

Civil society for good governance & anti-corruption in SEE

capacity building for monitoring, advocacy and awareness raising

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Project objective:

Contribute to a dynamic civil society in the region, capable of participating in public debate and of influencing policy and decision-making process in the area of anti-corruption and good governance, by: (i) Building an anti-corruption and good governance coalition of likeminded CSOs in Southeast Europe based on a joint strategy and agreed action agenda; (ii) Enhancing CSOs capacity, knowledge and commitment to provide analysis, monitoring and advocacy on policy, measures and reforms related to good governance and anti-corruption and to boost CSO cooperation and understanding beyond regional and national levels; (iii) Promoting the state-civil society dialogue and improve the environment for civil activism at regional and national level; (iv) Contributing to an enhanced cross-country public/civic support and participation for good governance and anti-corruption measures; (v) Helping the CSOs themselves to improve their legitimacy, transparency and accountability.

The project partners will implement the following activities: (i) Coalition building for the development and endorsement of a regional CSO strategy and action agenda; (ii) Good governance monitoring (including CSOs trainings, production of comparative studies, Country Specific and Regional Anti-Corruption Reports); (iii) Public awareness and outreach (including Regional Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Policy Forums, media outreach).

Project activities:

The project partners will implement the following activities: (i) Coalition building for the development and endorsement of a regional CSO strategy and action agenda; (ii) Good governance monitoring (including CSOs trainings, production of comparative studies, Country Specific and Regional Anti-Corruption Reports); (iii) Public awareness and outreach (including Regional Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Policy Forums, media outreach).

Project Partners:



The coalition represents a partnership of likeminded CSOs committed to enhancing civil society cooperation and understanding in their specific thematic area beyond regional and national levels. The coalition is based on prior partnership experience but also involves local/grassroots organisations as well as a regional inter-governmental anti-corruption organisation.

Results expected:

(i) Civil society strategy and action plan in the area of good governance and anti-corruption have been adopted; (ii) The CSO coalition resources have been pooled together to produce regional corruption monitoring, quality policy research and to advocate and raise awareness on good governance and anti-corruption; (iii) The CSO coalition has been recognised as a valuable partner by government institutions.

The main outputs of the inception phase will be the CSO Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan as well as the Inception Report and project web site.

The main results will be that CSOs will have agreed on a refined common strategy and action plan on good governance and anti-corruption, consulted and endorsed by the stakeholders; the project Steering Committee and Secretariat will be formed and operational.



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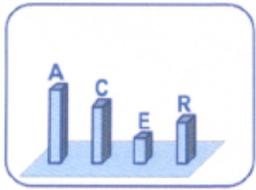
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The lead partner, the Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD) is the premier Bulgarian anti-corruption and good governance think tank. It has more than 15 years of track record in the field of anti-corruption, including more than 50 bilingual publications (including 9 national and one regional corruption assessment reports). CSD has set up and managed the Bulgarian anti-corruption initiative *Coalition 2000*, which the current project aims to scale up in the region. The initiative has been singled out as a national best practice by the World Bank in its Anti-Corruption in Transition series. CSD has designed a state of the art Corruption Monitoring System (CMS), included in the UN Anti-Corruption Toolkit. It has also piloted the CMS regionally through Southeast Europe Legal Development Initiative (SELDI), which provided unique insights into what works and what not in the region in terms of CSO collaboration and advocacy capacity. *Coalition 2000* was a 10-year public-private monitoring, analysis, advocacy and awareness effort, which helped reduce administrative corruption in Bulgaria by 50%. CSD is regularly consulted and quoted by the European Commission services as part of the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism monitoring Bulgaria's progress in the fight against corruption and organised crime. CSD experts are members of distinguished expert groups such as the EU Group of Experts on Corruption, the UNODC expert group on monitoring UN Convention against Corruption, etc. They are regular speakers at European Parliament hearings. CSD has asserted its leadership on good governance and anti-corruption also on EU level by recently completing two pilot studies - on the Links between Corruption and Organised Crime in EU-27 and on anti-corruption measures in EU border control. It is also a member of the biggest ever EU funded social sciences and humanities project on anti-corruption: ANTICORRP: Anti-Corruption Policies Revisited: Global Trends and European Responses to the Challenge of Corruption. This combination of practical implementation and frontier research knowledge makes CSD a natural regional CSO hub for good governance and anti-corruption.



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The Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV) is an independent non-governmental think-tank, analyzing social, political and economic policy issues facing Turkey. Based in Istanbul, TESEV was founded in 1994 to serve as a bridge between academic research and policy-making in Turkey. By opening new channels for policy-oriented dialogue and research, it aims to promote the role of civil society in the democratic process and seeks to share its research findings with the widest possible audience. In order to do so, TESEV organizes seminars and conferences, bringing together specialists and policymakers from Turkey and abroad to discuss issues of current concern. It releases project reports, books, pamphlets, policy watch briefings and seminar proceedings aimed at general readership. TESEV has been conducting its "Perceptions of Corruption in Turkey" project since 1999 in order to analyse the social and administrative basis of corruption and to produce policies that can address the problems at hand. Within this context, a three level study about the perceptions of corruption in different segments of society was conducted. The first stage of the study, "Household View on the Causes of Corruption in Turkey and Suggested Preventive Measures", was completed in 2001. This study aimed to account for the views and experiences of citizens about corruption, tried to understand its effects on society and suggested methods with which to combat the problem. The second study, "Business View on the Causes of Corruption in Turkey and Suggested Preventive Measures" which was concluded in 2002, intended to ascertain the levels and nature of corruption that arose from relations between the private sector and central bureaucracy and local administrations. "Society's View of Public Administration, Public Services and Reform" is the final level of the project that was completed in 2004. The goal of the study was to present the comparative performances of central and local administrations from the viewpoint of residents living in cities in order to contribute to the ongoing restructuring efforts of the public administration in Turkey. The conclusions of the study were presented in Ankara on April 1st 2004.

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ACER was one of the implementing organisations of the Corruption Monitoring System in Albania in 2001 as part of the SELDI initiative. ACER has worked with CSD in the areas of corruption, good governance, hidden economy and corporate governance. ACER has conducted more than 30 questionnaire-surveys with sampling sizes ranging from 100 respondents to more than 3,100 respondents, including on corruption. ACER organises continuously national conferences, seminars and workshops, round tables and debates on anti-corruption policies, involving local, national and European stakeholders. ACER has experience in project management with all major donors in Albania such as: the World Bank, the UN, EC, and other international organisations. Relevant projects similar to the role in this action include: "Designation of a Manual for the Avoidance of Conflict of Interest in Public Procurement" (2008); "From the Ground Up: Assessing the Record of Anticorruption Assistance in South-Eastern Europe (the case of Albania)" (2003); "Anti-Corruption Initiative", (1998-1999); "Corruption Indexes: Regional Corruption Monitoring in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Romania, and Serbia-Montenegro" (2001); "Public Procurement Transparency at Local Level" (2002); "Corruption, Informal Activity and Cross-Border Trading: Impacts on Democratic Developments" (2000); "Public Institution Transparency and Fighting Against Corruption" (1998); "The Citizens' Complaints on Judicial Inspection: Increasing Transparency and Accountability of the Judiciary toward the Public".

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House of Europe started out as a response to the need for understanding and awareness of the EU integration process of Albania. The remarkably high public support for EU integration is not matched by an equally high level of understanding of the process itself, the benefits and obligations that come with it. House of Europe will therefore serve as a platform of information, research, debate, training and networking on integration matters. However House of Europe has enlarged its scope and is now one of the leading organizations that monitors closely the progress of Albania's integration. House of Europe has implemented a project monitoring the performance, transparency and the citizens' access to four key municipalities in Albania, HoE staff has previously worked on a project targeting "Corruption and Anti-Corruption Strategy Monitoring in Albania".

**Center for Investigative Reporting (CIN), Bosnia and Herzegovina****Address:** Ferhadija 27, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina**Tel.:** +387 33 560 040**Fax:** +387 33 560 045**Website:** www.cin.ba**E-mail:** info@cin.ba

Center for Investigative Reporting (CIN) is a media agency dedicated to investigative reporting, particularly in areas of corruption and organized crime, and nexus between corrupted officials and organized crime circles. CIN is particularly active in investigation and publishing issues that are blocking BiH's access to EU. Past experience includes working on a number of projects on anticorruption, including EU funded project on anticorruption and civil society, aimed toward strengthening capacities of BiH CSOs in fighting corruption. The Online News Association (ONA) chose CIN's series on food safety as the best investigative story published online in 2007 by a small news organisation. CIN, along with its partners at the Romanian Center for Investigative Journalism and SCOOP, won the first ever Global Shining Light Award for its regional project on energy brokers. CIN also won Transparency International's 4th annual Award for Journalism Integrity in BiH. CSD and CIN have successfully implemented a joint project aimed at strengthening capacities of CSOs in fight against corruption. Close cooperation in the past period have allowed them to build strong partnership and create good collaboration.



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Riinvest Institute has 17 year experience as a think-tank in Kosovo. Riinvest involvement on various fields of interests in socio-economic life, strong and long partnership with local and international institutions, its advocacy activities throughout the years, analytical work in hundreds of reports, conferences and roundtables, and surveying (with roughly quarter million respondents over its existence) will serve as sufficient base for implementation of foreseen activities. Research activities of Riinvest and other services are based on international standards. Riinvest Institute has over 50 research reports on different economic and economic policies; over 40 surveys with 35,000 respondents, and 8 yearly reports on SME development; 17 local development strategies for municipalities, and some industry analysis. Riinvest has also held 8 summer schools with over 200 participants, 53 workshops and training seminars with 1,800 participants, 15 business plans and feasibility studies for Kosovar and foreign businesses. Riinvest and CSD have collaborated on the submission of previous projects and have participated in common international networks on corporate governance.



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The Ohrid Institute for Economic Strategies and International Affairs is the first think tank to have carried out comprehensive monitoring and analysis of the work of the Government of Macedonia. It performed day-to-day monitoring on the government in 10 areas for three years following a Performance Based System Matrix. This included the area of internal affairs and anti-corruption. The Leadership Monitoring Project proved to be a success story and brought significant changes to the way the government functions. The unique methodology, the experience and the Performance Based System Matrix were shared with international partners from Africa and Asia. The Ohrid Institute was also engaged in preparing the Macedonian country report in the No. 9 issue of the EU-27 Watch. The Institute also makes regular analysis of the international Corruption Perception Index of Transparency International.



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MCIC was established in 1993, upon domestic initiatives with support from the Dutch Interchurch Aid (DIA) and the World Council of Churches (WCC). The establishment came in response to the problems arising from Yugoslavia's break-up, heralding a sign of solidarity in the efforts for peaceful resolution of the problems, fostering of good neighborly relations and cooperation among all people living in Macedonia and promotion of peaceful and fair solutions for the existing differences in the region, in a hope that this is possible. MCIC was actively involved in preparation of State Programme for Prevention and Repression of Corruption (2007-2010), and it was the only organisation invited by the State Anticorruption Commission to participate in the process of preparation of the new state programme for anticorruption and conflict of interests (2011-2015). MCIC is one of 17 CSO that signed the Memorandum of cooperation for mutual support for prevention of corruption among State Anticorruption Commission and CSOs in Macedonia. MCIC has been cooperating with CSD since 2010 when MCIC translated the report on the situation of corruption in Bulgaria "Crime without Punishment", developed by CSD. In November 2010 MCIC organized in cooperation with CSD a study visit to Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria.



Center for Liberal-Democratic Studies (CLDS), Serbia

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CLDS is a non-governmental organisation whose projects include a variety of areas: from research projects related to the transition as a whole, to specific issues (corruption and justice), as well as consultations on projects that represent the idea of liberalism and liberal democracy. The Center for Liberal-Democratic Studies (CLDS) has successfully implemented corruption-related projects in the past, and these projects included surveys, analysis and high-level conferences (where participants included relevant ministers, and the president of Serbia). In 2001, immediately after Slobodan Milošević had been removed from power, CLDS did a groundbreaking investigation of corruption in Serbia based on two surveys. Survey of the general public was done on a representative sample of 1,600 respondents based on a questionnaire with about 80 questions. The survey of entrepreneurs was done on a representative sample of 600 respondents based on a questionnaire with about 80 questions. Additional information was gathered through in-depth interviews with entrepreneurs. The empirical research was the base for the full report (200 pages) on the legacy of Milošević rule on corruption in Serbia. An international conference was organised in Belgrade with the report as a background material. The book received *Sir Antony Fisher International Memory Award* for 2002. In 2002 CLDS made a thorough empirical research on corruption in the customs administration in Serbia. The empirical research was the base for the full report (250 pages) on the topic. CLDS assisted in application of the same methodology in research of corruption in the customs administration in Sri Lanka in 2007. In 2004 CLDS made a thorough empirical research on corruption in the judiciary in Serbia in the case of litigations, i.e. commercial courts. The research was based on three surveys. The empirical research was the base for the full report (300 pages) on the topic. CLDS also applied the methodology in Argentina in 2007. In 2007 CLDS repeated a groundbreaking investigation of corruption in Serbia from 2001. In 2007 CLDS published a monograph "Corruption: An Economic Analysis" written by Boris Begović, CLDS member. This 600 pages monograph is a survey of the theory of corruption and methodology of corruption research.

institut alternativa

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Institute Alternative is a non-governmental organization, established in September 2007 by a group of citizens with experience in the civil society, public administration and business sector. Its mission is to strengthen the democratic processes in Montenegro by identifying and analyzing public policy options. Its strategic aims are to: increase the quality of development of public policies, contribute to the development of democracy and the rule of law, as well as to the protection of human rights in Montenegro. The Institute Alternative (IA) is strongly involved in the European integration process - its representative is a member of the negotiating team on Chapter 23 of the Acquis – Judiciary and Fundamental Rights. IA is participating as partner in the EU-funded project, "Strengthening the civil society capacity to contribute to EU integration and the accession process", which objectives are to strengthen Montenegrin administrative and civil society capacity to contribute to the EU accession process, supporting streamlined legislation and administrative practices, as well as improving the quality of services delivered by Montenegrin CSOs. Institute Alternative is a member of several NGO coalitions, e.g. the EUROBLOCK coalition, which is a partnership of three NGOs (IA, Monitoring Centre and European Movement in Montenegro), engaged in several projects dealing with monitoring the implementation of the National Programme for Integration into the EU. Also, IA is a member of the Network of NGOs for Human Rights and Democracy, which has signed a memorandum on cooperation with the Parliament of Montenegro. IA is also participating in the inception phase of creating a network of NGOs that will be monitoring the process of accession negotiations with the EU. Institute Alternative has initiated and implemented two public opinion surveys, one in 2010 and the other in 2012 (ongoing), regarding the aspects of financial control and integrity in using public funds.



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CDT is one of the most prominent NGOs in Montenegro, and is actively involved in various regional and international CSO networks and joint advocacy initiatives which opened channels of communication and cooperation both with different CSOs and state institutions aiming at higher involvement of civil sector in creation of state policies. CDT has a Research Center, which has been established as support for those CDT project activities requiring scientifically and methodologically based research and expert analysis. The Center works on projects and researching teams are created ad hoc depending on the nature of the project. In its network, the CDT has a great number of highly skilled personnel, capable of conducting demanding researches and analyses. One of the most important CDT programmes is dealing with political corruption, through monitoring and analysis of financing of political parties. In previous years CDT monitored political parties financing and promoted legislative changes, which resulted in adoption of the new Law on Financing Political Parties in 2011, in the drafting of which CDT also took part. CDT is implementing many projects aimed on improvement of transparency and accountability of public institutions on national and local level, and better communication between government and citizens.



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PSD is a nongovernmental, not-for-profit civil society organisation established in 1999 in Zagreb in the Republic of Croatia. PSD participates in building and development of democratic society through protection of and advocating for the principles of equality, ethics, non-violence, transparency and social accountability in actions and behaviour of all participants in social processes. PSD has been continuously active in the field of policy research since 2001 and as such has become an institution of support and promotion of democratic values, and an active participant in decision making processes at local, national and international levels thus affecting public policies in the field of social development and fight against corruption, human rights protection, organized crime and trafficking in humans. PSD works with CSD also as part of the ANTICORRP project under FP 7.



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During the twelve years of its existence FORCA developed into an organisation being the backbone of the third sector in Western Serbia. Since 2010, a representative of NGO FORCA Pozega is a member of the Local Council for the Fight against Corruption. This council suggested an action plan against corruption that was adopted by the Municipal Assembly of Pozega, making it the first municipality in Serbia to have developed an action plan to counter corruption. From 2005 to 2007 FORCA was a member of the Coalition for Supervision of Public Finances, aimed at raising the level of transparency of public finance, fiscal accountability and participation of the citizens in the creation and monitoring of public policies. FORCA has implemented several large projects in the field of good governance and anti-corruption. Examples include "Core grupa" - action to further develop capacity of civil society in the fight against corruption and strengthen the local institutions in eleven cities of Western Serbia and Sandzak. With support from the EU's cross-border programme FORCA implemented the project "Fostering economic development through enhancing information technology and institutional capacity building of local governments". The main objective of the action was to improve social and economic cohesion of municipalities of Andrijevića and Kolašin in Montenegro and Arilje and Požega in Serbia and social and institutional infrastructure and capacity.



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“Syri i Vizionit” aims to promote local democracy and participation of Kosovo people. Since its establishment in 1999 NGO Syri i Vizionit has intervened with over 100 projects in various sectors of the society, including: society’s democratisation, peace-building, promotion of human rights, civil society empowerment, monitoring of institutions, economic development, urban mobility, social dialogue, networking with other organisations, etc. that are implemented with activities of the organisation and through networks with partners. In its continuous efforts for democratic practices “Syri i Vizionit” gave a special role to promotion of good governance, accountability, transparency and public participation in decision-making. At the national level, Syri i Vizionit as member and one of the founders of the NGO Coalition “Democracy in Action” since 2007 has monitored four rounds of elections: campaigns, media, Election Day and ballot counting in each polling station. In latest elections only, they have involved over 600 observers in one of five Kosovo regions; as part of the Kosovo Anti-Corruption Network, it has organised “Joined in corruption” campaigns, the campaign for changing situation in the Kosovo energy sector, in composition of the executive and candidate’s lists for MPs. Meanwhile, as part of the NGO Coalition for a Clean Parliament, prior to 2007 general elections, we published the “lists of undignified candidates for parliament”, with data gathered from media, courts and audits related to their potential or actual involvement in corruption, which resulted that vast majority of them were not elected. At the local level, Syri i Vizionit has drafted a regulation on transparency which was adopted by the Pejë/Pec municipal assembly, as well as a regulation on access to official documents that was adopted by Klinë/Klina and Istog/Istog municipal assemblies.



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IDSCS is leading a consortium that is conducting comprehensive research on the implementation of the rule of law in five distinct case-studies (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Republic of Serbia) and is advocating for the implementation of policy recommendations on judicial reform stemming from this research. The project aims to improve the rule of law standards in the Western Balkans region. IDSCS undertakes a comparative study of effective local governance in the Western Balkans. The study explores local governance in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Serbia and aims to identify problems and challenges municipal governments in these countries face in the execution of their competencies. The research seeks to compile best practices in delivering services to the citizens at local level and will recommend most feasible models to increase transparency and effectiveness of local authorities. The International Republican Institute has commissioned the study. IDSCS has also done research study on Corruption and Transparency in Local Self-Governments (LSGs) in Macedonia funded by Slovak Aid. It explores the degree to which the legal procedures have been transformed in policies and practices and the cooperation between CSOs and LSGs in their development. In 2010 IDSCS joined a consortium of three Macedonian CSOs to pursue integrated parliamentary election monitoring. IDSCS was responsible to monitor the transparency and rule of law aspects in the work of the State Electoral Commission as well as spending of the political parties through nation- wide network of 30 monitors.

ASSOCIATES



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Since its establishment in 2000, the Regional Anti-corruption Initiative (RAI) acts as a regional process through which governments of the region, local and international civil society organisations, bilateral aid agencies, and international organisations combine their efforts to help curb corruption in South Eastern Europe (SEE). It intends to give an impetus to the fight against corruption in South Eastern Europe by building upon existing actions through better co-ordination of all efforts and by relying on high-level political commitment. In 2010 RAI Secretariat established and is currently maintaining the Integrity Experts Network (IEN). It is a network of experts dealing with conflict of interest and declaration of assets. All info on: www.integrity-experts.net RAI Secretariat was an associate partner to UNODC in the implementation of two CARDS projects – “Assessment of corruption and crime in the Western Balkans” and “Development of monitoring instruments for judicial and law enforcement institutions in the Western Balkans”.



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Kosovo Law Institute (KLI), founded in February 2009, is a public policy non-governmental and non-profit organization, and opinions factory that specializes in the justice sector. The Institute's mission is to strengthen the rule of law in Kosovo, and improve the access to justice for the citizens. It seeks to fulfil its mission through the development of independent research and analysis, and communication of this research to policy makers, government officials, international diplomats, civil society activists, and the academic community. The Institute's staff has vast experience in various capacities in the justice sector in Kosovo, including the development of research, journalistic reporting, awareness, and involvement in advocacy activities. This includes working closely with the Kosovo authorities to ensure independence, impartiality and increased public confidence in the justice system.



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