



# ReSPA

Regional School  
of Public Administration



OFFICE FOR COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY  
Government of Republic of Serbia

## **Workshop on “Building Effective Dialogue and Cooperation between Government and Civil Society Organizations in Policy-Making Process”**

**30 September – 02 October 2013  
Danilovgrad (Montenegro)**

### **PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

#### **Background**

Civil society organizations play an important role in modern democracies: associations and other forms of CSOs enable citizens to voice, defend and advocate their legitimate interests in public and political life on an on-going basis. In that regard, civil society has a key role in achieving participatory democracy.

Nowadays, there is virtually no area of social and political activity in which CSOs do not play a prominent role in designing and implementing public policies (building a state ruled by law, fight against unemployment and poverty, sustainable development, promoting volunteering, social inclusion, gender equality, protecting minority rights, environmental protection, combating corruption, education, culture, amateur sports, regional cooperation, Euro-Atlantic integration, etc.) – hence the Government’s interest in building partnership with civil society.

Civil society plays an important role in the European integration process. This role entails a political aspect (mobilizing citizens’ support for European values, promoting the values of European integration, European identity and citizenship, etc.) and an economic and institutional one (strengthening the capacity for optimum utilization of the available EU funds).

Cooperation with civil society per se is not a requirement for EU membership, but there is no doubt whatsoever that such cooperation is crucial for all Western Balkan countries in the process of European integration.

The three day training “Building Effective Dialogue and Cooperation between Government and Civil Society Organizations in Policy-Making Process” has been formulated and will be realized in cooperation between ReSPA and the Office for Cooperation with Civil Society of the Government of the Republic of Serbia which has conducted needs assessment in the Western Balkans region and has confirmed the importance and necessity for choosing such a topic that would greatly contribute to strengthening the civil dialogue and improving cooperation between public and civil sector. Since its establishment in 2011, Office for Cooperation with Civil Society of the Government of the Republic of Serbia developed systematic communication and cooperation with the relevant counterparts and different stakeholders from the Western Balkan region.

## Objectives

One of the main goals of the training is to raise awareness on the importance of the systematic dialogue between public administration and civil society organizations (CSOs). Strengthening the dialogue and cooperation between the Public Administration and Civil Society is crucial in regard to creating enabling environment for the development and sustainability of the CSOs. It is of utmost importance to create a permanent dialogue between the Public Administration and civil society organizations, which is based on transparent and structured communication and regular exchange of experiences, information and opinions. In addition, developing effective and meaningful dialogue with civil society, as a prerequisite for the sustainability and irreversibility of reforms undertaken in the EU accession process will be covered during the workshop.

## Content

The role and significance of civil society organizations (CSOs) participation in the process of development and implementation of public policies;

- ✓ Legal framework pertinent to CSOs participation in the process of development and implementation of public policies - presentation of EU and regional good practices;
- ✓ The role of CSOs in the EU integration processes - the EU new policy framework and supervisory mechanism with respect to CSOs participation in the EU integration processes.
- ✓ Presentation of different models of communication and cooperation between Government and CSOs in the EU integration processes (focal points in the government institutions, working groups, advisory bodies, public hearings etc.) - regional practices and lessons learnt.
- ✓ The role of CSO in IPA programming: Croatia experience.
- ✓ Initiatives for cooperation in Western Balkans with respect to government-CSO cooperation in the EU integration processes.
- ✓ Institutional mechanisms for cooperation between government and CSOs - policy justification.

- ✓ Models of institutional mechanisms for cooperation between government and CSOs: regional and international best practices. Key steps in ensuring effective dialogue with CSOs in developing new public policies
- ✓ An enabling legal framework for public financing of CSOs - regional best practices with respect to mechanisms of budgetary support to CSOs.
- ✓ The use of IPA funds involving CSOs: Croatia experience.
- ✓ Monitoring and evaluation of CSOs programmes and projects which are funded by EU and government and development of indicators to measure their social impact.

## Target Group

Public administration representatives/Civil servants in the Western Balkans region.

- Mid and senior level government officials who are responsible for setting a framework for citizen participation and communication with CSOs within their respective ministries, implementation of such a framework or supervision thereof.
- Mid and senior level officials with governmental agencies responsible for institutional cooperation with CSO and European integrations (e.g. offices/agencies for cooperation with CSOs, Ministry for EU integration, if this issue does not fall within the jurisdiction of a particular line ministries), etc.
- Mid and senior level government officials responsible for setting a framework for public financing of CSO and oversight of such financing.

## Methodology

Interactive lectures, discussion, examples of good practices, small group work.

## Expected outcomes

Participants gained insight and understood the importance of the role of civil society in modern democracies as well as the mechanisms of effective cooperation and good communication of government bodies and CSOs. Presented examples of good practice of CSOs participation in a practical way helped attendees to understand the importance and benefits of functional Government-civil society dialogue in implementing key economic and social reforms in the EU accession process. An important segment of the training is to acquire knowledge about the necessity of a transparent budget and EU funding programs and projects for CSOs, as well as the importance of a systematic monitoring of the effects of supported programs/projects for further planning of support.

## Duration:

Three working days

## Workshop Trainers

*Dragan Golubovic, guest trainer*

Dragan Golubovic is a professor of law and expert on civil society and citizen participation. Before taking on private consultancy, he served as a Senior Legal Adviser with the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law/European Center for Not-for-Profit Law from 1988 through 2013. He has been engaged in numerous projects and initiatives in the Balkan, the Central and Eastern European, and the Caucus countries, in particular, seeking to create an enabling legal, tax and institutional environment for civil society organizations and citizen participation. Dragan is the author and co-author on numerous publications on citizen participation and CSOs, including "Public funding for civil society organizations-good practices in the European Union and the Western Balkans" (TACSO, January 2011) and "Keeping up the Momentum: Improving Cooperation Between Public Institutions and Civil Society in the Western Balkan and Turkey" (ECNL, TACSO, January 2013). Since 2008 Dragan is a permanent member of the Conference of INGOs Expert Council on the NGO Law, which operates under the auspices of the Council of Europe.

*Igor Vidacak - trainer*

Igor Vidacak is Head of the Office for Cooperation with NGOs in the Government of the Republic of Croatia, where he has worked since 2007. Prior to joining Croatian Government, Igor has worked as research fellow at the Institute for International Relations in Zagreb, since 2000. He has been involved in various technical assistance projects related to reforms in the field of citizen participation and creating enabling environment for civil society development in Europe and Eurasia. Igor has published on issues related to interest representation, lobbying, civil and social dialogue, governance structures and public policy making in transition countries. He is also a lecturer at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Zagreb.

## Venue

The training will be held at the ReSPA premises on 30 September – 02 October 2013, Danilovgrad, Montenegro.

# **DRAFT TRAINING AGENDA**

## **Day 1, 30 September 2013**

<b>09.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>09.30</b>	Opening and welcome by ReSPA (Introduction of the trainers, participants and the programme - ice breaker game)
<b>09.30</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10.00</b>	Role and significance of participation of civil society in the process of development and implementation of public policies
<b>10.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10.45</b>	Legal framework pertinent to CSOs participation in the process of development and implementation of public policies - presentation of EU and regional good practices
<b>10.45</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11.30</b>	Work in Groups, Presentations by Working Group representatives, discussion
<b>11.30</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<i>Coffee break</i>
<b>12.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13.30</b>	Presentation of different models of communication and cooperation between Government and CSOs in the EU integration processes (discussion and good practice examples)
<b>13.30</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<i>Lunch break</i>
<b>15.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17.00</b>	Key steps in ensuring effective dialogue with CSOs in developing new public policies (discussion, group work)
<b>17.00</b>			<b><i>End of the day</i></b>

## **Day 2, 01 October 2013**

<b>09.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>09.15</b>	Energizer game
<b>09.15</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>09.30</b>	Overview of Day One
<b>09.30</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11.30</b>	Legal framework for sustainable funding of CSOs - regional best practices with respect to mechanisms of budgetary support to CSOs (comparative review, discussion, good practice examples)
<b>11.30</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<i>Coffee break</i>
<b>12.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13.30</b>	How to design and implement public funding schemes for CSOs in order to respond effectively to key social and economic challenges in society (discussion, group work)
<b>13.30</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<i>Lunch break</i>
<b>15.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16.30</b>	The use of IPA funds involving CSOs – from programming to implementation: Croatia's experience (discussion, good practice examples)
<b>16.30</b>			<b><i>End of the Day Two</i></b>

### Day 3, 02 October 2013

<b>09.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>09.15</b>	Energizer game
<b>09.15</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>09.30</b>	Overview of Day Two
<b>09.30</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11.30</b>	Monitoring and evaluation of CSOs projects which are funded by the EU and government and developing indicators for measuring their social impact
<b>11.30</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<i>Coffee break</i>
<b>12.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13.30</b>	Prospects for future initiatives for cooperation in Western Balkans with respect to government-CSO cooperation in the EU integration processes (presentation of possible models; group discussion)
<b>13.30</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<i>Lunch break</i>
<b>15.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16.00</b>	Closing game and evaluation of overall training
<b>16.00</b>			<b><i>End of the Day Three</i></b>