

The Graduation Ceremony of the NPO Academy 2022 participants

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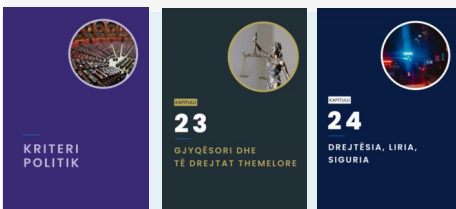
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Check out our latest publications



The Albania's Progress Report and Level of Preparation towards EU membership takes as its starting point the situation described in the EC Report 2021 and reflects the development over a year, crystallized in the EC Report 2022. It aims to show in a more readable language 1) The political criterion; 2) Chapter 23 (Judiciary and Fundamental Rights) and 3) Chapter 24 (Justice, Freedom, Security).



On December 22, 2022, Partners Albania and the National Resource Center organised the graduation ceremony of the participants of the 2022 NPO Academy.

Participants now Alumni, gathered, already as Alumni to crown a year of efforts and investment in increasing their individual knowledge as well as further organisational consolidation of their organisation.

During this year's Academy program, 23 leaders and program managers of new and consolidated NPOs attended a series of lectures, mentoring sessions and study visits, exchanging knowledge and experiences in regard to organisational development and sustainability as well as inclusion of the sector in advocacy and dialogue with institutions for a greater participation in policy making.

During the ceremony, all the participants in their speeches, evaluated very positively the participation in this program, focusing especially on the professionalism and experience of the lecturers and mentors involved, the opportunities offered by the program's activities for networking and exchange of experiences among the participants not only on matters of organisational development and sustainability, but also for further recognition of developments within the sector, etc.

The Applications for the 2023 NPO Academy program will be soon open in January! All those interested in becoming part of the Academy are invited to write to us at info@resourcecentre.al

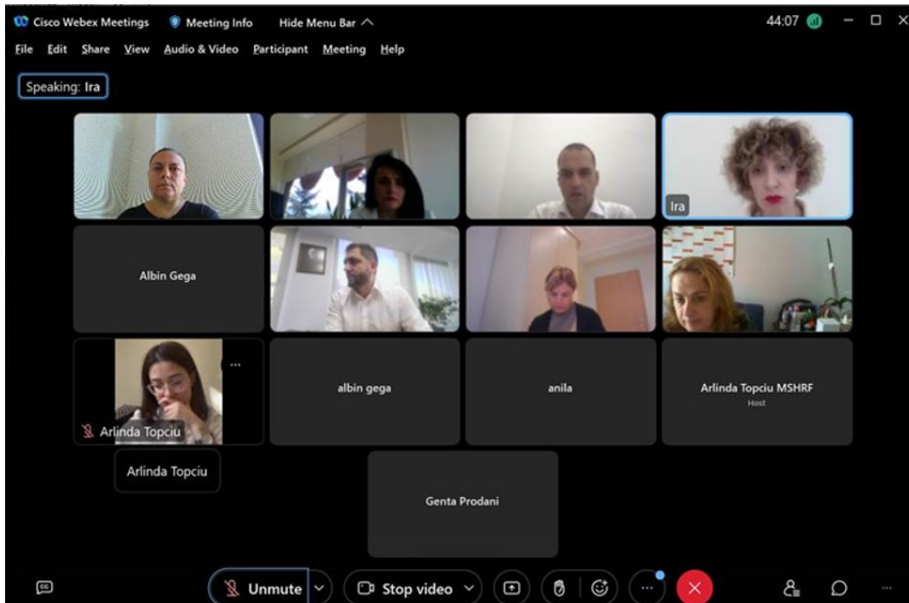


This project is funded by the European Union



Advocacy and Policy Dialogue

On Volunteerism and its development in Albania



Following the creation of a joint working group with representatives from institutions and civil society organisations, part of the [Group for the Development of Volunteerism in Albania](#), in several organisations meetings facilitated by The Resource Center and Beyond Barriers, the proposed changes from the government to improve the law, were discussed.

Based on the issues that the law carries, the organizations assess these changes as insufficient and are working on comments and suggestions which will be presented soon in the next meeting of the working group with representatives of the Ministries and National Agency for Employment and Skills.

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



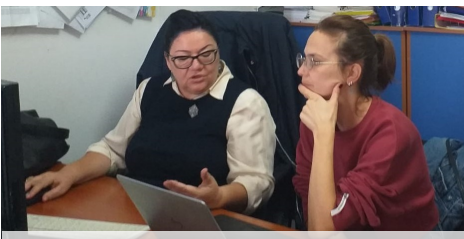
The Regional Office in Vlora has facilitated the cooperation between local NPOs that work with young people in order to increase coordination and cooperation between them to serve the youth of the Vlora Municipality as well as possible.



From meetings between civil society organisations and journalists in the city of Vlora, to discuss local issues and build bridges of cooperation among sectors. - Regional Office Vlora



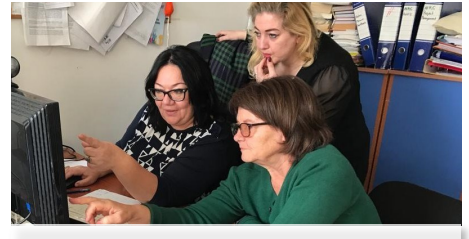
During the meetings with the Social Dialogue Network to discuss priority issues of women and girls in need to be addressed in the 2023 budget. - Regional Office Vlora



During the mentoring sessions with NPOs in Shkodër, to further improve organisational operative standards, in compliance with the Code of Standards. – Regional Office Shkodra



Meetings with members of student council of the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences to promote student's voluntary engagement in civil society organisations. - Regional Office Shkodra



During the technical assistance offered to local organizations Hapat e Lehte, Wellpoint and Dimension Human for the application on the SMILE.AL platform. - Regional Office Shkodra

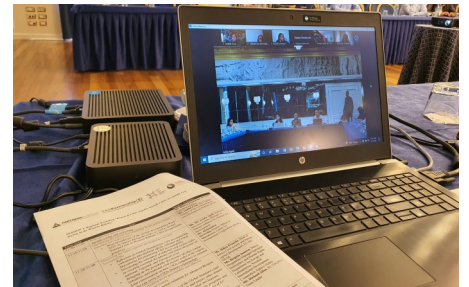
Increasing Transparency and Accountability of CSOs

CSO Forum “Accountable CSOs for Effective Development Cooperation”

Partners Albania for Change and Development and the National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania on October 7, 2022 organised the CSO Forum “Accountable CSOs for Effective Development Cooperation”.

The forum was organised as part of the International Accountability Week 2022, a campaign week during which NPOs and their platforms share experiences, good practices and success stories on how NPOs are increasing accountability, legitimacy and transparency towards their beneficiaries and society.

The Code of Standards for NPOs in Albania, presented by Partners Albania, was one of the good practices that was shared at this Forum. The work of the sector itself and such initiatives that promote accountability, transparency and increase the effectiveness of CSOs, were evaluated as very positive models by all participants in the Forum.



NRC ACTIVITIES

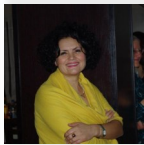
Capacity Building NPO Academy

The series of lectures in the NPO Academy Program for 2022 was finalised with the organisation of the last three lectures on "Advocacy and Lobbying", "Participatory Governance" and "Strategic Communication for NPOs".



Advocacy and Lobbying

The 9th Lecture focused on the use of advocacy to influence decision makers, the elements of an advocacy process as well as recognition of successful cases of advocacy campaigns.



The lecture was led by Diana Djaloshi, an expert with over 25 years of experience in important fields for the non-profit sector such as project design and management, advocacy, organisational development and strategic planning.



Participatory Governance

The 10th Lecture focused on the meaning of participatory governance and its dimensions, mechanisms for the involvement of CSOs in policy and decision-making, challenges encountered, good practices in Albania, as well as the design of a strategy for the engagement of organisations in participatory processes.



The Lecture was facilitated by Blerjana Bino, a researcher in social sciences with a particular focus on media, democracy, and participation. She is a researcher member of the Safe Journalists Network in the Western Balkans with extensive experience in assessing media landscapes in the Western Balkans with a special focus on Albania. She is co-founder and Executive Director of the Center Science and Innovation for Development working closely with academia, civil society, policy and the media and leading a network of outstanding scholars and policy researchers working on democratic development, good governance, media and communication, research to society collaborations and digital transformation.



Strategic communication for NPOs

The 11th Lecture focused on communication with the media and the public. Delivering of the effective messages as a mean of increasing support, communication through traditional and social media, storytelling techniques, etc. were some of the issues addressed during the lecture.



The lecture was led by Matilda Duro, who has worked in the media and the field of communication for over 17 years as a journalist on social-economic issues and as a consultant for Communication and Public Relations. She is also engaged as a part-time lecturer at the Faculty of Economics, University of Tirana for the course "Communication in Business" and trainer and co-author of the media module at the School of Public Administration.



Mentoring and technical assistance for Academy participants

Throughout a year, through lectures and mentoring sessions, the participants in the Academy have increased their knowledge and developed and improved organizational governance policies and procedures, human resource management, financial management and reporting, fundraising, and worked on drafting and consolidation of a series of documents such as strategic plans, project proposals, communication strategies and plans, advocacy campaign plans, etc.

Capacity Building

Study Visits

This year of the Academy brings us to meetings and presentation visits to relevant institutions and private companies. The participants of the Academy as part of the visits got to know more closely and had the opportunity to discuss more extensively with representatives from:



The Assembly of Albania to discuss the structures, procedures for the inclusion of NPOs in the consultative processes, as well as the relationship and approach with the sector for cooperation.



The Agency for Support Civil Society- discussing on mechanisms for the civil society sector involvement in policy-making and decision-making.



Tirana Municipality discussing on the inclusion of CSOs in local decision-making, partnership with the municipality as service providers, and the exploration of alternative sources of funding for CSOs.

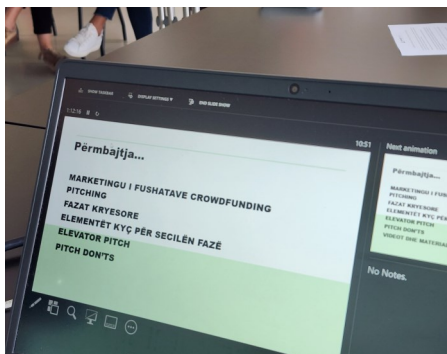
Project Proposal Writing

Based on the requests and interest in this topic, during the month of November a training program on Project Proposal Writing was developed with representatives of CSOs from Lezha, Divjaka, Shkodra, Fieri, Vlora and Tirana. Participants increased knowledge and received practical information on Project Cycle Management, the phases of writing a proposal, the logical framework as well as the application format for EU calls.



**Marketing and Promotion of
Crowdfunding Campaign**

Promotion of the organisation's work, its activities, but also the use of online campaigns as a tool for increasing awareness and civic mobilization or raising funds, were some of the issues addressed during the training program with CSOs from Tirana and Elbasan. During the training, the participants developed practical exercises on the organisation of a successful campaign as well as the preparation of videos and promotional materials.



“Volunteering and participation of CSOs in EU Programs”

After the development of regional programs for building the capacities of CSOs on the EU programs on volunteerism, during November-December, the Center has offered a series of mentoring sessions and technical assistance to a group of CSOs interested in becoming a part of these programs at the European level and to be qualified for the Quality Label. The necessary steps to be followed as part of the process as well as technical advice in drafting the request for accreditation are some of the aspects addressed during the mentoring program.

“Revenue generation model for CSOs from for service activities, products and assets”

The program continued with mentoring and individual assistance sessions, focusing on the design and development of Business Plans as well as Marketing Strategies of services and products created by CSOs throughout the program. At the same time, aiming to create bridges of cooperation and partnership between organisations part of the program and some business companies, an CSOs-Business event was also organized at the end of the program. In a series of meetings, directly and face to face (speed dating), the organisations part of the program had the opportunity to present their business ideas to the participating companies and discuss opportunities for further support and cooperation.



EU aquis, engagement and role of CSOs in the country's EU integration process

EU aquis, the engagement and role of CSOs in the country's EU integration process is another new program designed by the National Resource Center, dedicated to increasing the capacity of organisations. The workshop organized in Tirana is the first of a series of workshops that will be organized throughout the country by the European Movement in Albania and the National Resource Center for Civil Society.

The workshops aim to inform CSOs about the negotiation process, negotiation structures and opportunities for them to be involved in the negotiation process. The workshop held in Tirana on October 14, brought together 18 civil society organizations and experts in the field. The workshop was led by Gledis Gjipali, EMA, who, among other things, spoke about the recently published European Commission report on Albania, focusing on the developments of the preparation process and the progress of the chapters throughout the year analyzed in the report. Bringing examples from other countries, Gjipali analyzed the good practices and lessons that can help and facilitate the negotiation process for Albania. [Read more](#)



The European Commission has published the 2022 Enlargement Package



In October the European Commission published the 2022 Enlargement Package. In regard to civil society, the Albania Report highlights that the implementation of the new Law on registration of Non-Profit Organisations adopted in June 2021 has not started yet. The High Judicial Council received a budget allocation to procure the electronic register of Non-Profit Organisations and concluded a contract for its implementation in May 2022. The report states that there has been no progress in the implementation of the roadmap on an enabling environment for civil society. The institutionalised cooperation between civil society and the Government still needs to be strengthened to ensure meaningful participation of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in decision-making processes, including in the context of the EU accession negotiations. Progress, albeit limited, has been made in the field of VAT refund.

On October 18, the EU Ambassador to Albania, Christiane Hohmann, presented the findings of the EU Commission's report on Albania 2022, with a group of civil society organisations.

[Read here key findings on Albania](#)

[Full report](#)

Meeting of the National Council for Civil Society

On November 1, 2022, near the premises of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, a meeting was held with members of the National Council for Civil Society (NCCS) and representatives of The Agency for Support Civil Society: Mr. Vladimir Thano, Ms. Fabiola Laço, Mrs. Ermelinda Mahmutaj, Mr. Andi Rabija, Mr. Indrit Seferi, Mr. Altin Hazizaj, Ms. Mirela Juka, Mr. Andi Kananaj and Mr. Erion Banushi. The news has been shared on social media and there is not much information on the discussions during the meeting.

The Minister of Health and Social Protection, Ms. Ogerta Manastirliu, has stated that the annual work agenda of NCCS will focus on local as well as central inter-institutional cooperation to address European integration issues in the field of human rights protection. Through social media, as well it was announced that on November 18, 2022, the Minister of Health and Social Protection, Ogerta Manastirliu, together with the Minister of State for Service Standards, Milva Ekonomi, held the next meeting with NCCS, to strengthen government' constructive dialogue with civil society, as an important factor in the process of negotiations for integration into the European Union.



National Conference on Volunteering 2.0 "Volunteering Infrastructure, Synergies and Challenges"

On International Volunteer Day, was held the National Conference on Volunteering 2.0 "Volunteering Infrastructure, Synergies and Challenges" organised by Beyond Barriers. The conference brought together important actors of state institutions at the national and local level, representatives of civil society organizations, volunteers, and other actors to discuss the infrastructure of volunteering in Albania and cross-sectoral cooperation.

As part of the panel at the Conference, Ms. Ariola Agolli, Manager of the Resource Center, discussed volunteerism from the perspective of CSOs: the (non) enabling environment, infrastructure, capacity, challenges and opportunities for the development of volunteerism in the country. During the conference the Mobile Volunteering app was introduced as the newest digital innovation in the field of volunteering in Albania. In cooperation with Beyond Barriers and other organisations part of the initiative for the development of volunteerism in Albania, the Center continues to remain committed to advancing the dialogue in the sector and with the institutions for a more enabling environment for Volunteerism in Albania. [More about the Conference](#)

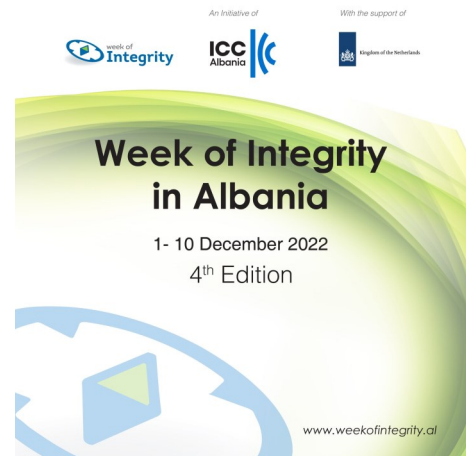


Week of Integrity in Albania

During December 1-10, 2022, Week of Integrity, an initiative of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), was organized in Albania for the fourth year in a row.

Under the #weekofintegrityAL logo, a series of activities were carried out by civil society organisations, business, academic institutions, etc. aiming to raise awareness and promote ethical behavior, transparency, accountability, responsibility and any other efforts within the fight against corruption.

The week was opened by the Conference on "Promoting Integrity: The Individual, The Organization and Beyond", where as part of the panels, leaders of organisations 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](#)



United Nations Week in Albania #UNWeekAlbania2022

During October, Albania welcomed the United Nations Week in Albania [#UNWeekAlbania2022](#). The week started with the exhibition [#WeThePeoplesExpo](#).

The UN Week in Albania activities traveled to Pukë, Përmet and Durrës, together with the concert "Rhythm that unites us". These activities enabled the citizens to get more information about the programs that the UN agencies develop throughout Albania, to get to know more deeply about the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as to enjoy the exhibition and have fun. The United Nations Week comes in the framework of the international cultural weeks, which have been developing for several months and have enlivened the artistic and cultural life, not only in the capital, but also in other cities of the country.



The National Day of Activism #NAD2022

During October 21 and 22, the National Day of Activism #NAD2022 was organised for the fifth consecutive year. Civil society organisations, groups and activists operating throughout the country became part of the activities organised on this occasion. Their commitments and reactions over the years, as a good example of citizenship, were reflected in a short documentary presented during an event held near the Cultural Center of the Orthodox Cathedral Complex in Tirana.

Numerous activities were organised throughout Albania, culminating in the 9-year school "Ferraj", in Tirana. [Read more here](#)



LevizAlbania - Introducing the Civic Engagement Knowledge Platform



On December 5, LevizAlbania organised a meeting for the presentation of the knowledge platform for civic engagement.

During the meeting, it was discussed the benefits that various civil society actors and the academic world will have from using the Platform, the opportunity to get detailed information not only on what LevizAlbania has done during the years of implementation, but also technical documents and materials drawn up by various experts in relation to local government and initiatives addressed by LevizAlbania collaborators.

Since 2015, LevizAlbania has been dedicated to strengthening local democracy through actions and ideas generated by civil society actors, individuals and informal groups, strengthening not only local democracy but also the active role of citizens in the search for a quality local government, transparent, accountable and inclusive. [Visits the online platform here](#)

The 2021 Civil Society Organizations Sustainability Index

On December 2022, the USAID' 2021 Civil Society Organizations Sustainability Index (CSOSI) was published. According to the findings, the overall sustainability of CSOs did not change, there were slight deteriorations in the legal environment, advocacy and public image dimensions during 2021.

The legal environment suffered a decline due to some changes in the legal framework affecting CSOs. Prolonged restrictions on gatherings, limited transparency, and the lack of opportunities to consult with the government hindered CSO advocacy initiatives, while the public image of the sector slightly deteriorated as a result of ongoing attacks on CSOs and activists. Other dimensions of CSO sustainability remained largely unchanged.

The report on Albania was written by the Institute for Democracy and Mediation in partnership recognises the National Resource Centre for Civil Society contribution as an important infrastructure in supporting and developing the CSO sector. [Read more](#)



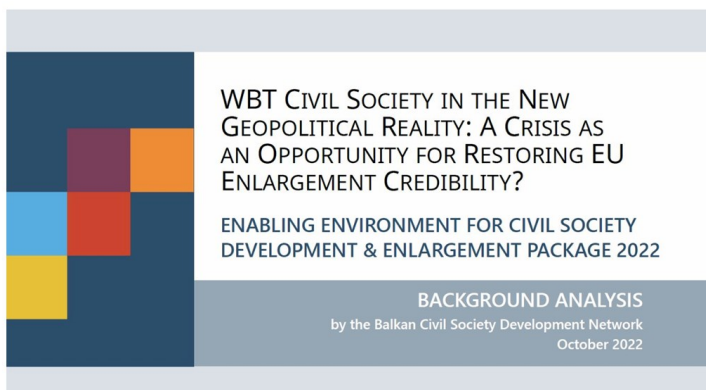
Civil Society & Think Tank Forum 2022

On November 1-2, 2022, the Aspen Institute Germany and the Southeast Europe Association jointly hosted the Civil Society & Think Tank Forum in Berlin. The forum brought together more than 100 different representatives such as study groups, civil society and experts in the relevant fields to offer recommendations on the European integration process of the Western Balkan countries. During two days of discussion in panels and working groups, civil society representatives from the Western Balkans identified a number of problems that the region is facing. Civil society experts and activists exchanged best practices and developed concrete recommendations on topics such as the Green Agenda, "Energy Transition", "Climate Change" and "Protection of the Environment and Environmentally Sustainable Development", as well as "EU Integration in a Changing Geopolitical Environment," "Information Disorder" and "Infrastructure Investments".

[Read more on Forums recommendations](#)



BCSDN Annual Background Analysis: WBT Civil Society in the New Geopolitical Reality



For the 13th time in a row, the Balkan Civil Society Development Network prepared an analysis of the European Commission's 2022 Annual Enlargement Package, assessing the progress made in the area of civil society development and dialogue with public institutions in the Enlargement countries against the findings of the report of the Monitoring Matrix on the Enabling Environment for the Development of Civil Society.

[Read the Full Analysis here](#)

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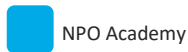
QUARTERLY CALENDAR

Mark your calendar! Be involved in our upcoming events!

January 2023						
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 2023						
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March 2023						
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26	27	28	30	30	31	



NPO Academy



Trainings & Seminars for CSOs



Networking Events



Public Forums and Events

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Floor, Vlora (in the premises of "Aulona" Center) Tel: +355 3 3224531

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 [National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania](https://www.linkedin.com/company/national-resource-centre-for-civil-society-in-albania)