

ROLE CIVIL SOCIETY

IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

The **civil society in the Western Balkans** could have an invaluable role in tackling corruption.

It provides:

1

monitoring of corruption victimisation levels,

2

initiates legislative changes,

3

supplies benchmarks for good practices on the integrity of public enterprises and

4

helps enhance private business capacity to prevent and combat corruption.



Civil society organisations in the Western Balkans **need to affirm their credibility as agents of anticorruption**, built on two pillars:

CAPACITY & INTEGRITY

In terms of **capacity**, monitoring of both government performance and actual proliferation of corruption has already become a well-established domain of CSO competence. It needs to be supplemented by the skills to provide legislative inputs; these skills include analytical competence and the ability to conduct advocacy campaigns.

In terms of **integrity**, the civil society sector needs a more robust self-regulation. It should reinforce its integrity, including through introducing mandatory procedures for transparency in the sector, ensuring effective control of compliance with financial regulations, and wider use of auditing. Given their active role in promoting the integrity of public office, it is all the more appropriate that CSOs should be held to the highest standards of transparency and accountability.