



E-Mail Alerts no. 309

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- **Opinion: Donors Slowly Strangling Civil Society**

A blogpost on how donor funding distorts civil society goals and priorities, starts by saying that the international development community should support local CSOs, but poses a question - what if the development funding actually undermines the very civil society it seeks to support? It is assumed that with the provision of funds and capacity building, CSOs are enabled to hold national governments and international institutions accountable for the rights and needs of otherwise marginalized constituencies. The scale of funding for local civil society groups is significant. However, international support for local organizations, often has a heliotropic effect, re-orienting these groups away from their own constituencies and toward the donor community. The greater percentage of an organization's budget that derives from international donors, the more attention that organization will pay to those donors. Over time, this becomes the donor resource curse. Read more [here](#).

[Stanford Social Innovation Review]



- **Albania: Bringing ASCS Closer to Civil Society**

Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) published a paper aiming to encourage a process of discussions and a platform to strengthen the role and contribution of the Agency for Support of Civil Society (ASCS) as an influential mechanism for supporting CSOs and strengthening of democracy and sustainable development in Albania. The main findings of the policy brief "Towards a Platform for Civil Society Development for ACSS" were presented to civil society, donor and governmental stakeholders on 24 November in Tirana. This document identifies and provides an analysis of the main challenges of ASCS, presenting alternatives to be further discussed with the civil society. The proposed solutions for a platform of civil society to improve the regulatory framework and contribution of ASCS for the development of civil society aim to encourage a well-informed consultative process. It was agreed that the Agency will consider the findings of the policy brief in the mid-term strategy, which is being consulted with CSOs at local level. The paper is available at this [link](#).

[IDM]



- **Croatia: New Regulations on Non-Profit Accounting and Chart of Accounts Adopted**

Pursuant to Article 9 of the Law on financial operations and accounting of non-profit organizations the Ministry of Finance of the Croatian Government issued the new Regulations on non-profit accounting and Chart of accounts (Official Gazette 1/15). The Regulations define the layout, content and application of accounts in the chart of accounts, the method of doing simple book-keeping and use of the principles for cash accounting, the minimum content of professional books for simple book-keeping and depreciation rates. The full Regulations on non-profit

accounting and Chart of accounts are available [here](#).

[Office for Cooperation with NGOs - Croatia]



- **UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association Published First Year-End Report**

UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association Maina Kiai has released his mandate's first ever year-end report, which reviews the events of 2014 from the perspective of assembly and association rights. The report serves as both a first draft of history for the events of 2014 and a yearbook of his mandate's activities. Kiai writes that 2014 will certainly be a year that we remember, either as a year of protests, year of the revolution or a year of shrinking space. The report notes that 2014 proved to be a year of monumental developments in the area of assembly and association rights, though the direction of change was rarely positive. CSOs across the world continued to face a wave of restrictive new laws, often targeting disfavoured groups specifically or civil society generally. But it was clear by the end of 2014 that the activists' fight is not over; the world continues to need their courage. The report includes a personal letter from the Special Rapporteur, an extensive summary of the year's events, and in-depth coverage of the mandate's activities, including country visits, thematic reports and joint projects. The report is available [here](#).

[Freeassembly.net]



- **Serbia: Open Government Partnership 2014-2015 Action Plan Adopted**

The Government of the Republic of Serbia, on 25th December, adopted an Action Plan to implement the initiatives of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in Serbia in 2014 and 2015. The Ministry of State Administration and Local Self-Government, in late 2015, will report to the OGP Secretariat on the implementation of the Action Plan (AP). In addition, an independent reporting mechanism was established by OGP to monitor the process of the AP implementation. OGP is a multilateral initiative that aims to provide support to governments in areas such as transparency, cooperation with civil society, fight against corruption and use of new technologies. OGP aims towards ensuring full implementation of the principles of rule of law and legal certainty, transparency, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency. More information is available [here](#).

[Office for Cooperation with Civil Society - Serbia]



- **European Year for Development 2015 Officially Launched in Riga**

The official launch of the European Year for Development (EYD) 2015 took place on 9th January in Riga, Latvia. It is the first ever European Year to deal with the European Union's external action and Europe's role in the world. For development organisations all over Europe it is an unparalleled opportunity to showcase Europe's commitment to eradicating poverty worldwide and to inspire more Europeans to get engaged and involved in development. 2015 is also the year in which the Millennium Development Goals that the world agreed to reach in 2000, and in which the international community will agree on the future global framework for poverty eradication and sustainable development. The presence of Jean Claude Juncker and Federica Mogherini at the opening session was a welcome reassurance of the commitment of the EU institutions to the EYD and underlined the wider implications of 2015 beyond a narrow approach to development cooperation. More information about EYD and its launch is available [here](#).

[Europa.eu - EYD]



- **CfP: Further Development and Financial Sustainability of the Civil Society - Macedonia (Deadline: 20.02.2015)**

The Central Financing and Contracting Department (CFCD) of the Ministry of Finance of Macedonia published a call for "Further Development and Financial Sustainability of the Civil Society" within the IPA TAIB 2011 grant scheme. The global objective of this Call is to support the sustainability of the civil society in Macedonia, while the specific objective is to further enhance the environment conducive to development and financial sustainability of civil society through involvement of civil society in the creation of public opinion, policy making and participation in the decision making processes at local and national level. The overall indicative amount made available is EUR 1,350,000. Any grant requested must fall between EUR 50,000 and EUR 150,000, and between minimum 60% of the total estimated eligible costs and maximum 100% of the total eligible costs of the action. The initial planned duration of an action may not be lower than 12 months nor exceed 18 months.

Deadline for applications is 20th February, 2015. The full application package is available at this [link](#).

[EuropeAid]



- **CfP: EIDHR Establishing an EU Human Rights Defenders Mechanism (Deadline: 12.03.2015)**

EIDHR announced a Call for Proposals for Establishing a European Union Human Rights Defenders Mechanism. The global objective of this Call is the establishment of a EU-comprehensive human rights defenders mechanism addressing the most difficult situations faced by human rights defenders in the world and providing support to the local actors who strive to promote and defend them. It addresses three core priorities: 1) Focusing on the most difficult situations and the most vulnerable HRDs; 2) Providing urgent, medium and long term support to HRDs; and 3) Ensuring coordination and outreach. The overall indicative amount made available under this Call for Proposals is EUR 15,000,000; any grant requested must fall between EUR 14,000,000 and EUR 15,000,000 and cannot exceed 95% of the total eligible costs of the action. The initial planned duration of an action may not exceed 36 Months. The Deadline for submission of applications is 12th March, 2015. The full application package is available at this [link](#).

[EuropeAid]



- **CfP: Global Forest Watch Small Grants Fund (Deadline: 01.03.2015)**

Established in 2014, the Small Grants Fund seeks to promote broad uptake and innovative use of Global Forest Watch by civil society around the world. The SGF provides financial and technical support to empower CSOs to apply Global Forest Watch data and technology in support of their work to strengthen local forest management and conservation practices, conduct evidence-based advocacy and campaigning, and promote greater transparency in the forest sector. The Small Grants Fund total funding available is USD 375,000 USD and eligible organizations are awarded grants between USD 10,000 and USD 40,000 for projects ending no later than December 31, 2015. The application period for the 2015 cycle is now open and all applications must be submitted by 1st March, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[Funds For NGOs]



- **CfA: TRAIN Programme 2015: Fostering Policy Dialogue in the Western Balkans (Deadline: 15.02.2015)**

The German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) is launching its call for applications for the 2015 edition of the TRAIN programme (Think Tanks Providing Research and Advice through Interaction and Networking). Providing think tanks from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia with training

and networking opportunities, the TRAIN programme seeks to foster a fruitful policy dialogue between think tanks and political actors in the Western Balkans. During a series of seminars, participants will receive training on the conduct and efficient communication of policy research and will have the opportunity to exchange their research findings with decision makers in Brussels as well as at the national level. The general theme of the TRAIN programme 2015 is the strengthening of democratic institutions in the EU candidate countries and potential candidate countries of South Eastern Europe. The deadline for all applications is 15th February, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[DGAP]



- **CfA: Enhancing Cooperation between Local Governments and CSOs – Serbia, January - April 2015**

Office for Cooperation with Civil Society of the Serbian Government, in collaboration with TACSO, is organizing a series of ten two-day seminars on "Enhancing cooperation between local governments and CSOs and transparent budget financing of CSOs' activities ", in the period from January to April 2015. At the seminars, local government representatives will be thoroughly familiarized with the obligations regarding the implementation of the Guidelines for inclusion of civil society in the process of adopting regulations, and the implementation of concrete steps when it comes to information, advice and inclusion of CSOs in the daily work of local governments. In addition, participants will be introduced with the regulations governing the process of transparent budget funding of programs and projects of CSOs. More information is available [here](#).

[Office for Cooperation with Civil Society - Serbia]



- **CfA: INSPIRE Philanthropy Advice Course (Deadline: 26.01.2015)**

As part of the Strategic Philanthropy and Intelligent Resources in Central and Eastern Europe (INSPIRE), new courses will be organized for those involved in leveraging domestic philanthropy to get trained in philanthropy advising. The aim is to support thought leadership, to build best practice approaches and to extend philanthropy advisors' capabilities. The course, consisting of a two-part workshop, is intended to enable the philanthropy advisors to build an internal capacity in order to address donors' philanthropy needs. In addition, it comprises follow-up efforts to build a community of advisors in the CEE region. The course is intended mainly for chief executives and senior fund development staff of philanthropy support organizations and community foundations. Deadline for application is 26th January, 2015. For more information, contact stefan@arcromania.ro.

[ARC Romania]



- **CfA: Civil Society in Research and Innovation – Brussels, 28 January 2015**

Public engagement in research has been established as a cornerstone of the responsible research and innovation agenda which pervades all European research funded in Horizon 2020. Such engagement calls for the involvement of a cross section of stakeholders in research such as industry, researchers, policy makers and CSOs. This conference will highlight work undertaken by EESC and the CONSIDER consortium and stimulate debate between representatives of the main stakeholder groups involved in civil society in research. By highlighting current practice and factors that influence the success of CSOs involvement in research, the conference will provide insights into good practice that can be the basis of future policy. Participation is free of charge, and there are a limited number of travel bursaries available through the CONSIDER project. More information is available [here](#).

[CONSIDER Project]



- **Civil Society Europe Call for Engagement + Press Conference (Brussels, 3 February 2015)**

More than thirty European Networks of civil society supported the creation of Civil Society Europe on 16th

December 2014 in Rome. All European civil society networks supportive of this initiative are invited to express their commitment, their expectations from this process and their willingness to engage in Civil Society Europe Steering Committee, whose responsibility will be to define Civil Society Europe work programme, strategy and internal functioning and to work towards ensuring the Civil Society Europe development and sustainability. A plenary assembly of Civil Society Europe members will take place on the 3rd February, preceded by a Press Conference which will take place in the European Parliament Press Center. Organisations willing to join Civil Society Europe should return the letter of engagement by 27th January at the latest. More information can be obtained at the European Civic Forum [website](#).

[European Civic Forum]



- **Lessons Learned for the EU: A Reflection on Stronger Co-Operation in the Western Balkans for a Better European Future**

This book is the result of the activities organized in the period 2013-2014 within the AcadEU - a network of scholars, whose purpose is to provide a forum for and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience among scholars, students, and members of the civil society at large from the so-called post-Yugoslav space. This book is an impressive collection of papers offering new insights in the development in the region in vast diapason of issues covering many countries of the region as well as different issues ranging from foreign policy to agriculture and institutions and EU as a global actor. It gives us new insight to cooperation among the countries which has been for many years neglected in prevailing aspirations of all members of the 'Balkan' club for EU membership. The publication is available for download [here](#).

[AcadEU]



- **Philanthropication through Privatization**

Philanthropication through Privatization, or PtP, is a strategy for capturing in foundation endowments at least a portion of the enormous resources generated through the privatization of government-owned or -controlled assets. This strategy is now the focus of a new book entitled "Philanthropication thru Privatization: Building Permanent Endowments for the Common Good". It is the final version of the major project report resulting from the PtP Initiative, undertaken by Lester Salamon in cooperation with the East-West Management Institute (EWMI) and a team of Project Associates. PtP is designed to explore and promote the potentials for building or strengthening permanent charitable endowments in countries throughout the world by capturing portions of the billions of dollars in privatization transactions taking place and dedicating them permanently to social, cultural, and environmental purposes and to strengthening civil society institutions. The publication is available for download [here](#).

[Center for Civil Society Studies]



- **CSO Accountability Documentation Project**

The Working Group on CSO Development Effectiveness (WG on CSO DE) of the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) in collaboration with Voluntary Action Network India (VANI) launched the CSO Accountability Documentation Project as part of its mandate of spearheading the promotion and implementation of the Istanbul Principles, and the International Framework on CSO Development Effectiveness, among CSOs from different geographic and sectoral backgrounds. The group also covers advocacy and outreach activities in promoting CSOs work on their legitimacy, transparency and accountability, especially at the country-level. The following document, in its first part, aims to bring CSOs into a common understanding of CSO legitimacy, transparency and accountability, while the second part deals with the current state of CSO

Accountability globally by providing evidences on mechanism and initiatives implemented by a number of CSOs in different country contexts. The document is available for download [here](#).

[CSO Partnership]



- **Sustainability of Social Accountability Organizations**

Despite the recent emphasis on sustainability planning, non-profit organizations engaged in social accountability remain fundamentally tied to fairly traditional grant funding from international sources. This working paper, part of the Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA) Working Papers Series, outlines a variety of “new winds” blowing in the government accountability and social-purpose finance fields that are opening new financial sustainability options for CSOs engaged in citizen engagement with policymakers and service providers in monitoring and assessing government performance. It suggests five concrete strategies that social accountability organizations can consider, drawing on literature, interviews, organizational website and an analysis of recent trends in non-profit finance. The publication is available for download [here](#).

[GPSA]



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