



E-Mail Alerts no. 323

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- **UN Targets Trillions of Dollars to Implement Sustainable Development Agenda, Global Civil Society Joins to Hold Leaders to Account**

After more than two years of intense negotiations, the UN's 193 member states have unanimously agreed on a new Sustainable Development Agenda with 17 goals — including the elimination of extreme poverty and hunger — to be reached by 2030. An assessment of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals prepared by CIVICUS is available [here](#). The new goals, which will be part of the UN's post-2015 development agenda and to be approved at a summit meeting of world leaders on 25th-27th September, cover a wide range of political and socio-economic issues, including inequality, poverty, hunger, gender equality, industrialisation, sustainable development, full employment, human rights, quality education, climate change and sustainable energy for all. Members of the global civil society have formed an **open group** to hold leaders to account on the commitments they will make when adopting this ambitious new agenda, including key commitments on financing and universal implementation. More information is available [here](#).

[Global Policy Forum]



- **Projectisation of Donor Funding: Implications for CSO Sustainability**

ActionAid's guest essay to the CIVICUS State of Civil Society Report 2015, focuses on how CSOs perform an essential role in enabling social and economic justice. Their role goes way beyond projects for development 'delivery': their largest scale impact, and their longest term contribution, is not in the number of items of assistance that they provide, but in how they facilitate and catalyse development, and how they empower people living in poverty to claim their rights. More information is available [here](#).

[CIVICUS]



- **Croatian Civil Society Council Takes Stock of Progress in the 2012-2016 Strategy Implementation**

At its session on 23rd July, 2015, the Croatian Government adopted the Report on the Implementation of the National Strategy for Creating an Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development from 2012 to 2016 for the period from 2012 to 2014. At the mid-term of the implementation of the National Strategy, by the end of 2014, 45 activities have been fully implemented, which is almost a half of the planned 91 activities, while the rest are in the final stages of implementation. Some of the key developments in this period are: improved legal framework for the CSOs' operation through adopting and implementing the new Law on Associations and the Law on financial operations and accounting of CSOs; adopted Regulations on the criteria and measures for financing of CSOs' programs and projects of common good from public funds; established criteria for allocation of state-owned space to the use of CSOs, etc. More information is available [here](#).

[Office for Cooperation with NGOs - Croatia]



- **New Law on the Right of Access to Information in Croatia**

With the entry into force of the Law on Amendments to the Law on the Right of access to information, there is a change in one of the most important legislations towards the improvement of which CSOs in Croatia, and more specifically by the Zagreb-based CSO GONG, have directed their advocacy efforts. In an interview, the Commissioner for Information, Anamarija Musa, discussed with representatives of GONG the content of these changes, the new constellation of responsibility for its implementation and what the changes could mean for the right to information from public bodies in practice. More information is available [here](#).

[Program JAKO]



- **HRW Research Finds Media Freedom in Western Balkans under Serious Threat**

After almost a year of research in the region and in-depth interviews with over 80 journalists, editors, and independent media owners, Human Rights Watch released a report in July 2015 stating that media freedom in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Serbia are under threat. The report's findings include impunity and lack of action by authorities for threats, beatings, and even murders of journalists and media workers in these countries, citing that political interference and financial pressure through heavy fines and vague laws are often imposed on independent media in these countries. More information is available [here](#).

[Global Voices Online]



- **Civil Society at the Upcoming Western Balkans Summit in Vienna**

This year's continuation of the Berlin Process will culminate on 26th-27th August in Vienna when Western Balkans leaders gather for Summit hosted by Austria but also attended by the leaders of Germany, France (which will carry the torch in the next 12 months) as well the European Union. When last gathered in Brussels in April 2015 the Western Balkans Prime Ministers expressed their strong commitment to the Berlin Process, stating that the Vienna meeting 'will achieve concrete results based on specific investment projects'. Similar to last year, the Summit will focus on economic and political cooperation. But in Vienna, it will also include series of events, which will enable representatives of regional CSOs to discuss and present their work as well as concrete proposals to Western Balkans leaders, thus kicking off a process of enhanced civil society engagement in the region. More information is available [here](#).

[Regional Cooperation Council]



- **EC to Undertake Thematic Evaluation on Support to Economic Governance and PAR in Enlargement Countries**

DG NEAR will undertake a thematic evaluation for EU assistance to Economic Governance and Public Administration Reform (PAR) in the Enlargement countries. Based on assessment of performance, achievements and lessons learned from 2007-2013 past assistance in areas related to economic governance and the new strategic importance put on PAR especially in the enlargement context, the evaluation aims to contribute to better design, programming and implementation of EU assistance over the period 2014-2020. The evaluation will also contribute to the cross fertilization of experiences between the enlargement and neighbourhood countries. More information on the economic governance evaluation is available [here](#), and [here](#) for the PAR evaluation.

[EC]



- **CfP: Civil Society Facility Kosovo Operating Grants (Deadline: 02.11.2015)**

The specific objective of this Call is to provide predictable core funding and support the existence and the functioning of less-established community-based and/or self-advocacy civil society organisations focussing on one of the following priority areas: Rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex persons; Rights of people with disabilities; Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities rights; Environment protection; Reconciliation between communities. The overall indicative amount made available under this Call for Proposals is EUR 300,000, while any grant requested must fall under the maximum amount of EUR 60,000 and the maximum percentage of 90 % of the total eligible costs of the annual operating budget. The EU financial support will cover one accounting year and is intended to cover the duration of the 2016 financial year. The deadline for the submission of Applications is 2nd November, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[EuropeAid]



- **CfP: ALDA Call for Sub-grants 2015 (Deadline: 30.09.2015)**

Following the success from last year, ALDA decided to open the Call for Sub-grant 2015. The activities and events which can be funded through this sub-grant must promote good governance and citizen participation at the local level in Europe, thus contributing to ALDA's main goals. All local authorities and CSOs are welcome to submit their proposals. The objective of the activities and events is to involve the citizens in EU public affairs, debates and policies and work towards an ever-integrated European Union. The implementation of the activities should take place from 1st October to 31st December, 2015. Deadline for application is 30th September, 2015.

More information is available [here](#).

[ALDA]



- **CfP: Robert Carr Civil Society Networks Fund 2015 (Deadline: 17.08.2015)**

The 2015 Request for Proposals for the Robert Carr Civil Society Networks Fund is now open and CSO networks can apply for a grant to seek support for core-funding and/or pragmatic needs for up to 3 years, from 2016 to 2018. This is an excellent grant opportunity for CSO networks (global and regional networks as well as consortia) that have a proven track record in working towards RCNF outcomes, as they will be prioritized. New and emerging networks can be recommended for funding to the extent that they fill a gap in the global HIV response. The RCNF focuses on networks that address the needs and human rights of inadequately served populations. Deadline for applications is 17th August, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[Funds for NGOs]



- **CfA: Grant Makers East Forum, 30 Sept - 02 Oct, Istanbul**

The 20th annual Grantmakers East Forum (GEF) will be held in Istanbul from 30th September to 2nd October, hosted by Vehbi Koç Foundation. This year's theme will be "Creating Equal Opportunities: Overcoming Divides". Sessions will focus on youth employment, social entrepreneurship, gender-sensitive grantmaking, fair access to resources, freedom of expression and social fabric in contested territories. Two workshops will also provide ideas and solutions to achieve successful storytelling and to assess impact of initiatives. Registration is now open for any grantmaking foundation, bilateral donor, international organisation and corporate funder which is based or working in Central and Eastern Europe. More information is available [here](#).

[EFC]



- **CfA: Call for Partnership Involvement: CIVICUS International Civil Society Week 2016 (Deadline: 13.09.2015)**

CIVICUS, and its ICSW partner CCONG, invite CIVICUS members and networks to host an event at International Civil Society Week (ICSW) 2016 under the banner: “Active Citizens, Accountable Actions”. ICSW 2016, taking place in April 2016, in Bogota, Colombia, is a key global gathering for civil society, donors, academia and other stakeholders to engage constructively in finding common solutions to global challenges. It will provide a space for dialogue to promote social, professional, and cultural exchanges, as well as to encourage and strengthen links between the international delegates and local civil society, in particular in relation to peace. The deadline to submit a proposal to host an event at the 2016 ICSW has been extended to 13th September, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[CIVICUS]



- **MAXCAP: Unintended Consequences of EU Conditionality on (Potential) Candidates**

The Working Paper No. 14 by Adam Fagan, Indraneel Sircar, Antoaneta Dimitrova and Eliitsa Kortenska has been last published within the MAXCAP project. Based on empirical and comparative analysis of countries in the region, it argues that although there is evidence of success, the EU's approach generates sub-optimal outputs; a combination of unintended consequences and unrealized effects. This is due largely to the fact that the EU adopts a somewhat ‘Archimedean’ approach, namely the creation of new separate judicial bodies that stand above politics and are separate to existing judicial institutions and processes as a means of breaking political interference. This approach triggers an inevitable tension between democratic checks and balances, and independence. The publication is available for download [here](#).

[MAXCAP]



- **New Book: The Development of Civil Society in the Countries on the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since the 1980s**

A New book titled “The Development of Civil Society in the Countries on the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since the 1980s” by Danica Fink-Hafner, ed. (2015), Ljubljana: Faculty of Social Sciences, has been published. This book is first of all an exploratory account of an under-researched aspect of socio-political dynamics on the territory of the former socialist Yugoslavia since the 1980s. It paints an overview of the complex civil society developments as a whole, rather than exploring individual themes. Since few publications have addressed the broad view, while those which have done so have not been written by native experts, our primary aim here is to present a rough analysis of the main characteristics and factors of civil-society developments on the territory of the former Yugoslavia from the point of view of native experts. The pdf version is available free of charge at the following [link](#). For printed copies, contact danica.fink-hafner@fdv.uni-lj.si.

[Faculty of Social Sciences, Ljubljana]



- **Turkey: Funder Guide for CSOs Updated**

The Funder Guide seeks to inform CSOs in Turkey working in different areas about various sources to which they can apply to in order to receive support for their activities. Since it was published in 2012, the Guide has been downloaded from TACSO's Web site over 700 times, and is now updated with the support of TACSO Turkey's Resource Centre, the Civil Society Development Centre (STGM), so as to reflect the new opportunities emerging in 2015 as well as changes in the programmes. More information is available [here](#).

[TACSO]



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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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