



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË

AGJENCIA PËR MBËSHËTJETEN E SHOQËRISË CIVILE

Fuqizohemi së bashku...

JANAR - DHJETOR 2024

AMSHC ➤ Ditar 31

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Public Consultation with Civil Society Organizations within the framework of Call Announcement No. 17

Tirana, 29 January - 13 February 2024



The Agency for Civil Society Support (ACSS), within the framework of open and transparent competition according to the criteria set out in Law No. 10 093, dated 09.03.2009 “On the organization and functioning of the Agency for Civil Society Support”, in accordance with its statute and mission: Financial assistance for a sustainable development of civil society, and the creation of favorable conditions for civic initiatives in the public interest and in the framework of Law No. 146/2014 “On Public Notification and Consultation”;

The public consultation process begins in the framework of determining priorities for the next call in the following cities of Albania:

- Date 29.01.2024- 01.02.2024 Berat
- Date 05.02.2024- 08.02.2024 Gjirokastrë- Saranda
- Date 07.02.2024-10.02.2024 Korça- Pogradec
- Date 12.02.2024- 15.02.2024 Kukës-Tropojë
- Date 13.02.2024 Shkodra

and unable NGOs to be part of the meeting. to send to the email address info@amshc.gov.al all their suggestions within the framework of the priorities on the announcement of call no. 17.



Meeting of the National Council for Civil Society

Tirana, February 12, 2024

The Civil Society Support Agency, acting as the Technical Secretariat of the National Civil Society Council, held the next meeting of the National Civil Society Council on February 12, 2024 at 2:00 PM at the Center for Openness and Dialogue at the Prime Minister's Office.



This was the first meeting of the National Council for Civil Society for 2024. Participants were the permanent members of the Council, and representatives from the High Judicial Council, SASPAC, the General Directorate of Taxes, etc. The topics discussed at the meeting were:

- a) Issues regarding the electronic registry of NGOs and the connection with the new system being prepared by the Tax Directorate;
- b) The applicability of the Law that exempts CSOs from VAT liability;
- c) Update on the process of drafting the New Civil Society Roadmap,
- d) Proposals for the calendar of activities of the NCSC for 2024;
- e) Discussions on amendments to Law No. 81/2017 “On Protected Areas”;



Announcement of Call No. 17 at the Civil Society Support Agency

Tirana, February 23, 2024

The Civil Society Support Agency (CSSA), within the framework of open and transparent competition according to the criteria set out in Law No. 10 093, dated 09.03.2009 “On the organization and functioning of the Civil Society Support Agency”, in accordance with its statute and mission: Financial assistance for a sustainable development of civil society, and the creation of favorable conditions for civic initiatives in the public interest and in the

framework of Law No. 146/2014 “On Public Notice and Consultation”; Announces the opening of the 17th call.



During the meetings held by representatives of the AMSCS and various NGOs or local governments, our institution presented the goals of the meetings and listened to their proposals for priorities according to the field of activity, and in the end, by consulting as a whole, the proposals for priorities were grouped.

From the numerous discussions held by the

participants in the meetings, representatives of NGOs and other interest groups, as well as from the review of all the material received electronically and in written form (hard copy), where the participants listed all their suggestions, it was concluded that Civil Society faces numerous problems and challenges, which require solutions. Taking into account the role of the AMSCS in accordance with the law in force after the meetings scheduled within the framework of the public consultation were finalized.



The suggestions/proposals for priorities are as follows:

- ❖ Corruption and the fight against it
- ❖ Local good governance.
- ❖ Monitoring the Justice Reform and the vetting process.
- ❖ Protection of children's rights.
- ❖ Youth engagement in awareness campaigns to promote young talents in art, culture and sculpture.
- ❖ Support and accessibility for people with disabilities, social inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities.
- ❖ Sensitization, mobilization and activation of young people in integration processes, volunteerism and philanthropy.
- ❖ Sensitizing young people to the use of protective measures against sexually transmitted diseases.
- ❖ Information and awareness-raising on the rights of young people, mainly in rural areas.
- ❖ Support for vocational education, empowerment and employment of women and youth.
- ❖ Identification, addressing and development of regional natural areas with tourism potential at risk from uncontrolled economic developments.
- ❖ Promoting religious harmony and coexistence.
- ❖ Improving social services.
- ❖ Support for the elderly, provision of social services in the home, etc.
- ❖ Increasing the capacities of NGOs to design concrete projects, especially local ones.
- ❖ Supporting environmental protection projects with a focus on forests and thermal springs; Focusing on and addressing the damage caused during the transition and in the future in Albanian marine and coastal areas.
- ❖ Development of family tourism taking into account the traditional products of the area; alternative tourism/adventure tourism.

Presentation of the Preliminary Assessment Report for the “Government Policy Roadmap towards a More Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development 2019-2023”

Tirana, June 4, 2024



The presentation of the preliminary assessment report for the "Government Policy Roadmap towards a more enabling environment for the development of civil society 2019-2023" was held at the premises of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection.

This evaluation report will also serve as a starting point for the drafting of the next strategic document for civil society.



The meeting was attended by members of the National Civil Society Council, representatives from the European Delegation office in Albania, national and international experts from civil society, as well as representatives of the Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organizations in the Western Balkans and Turkey.



NGO Exchange Program

Tirana, June 7, 2024



On June 7, 2024, Partners Albania organized the third edition of the "NGO Exchange Program" at the premises of the Civil Society Support Agency.

The program aims to contribute to strengthening the capacities of the sector, increasing access and cooperation between NGOs and public and private institutions in the process of designing and implementing advocacy initiatives in the country with the aim of addressing the needs of the interest groups they serve.



The program is a combination of lectures, discussions, with experts and institutional representatives, and visits to public and private institutions and partner NGOs. Representatives of the NGOs selected in the program are also expected to apply the knowledge gained in their local initiatives.

Society Forum in Belgrade

Belgrade, June 12, 2024

Representatives from the Agency to Support the civile Society , ASCS, are participating in the EU Civil Society Forum 2024 for the Western Balkans and Turkey. The program was organized in six panels and designed The agenda includes the following sessions:

- ✚ The EU and civil society in the Western Balkans – The Growth Plan and the new momentum for EU enlargement.
- ✚ Launch of the second Evaluation within the framework of DG NEAR guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Balkan region, for 2023.
- ✚ A World Café session on topics proposed by conference delegates.



The project is funded by the EU Technical Assistance to Civil Society Organizations (EU TACSO 3) in the Western Balkans and Turkey, and is organized in Belgrade, Serbia on 11, 12 and 13 June 2024.

This report presents the second evaluation for the period 2021-2027 under the revised DG NEAR Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement Region. The Guidelines outline the path through which the EU aspires to support civil society in the enlargement region over this seven-year period. This evaluation report provides evidence on the situation against the indicators of the Guidelines for 2023, presenting the situation in the region, namely in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey.

The analysis presented in this report is based on data collected from primary and secondary sources by the EU TACSO 3 team. Primary research included surveys of CSOs and public officials, focus group discussions and interviews with CSO representatives, interviews with relevant public officials, as well as a legal analysis of relevant laws conducted by external legal experts. In addition , secondary sources

such as reports produced by CSOs, national human rights institutions, governments and others. The CSO survey was widely distributed and yielded 908 valid responses from across the region.



Cooperation between authorities and civil society continued to require significant improvement. Similarly, the capacity and sustainability of CSOs continued to require strengthening in the areas of accountability, transparency and organizational policy, while they were again positively assessed in the areas of organizational learning, stakeholder consultation and financial diversification.

VI National Conference “The Right to Information – Building Trust, Promoting Transparency, Accountability and Integrity in Anti-Corruption Policies”

Tirana, June 26, 2024

On 26.06.2024, the VI Edition of the National Conference was held on the topic "Right to Information - Building Trust - Promoting Transparency, Accountability and Integrity in Anti-Corruption Policies". Transparency, accountability and access to information are key to building sustainable and democratic institutions. The right to access information is essential in creating accountable and integrity-based institutions. If citizens are uninformed, they cannot hold their government accountable for corruption

in the public sector. Access to quality information serves as a catalyst for an open and democratic society and for guaranteeing citizens' rights.

This conference brought together, in the form of a roundtable discussion, public authorities represented by the heads and coordinators for the right to information, the anti-corruption coordinator, as well as the coordinator for public notification and consultation, of central, local, independent institutions and the judiciary, together with experts and representatives of civil society. Its role is to serve to explore the critical role of access to information according to the principles of transparency, inclusiveness and accountability, as well as to discuss the state of transparency of Albanian public authorities, existing problems, as well as proposals for its increase to the required levels.

The focus of the Conference was the indispensable role of civil society and the media in promoting access to information and transparency and in forming responsible and integrity-based institutions, as well as sharing best practices in strengthening transparency and accountability, as pillars of the preventive approach to anti-corruption. For this reason, representatives from the Civil Society Support Agency (CSSA) were an important part of the meeting.

Draft Intersectoral Justice Strategy 2024-2030 announced for consultation

Tirana, September 12, 2024



increase of public trust in the judicial system and in that of the prosecution and aims to increase the quality of justice services by providing quality justice at the level and in accordance with EU standards.

Justice reform is one of the key and important priorities of the Albanian Government, which aims to strengthen the rule of law, advance with the reforms initiated in the justice system and respect fundamental human rights and freedoms. In this context, justice reform is based on an independent, accountable, transparent justice system, with high professional integrity, efficient, which enables the

On 12.09.2024, the Minister of Justice proposed the Draft Act for the approval of the Intersectoral Justice Strategy, Action Plan 2024–2030 and Indicator Passport (SND III hereinafter), as a political document of the Albanian Government with the major objective: “Consolidation of the achievements of justice reform in accordance with the best European standards”. The Ministry of Justice, within the framework of the consultation process, welcomes suggestions from citizens, experts in the field, from all interested institutions, non-profit organizations and civil society that provide contributions in the field of justice.

Contributions within the framework of the consultation process and improvement of the content of the draft act can be sent via e-mail to the Ministry of Justice, through the electronic register at the address <http://www.konsultimipublik.gov.al>, to the postal address of the Ministry of Justice, Bulevardi “Zogu I-rë”, Tirana, to the e-mail address of the coordinator for public consultation greis.como@drejtesia.gov.al.

Meeting of the National Council for Civil Society (NCCS)

Tirana, October 16, 2024

The next meeting of the National Council for Civil Society (NCCS) is being held, which was organized by The Agency for Civil Society Support (AMSHC), located within the premises of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, where had to invited members from the organization of society civil society and representative members of Albanian public institutions.



Under the leadership of Ms. Albana Koçiu, Chair of the Council, and in the presence of members of the government, civil society, and the Agency for the support the Civil Society, the second national meeting of the NSCS for 2024 was held. Also present at this meeting was the Executive Director of the State Agency for Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination, Ms. Eridana Çano.

During the discussions, proposals and opinions were exchanged regarding issues related to the proper functioning of the Council and the civil society sector.



Concrete proposals were given by civil society representatives regarding:

- (i) The establishment of the public health professional order;
- (ii) Public consultations on the inclusion of civil society in the draft medium-term budget, as well as on the implementation of the instruction of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy for the reimbursement of a certain amount of m³ of water for families in need.



NGO Exchange Program

Tirana, October 23 , 2024

On October 23, 2024, Partners Albania organized the fourth edition of the "NGO Exchange Program" at the premises of the Civil Society Support Agency.



The program aims to contribute to strengthening the capacities of the sector, increasing access and cooperation between NGOs and public and private institutions in the process of designing and implementing advocacy initiatives in the country with the aim of addressing the needs of the interest groups they serve.



The program is a combination of lectures, discussions, with experts and representatives of institutions, and visits to public, private institutions and partner NGOs. Also, representatives of the NGOs selected in the program are expected to apply the knowledge gained in their local initiatives. The Academy is a 9-month program dedicated to Leaders and Senior Managers of civil society organizations, which aims to increase their capacity in organizational management and sustainable development of the organization.



Projects funded by the Agency for the support the Civil Society for 2024

The Agency for the Support Civil Society , within the framework of open and transparent competition according to the criteria set out in Law No. 10 093, dated 09.03.2009 “On the organization and functioning of the Civil Society Support Agency”, in accordance with its statute and mission: Financial Assistance for a sustainable development of civil society and the creation of favorable conditions for civic initiatives for the benefit and interest of the public; announced this Call for Expression of Interest; The next Call (No.17) (February 23 - March 25, 2024) for all NGOs interested in projects.

Maximum amount of grant funding for Call for Proposals 17 was determined Supervisory Board until IN 2 (two) million) lek with one duration 6-12 months ;

meanwhile that maximum amount financed by grant For Draft Proposal About this There was a call. 1.8 million ALL

150 NGO applicants have applied ; with a total amount requested by the ASCS for the total number of projects of: 267,799,959 lek.



FROM THESE:

The Supervisory Board has announced 73 Project Proposals as winners with a total funded amount of 96,500,000 lek.

Statistics regarding the distribution of projects by Priority Areas show us that the most important item is that of Priority 2 (two):

“ Empowering the Next Generation: Promoting the rights of children and youth through the promotion of artistic talents, community integration, volunteerism and sexual health awareness”

- a. *protection of 'rights the children and the young people .*
- b. *interactions the youth in campaigns awareness about talent promotion the new in art and legacy cultural .*
- c. *activation the the youth in processes integration , volunteering and philanthropy .*
- d. *awareness the the youth about relations the protected and the healthy sexual .*



With 33 Projects with a specific weight of the amount disbursed by 43.83%:

meanwhile ALSO priority 3- “Enhancing community well-being through inclusive local governance: Strengthening local governance, vocational education and social services for women, youth, the elderly, minorities and people with disabilities”

- b. *Support ABOUT education professional , empowerment AND employment of women and youth .*
- c. *Improvement The service social .*
- d. *Support ABOUT third age , provision The service sOcial IN housing , etc. e .*
- e. *Minority support , registration The childReN Roma IN Civil Status registers .*
- f. *Support AND accessibility ABOUT people with disabilities otherwise , inclusion social welfare of people with disabilities intellectual .*

An important voice: with 14 Projects and a specific weight of the disbursed amount of 17.82%.

NGO Exchange Program

Tirana, November 20, 2024

Partners albania staged fifth edition of the " program the exchange of ngos " in agency premises about civil society support .



Program aims the contribute in capacity building the sector , increasing access and cooperation between ngos and institutions public and private in the drafting process and implementation the initiatives advocate in place with the aim addressing needs the group the interest the which you serve .



Program is a combination the lecture the discussion , with experts and representatives the institutions , and visit in institutions public , private and ngos partner . also , representative of ngos the selected is expected in the program the implement acquired knowledge in their local initiatives .

Meeting of the National Council for Civil Society

Tirana, December 06, 2024

Under the leadership of Ms. Denada Seferi, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection, and in the presence of members of the government, civil society, and the Agency for Civil Society Support, the third national meeting of the NCSC for 2024 was held. Present at this meeting were the Executive Director of the State Agency for Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination Ms. Eridana Çano, the Director of Indirect Taxes at the Ministry of Finance Ms. Enkelelda Kuçi, the Technical and Legal Director Ms. Ilda Koja and the Responsible Mr. Gentian Cece.



During the meeting, concrete proposals were given by representatives of the Ministry of Finance, the General Directorate of Taxes, the State Agency for Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination, and by civil society representatives, members of the National Civil Society Council and other invited guests, regarding the proposed changes and additions to the Instruction "On Value Added Tax".

Closing meetings of the Civil Society Support Agency's activities Throughout 2024 with NGOs

Tirana, 16-18 December 2024

Agency for the Support Civil Society was organized by meetings closing the activity of its along 2024 with ngos.

meeting aimed at: Information About ASCS activity throughout 2024, the role of the NSCS in the Civil Society environment as and setting priorities strategic and goals for the year 2025 more positively topics presented in meeting were:



Implementation progress the project proposals in within the call 17 of the ASCS, the problems encountered and suggestions. in within the theirs will 10 project proposals (best practices) are selected.

2- In the presence of the expert Mr. Elton Lelo, was treated the importance of the NSCS, the analogy with the council the pages that operating in region.

3- Presentation Newsletter done from ASCS.

4- Suggestions, follow-up ideas, discussions by NGOs participant .

Meeting on the Challenges of the National Civil Society Council in Albania

Representative by agency about they received the support of civil society part in a series meetings consultation the organized by organization about security and collaboration in europe during of the which were discussed cooperation mechanisms between organizations the civil society and governments the country the balkan western. Meetings held in Shkoder and Durres were developed in within the support that the osce is give board national the civil society in Albania about strengthening dialogue and cooperation between sector the civil society and institutions decision-making , as also the improving the framework legal within the who this dialogue is structured and develops .



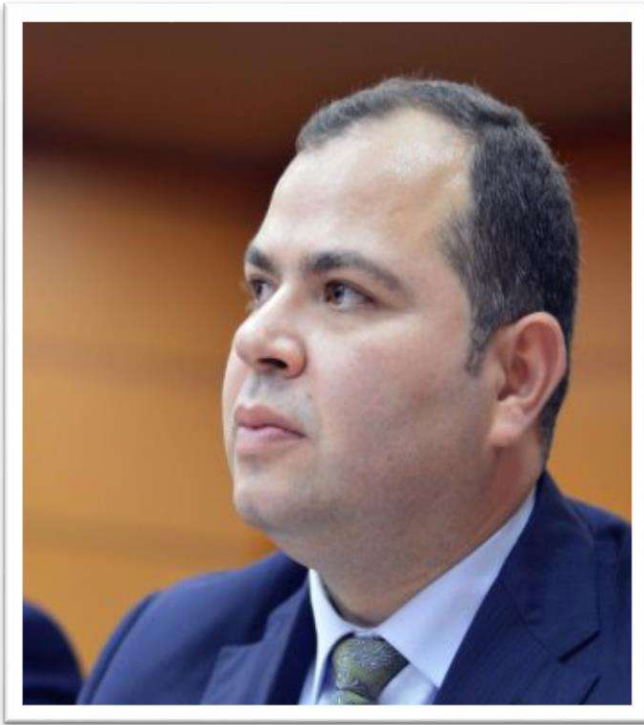
purpose main the meetings it was acquaintance with experiences and similar practices by balkans west how and the emergence of challenges that civil society representatives encounter how sector and in relations with institutions state meetings offered opportunity about the discussion collaboration spaces and addressing challenges existing between organization the civil society and government. In these meetings were discussed also the importance of inclusion asset the civil society in

processes decision-making, helping so in strengthening the role the board national the civil society in albania .

participation of **ASCS** in these meetings is extremely important, as it helps in addressing challenges the perceived and increasing efficiency the structure that ease dialogue between govern and organization the civil society. this enables a collaboration more the closely and the sustainable, ensuring that requirements and the needs of civil society heard and the taken considering in level government.

via these activities, **ASCS** commits about the provided that civil society the this a role key and influencer in policy development public , including and strengthening mechanisms the consultation and dialogue between sectors . this commitment is one step of crucial to improving the relations between actor decision and civil society with the aim of the creation of a company more the fair and comprehensive.

meeting consultation contributing in the creation of a environment more the open and the including about the all the parties, making the governance process more the responsive and more direct.



Interview with Mr. Vladimir Thano on the KCSC and the Roadmap 2023-2027, what are the benefits of Civil Society

Tirana, 11 November 2024

Mr. Vladimir THANO – Vice-Chairman of the National Council of Civil Society

Field of Action: Economic, Territorial and Environmental Development.

Mr. Thano graduated in Law from the University of Tirana in 2004.

Since 1999 and today, he continues to practice the profession of executive author, being.

part of several media networks, he has been the author of the radio show "Europe for All" on Radio Tirana 1 and 2, over the years he has produced shows dedicated to politics, tourism, youth, etc.

When asked about the role of the National Civil Society Council, he said: The Council national about civil society, is a inter new institutions in the field of institutions lot partite the dialogue the structural between governance and civil society, he is a very large organ the important to what must invested while the highs maturity and maturity after not missing examples and diligence the the all actors .

The council has played A role but he must then be actor also more active and a powerful lever about dialogue and the work about integration european the country, he can the play a role key and must the gearing about this.

I think the NSCS has had other useful impacts along labor of the she has in her a table actor the civil society and institutions public, where the all have opportunities the dialogue, to out conclusions and the understand the gaps created by starting by principle the resolution theirs.

Board up more has now guaranteed " a dialogue structural " of who has the opportunity the heart and the heard but also a place where can the invited about the clue: information institutions public in related

to aspects legal and financial the related closely with the guide about policy ruling to a environment enabling about development of civil society.

what the council has issued in perspective is the fact that despite differences, parties must co- contribute to the development of this ecosystem.

the council has replaced the tedious work the dozen projects that in finalization have just dealing with issues with authority public, this is a point turning that must the supported and consolidate more many, not only how culture but also it answers with addresses concrete having considering duties functional that the council has law current no. 119/2015.

stopping less to legislation in force about the council, he is also subject a process re - viewing how an essential element having consideration the issues that are himself evidenced but also how an element of stronger in expanding engagement and dialogue the lot lateral how a order to transformation and sustainability of the reforms the membership in the eu.

in this aspect, politics ruling to a environment enabling about development of civil society and role the board can the seen under the light of a approach which enables, conducting in agenda the priorities that civil society has and addresses how an essential element in society Albanian.

also, board and civil society should see it said one another how an order to transformation and sustainability of the reforms the membership in the EU where role the civil society has its importance in every phase the process of negotiations.

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Janar – Dhjetor 2024

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