

Quarterly Newsletter

Edition No. 14 October 2022

This quarterly newsletter provides information on the National Resource Centre's activities, on the latest developments in the civil society sector in Albania, on the funding, capacity networking enhancement. opportunities for CSOs, and other relevant news from the region and

New members join the Code of Standards' membership for NPOs in Albania!

IN THIS ISSUE

NRC ACTIVITIES New members join the Code of Standards' membership for NPOs in Albania!



Legal service for civil society organizations



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

NPO Academy

Assistance and mentoring sessions for NPO Academy participants

Training Programs for CSOs

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SECTOR

LATEST Regional Forums on the Impact of Covid-19 in the Western Balkans

National Barometer of Human Rights, during the pandemic period of the Covid-19.



Tirana Connectivity Forum

Being Accountable - Our Different Journeys Towards Inclusiveness, Diversity, and Shifting the

Conference "Youth Policy in the Western Balkans"

CALLS & Calls

OPPORTUNITIES Announcements



Shërbim Ligjor për organizatat e shoqërisë civile

Legal service for civil society organizations and informal activist groups

If you have questions or need information about legal issues that affect the activity of your organization, contact us at info@resourcecentre.al to book your consultation session with the Legal Advisor.



The Code membership continues to expand with new members! In recent months, the Psycho-Social center "Vatra", COSV in Albania, the Women's Forum Elbasan, the National Association Education for Life - (SHKEJ) and the Foundation "Spirit of Love" - Diakonia Agapes, have expressed their willingness to joined the Code of Standards for NPOs and to develop their activity according to the principles and commitments of the Code.

The Code of Standards for NPOs in Albania is a self-regulatory mechanism that aims to improve the effectiveness of the work of non-profit organisations and increase supporters, beneficiaries and other stakeholders trust by enhancing good governance of the sector, transparency and accountability. The Code is a set of principles and commitments on how organizations conduct their work and activity.

It is a tool to build stronger and more effective organisations in the non-profit sector by creating a base on which leadership and management practices are valued and improved. The Code guides NPOs in a process of learning and change, towards the highest standards, thus developing trust with stakeholders and enhancing the legitimacy and credibility of CSOs.

The Code of Standards' membership, so far, consists of 21 non-profit organisations. The membership process is open at any time!



We invite all interested organizations to send the expression of interest and the necessary documentation to the standards4npo.al platform!

Read here for more information on the Membership process or write us at info@resourcecentre.al







Help desk

Legal service for civil society organizations

Shërbim Ligjor për OJF-të







The National Resource Centre continues to provide legal services to NPOs and civil society activists.

The provision of paid services in accordance with the legal framework and their exemption from VAT, the procedures for establishing social enterprises, the election and renewal of decision-making bodies in accordance with the new legislation for the registration of NPOs, as well as other aspects of the processes. decision-makers within the organization, have been the focus of legal consultancy in these months.

Also, a number of newly established organizations have been assisted on the steps and legal procedures of registration with the competent bodies according to the legislation for NPOs. For more information on the legal assistance and how to benefit from it, <u>read here.</u>

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



During the meeting with the Vlora NPO Network for the protection of the Soda Forest, for the coordination and organization of an advocacy campaign on forest cleaning with the motto: "Take home what you bring with you"- Vlora Regional Office



Help desk services to local NPOs on funding opportunities and project proposals calls from various donors, support for advocacy initiatives to protect the Vlora Bay from the fuel industry, and support for NPOs to meet the requirements of the Code of Standards - Vlora Regional Office



Several info sessions with a group of young people from Vlora high schools, teachers from different schools of Vlora Municipality, and with the youth activist of "A Change for the Community" organization to motive them for increased participation in local decision making.—Vlora Regional Office



Open sessions with the youth of the University of Shkodra to encourage volunteerism and the opportunities offered by the Erasmus Plus program in Universities.– **Shkodra Regional Office**



Meetings with media local journalists on cooperation and building partnerships between NPOs and Media-Shkodra Regional Office



Meeting participation with institutions and other local actors, related to economic development in Shkodër Municipality, with a special focus on tourism.- **Shkodra Regional Office**



Capacity Building NPO Academy

During these months the NPO Academy program 2022 has continued with the lectures on <u>Project Proposals Writing and management – EU Grants;</u> Fundraising. Ensuring support through grants, public funds, philanthropy and working with the private sector; and the <u>Creation and functioning of networks and coalitions.</u>



Project Proposals Writing and management – EU Grants

#Lecture6 focused on the EU funding application format such as the format that requires specific knowledge to complete it and will familiarize with



the specifics of the project management cycle by analyzing the challenges and making recommendations to overcome these difficulties.

The lecture was led by Ledina Gjiknuri, an expert in civil society with more than 17 years of experience in the field of mobilizing EU funds, at the planning level of EU assistance for IPA funds, programming and drafting analytical documents as well as support in the preparation/evaluation of grant applications within the EU/Instrument for Pre-accession (IPA) funding.



Fundraising. Ensuring support through grants, public funds, philanthropy and working with the private sector

#Lecture7 focused on the importance of fundraising as a financial sustainability tool, opportunities, opportunities and source of financing from different donors.



The lecture was led by Entela Pinguli, an expert in civil society with 25 years of experience, mainly in initiatives focused on environmental protection and

support for increasing the capacities of civil society actors, such as CSOs, municipalities and businesses in order to improve the contribution of them in society.

Invited as a guest speaker in this lecture was Kleti Kaprata, Deputy Director, Marketing

Department at Credins Bank, to present the first crowdfunding platform in Albania smile.al and the second call for projects in this context. The <u>smile.al</u> platform aims to collect funds from the public for the realization of projects with a social character.



Creation and functioning of networks and coalitions

#Lecture8 focused on network and coalition concepts, models of their establishment, advantages and challenges, learned successful examples of networking in the region while sharing their experiences were also part of this lecture.



The lecture was facilitated by Tanja Hafner Ademi an expert with a significant professional experience in international development, especially in civil

society development, regional cooperation, EU integration and project management. Ms. Ademi was part of a team conducting the Midterm Evaluation of the IPA Civil Society Facility 2011-2016 for the needs of the DG NEAR. As Team Leader, she has managed TACSO 3, EU's flagship regional civil society project in the Western Balkans and Turkey between 2019-2021. Ms. Ademi has provided key expertise in developing and updating of the Guidelines of the EU Support to Civil Society in Enlargement Region.



Akademia e OJF-ve 2022



Assistance and mentoring sessions for NPO Academy participants

In addition to the lectures, as part of the Academy several mentoring and assistance sessions were held in groups and individually according to the needs of the participants of the Academy, guiding and assisting them in improving project proposals writing, fundraising and creating and operating networks, etc., contributing to this way directly in increasing the work standards and stability of their organizations.



Capacity Building

Training Programs for CSOs

Revenue generation model for CSOs from fee-for service activities, products and assets

The training and mentoring program on "Revenue generation model for CSOs from fee-for service activities, products and assets" has continued with the development of other modules. As part of the third module "Building the Business Model", we worked on issues such as the recognition of the concept of the business model, its constituent elements and the steps for its construction. Special importance was given to the Business canvas model to be applied in the development of paid products/services that the organizations participating in the program intend to offer.

The fourth module focused on "Creating a Sustainable Marketing Strategy", through which the participants increased their knowledge and skills on the Strategic Marketing Plan, knowing the audience as well as the tools to promote the final product. In parallel with the modules, through mentoring, organizations are supported to analyze their readiness to offer paid products and services, organizational capacity, as well as the opportunities offered by the local, regional and wider market for potential products and services.













During program training – "Revenue generation model for CSOs from fee-for service activities, products and assets"

Grant management and monitoring

In July, the "Grant management and monitoring" training program was finalized. During the last 2 modules, we worked on issues such as the general administrative principles of grants; grant contract rules; financial principles; grant reporting; monitoring procedure and; evaluation and closing of the grant. The training program "Grant management and monitoring" will restart again next year, to help all organizations that want to increase their knowledge and practical skills in managing sub-grant schemes from different donors.

For all those interested in this topic, contact us at info@resourcecentre.al to participate in the future.







Gjatë programit të trajnimit - "Manaxhimi dhe monitorimi i granteve"

A third training program was held in September on "Volunteering and participation of CSOs in EU Programs", this time with CSOs from <u>Tirana</u>, <u>Elbasan and Durrës</u>. During two days of training, the participants had the opportunity to increase their knowledge on EU programs on volunteering and the process of applying for accreditation (Quality Label) to become part of these programs at the European level.

At the end of the regional training cycle on this topic, CSOs interested in being accredited and part of the European Solidarity Corps program will be assisted through technical assistance and individual mentoring in order to successfully complete the application process.

"Volunteering and participation of CSOs in EU Programs"







Capacity Building

Training Programs for CSOs

Training programs on "Fiscalization for NPOs"

Based on the large requests and interest in this issue, during July the Resource Centre and Partners Albania developed a training program on Fiscalization with the participation of 19 representatives of civil society organizations from across the country. The focus of the training was the legal framework and the fiscalization process, focusing concretely on its steps as well as the necessary elements for Fiscalization process. For more information <u>find here</u> a summary of the most frequently asked questions and key Fiscalization issues







Training programs on "Fiscalization for NPOs"

Crowdfunding and Other Alternative Fundraising Sources

During September, a series of training programs on "Crowdfunding and other Alternative Sources for Fundraising" were organized with CSOs representatives from Vlora, Gjirokastra, Berati, Lushnja, Shkodra and Tirana. Participants increased knowledge and received practical information on several forms and alternative sources of funding as a way to empower CSOs and increase their financial sustainability.

During the training, the second call for projects on smile.al, the first Crowdfunding platform in Albania, was distributed. Learn more about the platform here











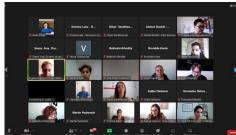


During the training program - "Crowdfunding and other Alternative Fundraising Sources"



Regional Forums on the Impact of Covid-19 in the Western Balkans

Led by Partners Albania, five organizations from the region that serve as resource centers for civil society in their countries, are implementing a joint initiative that through a series of discussions contributes to the exchange of experience, best practices, and adaptability challenges in response to Covid-19.













In July we organized the sixth (and last) regional discussion forum focused on Human Rights and access to information. It gathered representatives of civil society organizations, regional networks, international organizations, academia, relevant state institutions, and other stakeholders from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia, and Serbia, discussing the importance of human rights protection and access to information during the pandemic time, highlighting the legal aspects of enabling such activity, as well as sharing best practices of solidarity. Earlier this year, we published a collection of case studies from the six Western Balkan countries which fed the discussion in the six regional forums.

Find more on this initiative here

National Barometer of Human Rights, during the pandemic period of the Covid-19.

On July 17, 2022, the Albanian Helsinki Committee presented the main findings of the study "National Barometer - The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms in Our Country". During the presentation, there were representatives from the Assembly of the Republic of Albania, the Ministry of Health, other responsible institutions as well as civil society organizations focusing on different areas and/or categories of human rights.

The barometer processes and analyzes from a quantitative and qualitative point of view, the data obtained from a survey carried out with citizens and students, regarding their perception of the anti-covid measures and the limitations of some of the basic human rights and freedoms, throughout the period of the pandemic. Among these rights we can mention the right to information, freedom of movement, the right to assembly, the right to health care, rights in the economic sphere, as well as the right to education for the period March 2020-December 2021. Read the full report









Tirana Connectivity Forum

During September 26-28, the 8th edition of the Tirana Connectivity Forum took place in Durrës and Tirana, bringing together decision makers, politicians, financiers, civil society organizations, EU institutions and interest groups from all over Southeast Europe and from the European Union.

Among many panels, representatives of international and non-governmental organizations from the region and Europe, discussed the role and contribution of civil society for the creation of healthy institutions and democratic policy-making. Participants in this forum focused on fostering institutional accountability; cooperation with the EU; building inclusive partnerships for effective policymaking; regional cooperation and European integration – from enlargement to cohesion.

TCF 2022 is organized by Cooperation and Development Institute, National Youth Congress, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Albanien, Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Regional Cooperation Council - RCC, and this year it also comes within the Tirana European Youth Capital 2022 and the European Year of Youth. For more







Being Accountable - Our Different Journeys Towards Inclusiveness, Diversity, and Shifting the Power

In recent years, in an attempt to measure how diverse and comprehensive CSO standards are, various indices and methodologies have been developed. But assessing and monitoring accountability and inclusiveness as well as selecting the right approach in adaptation to the operating environment is often challenging for CSOs. To discuss among peers and further familiarize themselves with the many approaches that CSOs are using to apply diversity and inclusion to their work, Accountable Now on August 30 held a webinar with CSOs from around the globe. The presentation of different methodologies that can be used by CSOs for assessing the applicability of diversity and inclusion, but above all the discussion of the challenges encountered by CSOs and the sharing of their experiences in this journey were the focus of the activity. Find the full webinar here



Conference "Youth Policy in the Western Balkans"

The conference "Youth Policy in the Western Balkans focused on Youth policies in the Western Balkans took place on the 16th of September in Prague, bringing together EESC members, CSO representatives from the countries of the Western Balkans, as well as Czech officials and CSO representatives.

Focusing on the perspective and the role of young people in the process, the conference ensured space for experts and decision-makers with different backgrounds to define and prioritize bringing issues while pledging to join efforts towards efficient solutions.

The call for the EU to continue the support the youth of the Western Balkans made it to the official conclusion of the event: reinforcing EU programs and regional structures, to reach more young people in the Western Balkans by providing them with opportunities for education, mobility, volunteering, and employment. The document containing a total of 29 conclusions arising from the topics discussed through the conference has been made publicly available here



















Advancing ideas for sustainable regional cooperation in Central Europe.





#ReLOaD closed















QUARTERLY CALENDAR

Mark your calendar! Be involved in our upcoming events!

October 2022							
S	М	Т	W	Т	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	

November 2022							
S	М	Т	W	Т	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				

December 2022						
S	М	Т	W	Т	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









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: <u>info@resourcecentre.al</u>

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 US:











