



IN THIS ISSUE

NRC ACTIVITIES

CSOs Directory

Code of Standards for NPOs in Albania



On Volunteerism and its further development in Albania

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

NPO Academy

The Graduation Ceremony of the NPO Academy 2020 participants

Training Programs for CSOs

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SECTOR



The European Commission has published the 2021 Enlargement Package

The 3dr Edition of the Week of Integrity

Workshop on Transparency Standards

National Council for European Integration Meeting

Conference "Towards EU Accession Negotiations: Priorities of European Integration"

Glasgow Climate Summit #COP26

On the engagement of civil society in the decision-making and legislative processes of the Assembly of the Republic of Albania

Index of Political, Social, Economic Participation of Youth

CSO Sustainability Index 2020

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

University to Society Cooperation in Albania

Environmental NPOs meeting with Minister Kumbaro on protected areas

Tirana - European Youth Capital

BCSDN Background Analysis of the European Commission Enlargement Package 2021

Regional Events - P2P

Regional Community Resilience Forum

The National Resource Centre for Civil Society continues its activity with a second program 2022-2025!

We are pleased to share with all colleagues and collaborators the announcement that the National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania (NRC) even for the next three years, will continue to provide services to the sector and all stakeholders. The initiative is implemented by *Partners Albania*, again in partnership with the *Albanian Center for Population and Development (ACPD)* and the *European Movement in Albania (EMA)* with the support of European Union.

Since 2019 until today, the Center has consolidated its role as a platform for the civil society at national and local level in supporting its capacity building, policy dialogue and advocacy efforts for an enabling environment. In the next three years, through the offices in Tirana, Shkodra and Vlora, online services and activities in different cities of the country, we will continue to support all civil society organizations, CSO networks, informal groups, activists and other civil society actors.

With a wide range of consolidated services but also new programs, specially designed in response to the identified needs, the Center will provide:

- ◆ Information, individual assistance and help desk services online and onsite;
- ◆ Networking for CSOs at local, national, regional level and beyond;
- ◆ Facilitate and coordinate cross-sectoral dialogue CSOs-government institutions-business- media and other actors on issues of importance to the sector;
- ◆ Facilitate and support CSOs to raise their governance standards for a better, more accountable and transparent functioning, as well as to increase public, actors and partners' trust in the sector. In this context, NRC will continue to serve as the Secretary of the Code of Standards for CSOs in Albania;
- ◆ Strengthening of the capacities of CSOs through programs such as: NPO Academy; Mentoring and Assistance Program for Networks and Coalitions, training program for the sector based on annual needs assessments; but also new capacity building programs that will be organized from 2022 onwards such as: "Grant management and monitoring"; "Revenue generation model for CSOs from fee-for service activities, products and assets"; "Volunteering and accreditation of CSOs for participation in EU Programs; "EU acquis, engagement and role of CSOs in the process of country EU integration", etc.

Another novelty of the NRC program in the next years is the organization of the **"National Civil Society Week"** dedicated to the sector to promote its work and contribution. With a series of events organized by CSOs across the country, The Week will provide more opportunities for networking and inter-institutional dialogue on issues of importance to the sector and the development of the country .

Following this issue, we invite you to get acquainted with some of our activities and developments in the sector for the period October-December 2021 .

CALLS & OPPORTUNITIES



Calls

Announcements



**CALL FOR
EXPERTS**



resourcecentre.al



info@resourcecentre.al



www.resourcecentre.al



This project is funded by
the European Union



PARTNERSALBANIA
FOR CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

BËHUNI PJESË NË DIREKTORINË E OJF-VE

During these months, the National Resource Centre continued to provide help-desk onsite and online service. The need for information and assistance from NPOs has been mostly related to the [new law on registration of NPOs](#) and it's the provisions, the procedure of registration of beneficial owners and the fiscalization procedure for NPOs. Also, during this period, efforts to further enrichment of the NPO Directory has continued, bringing to 138 the number of organizations registered in it. The [CSOs Directory](#) helps all organizations that are part of it for greater exposure in the sector, increasing cross-sectoral cooperation and networking with other organizations in the country, region and beyond for projects and joint initiatives.

All the interested organizations are invited to register [here](#).

Code of Standards for NPOs in Albania



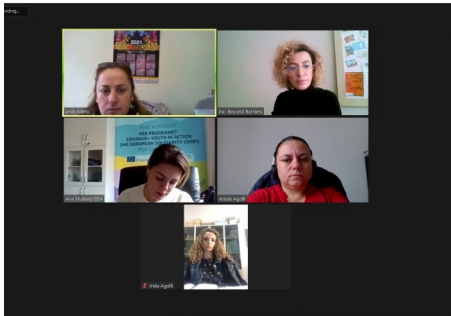
The Resource Centre, in the capacity of the Secretariat of the Code of Standards for NPOs, has continued to inform and organize a series of awareness activities and meetings with NPOs in different cities of the country, in order to promote the Code of Standards for NPOs as a mechanism that serves organizations to raise the standards of their activity and sustainability.

The Center has also provided information and assistance to all organizations interested to join the Code. Membership of the Code is expected to increase in the coming days with some organizations already in the process of membership, and others which have submitted expressions of interest by the end of December 2021.

You can send your expression of interest and the required documentation for membership in the platform [standards4npo.al](#)!

The platform also provides opportunities for all organizations to conduct a preliminary self-assessment of the standards by which the organization operates. For more information and questions about the Code of Standards and membership you can write to us at info@resourcecentre.al or visit us at our offices in Tirana, Shkodra and Vlora!

On Volunteerism and its further development in Albania



For more than a year, the National Resource Centre and Beyond Barriers have been engaged in a process for analyzing the legal framework of volunteering in Albania and its implementation, and have held a series of meetings and discussions with organizations from all over the country and institutions responsible for implementation of the Law on Volunteerism. Although the legal framework has been completed for two years now, it is not implemented and has not affected at all to the creation of an enabling environment for the development of volunteerism in the country. On the contrary, it has become a burden on CSOs and informal groups by hindering them in their activity.

During these months, meetings were held once again with senior representatives from the Ministry of Finance and Economy and the National Agency of Employment and Skills (NAES) to promote a concrete decision-making on the law: setting up a cross-sectoral working group to improve or repeal it of the law based on its non-implementation as well as the problems and uncertainties it carries and which are discussed again in these meetings. We are still waiting for a decision on our request and if there is no response we will soon come up with a public position on this issue.

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



During the meeting with CSOs from Vlora and with the Alliance of Women Members of the Vlora Municipal Council to discuss women's rights issues and to identify the priority needs to be addressed with the 2022 budget by the Municipality of Vlora in favor of vulnerable women—**Regional Office Vlorë**



During the meeting with the Independent Forum of Women of the Administrative Unit Center to discuss the priority needs of women and to support their initiative for the petition on public transport Vlorë-Babice — **Regional Office Vlorë**

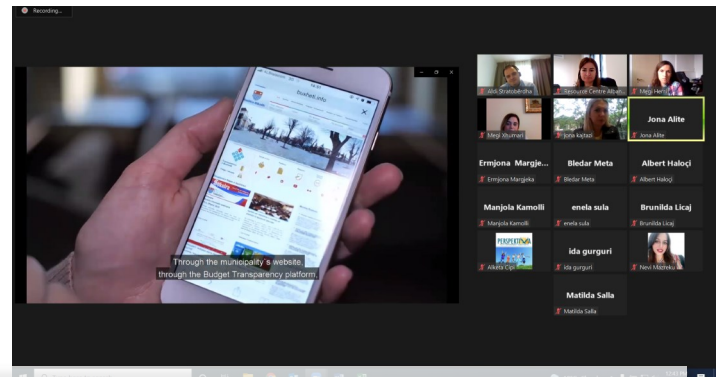
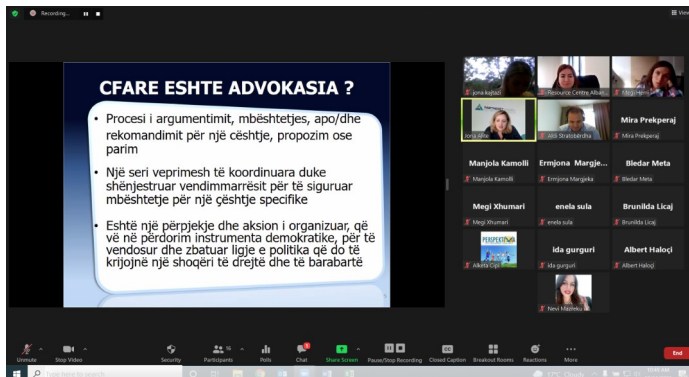


During a series of meetings with students of the University "Luigj Gurakuqi" Shkodra to discuss civil society and active citizenship- **Regional Office Shkodër**

NPO Academy

The series of lectures of the NPO Academy Program 2021, completed with the organisation of the last three lectures on Participatory Governance, Advocacy and Lobbying and CSOs Strategic Communication. In parallel, the participants have conducted a series of mentoring sessions, working further on developing practical skills and organizational mechanisms for the above topics.

Over the course of a year, through lectures and mentoring sessions, the participants increased their knowledge and developed or further improved policies and procedures regarding organizational governance, human resource management, financial management and reporting, fundraising, and have worked on drafting and consolidation of a series of documents such as strategic plans, project plans, strategies and communication plans, advocacy campaign plans, etc. During December, as part of networking and exchange activities, the participants established contacts with Alumni Academy over the years, as well as representatives of the private sector, aiming to create bridges of cooperation and explore concrete opportunities for partnership with them.



#Lecture9

"Advocacy and Lobbying"



#Lecture10

"Participatory Governance"



#Lecture11

"CSOs Strategic Communication"



The Graduation Ceremony of the NPO Academy 2020 participants

The closing of the NPO Academy program, as every year, culminated with the graduation ceremony of 23 leaders and managers of new organizations but also consolidated from Tirana, Gjirokastra, Korça, Durrës, Vlora, Shkodra, Fieri and Pogradec. Participants now Alumni, gathered, already as Alumni 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 participants expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the program of the Academy and all the opportunities it offers not only through lectures and mentoring but also other important activities for further professional and personal development, such as networking activities and exchange of experiences between participants, meetings for creation of bridges of cooperation with CSOs, businesses and institution, etc. Part of the ceremony this year were over the years Alumni, who also expressed appreciation and gratitude for the program and shared a series of experiences and collaborations that have been made possible by participating in the Academy and other programs of the Resource Centre and Partners Albania.



Training Programs for CSOs

During October-December 2021, after a long period of organising online trainings, we gladly returned to the organization of onsite trainings in Tirana, Shkodra, Kukës, Vlorë, Berat, Korçë and Pogradec with the participation of about 130 CSOs from these cities and other nearby cities.

The situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic has affected and left its mark on CSOs across the country, which despite facing a number of constraints, have continued to provide services as well as organizing awareness-raising activities, monitoring institutions and advocacy work, etc. For this and specific topics related to the work of organizations and their needs, such as mechanisms of involvement in decision-making of CSOs and their community / members, advocacy and lobbying, project management and organizational, we discussed in the conducted trainings.



The European Commission has published the 2021 Enlargement Package

EU ENLARGEMENT PACKAGE 2021



In October, the European Commission published the 2021 Enlargement Package.

The Albania 2021 Report highlights that limited progress has been made on the implementation of the roadmap on an enabling environment for civil society. The Report cites, adoption of the Law on registration of Non Profit Organisations brings some improvements. The National Council for Civil Society remains weak and should be reformed to provide for appropriate representation of the Albanian civil society. Substantial efforts are needed to ensure meaningful and systematic consultations with civil society as part of an inclusive policy dialogue for reforms.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further weakened the financial stability of the civil society, already weak due to unfavorable legal and fiscal framework. Despite this challenge, Albanian civil society has provided support and services to most vulnerable people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, complementing or sometimes replacing state interventions.

[Read here the main finding for Albania](#)

[Read the Full Report](#)

The 3rd Edition of the Week of Integrity



During December 1-10, 2021, for the third year in a row, was organized, the Week of Integrity in Albania an initiative of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). Under the logo [#weekofintegrityAL](#) during the [Week](#) about 50 activities were held with various partners from business, civil society, academia, aiming to raise awareness and promote ethical behavior, transparency, accountability and any other efforts in the fight against corruption.

The week was launched with organisation of

the "Leadership for purpose: Embracing Integrity" conference where as part of the panels, leaders of youth organizations and activists, brought the perspectives of young leaders, the difficulties and achievements of their daily work, for more integrity and equal opportunities for young people.

[Read more](#)

Workshop on Transparency Standards

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) organized a meeting on "Open Parliament" on November 23. As part of it, representatives of civil society organizations and experts discussed issues related to transparency, civic engagement and parliamentary decision-making. The creation of a space for a well-structured dialogue between the Assembly and civil society was emphasized during the discussions as a solution to increase citizens' trust in institutions. Other meetings and activities are expected in order to establish cooperation between the Assembly and civil society and the media.

[Read more about the meeting](#)



National Council for European Integration Meeting



On October 20, 2021, the National Council for European Integration (NCEI) held its meeting, where as part of it the Ambassador of the Delegation of the European Union to Albania, Mr. Soreca, presented the "Annual Report of the European Commission for Albania" and focused on relevant recommendations on issues related to elections, good governance, local government, civil society, rule of law.

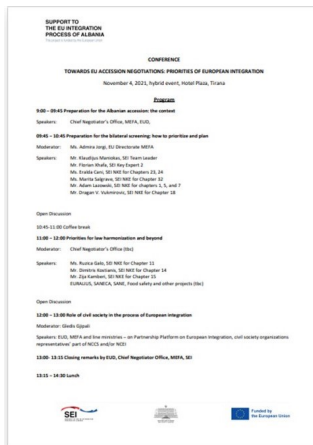
Welcoming remarks and key discussions on the steps to follow the recommendations of this Report were held by the President of NCEI, Ms. Jorida Tabaku, Vice President, Mr. Taulant Balla, Ms. Olta Xhaçka, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs and Mr. Zef Mazi, Chief Negotiator for Albania with the European Union. [More about the meeting](#)

Conference "Towards EU Accession Negotiations: Priorities of European Integration"

On November 4, 2021, the project "Support to the EU Integration Process of Albania" (SEI) held the Conference "Towards EU Accession Negotiations: Priorities of European Integration". This Conference brought together representatives of institutions, civil society, and integration experts to discuss integration priorities and harmonization of laws according to EU directives.

A special panel at the conference was dedicated to the role of civil society in the European Integration process.

Speaker on this panel, Ms. Ariola Agolli, Manager of the Resource Centre at Partners Albania, focused on the issues that have accompanied so far the involvement of civil society organizations in this process, as well as the need to increase the role and contribution of CSOs in it.



Glasgow Climate Summit #COP26

Climate Summit #COP26 gathered around 50,000 participants online and onsite, to share ideas, innovative solutions, participate in cultural events and build partnerships and coalitions.

The countries that have signed the Paris Agreement are committed to taking measures to adapt to the negative impacts of climate change and increase climate resilience. Albania has also committed to play its role and every 5 years submits a document with actions to address climate change, otherwise known as the National Predefined Contribution (NPC). The objectives of the NPC by 2025 are for the legal, political, strategic and regulatory framework in Albania and its institutional, scientific, technical and financial capacities to enable evidence-based decision-making and gender sensitivity in terms of adaptation to climate change. As part of the Summit, dozens of organizations working in the field of nature protection undertook a series of awareness and information activities on climate change. For more [#FriendsOftheEarthAlbania](#) [#KrizëKlimatike](#) [#KrizëEnergetike](#) [#Veproni](#) [#COP26](#)



On the engagement of civil society in the decision-making and legislative processes of the Assembly of the Republic of Albania



On November 9, 2021, the Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC) presented at a roundtable consultation with institutions and civil society organizations, the Evaluation Report "On the engagement of civil society in the decision-making and legislative processes of the Assembly of the Republic of Albania". Based on good national and international practices, the report presents some recommendations for an effective participation of citizens and civil society in the decision-making and legislative processes of the Assembly. [For more](#)

Index of Political, Social and Economic Participation of Youth



For the fifth year in a row, the [Youth Participation Index](#) in the Western Balkans and Turkey has been published. The index is an annual monitoring report that provides a regional overview of youth political, social and economic participation, according to a common set of indicators.

At the regional level, a number of challenges are listed, not only for social inclusion and participation in the labor market of young people, but also for their political inclusion. Youth is still very underrepresented in political life in all countries. Over the years, none of the countries has had ministers under 30, in the last two years only in Serbia and Albania there are new deputy ministers and only in Serbia new mayors.



Albania ranks last in the region in terms of political participation with only 2.81% while the average rate in EU countries is 43.5%. Also, the economic participation of young people is at the rate of 5.1%, while for the social inclusion of young people many data are still not updated and as a result are not measured not only in Albania but also in the region.

The index is prepared by Youth Banks Hub for the Western Balkans and Turkey Network and serves as a guide with recommendations for policy development and advocacy initiatives for youth participation in the region. For more [regional report](#) and [report on Albania](#)

CSO Sustainability Index 2020



2020 INDEKSI I
QËNDRUESHMËRISË SË
ORGANIZATAVE TË SHOQËRISË
CIVILE
SHQIPËRIE
SHITATOR 2021

In December, IDM presented the findings of the USAID CSO Sustainability Index (CSOSI) 2020 for Albania.

The main findings for Albania show that the overall sustainability of the civil society sector did not change during 2020. Meanwhile, the financial viability of CSOs is estimated to deteriorate, due to a regression in both the levels and the types of funding available to CSOs.

The report states that despite facing a number of constraints as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, CSOs met the growing demand for services resulting in improvement of service delivery. The year report again, recognizes the contribution of the National Resource Centre as an important infrastructure in increasing the CSOs capacity and the development of the sector in the country. [Read more](#)

16 Days of Activism against Gender—Based Violence



As every year during the month of November-December, the campaign "16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence" was held. The campaign starts on November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and closes on December 10, International Human Rights Day.

This year's global theme was "Stop Violence Against Women Now" emphasizing the urgent need to eliminate violence against women and girls, especially during crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dozens of organizations working to protect the rights of girls and women undertook a range of activities throughout the country as part of the Campaign. Learn more about these hashtag activities [#16DaysOfActivismAgainstGenderBasedViolence](#) [#16DaysOfActivism](#) [#16days](#) [#16diteteaktivizmit](#) [#BejeBotenPortokalli](#)

University to Society Cooperation in Albania

On November 25, 2021, the [Center Science and Innovation for Development \(SCiDEV\)](#) presented in a roundtable with representatives from the government, academic institutions, civil society, media and business, the findings of the study "[University to society cooperation in Albania](#)".

The study shows that in Albania there are few cases of well-institutionalized, promoted and sustainable cooperation between universities and other actors in society. Key factors hindering university-society collaboration include the lack or low level of funding for research and the lack of a strategy (by all actors) for pursuing collaborative projects on a sustainable basis.

Mrs. Ariola Agolli, Manager of National Resource Centre at Partners Albania, as part of the panel stressed the importance of cooperation between universities and civil society in joint research projects and the development of strategic and sustainable partnerships, to increase the efficiency of interventions and maximize resources and contribution of academic institutions and civil society organizations. [Read more](#)



Environmental NPOs meeting with Minister Kumbaro on protected areas



A number of civil society organizations, active in the field of environmental protection, held on October 29, 2021, a meeting with Mrs. Kumbaro, Minister of Tourism and Environment. The meeting was requested by about 50 organizations part of the grouping for the cause of protection of protected areas (PA).

During the meeting the CSOs reiterated that the process followed by the Ministry, is contrary to the legislation on Protected Areas and the entire legal framework for public consultation that guarantees transparency in decision-making, as well as the consequences of hasty, legally groundless, scientifically unfounded reassessment, in Protected Areas are extremely negative for national biological diversity. [Read more](#)

Tirana - European Youth Capital



On December 8, on the National Youth Day, the [National Youth Congress](#) and the [Municipality of Tirana](#) organized in the Palace of Congresses an event dedicated to young people, where the Tirana platform was presented as the European Youth Capital for 2022. In this framework, during 2022, a large number of activities are expected to take place with the involvement of young people and youth organizations. [Read more](#)



BCSDN Background Analysis of the European Commission Enlargement Package 2021

BCSDN has prepared an analysis of the annual European Commission Enlargement Package, assessing the progress made in the area of civil society development and dialogue with public institutions in Enlargement countries. The background analysis is set against BCSDN's Monitoring Matrix on Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development.

According to the analyse, the detailed reports aim to present "a factual and fair assessment as well as a clear roadmap to accelerate and deepen reforms". However, at times, the EC has presented a bleak assessment or omitted developments that are vital for civil society and its development. Even in cases where local CSOs have been vigorous in their advocacy efforts and public reactions on both national and international level, their concerns seem to have not been heard by the EU Commission. [Read the full analyse](#)

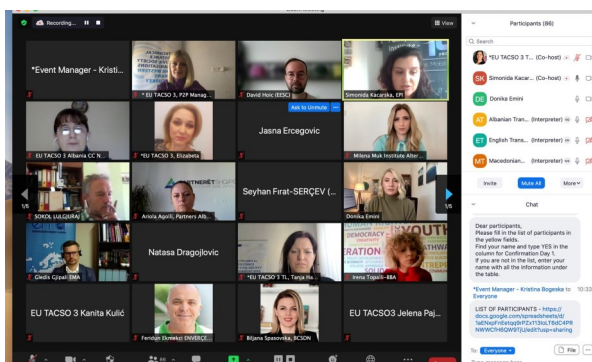
Regional Events - P2P

The role of civil society in the EU Accession process

On October 26, 2021, [EU TACSO 3](#) organized a two-day event on the Role of Civil Society in the EU Accession Process. Representatives from civil society organizations, state institutions, European Union Delegations from the region, DG NEAR, international organizations and experts, attended the event and discussed the mechanisms for involving CSOs in the EU accession process and IPA program structures.

Ariola Agolli, Resource Centre Manager, in her speech as part of the panel, focused on the main challenges for the effective and real involvement of CSOs in the EU Accession process as well as on recommendations for CSOs, government institutions in it all levels as well as the European Union to improve the situation in this regard.

[For more](#)

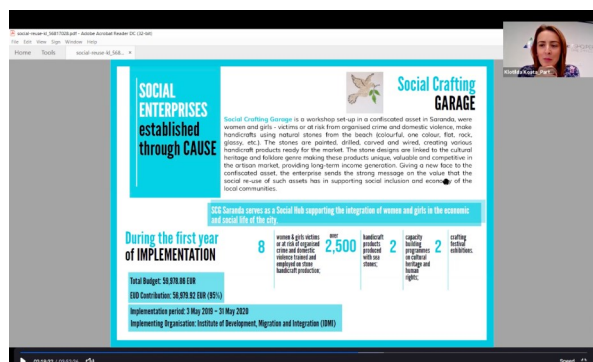


Using Confiscated Assets for Good Causes

On November 18, 2021, [EU TACSO 3](#) hosted a P2P regional event on "Using Confiscated Assets for Good Causes."

The purpose of the event was to share and present examples of creating models for sustainable re-use of confiscated assets from organised crime by civil society organisations in Albania and beyond in the Western Balkans.

The model set up in Albania by Partners Albania within the project "C.A.U.S.E – Confiscated Assets Used for Social Experimentations", was at the center of this event along with examples of such models and work developed in Italy and at European level. [For more](#)



Regional Community Resilience Forum

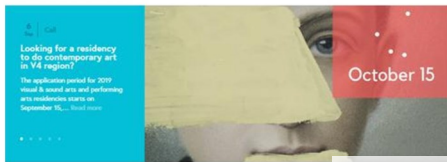


On 20-21 October, 2021, TACSO 3 organized in Belgrade, the Regional Forum "Community Resilience", with the participation of 117 representatives of community foundations, grassroots, CSOs providing grants and capacity building for grassroots, representatives of the DG NEAR and Delegations from the region, donors, experts and other stakeholders in the area of civil society development in the Western Balkans region and Turkey.

The Forum addressed one of the most critical issues facing civil society presently – CSOs relation with constituencies and genuine activism.

Thematic panels created a space for discussion among all stakeholders in the region on issues such as: factors that affect a sustainable and resilience community; supporting communities to recover; identifying community needs; recognition of beneficiaries and supporters of CSOs; patterns of community activism; Community philanthropy etc as well as good practices of CSOs in support of vulnerable groups in times of crisis. Albania was represented in this Forum, with several representatives of CSOs, who contributed to the thematic panels and discussions, bringing the Albanian perspective on this issue. [For more](#)





open



open



Image: James Merluzzi for UNDEF



QUARTERLY CALENDAR

Mark your calendar! Be involved in our upcoming events!

| January 2022 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | 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 2022 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | 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 2022 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | 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

CONTACT US :

Office in Tirana

Elbasan Street, Park Gate Building, 10th Floor, Ap. 71/73, Tirana

(in the premises of "Partners Albania for Change and Development")

Tel/Fax: +355 4 2254881

E-mail: info@resourcecentre.al

Office in Shkodra

Str. Studenti, Square of Democracy, 7nd Floor, the building near Shkodra Radio, Shkoder (in the premises of the "Women in Development" Association)

E-mail: shkodra@resourcecenter.al

Office in Vlora

Neighborhood 29th November, Str. Dede Ahmet Amataj, Mother's Day 15, 2nd Floor, Vlora (in the premises of "Aulona" Center)

Tel: +355 3 3224531

E-mail: vlora@resourcecenter.al

FOLLOW :



@[resourcecentre.al](https://www.facebook.com/resourcecentre.al)



@[resourcecentrealbania](https://www.instagram.com/resourcecentrealbania)



@[resourceCSO_al](https://twitter.com/resourceCSO_al)



@[ResourceCentreAlbania](https://www.youtube.com/ResourceCentreAlbania)



@<http://www.resourcecentre.al/>