



E-Mail Alerts no. 324

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- **Should Aid still Flow to Middle-Income Nations or Are the Poorest the Priority?**

Should aid continue to flow to middle-income countries, or should the world's poorest countries receive a greater share? It is a debate that has intensified since world leaders set the millennium development goals (MDGs) 15 years ago, during which time more than 30 countries have moved from low- to middle-income status. MDG8, which aims to “develop a global partnership for development”, includes a target to increase aid to the world's 48 least developed countries. Some campaigners argue this should be the priority, while others insist the world would fail most of the world's poor if aid to middle-income countries was cut. The Guardians has asked two experts to share their thoughts on where the priorities should lie. Read their answers [here](#).

[The Guardian]



- **Outcome Document Finally Available - Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

With a delay of ten days, the UN has published the final outcome document for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to be officially adopted at the UN Summit on 25th-27th September, 2015, in New York. The Agenda sets out the aims of the organization and all its members for the coming 15 years in the fields of social development, curbing inequalities, economic progress and environmental sustainability. If taken seriously, the 2030 Agenda will require profound changes in policies as well as governance and has the potential to shape debates in each and every country around the world. More information is available [here](#).

[Global Policy Watch]



- **Companies and Groups of Individuals Are Primary Donor Sources for 2013 in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Giving by companies and groups of individuals (mass individual) accounted for 78% of all giving in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2013. Catalyst's publication of the 2013 Annual Report on the State of Philanthropy for BiH was based on an analysis of nearly 400 instances of philanthropy. This baseline measurement of the levels of philanthropic activity has allowed Catalyst to estimate that at least EUR 5.9 million was given by companies, individuals and the diaspora during 2013. The top three most common final beneficiary groups included children and adults with health issues (24.6%), economically vulnerable people (18.8%), and children and adults with disabilities (13.0%) More information is available [here](#).

[Catalyst]



- **Macedonia: 65 Draft Laws under Parliament Discussion without Being Published on the Electronic Regulations Registry**

At the Assembly sessions held during 25th-27th August, 2015, 65 draft laws were put on the agenda in summary proceedings, out of which only five are published on the Single Electronic Registry of Regulations (ENER). None of the published laws has respected the minimum period of ten days for public consultation. With the massive adoption of laws that have not been published on ENER through a shortened procedure, the public and all stakeholders have a restricted ability to be timely informed, to contribute and engage in the preparation of the laws that affect them. MCIC, through the regular **"Mirror of the Government"** reports, appeals to the government and relevant state bodies to respect the prescribed provisions of the Rules of Procedure and not to avoid the obligation for availability of consultation on all draft laws, including those which are adopted through a shortened procedure. More information is available [here](#).

[MCIC]



- **5 Trends that Explain why Civil Society Space Is Under Assault around the World**

In the 1980s and 90s civil society and CSOs came to be seen as key players in development; aid donors and INGOs like Oxfam increasingly sought them out as partners. So the current global crackdown on 'civil society space' is particularly worrying – a major pillar of development is under threat. Ross Clarke and Araddhya Mehta from Oxfam have just put together an internal briefing on the problem, and what we should be doing about it. The briefing has not been published yet, and although there will be a public version of it soon, a copy can be ordered by email at Araddhya@oxfamindia.org. On their blog, available [here](#), they set out some of the background trends for anyone seeking to prevent or reverse the crackdown.

[OXFAM]



- **Western Balkans Civil Society Forum Takes Place on the Sidelines of the Vienna EU-WB Summit**

On 26th August, around 100 representatives of civil society from the Western Balkans met to finalize recommendations delivered to EU and Western Balkans leaders present at the Vienna Summit. The **recommendations** focused on proposing measures on how to tackle challenges of youth and unemployment; freedom of expression and regional cooperation and called on WB leaders to support civil initiatives and networks who have so far showed very tangible results. Ahead of the Summit, ideas for follow-up activities were exchanged so that civil society could be included in the s.c. Berlin Process more directly, on continues basis and as equal partners in the EU integration process. As the WB Governments are setting up a WB Fund on the example of the International Vishegrad Fund, which funds regional civil society, academic etc. projects and exchanges, civil society demanded Government to not devise solutions for civil society without its inclusion. A Forum in form of a TV-show was held ahead of Summit between selected CSO representatives and PM Rama, Vucic and Ministers of Foreign Affairs Lukcis, Crdanak. More information is available [here](#).

[BCSDN]



- **Civil Society to Be an Additional Important Element of the Berlin Process**

One year after the Berlin Western Balkans Summit, the heads of government, foreign ministers and economic ministers of WB countries met on 27th August for the 2nd Summit Meeting on the Western Balkans in the framework of the 'Berlin Process' to show further political commitment to the future enlargement of the European Union towards the Western Balkans. For the first time, the participating states have welcomed the holding of a civil society segment in the Margins of the Summit and the substantial civil society contributions made on the Summit's main topics in the Final Summit Declaration. Considering civil society as a voice which needs to be nurtured and present in the EU integration process of the WB countries, participants have welcomed the

proposal to make civil society an additional element of the Berlin Process. The full text of the Final Declaration by the Chair of the Vienna WB Summit is available [here](#).

[BMWFW]



- **Call to the Political Leaders in Macedonia for a Transparent and Participative Decision-Making Process regarding the Agreement from 2nd June and 15th July**

At a press conference on 31st August, the CSO platform for fighting corruption and Network 23 call the political leaders for transparency and inclusion of civil society in the decision-making process regarding the issues set in the Agreement of June 2nd and July 15th. The civil society representatives stressed that the Agreement's implementation is an imperative and asked the Government to publish the draft Action Plan for realization of the urgent reform priorities of the European Commission, and the Assembly to enable CSOs to monitor its work starting from 1st September and contribute with their expertise, analyses and reports related to the Agreement's issues. More information is available [here](#).

[MCIC]



- **CfP: Distribution of Part of the Revenue from Games of Chance for 2015 in Montenegro (Deadline: 24.09.2015)**

The Montenegrin Commission for allocation of revenue from games of chance has published a call for the allocation of part of the revenue for 2015. A total of EUR 2,819,637.45 from the revenue from games of chance will be used to fund plans and programs of CSOs in the following areas: Social welfare and humanitarian activities; Meeting the needs of people with disabilities; Sports; Culture and Technical Education; Non-formal education of children and youth; Fight against drugs and other addictions. The distribution of revenue will be conducted in two categories: A – for organizations that have been registered at least 6 months prior to the call announcement and request less than EUR 15,000; and B - for organizations that have been registered at least 12 months prior to the call announcement and request more than EUR 15,000. The deadline for submitting applications is 24th September, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[Ministry of Finance - Montenegro]



- **CfP: Council of Europe 2-Year Structural Grants (Deadline: 01.10.2015)**

Council of Europe structural grants are intended for general administrative costs of an international organisation or network. The one-off structural grant is planned as support to establish a European structure by regional networks. Structural grants for 2 consecutive years are only accessible to international youth CSOs and international networks that have received support for at least 3 international activities during the 3 previous years (EYF grant or study session in the annual programme of the European Youth Centres). These grants are available every two years and the next deadline for a 2-year structural grant is 1 October 2015, for the years 2016-2017. The maximum annual grant is EUR 25,000. More information is available [here](#).

[Council of Europe]



- **CfP: CEI Cooperation Fund for Migration and Related Crime Issues (Deadline: 15.10.2015)**

The CEI (Central European Initiative) Cooperation fund has issued call for proposals for co-financing to cover migration and related crime issues. CEI Cooperation Activities aim at capacity building by knowledge transfer and sharing, in particular from EU CEI Member States to non-EU CEI Member States, and at exchanging experiences and good practice among all CEI Member States by favouring mobility and networking. In this

context, particular attention will be paid to the involvement of non-EU CEI Member States and to a reasonable balance between participating EU and non-EU CEI Member States. Applicants can request a CEI contribution up to the maximum amount of EUR 15.000. More information is available [here](#).

[CEI]



- **CfA: Free Webinar on Partnership Building for MED Programme (Deadline: 18.09.2015)**

The MED programme is a transnational programme of European territorial cooperation. It is financed by the European Union as an instrument of its regional policy and of its new programming period. Over 250 million Euros (244 from ERDF and 9 million from IPA) are available for projects from eligible countries – Portugal, Spain, France, Gibraltar (UK), Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Cyprus and Malta. First call for proposals will be open from 1st of September till 2nd November, 2015. In this round, over 87 million will be available for projects covering the first 3 priority axes: 1) Promoting Mediterranean Innovation capacities to develop smart and sustainable growth; 2) Fostering low-carbon strategies and energy efficiency in specific MED territories: cities, Islands and rural areas; and 3) Protecting and promoting Mediterranean natural and cultural resources. Participation at the webinar is free of charge. Applications must be submitted by 18th September, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[CNVOS]



- **CfA: International Youth Conference "European Values For The Future Of SEE Countries" – 25-29 September, Krusevo (Deadline: 05.09.2015)**

From 25th to 29th September, 2015, in Krusevo (Macedonia) the 13th edition of the International Youth Conference will be held. The conference is a unique place, a cultural crossroad where discussions for: rule of law, democracy, human rights, freedom of speech, free-market economy, political inclusiveness and right of free sexual orientation, are mixing while they are putting together the mosaic of the future. The Conference will bring together up to 59 participants from the countries from the Southeastern European (SEE) countries and Turkey and guests from youth organizations partners from Germany, France and Poland in the role of mentors. The conference costs are covered by the organizers including, materials, accommodation and meals. The call for participants will be open until 5th September, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[MladiInfo]



- **Towards a More Effective Budgetary Policies at the Local Level**

The aim of the pilot project "Towards a more effective budgetary policies at the local level - budget line 481, grants to NGOs," by Center for Non-Profit Sector Development (CRNPS) and the Center for Public Policy Research, in three municipalities - Pirot, Kraljevo and Sombor - is to initiate dialogue between participants in the process of approval of funding from budget line 481 intended for civil society and revive the debate on the importance of its transparency. By analysing the situation, the project aims to offer recommendations for changes to the procedures and also to increase the pressure of the public to create better cooperation between governments and CSOs in the process of Serbia's EU accession. The project is supported by the Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN). The study is available for download [here](#).

[CRNPS]



- **KCSF: Going beyond Political Rhetoric**

Kosovar legislators charged with ensuring that proposed national laws are in harmony with European Union law must be given more support in order to achieve their mission, according to a Kosovar Civil Society Foundation (KCSF) policy brief. “A commitment to EU integration is one of the few topics that unites most of the political parties. In order to convert this declarative support into concrete results, it is imperative that the Parliament create the necessary conditions for the effective functioning of the CEI,” the report states, referring to the Parliamentary Committee for European Integration, which reviews bills for compliance with EU acquis. The publication is available for download [here](#).

[PASOS/KCSF]



- **Improving the Measurement of Civic Space**

Civic space (i.e. the freedom and means to speak, access information, associate, organise, and participate in public decision-making) is essential to the healthy functioning and development of any society and is considered a precondition for accountable governance and social justice. Over the past decades, despite some notable examples of progress, a worrisome trend of shrinking civic space has emerged around the world. The purpose of this study is to inform the development of an index/measure of civic space that will enable concerned actors and stakeholders including, among others, international initiatives/agreements to be more effective in supporting and advocating for the protection and enablement of civic space. The publication is available for download [here](#).

[Transparency & Accountability Initiative]



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Tuesday, 01 September 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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