (Deadline: 12.06.2015)**

The overall objective of this Call is to strengthen representative, membership-based and actor-based regional, EU and global non-thematic civil society umbrella organisations, in order to maximize the effectiveness of their work as development actors in their own rights and as contributors to policy-making, on development related topics at global and regional levels (including the EU). The specific objectives are: to strengthen the institutional and operational capacities of CSO umbrella organisations for coordinated actions at global, regional and/or national levels and to reinforce their capacities to effectively represent their constituencies and to promote the

role and responsibilities of their members. The purpose is both to select umbrella organisations with which the EU will establish a Framework Partnership and to award grants to co-finance related actions. There are 5 LOTS targeted: NGOs (1), trade unions (2), cooperatives (3), employers' organizations (4), and CSOs others than the types of actors targeted under lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 (5). Any grant requested for actions under the second stage of this Call must fall between minimum EUR 2 000 000 and maximum EUR 8 000 000, and must be limited to 80 % maximum percentage of total eligible costs of the action. For actions financed under lot 5 and undertaken by non EU regional umbrella organisations, the grant may cover up to 90% of the total eligible costs of the action. More information is available [here](#).

[WelcomeEurope]



- **CfA: Fighting Corruption in the Western Balkans: The Role of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) – 5 June, London (Deadline: 03.06.2015)**

The School of Politics and International Relations at Queen Mary University of London and the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) are co-hosting a lunchtime session on "Fighting corruption in the Western Balkans: The role of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA)". The event will be held on 5 June 2015 at the Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London. The panel discussion will explore the progress and challenges in combating corruption in the Western Balkans and the successful achievements brought about by the EU's Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance. The program and the registration details are available [here](#).

[Queen Mary University of London]



- **CfA: Regional Conference: Open Government, Engaged Citizens – 11-12 September, Tirana (Deadline: 18.06.2015)**

TACSO P2P is supporting the event "Open Government, Engaged Citizens", organized by the FPA "Advocacy For Open Government: Civil society agenda-setting and monitoring of country action plans. The event will present an excellent opportunity for the Open Government movement in the Western Balkans and Turkey and beyond. The main objective will be to launch a Forum where participants will reflect on effective initiatives to further open government and on challenges and obstacles to open government, and how to overcome them. Interested applicants are requested to complete the Application Form and send it to the e-mail address of the TACSO office in their country by 18th June, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[TACSO]



- **MAXCAP Working Paper: Beyond Uniform Integration? Researching the Effects of Enlargement on the EU's Legal System**

The MAXCAP Working Paper No. 8 assesses the extent to which enlargement has affected the following characteristics of the EU's legal system: 1) the volume of non-binding EU legislation relative to hard law (directives, regulations and decisions); 2) differentiated integration, where legislation is not uniformly binding on the entire membership as reflected by the amount of exceptions, derogations and exemptions from primary and secondary law; and 3) the level of non-compliance with EU legislation, where laws that are meant to bind member states equally are not uniformly and correctly implemented domestically. The empirical analyses generally suggest that enlargement has not resulted in a weakening of the EU's legal system. Thus, soft law measures complement rather than substitute EU legislation, enlargement-induced differentiations are temporary

in nature, and non-compliance has decreased rather than increased over time. The paper is available for download [here](#).

[MAXCAP]



- **MAXCAP Working Paper: Building Sand Castles? How the EU Seeks to Support the Political Integration of its New Members, Accession Candidates and Eastern Neighbours**

The MAXCAP Working Paper No. 9 provides an overview of the modes of political integration of the EU in the new member states, in the current and potential candidates of the Western Balkans, and in the European Neighbourhood countries. More specifically, it analyzes the efforts directed at state-building and the rule of law and distinguishes between direct and indirect modes of influence. The analysis reveals interesting similarities of the modes used by the EU to promote the political integration of new member states, candidates, and neighbourhood countries. These similarities have been propelled by the lessons the EU has learned over time, showing that the EU's political integration has evolved through an incremental process of "learning by doing" rather than a great master plan. Through mapping the EU's efforts, the paper argues that the EU has been reluctant and inconsistent in applying conditionality, yet used reinforcement by reward as the linchpin of its efforts to induce political change. The paper is available for download [here](#).

[MAXCAP]



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 Tuesday, 02 June 2015

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