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### National Conference of Civil Society in Albania

On December 4, 2020, the National Resource Center for Civil Society in Albania organised the National Conference of Civil Society in Albania.

The conference brought together over 130 representatives of civil society organizations, networks and civil society activists, as well as representatives of state institutions, donors and international organizations, to discuss issues related to the development of the sector and its role in policy-making, strengthening of democracy and in social economic development of the country.

In her greeting speech Ms. Ariola Agolli, Program Director for Partners Albania and Resource Center Manager emphasized that: *"In this second year of its activity, the Resource Center comes with an increased and more consolidated role in the sector as a civil society platform at the national level, supporting sector capacity building, strengthening political dialogue and advocacy efforts for an enabling environment and beyond. The support of the Center is an important strategic investment in support of the non-profit sector in the country, not simply and only in the context of strengthening the latter for its role in strengthening democracy, the rule of law, economic development, social inclusion and as service provider, but also as a supporter of political dialogue closely related to the agenda of European integration and its advancement."*

The conference was greeted by H.E. Mr. Luigi Soreca, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Albania who during his speech said: *"Civil society involvement in policy-making is essential but currently unsatisfactory in Albania. Public authorities should ensure the participation of civil society in reform processes. Important efforts are still needed to have effective consultation processes with civil society before legislation is adopted. Consultation that are not done consistently and coherently, may compromise the quality of new laws and future steps in the accession process"*.

Organised in two main sessions, in the introductory panel, the conference provided an overview of the sector development on three aspects:

- (1) The shrinking space for civil society, enabling environment and the role of sector in the path toward EU Accession
- (2) Rule of Law, democracy and participation in policy making and legislative processes
- (3) Fundamental rights, freedom of expression and media

followed by 3 thematic discussions, further exploring the main problems, challenges and perspectives of the issues presented as part of the previous introductory panel.

During the second session of the Conference "Open Space Discussion" participants discussed in 8 thematic workshops, on issues proposed by the organizations themselves at the conference. The workshops were led by

the proposing organizations aiming to generate discussion in the sector and exploring together ways of collaborations to advance issues and dialogue with institutions and other actors.

At the end of the conference, a document was drafted with summaries of presentations and discussions in panels, as well as discussions and recommendations in groups and thematic workshops.

The document was widely shared with all stakeholders involved in the conference and other actors at the center of the discussions, as well as with other stakeholders and the general public.

In the following, based on it, will be discussed with other actors and institutions to follow up on issues raised and recommendations given.

[Read the full Conference paper here with a summary of the discussions and recommendations](#)



This project is funded by  
the European Union



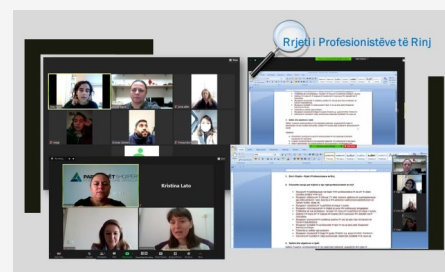
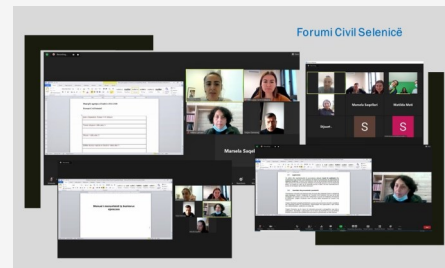
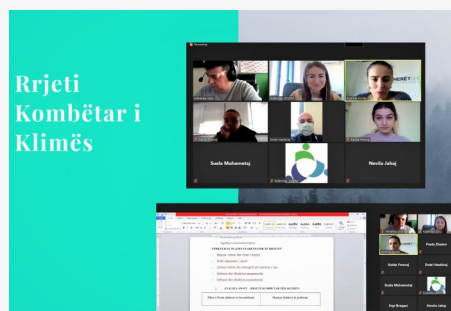
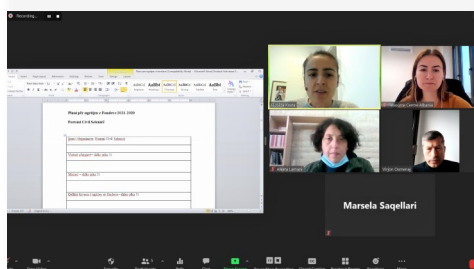
**PARTNERSALBANIA**  
FOR CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

## Strengthening CSO networks and coalitions in Albania for more initiatives and greater impact

Through the technical assistance program the Center continues to support further strengthening of networks, coalitions and formal and informal groups of CSOs.

In this second year of the program, assistance was focused on addressing the needs of mainly newly established networks, including their internal consolidation, drafting of Strategic Plans, capacity building and mentoring in advocacy and lobbying, and Fundraising Plans in support of priority issues as well as technical assistance and facilitation in cooperation with relevant law enforcement institutions.

- ◇ National Climate Network
- ◇ Young Professionals Network
- ◇ Selenica Civil Forum
- ◇ Group of organizations for development of volunteerism



NRC ACTIVITIES

## Activities from the regional offices of the National Resource Center for Civil Society in Albania



Assisting the group of NPOs of the Soda Forest Petition to discuss the next steps following the official response received from the Mayor of Vlora- **Vlora Regional Office**



Help desk services to local NPOs, on project proposals writing as well as participating in online meetings / trainings in their areas of interest - **Vlora Regional Office**



Assisting the Civil Forum of Selenica on drafting of an advocacy campaign on the construction of two playgrounds - **Vlora Regional Office**



Information session with young people of the high school "28 November" in Shkodra, on the importance of career counseling - **Shkodra Regional Office**



From meetings with representatives of civil society organizations BERMI - **Shkodra Regional Office**



Discussion with youth organizations about its activism and importance in society - **Shkodra Regional Office**



## NPO Academy

Each year, the November-December period coincide with the closing activities of the Program of the NPO Academy. The Center has continued with the planned activities as part of the annual program such as the organization of Study Visits, the development of the last mentoring sessions and the Graduation Ceremony.



## Assistance and mentoring sessions for NPO Academy participants

In addition to the lectures, in these months about 15 group mentoring sessions were held with the participants of the Academy, to guide and provide assistance in improving their internal organizational policies and procedures, project proposals writing, strategic, communication and fundraising plans, etc., thus contributing directly to increasing the standards of work in their organizations and their sustainability.

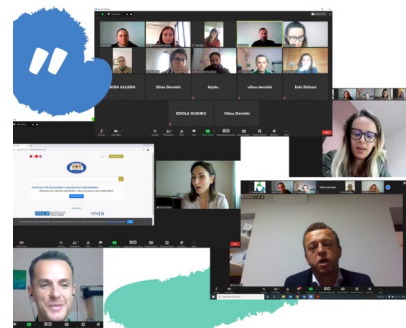
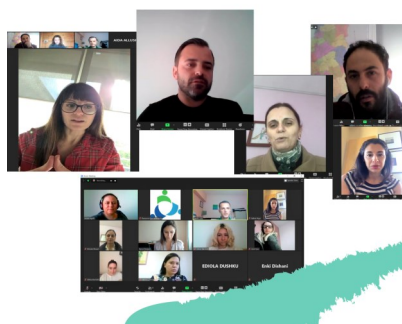
## Study Visits

This year of the NPO Academy 2020 brings us to virtual meetings and introductory visits to important public and private institutions. As part of Academy visits, participants had the opportunity to discuss with representatives of:

**ONE Telecommunications**, Mrs. Sibel Pipa and Mr. Verdi Norja, the support and contribution that provides to CSOs for their initiatives on opportunities for bilateral cooperation;

**Albanian Parliament**, Mrs. Ejona Manjani, structures, procedures for the involvement of NPOs in the consultation processes, as well as the intersectoral cooperation.

**National Council for Civil Society**, Mr. Blendi Dibra, the undertaken work and initiatives by the Council during its mandate, focusing on the challenges encountered.





## The Graduation Ceremony of the NPO Academy 2020 participants



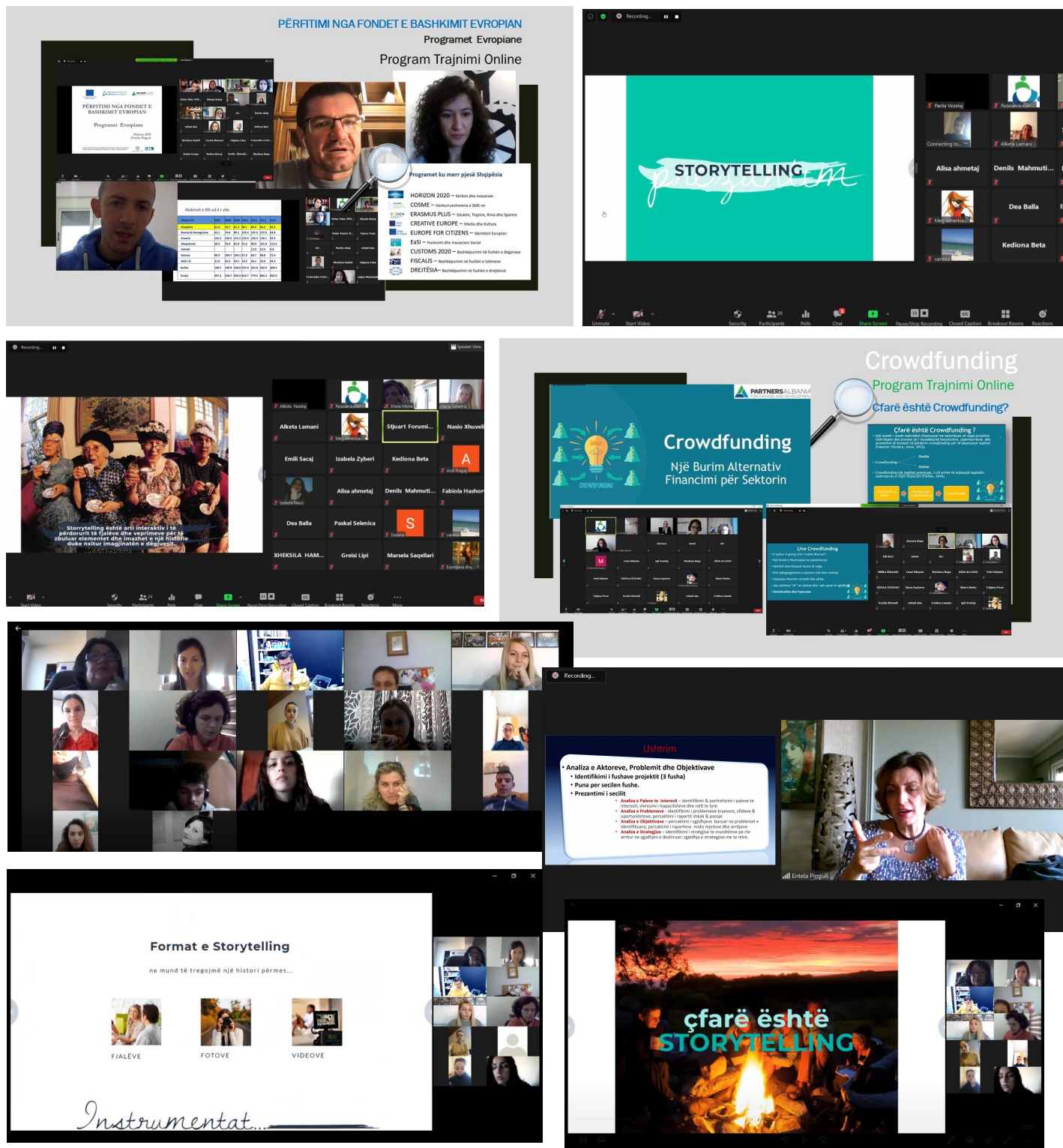
The closing of the NPO Academy program, culminates with the graduation ceremony that this year was held on December 20, 2020. Although under the anti-Covid-19 measures, participants now Alumni, got together to crown a year of efforts and investment in increasing their individual knowledge as well as further organizational consolidation of their organization. During the ceremony, the graduated participants expressed their appreciation for participating in this program, focusing on the opportunities offered by the program activities such as networking and exchange of experiences between participants not only for issues of development and organizational sustainability but also for further knowledge on developments within the sector.

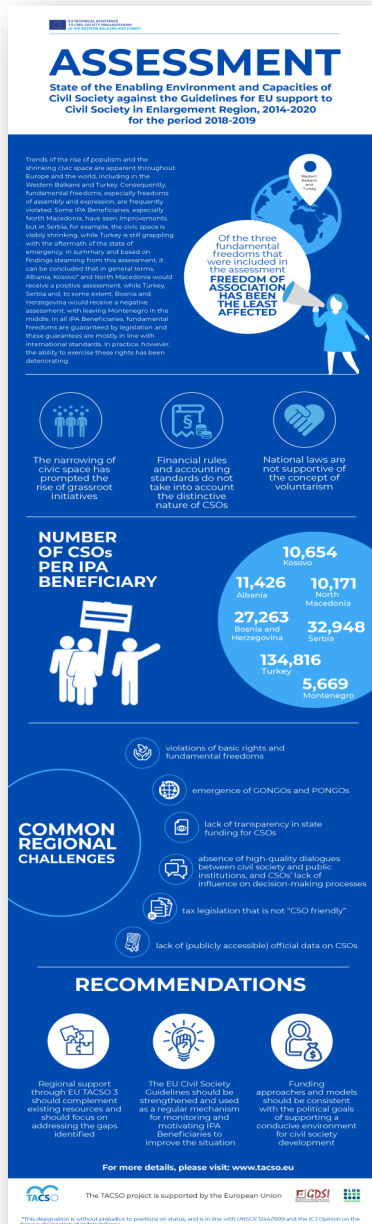


## Training Programs for CSOs

During this period the National Resource Center has continued with the organization of the online training programs dedicated to the non-profit sector based on their needs or requests.

About 140 CSOs representatives from the cities of Vlora, Fier, Berat, Kuçova, Përmet, Saranda, Puka, Kukës, Lezha, Malësi e Madhe and Gjirokastra participated in 8 regional trainings and further increased their knowledge on: "Crowdfunding and other Alternative Funding Resources", "Support programs and funding schemes of the European Union", "Storytelling through online creative tools" and "Project proposals writing and managing EU projects".





## EU TACSO publishes "Assessment of the Needs for Enabling Environment and Civil Society Capacities of the Western Balkans and Turkey" for the period 2018-2019

EU TACSO 3 has drafted and published a comprehensive analysis of the state of civil society in the Balkans Western and Turkey. BCSDN was selected through an open call for drafting this report. During the period autumn and winter 2019 together with the members of the network (Civic Initiatives, CPCD, CRNVO, KCSF, MCIC and Partners Albania) conducted data collection and analysis for each of the countries.

Through intensive consultations with nearly 700 CSOs, public institutions, donors and other actors interested, the research findings are validated and synthesized in the form of Report. The report presents the findings, conclusions and recommendations regarding the three main areas of enabling environment for the development of civil society, the dynamics of government CSO relations and the capacity of civil society organizations. [Read the full report](#)



## The European Commission has published the 2020 Enlargement Package



The Albanian 2020 Report highlights that no progress has been made on the implementation of the roadmap on an enabling environment for civil society.

The Law on the National Council for Civil Society needs to be amended to reflect changes in ministerial portfolios and provide for appropriate representation in the Council.

Substantial efforts are needed to ensure meaningful and systematic consultations with civil society as part of an inclusive policy dialogue for reforms. These efforts should involve comprehensive feedback and follow up mechanisms.

The financial sustainability of civil society organisations remains a challenge due to unfavorable fiscal and legal frameworks.

The Report also highlights the role of Albanian civil society and provision of rapid first response during the post-earthquake emergency in November 2019 and again in the course of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic reaching out to most vulnerable and remote citizens, supporting and complementing state interventions.

[For more findings read the #Albanian 2020 Report](#)

[The full Enlargement Package](#)

## Week of Integrity in Albania



During December 1-9, 2020, the Integrity Week in Albania was held for the second time, an initiative of ICC Albania, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and with the support of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Albania and the Delegation of the European Union in Albania.

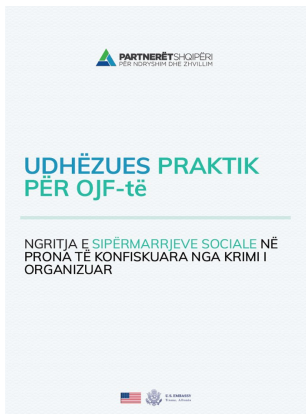
Under the hashtag [#weekofintegrityAL](#), 53 partners aimed to raise awareness and promote ethical behavior, transparency, accountability and efforts in the fight against corruption.

The panel discussions brought to attention a full overview of the challenges faced by today society, companies, academia, Albanian, regional and global youth, but also recommendations further solutions for various stakeholders.

[Read more](#)



## "Establishment of Social Enterprises in Confiscated Assets from the Organized Crime" - Practical Guide



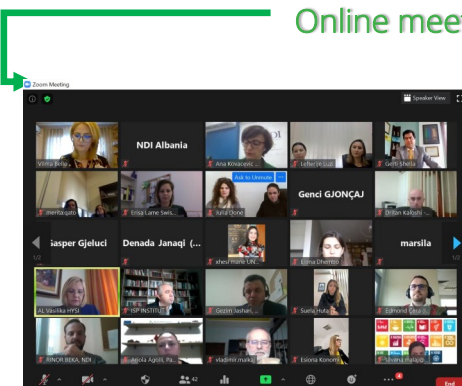
Confiscated assets from organized crime are an important resource for the territory where they are located. Returning illegally acquired property to the community for use in social purposes is an effective strategy in the joint fight against organized crime.

The management of these assets by civil society organizations and the opportunity to transform them into spaces where necessary economic and social activities take place at the same time, directly affects the well-being of the community through the production of goods and services and the generating of employments opportunities. This practical guide developed by Partners Albania based on the first experience in the country of reusing the confiscated assets from organized crime in support to all NPOs in their efforts to develop a social enterprise.

Through a practical and concrete approach, the Guide provides the necessary steps that organizations should follow in undertaking such initiatives, the responsible institutions, relevant legal framework, examples of successful entrepreneurship initiatives, etc.

Read [here](#) brochure outlining the key components and achievements of #CAUSE - Confiscated Assets Use of for Social Entrepreneurship.

## Online meeting on transparency in the Albanian Parliament



National Democratic Institute (NDI) in collaboration with the Secretariat for Transparency and Information Technology, in the Albanian Parliament, in December held a virtual meeting to present and discuss the findings of the study "VIEWS ON TRANSPARENCY: REDUCING THE GAP BETWEEN THE PARLIAMENT AND CIVIC SOCIETY" developed by IDRA, related to transparency and improving access to the Albanian Parliament.

The findings reflect views and assessments of MPs, parliamentary staff, civil society organizations and journalists on issues of transparency, accessibility and accountability in the Albanian Parliament.

[Read more on the meeting](#)

## 3d European Convention of Youth Work (EYWC)



Throughout December 7-10, the 3rd European Youth Labor Convention was held. Around 50 countries were present in the digital space created during four days of sessions, presentations, interactive seminars, as part of the development of the strategic framework for further developing and strengthening youth work practices and policies in Europe. Albania had its delegation with representatives mainly from youth organizations in the country.

[Read more](#)



## Index of Political, Social, Economic Participation of Youth

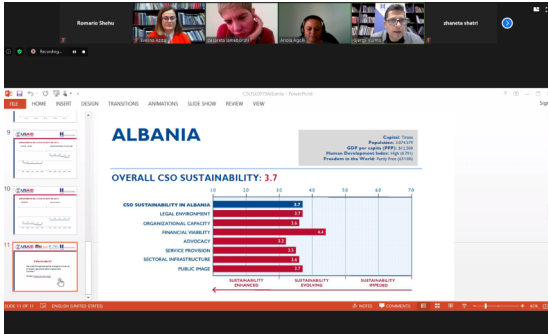
For the fourth year in a row, in the framework of monitoring the participation of young people in the country, the Index of Political, Social and Economic Participation of Youth has been published.

The monitoring report provides a brief description of the current data on the political, social and economic participation of youth in Albania based on the measurement of a set of pre-defined indicators. The report, developed by Partners Albania, is part of the Regional Index published by the regional network Youth Hub Western Balkan and Turkey and serves as a guide for evidence based policy recommendations and advocacy initiatives for youth participation.

[Read the full report here](#)



## 2019 CSO Sustainability Index, Albania



In November, [USAID CSO Sustainability Index \(CSOSI\) 2019 for Albania](#) was published. According to the findings, the overall sustainability of the Albanian civil society sector did not change in 2019.

Financial sustainability continues to be the weakest dimension of CSO sustainability that continues to be accompanied by a lack of resource diversification, high dependence on international donors, and lack of access to public funds. The report issued by the Institute for Democracy and Mediation acknowledge the contribution of the National Resource Centre as an important infrastructure in helping the development of the CSO sector in Albania, with its wide territorial coverage through the two regional offices. During its two years' of activity, the Center counts over 250 activities in increasing the CSOs, networks and CSOs groups capacity and facilitate a series of advocacy initiatives in the frame of an enabling environment for the development of civil society. [Read the full](#)

[report here](#)

## National Conference- The New EU Roma Strategy and the Fight Against Antigypsyism in Albania



On December 2020, was held online "The National Conference-The new EU Roma strategy And the fight against Antigypsyism in Albania" hosted by Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma, Roma Active Albania, and ERGO Network, with the support of the European Union and Auswärtiges Amt. The conference encouraged very serious discussions on Antigypsyism in the course of the new EU Roma Strategy, which sets target by 2030 in the area of fighting and preventing antigypsyism and discrimination.

Recommendations for national strategic frameworks under the new EU Roma Strategic Framework for Equality, Inclusion and Participation can be found [here](#).

## Catalogue of Best Practices for the Provision of Social Care Services



Civil society organizations for years have played a crucial role in providing social services. In order to identify the best practices in providing social care services provided by the state social care centers and civil society organizations, Partners Albania and UNDP held a National Competition "Best practices in providing social care services".

15 practices were selected through a competitive process in which about 200 service providers were invited to participate, and were evaluated based on several criteria, such as: quality and suitability of service, innovation, results, sustainability, cooperation with other actors, possibility of replication, etc. These practices are part of the Catalog of Best Practices in Providing Social Care Services, which you can find [here](#)





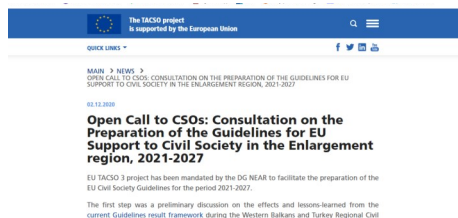
## 16 Days of Activism against Gender—Based Violence



Each year during the period of November-December, the campaign "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" takes place, an annual international movement that begins on November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and lasts until December 10, Human Rights.

This year the campaign took place under the slogan "Orange World: Finance, Respond, Prevent, Collect!" under which dozens of organizations working to protect the rights of girls and women undertook a series of activities. Learn more about these activities in the hashtag [#16daysofactivism](#) [#HumanRightsDay](#) [#WomenRights](#) [#OrangeTheWorld](#) [#GenderEquality](#) [#EndHumanTrafficking](#)

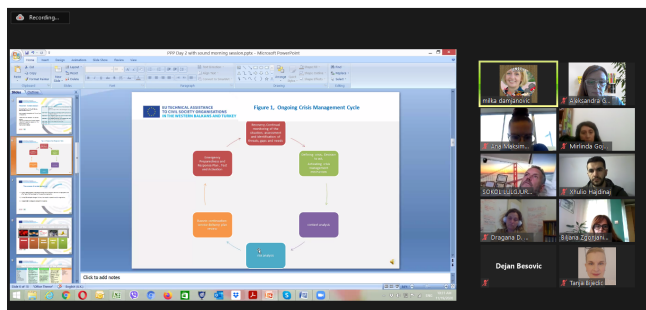
## Regional Activities- TACSO 3



Over the last two months, EU TACSO 3 has continued to organize a series of online activities as part of capacity building programs for civil society organizations from the Western Balkans and Turkey. evidence-based advocacy, through volunteering and social change, information activism, data collection and data management to mentoring and coaching skills were the topics discussed during the trainings.

Recently, EU TACSO 3 has been mandated by DG NEAR to facilitate the preparation of the Guidelines for EU Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement region, 2021-2027, in the framework of which has launched an open [Call](#) for Consultation on the Preparation.

For more information on EU TACSO 3 training and other activities, you can follow the updates on their website



## Solidarity in the Time of Covid-19



On November, CIVICUS members, inputs from members of the Affinity Group of National Associations has published the "Solidarity in the Time of Covid-19, Civil Society Responses to the Pandemic".

The report outlines some of the many civil society responses to the COVID-19 crisis.

It sets out how CSOs provided help to people and communities, how CSOs defended rights and how civic action was sustained through new and alternate means.

[Read the full report here](#)

## CALL for Consultancy service

Deadline: **January 20th, 2021** **Open**



**Open**



**Open**



AGJENCIA  
E ADMINISTRIMIT  
TË PASURIVE  
TË SEKUESTRUARA  
DHE TË KONFISKUARA **Open**

CALLS&OPPORTUNITIES

 INVESTIGATIVE NETWORK ALBANIA

**THIRRJE PËR APLIKIME PËR ORGANIZATA JO-FITIMPRURËSE**

**FINANCIME PREJ  
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**Open**

 **ROMACTED**  
Promoting good governance  
and Roma empowerment  
at local level

Call for Proposals

**ROMACTEDII Support Organisations**

Deadline 12 January 2021

**Open**

 The TACSO project  
is supported by the European Union

QUICK LINKS   

MAIN > NEWS >  
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: SUPPORT TO THE MONITORING EXERCISE FOR 2020 UNDER THE EU  
GUIDELINES FOR SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY IN ENLARGEMENT REGION (DEADLINE: 24  
DECEMBER, 2020)

10.12.2020

**Call for Applications: Support to the  
Monitoring Exercise for 2020 under the EU  
Guidelines for Support to Civil Society in  
Enlargement Region (deadline: 24  
December, 2020)**

EU TACSO 3 project is seeking a research team/entity to support its annual monitoring  
exercise of the EU Guidelines for Support to Civil Society in Enlargement Region, 2014-2020.  
The annual monitoring covers two phases: data-gathering and reporting phase. The 2020  
phase will cover the calendar year of 2020. The research team will be expected to complete the  
data-gathering phase (survey, focus groups and interviews) and prepare a synthesis analytical  
document based on the gathered data. The final report will be subject to in-country

**Open**

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 **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT**  
Calls for Proposals and Tenders

European Commission > International Cooperation and Development > Funding > Calls for Proposals and Tenders

Calls for Proposals and Tenders

Please note that EuropeAid has been phased out for Calls for Tenders, published after 1st of August, but not for Calls for Proposals.  
To find Calls for Proposals, external partners are invited to transition to the Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal (F&T Portal).  
Prior Information Notices (PINs) are no longer mandatory but can be accessed on TED elections if required, by selecting 'External aid programmes' in 'Type  
of Buyer' field.  
For on-going calls published after 1st of August, tenders are allowed to submit their questions on 'Tenders/Tendering'.

**Local level partnerships to advance social inclusion in Albania**

Programme: PreAccession Countries / New Member States	Geographical Zone: Albania
Type: Action Grants	Published: 09/12/2020 <b>Open</b>
Status: Open - 22/01/2021	Updated:
Budget: 4,500,000 (EUR)	Reference: EuropeAid/170610/CCI/ACTUAL

**Supporting Democratization  
and Reconciliation Process  
in the Western Balkans** **Closed**

 The German Marshall Fund  
of the United States  
STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION

Who we are > Experts > Events > Our Work > Stay Informed 

**Balkan CSOs Response to COVID-19**

CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

**Program Description**

The Balkan Trust for Democracy is launching a call for proposals as a response to the needs and challenges of the Balkan region civil societies amplified by the  
outbreak of the coronavirus. Strengthening the rule of law, freedom of expression, protection of human rights, and the fight against domestic and gender-based  
violence continue to be fundamental for social transformation of the Western Balkan region and require stronger cooperation of all parts of societies most  
vulnerable to the crisis.

This call for proposals is made possible with support from USAID, as a part of the U.S. Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Europe and Eurasia. The  
purpose of this call is to support civil society organizations active in the above-mentioned areas in order to help reform processes weakened by economic and social

**Open**



## QUARTERLY CALENDAR

Mark your calendar! Be involved in our upcoming events!

January 2021						
S	M	T	E	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2021						
S	M	T	E	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2021						
S	M	T	E	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



NPO Academy



Trainings & Seminars for CSOs



Networking Events



Public Forums and Events

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