



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
AGENCY FOR THE SUPPORT OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Empower together...

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The launch of the ACAP Project "Community Action for the Conservation of Protected Areas in Albania"

Vlore, 6 July 2018



Executive Director of the Agency for the Support of Civil Society (ASCS), Mr. Andi Kananaj together with the Head of Sector - Projects Development, Mr. Erion Banushi took part at the launch of the ACAP Project "Community Action for the Conservation of Protected Areas in Albania", which was organized by CELIM – Albania and held at premises of the General Italian Consulate of Vlore.

This project is developed in partnership with "Coordinating Committee of the Organizations for Voluntary Service – COSV"; National Agency for the Protected Areas – NAPA; Institute for National Conservation in Albania – INCA and is financed by "Italian Agency for Development Cooperation".



The 2nd Meeting of Managerial Committee of the Program "Strengthening Community Policing in Albania" - Phase II, 2017-2020

Tirana, 6 July 2018



Representatives from the Agency for the Support of Civil Society (ASCS) participated in the 2nd Meeting of Managerial Committee of the Program "Strengthening Community Policing in Albania" - Phase II, Implementation Period 2017-2020, which was held at the premises of the General Directorate of State Police.

This project is financed by Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) and implemented by FCG Swedish Development AB.



At this meeting participated Mr. Ardi Veliu - General Director of State Police and Chairman of the Managerial Committee Program; Mr. Pontus Forberg – FCG Project Director; Mr. Ansi Shundi - Program Leader; Ms. Linda Gjermani - Program Manager, Embassy of Sweden in Tirana. Other participants were from the ministries and other institutions involved (Ministry of Health and Social Welfare; Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth as well the Association of the Municipalities for Local Autonomy).

In the meeting was presented the Progress Report of the first six months of the program, the Working Plan for the following period and the respective budget. Also were presented the activities that the program developed during this period.

CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS ON THE REVISED ROADMAP

10, 12, 17 and 20 July 2018

In accordance with the short-term recommendations of the European Commission Report for Albania – 2018, the Agency for the Support of Civil Society (ASCS) has undertaken a review of the Roadmap document for policy and measures for an enabling environment for civil society (approved by Decision of the Council of the Ministers (VKM) no.459, dated 27.5.2015).

For this purpose, ASCS organized four consultative meetings with representatives of CSOs, respectively in Vlora 10 July, Korça 12 July, Shkodra 17 July and Tirana 20 July 2018.

Also, the Prime Minister's Office and the Agency for the Support of Civil Society (ASCS) created the opportunity for civil society to contribute to the revised Roadmap document through an online public consultation process through the **Electronic Registry for Public Announcements and Consultations**, lunched from 21 June 2018 to 20 July 2018, through the link: <http://www.konsultimipublik.gov.al/Konsultime/Detaje/73>.

In the general conclusions about the Revised Roadmap in these meetings it is noted that there is a lot of interest from NGOs on the content of this work plan and the political document such as the Roadmap for an Enabling Environment for Civil Society.

Also, during the presentation of the material by representatives of ASCS, it is noticed that some of the participants not only have been informed in advance with the content of the material, but also worked prior to the realization of the consultative / informative meeting on their comments on specific parts of the material, which shows interest and involvement by their part.

In general, updating the Roadmap for an Enabling Environment for the Civil Society is seen with optimism and the work of EU experts in cooperation with the Prime Minister's Office, the Agency for the Support of Civil Society (ASCS) and the National Council for Civil Society (NCCS) for this inclusive material and above all the fact that in this material has been included issues raised by the NGOs themselves in their meetings that preceded this review and updating of Roadmap 2018 – 2022.

From these organized informative and consultative meetings for the Roadmap updates we have had many suggestions, but there are also noted various issues from the civil society representatives in these cities summarized as follows:

- 1. Lack of constructive co-operation with municipalities in terms of funding opportunities, support with offices that municipalities can provide, but also the lack of information exchange that is also in the interest of NGOs operating in different cities.*
- 2. Many NGOs are obliged to pay taxes to the Municipality where they operate, such as greenery fees, for example, where NGOs are also considered as a big business, bringing financial difficulties to some NGOs where many of them operate and survive on a project basis.*
- 3. An NGO with several years of experience as such has also raised the problem of unfair competition in terms of access to various funding that is being made by the creation of some NGOs named "Public" that seem to have a different donor priority.*
- 4. Although the issue of volunteering in the Revised Roadmap has taken on an important place, in these meetings was raised the issue and the problem of what status will have the volunteers, and especially the insurance issue (this issue has the measures for implementation in the Roadmap and the system that knows how to monitor the implementation of these measures). At this point it was also discussed about the possibilities of state funding schemes for volunteering projects (this is a measure clearly defined in the Guide).*
- 5. NGOs have been asked through their representatives for fiscal facilities as well as easier application procedures for fundraising. Transparency is also required in the allocation of funds, especially public funds from central and local government.*
- 6. Some representatives considered that consultative meetings should be organized more often and that the ASCS should engage in a supporting role of civil society also in the context of receiving complaints that various NGOs identify in cases when they find violations of the rights of civil society or irregularities in the process of assessing funding for various donors.*
- 7. It was raised as a matter of understanding and the use of the concept of Cooperative Philanthropy and it was suggested that mainly municipal officials should be trained in this concept as well as on how to co-operate with CSOs to serve the community, but it is concluded that this should be accompanied by relevant legislation.*
- 8. Roadmap indicators are activity-type rather than measures to take, so their profile needs to be changed and emphasized as concrete measures.*
- 9. To consider how the volunteer activism will be provided by subjects for natural/physic persons.*
- 10. It seems that the NGOs and databases are the same, so one of these terms is suggested to be reduced.*
- 11. For fiscal relief, is suggested to be included also the abolition of the local tax.*
- 12. The monitoring of the implementation of the Roadmap by NGOs.*

VLORA

10 July 2018

Consultative meeting



KORÇA

12 July 2018

Consultative meeting



SHKODRA

17 July 2018

Consultative meeting



TIRANA

20 July 2018

Consultative meeting



“ALTRI” Center organizes anti-corruption activities

Shkodra, 25 July 2018

With the financial support of the Agency for the Support of Civil Society (ASCS) through the Call no. 11, ALTRI (Albanian Legal and Territorial Research Institute) in the framework of the project "Fight against Corruption Begins from the student lawyer that Choose Integrity" organized the activity entitled "Focus Group with Parents and Students in Combating Corruption at the Faculty of Law of the University "Luigj Gurakuqi" - Shkodër.

This activity was organized at the premises of Kolping Center – Shkodra and aims to develop discussions and follow up the concerns of the students and parents and their personal experiences regarding the phenomenon of corruption and their approach.

Through discussions it is required to increase the level of student awareness on the consequences and means of combating active and passive corruption, as well as forwarding information on existing structures within the faculty, where it can be addressed concrete cases, but also to obtain the necessary information for drafting the assessment.



IP3 implements the project "Albanian Alps - Traditions and Myths"

Theth, 31 August 2018



The representative from the Agency for the Support of Civil Society (ASCS) participated in the activity "Albanian Alps - Traditions and Myths".

This activity is organized in the form of information and awareness on the tradition, culture and mythology of the Albanian Alps, implemented by the "Institute of Public and Private Policies (IP3)", project funded by ASCS in the framework of the Call No. 11.

The attendees at the event, foreign and local visitors were informed about the project object and the reasons for its implementation, a case that highlighted the rare attractions of the Albanian Alps.

The implementing area of the event is determined Theth Village, of Shalë Administrative Commune of Shkodra city, near the InfoPoint.



“Success Story” with Emanuela Pepkola Zaimi

Tirana, 12 September 2018

On the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the foundation of the "Down Syndrome Albania (DSA)", Ms. Emanuela Pepkola Zaimi, founder and head of this foundation shared with the attendees the challenges and successes of her journey.

This event entitled "Success Story" took place at the "EuropeHouse" premises, attended by representatives from the Agency for the Support of Civil Society (ASCS) and representatives from CSOs.



First ReLOaD Western Balkans Conference

Skopje (Republic of Macedonia), 20 - 21 September 2018



Representative for the Agency for the Support of Civil Society (ASCS) participated in the first ReLOaD Western Balkans conference, which was held in the premises of “Holiday Inn Skopje”, Republic of Macedonia.

This conference brings together participants from the Western Balkans region to discuss challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt in improving cooperation between local authorities and civil society organizations.

The conference was opened by Mr. Suhejl Fazliu, Minister of Local Self-Government, Ms. Liselotte

Isaksson, Head of Sector – Civil Society and Social Inclusion, Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes, DG NEAR, European Commission and Ms. Narine Sahakyan, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative.

The conference is hosted by the Regional Programme on Local Democracy in the Western Balkans and co-organized by UNDP in Skopje. Supported by the European Union it seeks to strengthen partnerships between the local governments and CSOs in the Western Balkans with a focus on transparent funding for CSOs across the region.





Hearing with the Civil Society Organizations of Albania on Youth Policy and Youth Participation

Tirana, 25 September 2018



Representative from the Agency for the Support of Civil Society (ASCS) participated in the hearing with the Civil Society organizations of Albania on youth policy and youth participation, which was organized by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and was held in the premises of XHEKO Imperial Hotel. The participants in this forum were all representatives of youth NGOs not only from Albania, but also from the Western Balkan region to discuss youth challenges and participation in the decision-making.



"Intellectual Woman of Shkodra" association held a civil forum in Postribë

Shkodra, 26 September 2018



In the framework of the project "Together for the Environment", supported by the Agency for the Support of Civil Society (ASCS), the "Intellectual Woman of Shkodra" association organized the civil forum in Postribë with the wide participation of young people, residents and employees of this administrative unit. The legal tasks of the Municipality of Shkodra were presented in providing environmental services, included in the Information Brochure. The participants were very active and discussed about environmental issues in their area. Among other things, they highlighted some hot points of high-concentration urban waste, which cause environmental pollution and endanger residents' health.

