



E-Mail Alerts nr. 327

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- **CIVICUS: Too Much International Giving Goes to Wrong CSOs**

Restrictive rules mean too much aid money is wasted on fundermediaries, rather than going to organisations on the ground who can spend it best, according to Civicus, an organization which exists to strengthen civil society around the world. While many civil

society organisations are “good at playing the game”, the most innovative and ambitious initiatives rarely involve project proposals, CIVICUS director has stated. Sriskandarajah said a problem for civil society organisations came from measures making it difficult to access foreign funding. This is made a greater problem by the fact that “domestic funders are not yet able or willing to support change-seeking activities”. “The situation is most acute in countries that have apparently “graduated” into middle-income status and have therefore fallen off donors’ priority lists”. He also reminds that it is on civil society to “change some of its behaviours” - from weaning itself off grant funding, to exploring new ways of raising money and designing activities that don't rely on financial support. Click [here](#) to read the full article.

[civilsociety.co.uk]



- **AidEx – A Gathering of Emergency and Development Actors to Take Place in Brussels**

From global aid organisations to international CSOs, from private sector decision-makers to inventors of innovative new products AidEx has become a vital fixture in the calendars of many aid and development professionals. AidEx has been established as the leading platform for the international aid and development community to come together and improve the efficiency of aid. It is a 2 day event, which encompasses a conference, exhibition, meeting areas, awards and workshops. Its fundamental aim is to engage the sector at every level and provide a forum for the visitors to meet, source, supply and learn. It was created to help the international aid and development community engage the private sector in a neutral setting, drive innovation and support the ever-growing need for emergency aid and development programmes. It is a unique, world-renowned event that works hard to genuinely improve the situation on the ground. Collaboration has been announced as the theme for 2015. AidEx Brussels is free to attend, click [here](#) if you would like to register your place. More information is available [here](#).

[AidEx]



- **Comparative Highlights of Foundation Laws: The Operating Environment for Foundations in Europe 2015**

This publication aims to provide the reader with a comparative overview of the diverse legal and fiscal environments of foundations in 40 countries across wider Europe: the 28 EU Member States, plus Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Liechtenstein, Macedonia, Montenegro, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, and Ukraine. It includes charts, drawn on the basis of the updated online EFC (European Foundation Centre) Legal and Fiscal Country Profiles, which are available to download at www.efc.be. The EFC online profiles include more detailed country information and further explanation of the information presented in those charts. To download the full publication, click [here](#).

[EFC]



- **Gov2Gov/CSO Online Platform Launch Announced**

The Serbian Government Office for Cooperation with Civil Society has announced the launch of an online platform aimed at sharing and exchanging information relevant for the enabling environment for civil society in Enlargement countries between Government mechanisms as well as with civil society. While the platform development is currently in its final stage, it is expected to be promoted and available by end of November in Belgrade.

[Office for Cooperation with Civil Society, Government of Serbia]



- **TUSEV: Sharing Data on Enabling Environment in Turkey**

TUSEV has started a social media campaign under the brand name of “TUSEV Atolye (workshop)” with the aim of sharing data and information regarding CS enabling environment. The campaign has been outreaching to various stakeholders including CSO representatives, citizens, public officials, international donors, and international organizations, universities, and media. Under the hashtag #TUSEVATOLYE, a set of data on civil society enabling environment including statistics, freedom of association, freedoms of assembly and expression, tax regulations, human resources of CSOs and CSO- Public sector relations are being shared. Information produced and shared under TUSEV Atolye can be found, in Turkish language, at this [link](#).

[TUSEV]



- **Tunisian Civil Society Groups Win the Nobel Peace Prize 2015**

The Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet - a democracy group - has been awarded the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize for "its decisive contribution to the building of a pluralistic democracy," the Norwegian Nobel Committee has announced. The group of four organisations established "an alternative, peaceful political process at a time when the country was on the brink of civil war," the Committee said, referring to the period following Tunisia's 2011 revolution. The National Dialogue Quartet is made up of four key organisations in Tunisian civil society: the Tunisian General Labour Union (UGTT); the Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts (UTICA); the Tunisian Human Rights League (LTDH); and the Tunisian Order of Lawyers. Civil society across Europe have welcomed this award also as a recognition of the importance of meaningful civil and social dialogue for building and strengthening pluralistic democratic societies. For more information click [here](#).

[CONCORD]



- **The 2015 Report State of Democracy Human Rights and the Rule of Law in Europe is Now Published**

The Council of Europe published the 2015 report "State of Democracy Human Rights and the rule of law in Europe; A shared responsibility for democratic security in Europe". The report is assessment of the democracy, human rights and the rule of law in the Council of Europe's 47 member states based on the findings of the Council of Europe monitoring mechanisms and bodies. The analysis is broken down into its five pillars: efficient and independent judiciary; free media; vibrant, influential civil society; legitimate democratic institutions; and inclusive societies. Read the full publication [here](#).

[Council of Europe]



- **The EU Progress Reports with New Methodology to Be Published on 21st October**

The first Enlargement package under the Juncker's Commission will be published on 21st October, 2015. The Enlargement strategy and the Progress Reports, whose publication was postponed due to the scheduled European Council focus on migration the week before, will have some novelties including a mid-term strategy for the first time. BCSDN has been analyzing the Package from the perspective of civil society development findings and recommendations to Governments in these documents since 2009. It is to be seen how the new methodology will be reflected on assessments on state of civil society as last year's reports featured for the first time civil society as separate section within the Political criteria of the Progress Reports for each country. This year we hope to see EC has further advanced in the way it monitors civil society development and uses its own monitoring tool – The Guidelines for EU support to civil society development in enlargement countries, 2014-2020. Stay tuned for this year's BCSDN analysis which will be set in the framework of the Monitoring Matrix on Enabling Environment for CSDev. The new progress report will be made available [here](#).

[BCSDN]



- **CfP: Organizational Development Grants to Think Tanks (Deadline: 09.11.2015)**

The Open Society Think Tank Fund requests proposals for organizational development grants from independent, multi-issue think tanks working in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, and Ukraine. Organizational development grants aim to provide support for improvement in the three specific areas of think tank activity and operation: 1) Quality of research products, 2) Communications and advocacy capacity, and 3) Internal development and governance. An organizational development grant can cover from one to all three areas for a period between one to two years based on an applicant's demands, merit of the proposal, and the time needed for implementing necessary changes. More information is available [here](#).

[Open Society Foundations]



- **CfP: ISKRA Philanthropy Awards 2015 (Deadline: 31.10.2015)**

The Fund for Active Citizenship opened a competition for award for philanthropy for individuals, companies, media, CSOs, institutions and diaspora associations - which have through the most effective ways of supporting non-profit actions for the common good and civil society development. The aim of the competition is to acknowledge and publicly name the actors, which gave financial support as an example to others and thus open a path for investment in the common good and civil society development. At the same time, the aim of the award is to encourage the revival and development of values such as solidarity, humanity and philanthropy. More information is available [here](#).

[Fund for Active Citizenship - FAKT]



- **CfA: European Civic Days 2015, Strasbourg (Deadline: 20.10.2015)**

The "European Civic Days", which each year is a space for open and stimulating debates between civic, academic and political actors in the framework of the rotating EU Presidencies, this year, will be exceptionally held in Strasbourg to celebrate ten years since the creation of the European Civic Forum in the Council of Europe. The event, on the 22-23 October will gather more than 200 participants from across Europe to take stock of political, institutional and social challenges facing Europe and envision ways forward. All CSOs representatives are invited and can register to participate here <http://civic-forum.eu/en/evenement/2015-european-civic-days> till 20th October. More about the event as well as the Agenda can be found [here](#).

[ECF]



- **CfA: Regional Mobility Fund for experts in the Black Sea Region and the Balkans (Deadline: Ongoing)**

Launched by the Romanian NGDO Platform – FOND, the Regional Mobility Fund for Experts in the Black Sea Region and the Balkans aims to encourage the mobility of civil society/ think tank/ academic experts in the region as to foster knowledge sharing, expertise and exchange of best practices within the framework of enabling environment for CSOs and the Istanbul Principles. The Fund will cover mobility costs (transport, accommodation and meals) for conferences, seminars, working and coordination meetings, study visits, mentoring and training activities in which the applicants are resource persons. The application process for the Regional Mobility Fund is flexible, as the assessment of the requests for support will be done in an ongoing manner. The only time constraint is that the activity for which one applies should be implemented between 5th October and 1st December, 2015. More information is available [here](#).

[Black Sea NGO Forum]



- **CfA: Atlas Corps International Fellowships for Nonprofit Leaders (Deadline: 15.03.2016)**

Atlas Corps is inviting applications from nonprofit leaders working around the world for its International Fellowships to address critical social issues worldwide. The fellowship programme address critical social issues by developing leaders, strengthening organizations, and promoting innovation through an overseas fellowship of skilled nonprofit professionals. Atlas Corps engages leaders committed to the nonprofit sector in 12 to 18 month, professional fellowships at organizations to learn best practices, build organizational capacity, and return home to create a network of global change makers. Fellowship lasts 6-18 months and is offered three times a year. To find out more on the application procedures and criteria go [here](#).

[FundsforNGOs]



- **Measuring Corporate Investments in Socially Responsible Activities in Serbia**

The Forum for Corporate Responsibility has been implementing a survey looking into corporate social responsibility since 2012. The survey on sustainability and responsible investments is an ever increasing practice among responsible companies. Through open communication and informing the interested public on their economic, environmental and social impacts, the companies have the opportunity to initiate a wider social dialog and include and gather partners from various sectors of civil society around common issues. The Survey shows the status of corporate philanthropy and corporate social responsibility in the country, trends in this area and compares the situation with previous years. The survey for 2014 was completed by 15 leaders in corporate social responsibility, with the USAID support. The Forum for Corporate Responsibility is a network of leading companies contributing to the development of the community, by stimulating the development of corporate social responsibility and establishing permanent and stable socially responsible practices in the business sector. Click [here](#) to download a presentation on last year's investments in the Serbian, or English language.

[Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit, Government of Serbia]



- **A "Must Have" Book for Those Working with Horizon 2020**

The ebook Learn from the champions in Horizon 2020 is a "must to have" one for anyone currently or potentially active in Horizon 2020 programme that is the new Research and Innovation Programme for the period 2014-2020. It doesn't contain only who are the champions in Horizon 2020 from each country in Europe but also their seven habits that make them so successful in this highly competitive programme. It is more than 300 pages and it should be placed next to your desk or in your desktop for immediate and daily reference in case you wish to get successful in Horizon 2020 but also to get ideas for the other funding programmes. To

receive the book for free, follow the [link](#).

[Funding Expert Academy]



- **Full Transparency Vital for Trust – Charity Executive Pay Report**

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) set up this inquiry to: explore the arguments about what are appropriate levels of pay for charity senior executives and how these levels should be arrived at; explore the relationship between salary levels and public trust and confidence in the sector as a whole; produce definitive guidelines for charity trustees, informed by a broad debate on the issues involved, to take into account when setting salaries. The main recommendation coming from the report is that charities have been told they should publish full details of the pay of their senior executives, in order to maintain public trust. To read the full report please click [here](#).

[NCVO]



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Thursday, 15 October 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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