



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
AGENCY FOR THE SUPPORT OF CIVIL SOCIETY

# Newsletter

April – May – June 2020

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**AGENCY FOR THE SUPPORT OF CIVIL SOCIETY**

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*Empower together...*

**ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE*****On the NGOs situation regarding the situation created by COVID-19*****3 – 6 April 2020**

*The Agency for the Support of Civil Society (ASCS) conducted an **ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE** to understand the situation of Civil Society Organizations regarding the situation created by COVID-19.*

*The questionnaire was completed by 77 Civil Society Organizations, while the geographical scope of the participating organizations (NGOs) was comprehensive as in addition to the city of Tirana, which has the highest participation; completed the questionnaire also organizations in cities such as Durrës, Korça, Lushnjë, Fier, Tropojë, Kukës, Përmet, Shkodër, Bulqizë, Librazhd, Pogradec, Gjirokastër and Berat.*

*Regarding the question addressed to their Human Resources capacities, most of the NGOs answered that they have volunteers in their composition, where on average at full capacity is available the number of 5 (five) volunteers and since the participating organizations are active in the bodies tax they definitely also have insured staff. Also another part of the organizations possess high capacities with human resources 10-13 people, as well as a minority of them say that they do not have capacities in human resources.*

*Regarding the capacities in psycho-social services, about 70% of the organizations own such services.*

**Regarding the target groups that have focused on their activities are as follows:**

- *Categories in need (orphans, head household mothers, Egyptian community, vulnerable groups);*
- *Children with disabilities (Autistic and Down Syndrome);*
- *Young people, teenagers;*
- *The elderly;*
- *Micro Businesses (small and medium);*
- *Farmers;*
- *People with health problems;*
- *Persons who need psychological services*

Regarding the capacities / opportunities of professionals in the field of psycho-social rehabilitation, the participants in the Questionnaire answered more than average that they possess such capacities.

In terms of capacity / professional opportunities for online services in the field of prevention and rehabilitation of stress and trauma, about 65% of participating organizations provide this service.

**Some of the issues that NGOs are facing in the situation created by COVID-19 are listed below:**

- *Financial problems and project suspensions (Repayment of liabilities such as rent, insurance, taxes and other operating expenses);*
- *Addressing the needs of deaf people due to lack of access to Albanian sign language;*
- *Blockage of donor funding as a result of the situation;*
- *Lack of field activities and interaction with aimed target groups, as a result of measures taken;*
- *For those NGOs with health profile, there is a lack of salary compensation for medical staff (doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, etc.)*

**The proposed solutions related to the problems encountered are:**

- *Financial support;*
- *Consultation by ASCS specialists for re-planning of activities;*
- *Establishment of the interpretation service in the Albanian sign language;*
- *Adaptation of the project and activities for the remaining period;*
- *Online communication by video call or video conferencing and use of traditional and social media;*
- *Salary subsidy for insured staff, for the period April - June 2020;*
- *Establishment and operation of the network and not of overlapping services;*
- *Providing payment by the government for insured employees of NGOs as well as compensation for the payment of rents and operating expenses;*
- *Trainings, workshops and online consulting*

**The list of contributions that NGOs participating in the Questionnaire could make regarding the COVID-19 situation is as follows:**

- *Online psychological counseling and therapy;*
- *Putting in use the premises that NGOs dispose;*
- *Education and awareness of the community in general and certain groups in particular on coping with the situation.*
- *Providing services with volunteers in special cases notable for the sick and the elderly;*
- *Online services for people with disabilities;*
- *Expertise at IT level, Human resource management;*
- *Online psycho-social and legal services;*
- *Humanitarian assistance for the distribution of food packages to families in need;*
- *Online training of health personnel related to the COVID-19 situation;*
- *Making medicinal plants available;*
- *Awareness of citizens on the situation and personal hygiene measures;*
- *Providing family medicine services as well as online Telemedicine service*

**Regarding the opportunities on implementing activities in the conditions caused by COVID-19, the Organizations act as follows:**

- *Online trainings, workshops, consultations and seminars;*
- *Service to families in need as well as the elderly;*
- *Psychological, awareness and medical support through online platforms;*
- *Transforming activities to adapt online to the community on offer;*
- *Working within the allowed time set by the government while maintaining social distancing measures*



## Election process, for four members representing Civil Society in the National Council for Civil Society (NSCC) is suspended

Tirana, 3 April 2020

The Agency for the Support of Civil Society (ASCS), in the role of the Technical Secretariat of the National Council for Civil Society (NCCS), informs you that, due to the situation created by COVID-19, the election process for the four candidate members representing Civil Society in the NCCS, is suspended until a second notice.

## ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE *NGOs and Justice by the Court of Tirana*

6 – 20 May 2020

**PYETËSOR ONLINE**



Lidhur me OJF-të dhe drejtësinë e Gjykatës së Tiranës

Projekt i financuar  
nga Bashkimi Evropian



The Agency for the Support of Civil Society (ASCS) invited think-tank Civil Society Organizations, to complete an **ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE regarding NGOs and the Justice by the Court of Tirana**, which is responsible for the registration of these NGOs.

This online questionnaire, funded by the EU, is foreseen to be prepared within the Project Framework, under No.2019/413554, on *"Supporting the implementation of the Government Policy Roadmap, which will enable a favorable environment for the development of Civil Society"*.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to help the project determine whether there is a need for further improvements of the legal framework and / or practices related to the registration of non-profit organizations - NGOs (organizations, foundations and centers) in Albania.



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRIË

KËSHILLI KOMBËTAR  
PËR SHOQËRINË CIVILE

## OPEN LETTER

Request to start allowing the activities  
of Civil Society Organizations

Tirana, 5 June 2020

Members and former members of civil society organizations in the National Council for Civil Society (NSCC) on 05.06.2020 drafted a letter, requesting the start of allowing the activities of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), which addressed:

1. **Ms. Ogerta Manastirliu**  
Minister of Health and Social Protection  
Chairwoman of the National Council for Civil Society (NSCC)
2. **Technical Committee of Experts** (on measures against COVID-19)



**Dear Ms. Ogerta Manastirliu,**

**Minister of Health and Social Protection and  
Chairwoman of KKSHC - National Council for  
Civil Society (NCCS)**

*We, the members of the civil society in the National Council for Civil Society and former members of the National Council for Civil Society through this request would like to request from the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and the Technical Committee of Experts (for Anti COVID-19 measures ) to consider opening or determining when the*

*activities related to the organization of activities of civil society organizations in the field, as in the last ordinance no. 351 dated 29/05/2020 many similar activities have been opened, while it is unclear for organizations that provide services and other activities related to the continuation of time-delayed activities by our community.*

**Currently:** gyms, vocational training centers, education centers, internet centers have been opened (point 6 of order 351, etc.)

*The situation of opening for activities that we described which have different scope of action, but have the same activity object with the way of development and use of indoor or outdoor environments makes us believe that the moment has come when we are in the conditions to resume our activities. We need to resume and return to a “normality” of work as the lack of development of activities is shrinking the role that CSOs have.*

*Civil Society Organizations were not included in the economic packages even though many CSO's activities are still closed due to the ban of normal activities, so we would like the activities to resume without wasting time and with an order as soon as possible.*

*A good part of the work of civil society organizations is closely related through workshops, seminars, conferences or even educational activities, etc.*

*Continued delays are hampering the work of civil society organizations that did not benefit from the economic packages as they were considered capable to maintaining their work load and continue to work in the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*In this situation we would like the activities, meetings, seminars to start developing with reduced capacities in participation, implementing clear protocols of physical and social distancing, as well as guarantees that the halls will respect the approved protocols in case the activities will be kept indoors.*

**As above:**

**We demand an official response**

*How many people can we do the activities with, in what environments and how can we use them and the measures to be taken.*

*Obtaining permission to resume activities as expected: from e-Albania.al or in another form.*

*Specification in the next order of activities related to civil society organizations to resume their activity.*

*Regarding the above, we request the review of this request at the first meeting of the Technical Committee of Experts (for Anti COVID-19 measures) in relation to the start of and development of activities inside and on the field (**indoors and outdoors**)*

*We are open to consider any possible meeting in view of these online developments or anticipated by you.*

**Also through this letter we would also like to thank you for the hard and tireless work you have done and continue to do in the public health sector.**

*Respectfully,*

*Members and former members of the National Council for Civil Society:*

**Vladimir THANO, Iris LUARASI, Fabiola Laço EGRO, Ergys GEZKA, Blendi DIBRA, Indrit SEFERI, Zana VOKOPOLA, Arta DYRMISHI, Mirela KOÇI.**



**ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE*****On the Roadmap for the Government Policy towards a more enabling environment for the development of civil society*****21 May – 8 June 2020**

**PYETËSOR ONLINE për fazën e parë të konsultimeve me OShC-të mbi përmirësimin e procesit të monitorimit dhe raportimit të Udhërrëfyesit dhe zhvillimin e strategjisë së komunikimit për AMSHC-në dhe Udhërrëfyesin**

Projekt i financuar  
nga Bashkimi Evropian



The Agency for the Support of Civil Society (ASCS) invited Civil Society Organizations to complete an **ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE** regarding the **Roadmap on the Government Policy towards a more enabling environment for the development of civil society**.

The ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE is for the first phase of consultations with CSOs, on improving the monitoring and reporting process about the Roadmap and on the development of the Communication Strategy and the Roadmap by the ASCS.

**Online Joint Meeting on  
"Plastic Waste Management"****Tirana, 8 June 2020**

The State Supreme Audit Institution, under the mediation of the Agency for the Support of Civil Society (ASCS), held an online informing meeting with NGOs, operating in the field of Environmental Protection and/or Waste Management as a whole, (*where plastic waste make up one of the main waste*) or Plastic Waste in particular.

This meeting took place in the framework of the implementation of the Audit Annual Plan by the State Supreme Audit Institution (SSAI), auditing the performance of "Plastic Waste Management", which was exercised at the Ministry of Tourism and Environment as well as the municipalities of Tirana, Elbasan and Vlora.

**OPEN LETTER**  
*For an electoral system that represents  
the best for Albanian citizens*  
**Tirana, 10 June 2020**

Representative organizations from civil society members of the National Council for Civil Society and the network of organizations address this open letter:

- **Citizens of the Republic of Albania**
- **Political parties in Albania**
- **International partners**



*Dear ladies and gentlemen,*

*Given the recent political agreement on electoral reform, we think that through this agreement there is no substantial improvement to enable the increase level of representation of the Albanian people; In addition to the main political leaders, even with this agreement, the Albanian people do not have the opportunity to elect their representatives, but will be informed about them only after the end of the electoral process.*

*We are all aware that, for more than two decades, the level of debate in Parliament is getting weaker and weaker, and trust in the current electoral system has declined, as evidenced by numerous polls with citizens, making it much needed an expanded electoral reform, which would guarantee a fairer representation process.*

*We are of the opinion that, contrary to need, the agreement reached is a consolidation of the current system built on the non-transparent consensus of the two political parties, and does not constitute a step forward in the desired democratic representation.*

*Ladies and gentleman,*

*The Albanian civil society, although fragmented and exposed to dependence on politics, feels the need to react to the agreement reached by our political leaders, which is not the success claimed through the media.*

*The calls of the Albanian society and government, and recently of the international community itself, for civil society to be heard, in recent years have not been taken into account, much less in the "electoral reform".*

*Through this public letter we call on political representatives to review their position and better contribute to establishing an electoral system that represents the best for Albanian citizens.*

*Respectfully,*

***Representative of the CSO'S in the National Council for Civil Society and the network of civil society organizations in Albania***



## ASCS launches a small\* Call for Project Proposal no. 13

June 22 - July 23, 2020

The Agency for the Support of Civil Society (ASCS), following the Decision of the Supervisory Board of ASCS, announces the cancellation of the Call for Proposal no.13, suspended due to the situation created by the pandemic COVID-19 and the reduced budget pursuant to Normative Acts regarding to this situation.



**Thirrja Nr. 13\***  
*për projekt-propozime*  
**(22 qershor – 23 korrik 2020)**

\* Thirrje e vogël, fokusuar për situatën COVID-19 dhe me buxhet të reduktuar në zbatim të Aktit Normativ Nr. 6, datë 21. 3.2020 "Për buxhetin e vitit 2020".

**The CALL for proposal**  
*(June 22<sup>nd</sup> – July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020)*

**ONLINE:**  
[www.amshc.gov.al](http://www.amshc.gov.al)

Referring this context, ASCS launches a small\* Call for Proposals no. 13, from 22 June - 23 July 2020.

Interested NGOs are invited to submit project proposals which have the object and cover areas of this small Call for Proposals, focusing on the emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic as follows:

- 1. Health and telemedicine (MED) as an opportunity to monitor patients at a distance by adapting to the conditions, caused by COVID-19, and the provision of online medical family services;**
- 2. Online psychosocial services about the post-COVID-19 situation for groups in need (elderly, people with disabilities, children with disabilities, etc.), including counseling and psychological therapy, as well as legal services;**
- 3. Online training of health personnel related to the situation of COVID-19;**
- 4. Other innovative initiatives to improve the situation created by COVID-19;**
- 5. Promoting, stimulating and strengthening volunteerism;**
- 6. Psychological and medical support as well as awareness raising through various social platforms**

For complete information, please visit the official:

[www.amshc.gov.al](http://www.amshc.gov.al)

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\* Call for Proposal no. 13 (small) is launched due to the situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic and based on the reduced budget pursuant to Normative Act no. 6, dated 21.3.2020 "On the budget of 2020"