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- **The EU in a Changing Global Environment: What Next for Europe's Neighbours?**

The European Council on Foreign Relations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria and the Sofia Platform have announced an International consultation with think-tank representatives in the framework of EU's Global Foreign Policy Strategy Review in Sofia on the 23 of July. In 2015 we face a Europe that is "more connected, more contested and more complex", but the reality remains that Europe needs to take care of its neighbourhood first and foremost, not only for the sake of its own security but also for the sake of paying its dues to the transatlantic partnership. Following this rationale, the Western Balkans, Turkey and the Eastern Neighbourhoods should be in the core of the review. In order to contribute to the process, ECFR and Sofia Platform are jointly hosting think tanks from the neighbouring regions, in order to feed into the review process of the Global Foreign Policy Strategy. The review process needs to provide for two things. Firstly, it should show the reasons why the time to act is now and demonstrate how failure to do so will entail irreversible loss on the side of the EU. Secondly, it must manage a consensus that will bring member states and institutions together in a strategic framework with concrete actions to implement in relations to the Western Balkans and the Eastern Neighborhood. More information is available [here](#).

[Sofia Platform]



- **New Decision for Allocation of Government-owned Space for the Use of CSOs in Croatia**

A new decision has been published on criteria, standards and procedures for the allocation of government-owned space for the use of civil society organizations for the implementation of programs and projects of public benefit. To determine the CSOs that will be awarded preference in the new decision, a points-based system is formed on the grounds of: number of years the organization has been functioning, number of employees, members, & volunteers it has, number of local & international events that contribute to public benefit, connectivity with other organizations, positive experiences using the spaces available, transparency of finances & functioning of the organization, & the coherency of their aims with State goals. The aim is to enable the most helpful CSOs, regardless of their economic capacity to rent spaces. Full details are available [online](#).

[UZUVRH]



- **Amendments to the Law on CSOs of Montenegro Submitted to Public Consultation**

An open call has been launched to all interested parties for two public discussions on the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on CSOs of Montenegro. The discussions will be held at Bijelo Polje on 17 of July and in Podgorica on 22 of July. The Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on CSOs is available through the website of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, along with the original invitation, you can download them [here](#).

[CRNVO]



- **The Clampdown on Resourcing: Comparing Civil Society and Business**

Maina Kiai, UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of assembly & association and Maria Leissner, Secretary General of the Community of Democracies, published recently: The clampdown on resourcing: comparing civil society and business as part of the CIVICUS State of Civil Society Report 2015. At first glance, the business and civil society sectors may seem strange bedfellows for comparison. The basis for this treatment seems to boil down to one dividing point: one exists to make a profit; the other is non-profit. But beyond their dissimilar profit motives, just how different are businesses and civil society? And how differently should governments treat them?

The overall the trend in business investment seems to be toward liberalisation, with governments typically enabling more foreign investment in more sectors with fewer restrictions. The trend in civil society is the opposite: less foreign funding with more restrictions...You can read the full article [here](#).

[CIVICUS]



- **CIVICUS State of Civil Society Report 2015**

Each year CIVICUS: the world alliance for citizen participation publishes the State of Civil Society Report, offering a comprehensive picture of civil society and the conditions it works in around the world. The report draws from a series of inputs contributed by members of the CIVICUS alliance, including 27 thematic inputs from civil society leaders and experts, a survey of national level civil society networks that are members of our Affinity Group of National Associations (AGNA), and interviews with people close to the key civil society stories of the day. This year the focus is on the resourcing of civil society. In a year of hard effort and high achievement, civil society has continued to respond to pressing global challenges, of growing inequality, corrupt relationships between political and economic elites, the privatisation of the public sphere, violent conflicts, environmental destruction, and an enduring lack of opportunity for people to have a say in decisions that affect their lives. In several countries, people's frustration with persistent failures has seen them take to the streets to demand change. Meanwhile, because civil society poses difficult questions to elites, it faces pushback and restriction. But the demand for change will not go away, because structural failures, including the inadequacy of global governance institutions, as we discussed in our 2014 State of Civil Society Report, are not being addressed. Civil society offers the commitment and staying power to challenge the root causes of today's problems and offer solutions; this is why people and agencies that seek change need to support and invest in civil society, in all its diversity. To read the full report, click [here](#).

[CIVICUS]



- **Informational Event on CSOs' Economic Activities Held in Skopje**

On 7th July in Skopje, the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC), held a presentation on "Civil society organizations and economic activities - possibility for sustainability?". Intended primarily for CSO management and accountants, the event served to inform CSOs that are engaged in, or are planning to start with, economic activities about the benefits, disadvantages and limitations of such engagement, as well as the legal framework in which CSOs' economic activities are to be implemented. Nikolaki Miov, the author of the [Guide on CSOs economic activities](#), presented the guide and the changes in the legislation in the last year which affect the CSOs, as well as the responsibilities that CSOs have regarding tax obligations. The event was part of the regional project "Balkan Civil Society Acquis – Strengthening the Advocacy and Monitoring Potential and Capacities of CSOs", led by BCSDN and financially supported by the European Union and BTD. More information is available [here](#).

[BCSDN]



- **IDM Helps Launch Rural Albania Civil Society Network**

The Institute of Democracy and Mediation, IDM (BCSDN member) is one of 14 CSOs that have formed a new civil-society network that will work on issues affecting rural Albanians. The objectives of the National Rural Network were announced in a press release from the group, as follows: Becoming a focal point for articulating the voice and interests of rural communities near Albanian citizens and governmental agencies that serve these communities; Offering a partner to the government through which the rural communities and organizations that represent them can be consulted; Asking for funding and undertaking complementary initiatives along the initiatives undertaken from member organizations, e.g. promotion of the LEADER/CLLD approach for rural

development; Operating in equal conditions with similar networks that exist in more than 20 European countries, including neighbouring countries in the Western Balkans, and participating in multilateral activities among these networks promoted mainly from the Network PREPARE; Empowering civil society organizations, members of the network, without violating their independence and capacity to direct their own programmes. More information is available [here](#).

[IDM]



- **CfP: EIDHR Country-Based Support Schemes 2015 - Albania (Deadline: 24.08.2015)**

The global objective of this Call is to promote the respect for human rights in Albania, and to strengthen the role of CSOs in the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law. The specific objective is to support organizations active in the field of human rights, targeting principally, and not exclusively, actions under the following priorities: (LOT 1) Protecting women's rights and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment; Protecting the rights of the child, including combating trafficking of minors; (LOT 2) Supporting the rights of persons belonging to minorities, people affected by caste based discrimination, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual (LGBT) persons and people with disabilities; Protecting other vulnerable groups, including poor and homeless people, elderly, etc. Any grant requested under this Call must fall between the following minimum and maximum amounts for both LOT 1 and 2: between EUR 500.000 and EUR 600.000. Any grant requested under this Call must fall between the following minimum 50% and maximum percentages of total eligible costs of the action 95%. The applicant is requested to manage the redistribution of at least 70% of the value of the contract through small grants (up to 30.000 Euros) to support the organizations, initiatives and projects at local level. More information is available [here](#).

[EuropeAid]



- **CfP: SEE Media Observatory: Calls to Implement Public Awareness and Advocacy Campaigns (Deadline: 25.07.2015)**

South East European Media Observatory seeks applications from CSOs to implement public awareness and advocacy campaigns and organize actions aiming to support free, independent, pluralistic and viable media in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. Actions under this call for proposals should focus on the main topic of the project South East European Media Observatory – media integrity. Media integrity encompasses qualities of the media system which enable the media to serve public interest and democracy. This call invites CSOs - professional associations, advocacy groups, research institutes, human rights and anti-corruption organizations and other CSOs - specializing in media to propose actions up to six months to be implemented in 2015 and early 2016. The total amount of the grant for the six countries is EUR 30,000. A maximum grant amount of 5,000 EUR per country will be awarded. Find out more [here](#).

[SEE Media Observatory]



- **CfP: National Foundation for Civil Society Development Call for Creation of Enabling Environment for CSOs in Promotion of Human Rights in Croatia (Deadline: 30.09.2015)**

The National Foundation for Civil Society Development has announced a new Call for Proposals, financed by the Funds of the European Economic Area (EEA) and the Kingdom of Norway. The project is called "The creation of an enabling environment for civil society organizations in the promotion and protection of human rights in Croatia". The deadline for applications is 30 September 2015. The competition is open to associations that operate in the promotion and protection of human rights and are registered in the Croatia. There are two categories of application: individual applications and applications of partnerships of at least 3 organizations. The maximum amount that can be granted to individual applications is Kn 380,000.00 (EUR 50,000); partnership

applications are applicable for funding between Kn 380,000.00 and Kn 1,140,000.00 (from EUR 50,000 to 150,000) per project. Implementation of projects can last from 12 to 14 months. Full details are available [here](#).
[National Foundation for CSDev, Croatia]



- **CfA: Think Tank Young Professional Development Program - BCSDN is Looking for an Advocacy and Policy Intern (Deadline: 24.07.2015)**

As part of the Think Tank Young Professional Development Program, BCSDN has been selected again as a host organization to offer one young professional interested in research and policy the opportunity to work as a Policy and Advocacy Intern in these research areas: (1) Civil Society Development; (2) EU Enlargement; or (3) Donor Research. After the young professional will be internally selected, BCSDN and the applicant will apply together for getting the OSF TTF financial support needed for this position. In case of a successful application, and depending on the research topic, this individual program will last up to 6 months, starting from November 2015. Interested and eligible young professionals should send a CV and motivational letter to executiveoffice@balkancsd.net before 24 July, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[BCSDN]



- **CfA: C20 Summit 2015, Istanbul, Turkey**

The C20 Summit will take place on 15-16 of September in Bogazici University, Istanbul. The C20 Summit will aim at finalizing the C20 Communiqué with engagement from civil society organizations, coming from all around the World. The Summit will provide an important opportunity for civil society organizations to discuss the C20 recommendations, finalize them, and pursue a road map for effective advocacy process with the G20 countries in the future. The registration process for the C20 Summit will be open soon but if you have questions in the meantime, you can reach us at info@c20turkey.org. Alternatively, you could also visit the C20 Summit page for more information.

[TUSEV]



- **The Croatian Office for Cooperation with CSOs Presents a New Mobile App**

A mobile phone application, created by the Office for Cooperation with CSOs of the Croatian Government, has been presented: UdrugelInfo. The application is intended to increase the visibility of organizations enabling association in the local community as a way of strengthening citizens' participation. The application, which is available for Android and Apple mobile phones, allows for easy retrieval of information about activities and services of registered organizations. The search features of UdrugelInfo are advanced, with capacities to localize according to place and interest, and even locate them on an interactive map. More information can be found [here](#).

[UZUVRH]



- **MAXCAP Newsletter Issue 05/2015**

The MAXCAP project team presented the fifth edition of our MAXCAP Newsletter. It informs about two MAXCAP milestones: the Midterm Conference and the Young Researchers Workshop. In addition, it provides an overview of MAXCAP's interim research results as well as of recent workshops, training sessions and panel discussions by MAXCAP scholars. The MAXCAP Newsletter Issue 05/2015 can be found [here](#).

[MAXCAP]



- **Updated Free Edition of the Practical Guide to European Funding Opportunities 2014-2020**

With a clear-cut thematic structure, this easy-to-read and practical tool allows to find information about the programme goals, partnerships and budget at a glance. After a short introduction about the programme priorities and the type of EU contributions available, each section provides the reader with the useful links to all the official documents, avoiding the risk of getting lost in the maze of information on EU programmes. This publication is being distributed by the European Projects Association (EPA) and its National Contact Point for Italy, EuGen in cooperation with ES.com - Esprit Communautaire, the International University Institute for European Studies, the European Academy for Education and Social Research and Cittalia-ANCI Research Foundation. The Guide can be downloaded [here](#).

[Europa News]



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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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