



This project is funded by the European Union



NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE
FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN ALBANIA



PARTNERS ALBANIA
FOR CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

Open call for NPO Academy

NPO Academy comes as a consolidated program that contributes to enhancement of capacities of NPO executives and managers in regard to organizational development and management, financial sustainability, advocacy for common interest issues, strengthening of inter-sector cooperation etc. Since 2015, over 90 representatives of Albanian NPOs, with a wide geographic, sectorial and gender representation coverage, gained knowledge and skills in regard to effective management of their organizations in order to assist their stakeholders and wide public.

NPO Academy 2020 is organized by the **National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania**, a project financed by the European Union, implemented by Partners Albania for Change and Development in partnership the Albanian Center for Population and Development (ACPD) and the European Movement in Albania (EMA).

General Overview

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Albania play a significant role in increasing awareness and education of the community, activism and civic participation in policy-making, increasing transparency and accountability of local and central government, as well as providing services to local communities.

This role becomes even more relevant in terms of various important reforms that the country is undergoing and the important process of European integration. Despite the postponement of the opening negotiations for Albania's EU accession, the European Commission's continuing recommendations for opening of negotiations for Albania membership, call for civil society engagement and importance of its role in contributing substantially through advocacy, lobbying and monitoring activities at national and local level to address a wide spectre of issues and problematic in the country.

To play a more proactive role in fulfilling the functions and the above mentioned roles, CSOs still need assistance for their organizational development and consolidation, building partnerships and implementing strategic interventions to substantially contribute to social and economic development of the country.

The statistical data of Tirana Court show continues increase of the civil society sector in regards to the number of registered NPOs (only in the course of 2018, 400 new NPOs were registered). The legal and financial framework regulating the activity of NPOs has been subject to changes and amendments that have influenced the sustainability and activity of non-profit organizations as well as their relations with the state, therefore its knowledge and understanding by the sector remains a priority for enabling an efficient activity.

NPO Academy:

- Serves as a space for non-formal education to enhance skills and develop competences of NPO executives;
- Increase the professionalism of participants through a unique curriculum, learning methodology and diverse professional expertise;
- Create generations of professional and committed NPO executives who will become change actors to contribute in the development of Albanian society.

The NPO Academy will be implemented on February – November 2020 and will be consisting on:

- ✓ **11 lectures** (2 sessions per month)
- ✓ **preparation and presentation of various assignments** regarding development of new / improved internal policies and procedures, financial formats, proposal formats and fundraising plans, communication tools etc.
- ✓ **individual coaching and mentoring sessions** according to participants needs in order to guarantee the implementation of the gained knowledge and competences during the Academy to respond to the needs of their organizations.
- ✓ **creating supportive (peer-coaching) groups** among alumni through regular informal meetings to share experience and enhanced networking and cooperation among CSOs.
- ✓ **participation in study visits** to CSOs, donors community, government institutions, and businesses- introducing to success practices, share experience and good models of NPO-Government cooperation, NPO-private sector, participatory processes, crowd sourcing, found raising etc.



Application

The Academy is open to executives of Albanian NPOs in the position of the Director, Program Manager and Chairpersons of the Board/Assembly who aim the enhancement of capacities and their professional development in the sector, to build effective organizations serving the public and interest groups.

Interested candidates for the year 2020 are invited to apply by completing and sending the [Application Form](#).

Deadline for the submission of applications is **7th of February 2020, 17.00 hrs**.

Criteria and Selection process!

The Academy will enable participation of sector representatives with a wide geographical distribution and diverse sub-sector representation.

25 applicants will be selected to attend the Academy 2020.

Academy literature and consultation of the case studies will require a good proficiency of English language.

Criteria

Candidates will be selected based on:

- Motivation to attend the Academy;
- Relationship between individual professional growth and development of the organization they manage;
- Commitment to attend the entire program and implement all the required activities;
- Proficiency of English language .

Process

- All interested candidates should complete and submit the Application Form no later than 7th of February, 2020.
- Selected candidates will be notified by 17th of February 2020.
- Only selected applicants will be contacted.

Programme

| Period | Sessions |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 21st February | 1. Academy opening - civil society sector trends of development and NPO legal framework |
| March 2020 | 2. EU integration process and CSOs role . 3. Organizational development and governance, human resources management and internal procedures . |
| April 2020 | 4. Financial management: Budgeting and accounting; Reporting to state authorities. 5. Ensuring public support and working with the private sector. Fundraising and philanthropy |
| May 2020 | 6. Ensuring financial support through grants. Proposal writing and project management, EU grants 7. Strategic communication for NPOs . |
| June 2020 | 8. Strategic planning . 9. Participatory governance . |
| September 2020 | 10. Mobilization of constituencies. Networking and coalition building . |
| October 2020 | 11. Advocacy and Lobbying . |
| July– September November | * Study visits * Graduation ceremony |

If you require additional information, please contact
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Note: ACADEMY ADMISSIONS NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

In selecting the attendees, Partners Albania will be guided by the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of gender, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation.