



Final Report

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Civil Society Sustainability Project in BiH

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List of acronyms

BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CCI	Centers for Civic Initiatives
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSPC	Civil Society Promotion Center
CSSP	Civil Society Sustainability Project (this project)
DEI	Directorate for European Integration BiH
EU	European Union
FBiH	Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
LAG	Local action group
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
RS	Republika Srpska
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

CSSP Partner Organizations

Acronyms	Name of organization	Sector
KULT	Institute for Youth Development	Employment and labor market
NBR	Independent Development Bureau	Economic development policies
LINK	Association for Entrepreneurship and Work	
CPI	Public Interest Advocacy Center	Public finance management
OKC	Youth Communication Center	Education
PH	Partnership for Health	Health care
ICVA	Initiative and Civil Action	
CRP	Center for Development and Support	Environment protection and energy efficiency
ARD	Association for Rural Development	Agriculture and rural development
FGT	Forum of Tuzla Citizens	Justice
	Helsinki Committee for Human Rights RS	
FSU	Foundation for Social Inclusion in BiH	Human rights – marginalized group
IBHI	Initiative for Better and More Humane Inclusion	
TI	Transparency International BiH	Fight against corruption
CIN	Center for Investigative Reporting	
	Women to Women	Women's rights
	Women Interactive Rural Center	
	Action	Culture

Networks working within the CSSP

KOMA	The Coalition of Marginalized Groups in BiH
EFEKT	Cross-sector Network for Sustainable Energy
K2020	Network Culture 2020
LEDnet	Network for Local Economic Development in BiH
Womennet	Network for women's rights
AKADEMAC	Network in education sector
Judicial network	Network in justice sector
Network for creating a more enabling business environment	Network in sector of employment and labor market
Health network	Network in health sector
Cross-sectoral Network for Agriculture and Rural Development	Network in agriculture sector
Network for Budget Responsibility	Network in public finance management sector

Background

This document presents the Final Report for the period September 1, 2013 to December 31, 2018 of the Civil Society Sustainability in Bosnia and Herzegovina Project, in accordance with the Contract No. AID-168-13-00006 between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Centers of Civic Initiatives (CCI).

The five-year project Civil Society Sustainability in Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter CSSP) in total value of 9.380.000 USD had been implemented by the Centers for Civic Initiatives, in the capacity of the lead implementing partner, and the Centers for Civil Society Development, in the capacity of the project partner.

The goal of the project was to is to strengthen and maintain the capacity of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH) civil society to influence the creation and implementation of public policies of interest to citizens. It successfully increased the civic engagement in the policy development, government monitoring and oversight of key structural, political, social and economic reforms essential for EU integration, indirectly increasing government accountability as well. While helping the civil society to better engage and join forces with other key stakeholders in business, government and the media, and to focus on areas of comparative advantage, the CSSP also developed internal capacities and structures of the targeted CSOs to ensure sustainability and financial viability after the project closure.

The CSSP project **directly involved 21 CSOs and 12 networks** in the implementation of the project activities, along with the large number of stakeholders from different areas of social life in the country, indirectly supporting at least 100 active CSOs in the country. Responding to all the identified and numerous challenges, the CSSP ensured stronger visibility of all participating stakeholders and their networks, implementing measures identified in their sustainability and communication strategies, and reinforcing capacities of all stakeholders participating in the project implementation, applying the OCA methodology. While directly contributing to the improvement of the legal framework for the cooperation between the CSOs and governments, CSSP enhanced ability of the CSOs to seek and recognize alternative sources of funding, other than exclusively foreign donations.

More than 100 policy-changing initiatives and 50 supported campaigns were successfully implemented. Citizen participation in the decision-making processes was noticeably increased and empowered, increasing the transparency of the overall system as well. Lead implementing organizations were particularly keen to maintain intense and regular level of information release for public, informing the citizens about ongoing campaigns for different public policies and work of their political representatives at all levels.

The CSSP represents the largest single project initiative ever in this area in the whole Western Balkans region, addressing the whole spectrum of needs of the robust civil society community in BiH, offering and successfully providing holistic support to the civil society partners to resume more effective and visible role in the government policy processes.

Executive summary

Interacting with large number of civil societies, government and media stakeholders, the project:

- positively and visibly contributed to the readiness of the authorities to cooperate with CSOs;
- significantly increased the impact of CSOs on public policies, facilitating the approach of the CSOs to the adequate tools and giving them strong visibility;
- directly boosted professionalism and competencies of CSOs;
- Strongly and positively affected the development of the program, institutional and financial sustainability of CSOs;
- strongly stimulated intense flow of the reliable and objective information about public policies and related processes, directly facilitating access of the CSO partners to the media outlets;

Government representatives actively and directly participated in more than **1,000 events organized** under the auspices of this project, contributing to **more than 100 civil society initiatives** in the 12 outlined priority areas. Holistic support provided under the CSSP project stimulated most viable and productive level of CSO engagement in the last 20 years, or ever - since the concept of civil society activism was introduced in the country. The project supported 50 successful campaigns, convened **550 trainings** and educational events directly hosting **7,500 citizens**, and released over **10,000 news and information** for CSOs in the reporting period.

New set of criteria for inclusion of the civil society partners was developed, offering floor for participation of wider community forum (civil society, business, media, academia) through formed Local Advisory Groups in the identification of the priority topics of relevance for the targeted community. Strong citizen interest-based partnerships were developed in the 12 different sectors (culture, economic development, human rights, employment and labor market, judiciary, health care, women right, education, fighting corruption, environment and energy efficiency, agriculture and public finance management), evolving into functional and sustainable networks exceeding the project life span.

Each of the 12 sectoral networks had access to the services and support of the assigned media representatives, getting first-hand tips and information about good cooperation practices between CSOs and media, with an aim to provide objective, independent information to citizens.

The CSOs were exposed to the intense training programs in management, networking and sustainability planning. Key documents of the 21 targeted CSOs the project partnered up with, were revised, improved or developed for the first time (strategic plans, communication plans, sustainability strategies), in line with the recommended OCA methodology. Internal organizational policies were improved, and quality standards raised. CSOs successfully piloted alternative funding attempts that were not tested in BiH before, resulting in the increased financial viability of the organizations.

As one of the leading advocacy organizations in BiH, the CCI was generously transferring practical knowledge and know-how to the organizations in the **development of the campaign plans** and execution of tasks, particularly those concerning the media tactics and successful citizen involvement, helping the CSO partners grow into visible leaders within their sectors. Unique database of information gathered and interpreted by the CCI was used by the media and CSOs as a single comprehensive transparent and reliable source of information about the work

of the executive and legislative authorities at all levels in the country (more than 500 reports available for the reporting period, with information reaching over 1 million citizens).

The CSPC's Resource Centre (RC) has empowered more than 100 local CSOs, convening 550 educational/training events hosting a broader forum of CSOs for more than 7,500 citizens. More than 10,000 news and information of relevance for the CSOs were published by the CSPC's RC in the reporting period.

The project was particularly proud of the achieved improvement of the legal framework for CSO work – introduction of the **Code of Ethics for the work of CSOs** and signing the agreement with the Council of Ministers of BiH to **introduce tax relief for the CSO work** and engagement.

The Pod Lupom Coalition successfully monitored Local Elections 2016 and General Elections 2018, involving more than 7,000 citizens¹/non-partisan observers in the election observing. These were the largest organized civic election observation campaigns in BiH that were conducted with full local ownership, by the 6 participating CSOs, members of the Coalition, and contributed to the free and fair elections and development of national capacities for non-partisan observation as one the most significant democracy tools available. The CCI developed qualitative analysis with regards to the findings of the non-partisan observations, underlining relevance of certain topics and providing recommendations for improvement.

Applying innovative communication tools brought the work of civil society closer to the public, highlighting the relevance of civil society efforts in changing and initiating public policies and intensifying opportunities for the direct communication with citizens.

The portal Virtual Parliament (<http://www.virtuelniiparlament.ba>), had a dual task: to present information collected during monitoring of the parliaments and the governments, but also to open direct communication channel between the citizens and their elected representatives. The portal gives a simple yet accurate insight into the work of the institutions and individuals, providing powerful tool to the public, to measure impact on the individual and collective political contribution of the elected political officials and the parties they are affiliated to. Additional platform for communication with citizens was offered through the organization of the 38 townhall meetings/space for the direct dialogue between the citizens and the elected political officials.

The first, and so far, the only Internet television in Bosnia and Hercegovina, InicijativaTV, was activated and it broadcasted content about BiH society, relevant for the citizens, but also for the civil society organizations that were given the direct communication channel to clarify their missions and the goals for which they stand.

It is important to underline huge relevance of the complementary activities of the project partners, as the CCI has been working on monitoring the performance of all governments and parliaments in the country and the election observation process, while the CSPC was providing relevant capacity building support to the civil society organizations through its Resource Center. More than 500 monitoring reports on the performance of all parliaments and governments in the country published during the implementation period, allowed for the CSOs and public to have direct access to information, improving their start position to introduce

¹ 3,000 in the first cycle; 4,000 in the second election cycle

changes and advocate for the improvement of situation in specific sectors and in general/in exercising democracy.

Results and impact

The CSSP was divided into 3 main project components:

- 1) establishment of partnerships within 12 identified sectors of the civil society
- 2) capacity building and sustainability and
- 3) campaigns and monitoring.

Networks

Eleven (11) sectoral networks gathering more than 1,000 members from the civil society sector, private sector/business representatives, academia and media had identified more than 150 sectoral priorities that were advocated for. Sectoral networks had effectively partnered up with relevant various stakeholder groups in order to identify relevant required policy changes. Formed Local Advisory Group had a significant role in the selection of the priority topics, but also had a say in the final selection of the project partnered civil society organizations. Mid-term evaluation findings confirmed genuine interest and participation of the sectoral networks' members in campaigning and advocacy efforts.

The most significant achievement under this project component is the fact that the **sectoral networks are sustainable and determined to continue working after the project life span**. The Coalition KOMA, EFEKT Network, Health Network, Akadamac (ENG: Academician) and LedNet network, have actively continued their work upon the closure of the project, using their own internal strengths and networking capacities to advocate for solving problems in their areas. It is relevant to underline that the CSSP supported development of the image and positioning of the networks, facilitating their recognition by the stakeholders as the authentic and/or expert groups with relevant content to offer in resolving specific set of problems.

Sustainability

For the first time in BiH, the OCA process was carried out to assess the effectiveness of the capacity building interventions undertaken by 21 civil society organizations and their progress made in the implementation of the CSSP project.

In the process of building internal capacities, within the framework of the Sustainability and Communication Strategy, partner organizations prepared and supplemented almost 300 documents. This volume of the documents is the eclectic indicator of the previous shortcomings in the construction of organizational structures and weakness on the part of the civil society organizations to respond to frequent donor and public demands.

Furthermore, more than 330 activities and 170 trainings on more than 80 topics were carried out within the OCA Sustainability Plan, primarily focusing on the capacity building of partner organizations in segments aligned with the goals of the sustainability and communication strategies. These activities directly and significantly boosted competencies of all organizations, especially in the work with government officials on changes in public policies, developing preconditions to conduct **50 successful advocacy campaigns** for public policies changes and thematically support over 100 initiatives for policy changes.

The financial resources provided from alternative sources at the end of the project amounted to over 4,500,000 KM, exceeding the projected increase in the provision of these funds by 30%, and compared to the initial estimated amount of 2,783,318 KM needed to finance core activities of partner organizations. It must be noted that not all partners were equally successful in accessing funds from domestic sources, selling their services on the market, or collecting donations and membership fees.

Thus 45% of the partners ensured national/domestic funding in total value of more than 1,600,000 KM. 60% of the partners collected funds from their commercial activities in total value of 2,800,000 KM. Finally, remaining 50,000 KM was ensured by approximately 15% of the partners from donations and membership fees.

The CSSP achieved significant results in the improvement of the institutional cooperation between the civil society organizations and the government. Some of the mechanisms/procedures formally agreed upon under the auspices of this project and officially recognized by the government, are as follows:

- Agreement of Cooperation between the Council of Ministers and CSOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Initiated consultation processes the Agreement of Cooperation of the Government of the Federation of BiH and the CSOs;
 - initiated the process of creating the Rulebook on the criteria and conditions for financing and co-financing programs and projects in the areas of public interest carried out by associations and foundations;
 - initiated process for the formation of the Council for Civil Society Council of Ministers;
 - Submitted initiatives for changes and amendments to the Law on Income Tax and the Law on Income Taxes in Federation of BiH and Republic of Srpska;
 - Created, promoted and signed Code of Conduct for CSOs in BiH;

Campaigns

Public policy changes are the key component of the CSSP project. The project directly improved the quality of life of citizens in BiH so as the implementation and participation of civil society stakeholder groups in the development of public policies in the indicated 12 sectors. Highlights of the public policy changes in each of the targeted sectors are presented in the text below.

Culture – the CSSP successfully conducted the single-largest campaign in the field of culture in BiH, resolving the status of the National Museum of BiH and proposing an acceptable model of financing developed by the Association Akcija. The significance of the “I’m the Museum” Campaign is also recognized internationally, with the Association “Akcija” and the workers of the National Museum of BiH being awarded the prestigious Europa Nostra 2016 award, as well as by the special Grand Prix at the prize-giving ceremony in the Zarzuela Historical Theater in Madrid, on May 24, 2016. This campaign conducted through the CSSP project is considered one of the **five (5) most important initiatives in Europe in that period.**

Successfully implemented campaign for the urgent establishment of the Creative Europe Desk that would open access to the EU funding for the cultural institutions from BiH, resulted in the adoption of the proposed policy, and consequently the cultural institutions access the funding through available and open calls for proposals.

Economic Development - Unified text of the legislative framework regulating business start-up models and conditions was developed and agreed upon under the auspices of this project. The legislative requirements for the business registration and changes of relevance for the legal transactions of the company were reviewed and liberated². Within the framework of the campaign for accelerating the process of business registration reform, the FBiH Parliament adopted the Law on Business Associations of FBiH. This law removes legal uncertainty and strengthens the competitiveness of the FBiH market.

The businessmen were also encouraged to take active role in the campaign for the abolition of the para-fiscal levies. Tangible results and effects were achieved and are implemented and visible in 14 municipalities (Banovici, Lukavac, Kladanj, Gracanica, Vukosavlje, Samac, Zavidovici, Vares, Gorazde, Prozor-Rama, Jablanica, Konjic, Bihac and Velika Kladusa). Twenty – three para-fiscal levies from the categories of administrative municipal and communal taxes, heavy burden for the local businesses, were abolished.

Human Rights - The status of the marginalized, vulnerable societal groups, sustainable systemic solutions through advanced systemic solutions that were achieved as a result of the successful campaigns conducted under this project. Some of the highlighted results are as follows:

- acceptance of the recommendations and proposals of the Coalition of Marginalized Groups KOMA that are consequently included in the Strategy for the Promotion of the Rights and the Status of Persons with Disabilities in the Federation of BiH (2016-2021).³
- the KOMA's recommendations were also successfully embedded in the Strategy for Improving the Social Status of Persons with Disabilities in RS 2017-2020, accompanied by the Action Plans, encompassing the Social Entrepreneurship Platform in RS as well.⁴

The Employment Strategy of the Federation of BiH 2018-2021 was endorsed by the FBiH Government and sent to the FBiH Parliament for its consideration and final adoption. The strategy contains strategic commitments to the development of social entrepreneurship initiated by FUS in BIH and IBHI through the CSSP project.

Employment and Labor Market related activities were focused on the creation of a more enabling business environment and increasing employment opportunities for youth. After successful campaigning, nine municipalities introduced financial incentives for the business development: Livno, Konjic, Kalinovik, Rudo, Visoko, Tesanj, Teslic, Prijedor and Zvornik. One of the most visible campaigns that was initiated by this project was the one that was dealing with the VAT payment date and additional burden, especially on businesses. KULT's initiative to change the deadline for the VAT payment, i.e. prolong it, was supported by more than 30,000 businessmen and young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina. At least 20 professional articles were published by daily papers on the topic of VAT and youth employment.

Judiciary was potentially the most sensitive sector that was opened through this project initiative and probably most resilient to the cooperation with the civil society in general. Involving judicial staff in the process of drafting laws was one of the great successes of this project, as it opens the opportunity for the practitioners to participate in proposing legislative solutions, which was not the case before.

² FBiH Amendments to the Draft Law on Registration of the Business Entities in FBiH, deletion of Article 33

³ The FBiH Strategy was adopted on 23 December 2016, at the 84th session of the FBiH Government.

⁴ The Strategy was adopted on April 27, 2017 at the 18th regular NS Parliament Assembly Session.

The Draft Law on Amendments to the Criminal Procedural Code of FBiH included the recommendations of the Citizens Forum Tuzla and the Judicial Network, regarding the re-introduction of the institute of the application for protection of legality as the available non-judicial remedy and the complaint of the injured party aiming to improve the position of the injured party in the proceedings.

The list of recommendations in the area of judiciary and ethics code of the judicial staff was submitted to the Ministry of Justice and HJPC.

Health Care initiatives and campaigns resulted in the visible improvement of the quality of healthcare services. More than 13,000 citizens supported the campaign 'My Health Does Not Have a Deadline, advocating the lifting of the 30-day deadline for registering with the Employment Bureau as a precondition for the access to the healthcare insurance. Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Health Insurance was adopted, integrating the main recommendations of the Health Network and CSSP project:

- All children without limitations have access to the healthcare until the age of 15,
- Extension of the deadline for registration with the Employment Bureau to 90 days (instead of 30).

In Tuzla Canton, certain categories of population were exempted from co-payments when accessing specific types of health care or prescriptions for medications (children under 15 children under 15, pupils and regular students under 26 and unemployed registered with the Employment Bureau).

Women Rights represented the sector that was both directly targeted by the project as separate sector and taken care of as a crosscutting theme in all other sectors.

Amendments made to the Criminal Codes of the Republic of Srpska and Brcko District were made in line with the Women Network recommendations, introducing tougher penalties against perpetrators of gender-based and intimate partner violence. Maternity leave payments were finally regulated by the cantonal legislation and paid to the mothers in Hercegovina-Neretva Canton. Unequal access to the maternity rights and entitlements to child benefits was balanced in different cantons in Federation, finally coming to a common set of support for which unemployed mothers/families are entitled.

Agricultural incentives recognized the necessity to identify guaranteed line of support for women and women associations in the agriculture, with available funds allocated for agricultural development at all levels in the country.

Education sector initiatives were focused on establishing the link between the education and labor market. As a result of the campaign conducted by the project, strategic education documents in RS integrated measures to intensify and strengthen link between the education system and labor market.

The Faculty for Transportation in Dobož formed the Council for developing ties and links with markets and used the process of the development of this council as the model to be replicated in other educational institutions in the country. Thus, there are six councils of this type established in six faculties in the country, and six additional faculties that are just undergoing with this process.

Approximately 1,200 students participated in the forums with potential employers. 800 of them left the data in the questionnaire/survey data participated in and became members of the largest available database of the students interested in practical training in BiH, currently administered

by the OKC. Based on the data interpreted from this database, the project convened serious of the events under the name coffee with the employers, resulting in approximately 100 practical training contracts in the companies represented by these employers.

Fighting Corruption - Some of the most visible interventions of the project were in the segment of fighting corruption, with focus on the development of systemic solution that would trigger serial changes in public policies and citizen monitoring of the implementation of public policies. Citizens became better introduced to potential corruption mechanisms and their own role in preventing and fighting corruption.

Constitutional-Legal Committee of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH on June 18, 2016 supported the principles of amendments to the Law on Conflict of Interest, planned for the discussion at the 64th session of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of BiH.

United CSOs' proposals and recommendations were incorporated in the Draft Law on Public Procurement and submitted to the Council of Ministers for further procedure and adoption.

The Transparency International's proposals for amending the Law on Conflict of Interest in the Institutions of BiH entered parliamentary procedure as an initiative signed by eight (8) representatives of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of BiH.

Investigative journalism stories about corruption in public procurement and identified conflict of interest triggered several investigations and public reactions to the identified potential corruption cases.

Environment and Energy Efficiency efforts were divided into two pillars of action: one, aiming to raise the level of citizens awareness of ecology and energy efficiency, and the other focusing on campaigning for public policy changes. 63 seminars were convened with citizens of Tuzla, Banja Luka and Mostar, aiming to present possible mechanisms to reduce consumption of energy, primarily in the household but also in public sector. One of the greatest successes of this project is linked to the environment and energy efficiency sector – adoption of the Law on Energy Efficiency of FBiH, that included over 20 proposals from the civil society organizations advocating for the energy efficiency in FBiH.⁵

With the assistance of the CSSP Project, 14 municipalities designed, and developed energy efficiency plans for their municipalities.

Agriculture – the CSSP was in the way pioneering with the civil society involvement in the field of agriculture, achieving surprisingly strong and tangible results in a relatively short period of time. More than 90% of the proposals created by the ARD in cooperation with other stakeholders, were accepted and included in the BiH Rural Development Strategic Plan, adopted in February 2018. **This plan also directly made it possible for Bosnia and Herzegovina to use pre-accession EU funding in the field of agriculture.**

The initiative to create better conditions for the organic production resulted in the development of the Action Plan for the Improvement of Organic Production in BiH for the period 2017-2021. More than 4,000 citizens petitioned for the adoption of the Roadmap/Action Plan for organic production.

Public Finance Management advocacy efforts were focused to provide information to public on relevance of the monitoring of the public finances and to encourage citizen participation in

⁵ The government representatives were rejecting all previous actions and initiatives for more than four years.

the monitoring processes regarding public finances and budgets. During the media campaign “Looking for a Budget for Citizens”, seven street actions were organized, and 11,600 leaflets distributed to the citizens, with clear information that budgets need to be created for citizens. Significant contribution to the overall transparency, in the recommended post-audit follow-up processes, was recognized and successfully integrated in the draft Law on Parliamentary Oversight.

Also, we also emphasize that the Proposal of the Law on Amendments to the FBiH Budget Law, which introduces a budget for citizens, in the parliamentary procedure. The Committee on Economic and Financial Policies of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the FBiH will require that the FBiH Parliament pronounce the Proposal of the Law. New changes proposing the introduction of a budget for citizens were integrated in the proposal of the Law on Amendments to the FBiH Budget Law that was sent to the parliamentary procedure. The Committee for the Economic and Financial Policies of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the FBiH will require the adoption of this proposal.

Monitoring of work of all 13 governments and 13 parliaments in Bosnia and Herzegovina was continuously conducted over the reporting period, with more than 2,500 minutes from the sessions processed, over 4,000 official newspaper releases and – finally – 468 reports on the monitoring of the work of governments and parliaments released to public. The press conferences and press releases broadcast in the leading media, individual media appearances, Initiative TV and social networks reached and provided information about work of monitored institutions to more than 700,000 citizens.

CCI developed consolidated reports before the General Elections 2018, describing the work of all ministers and deputy ministers during the four-year mandate and all government levels in the country. This is how CCI provide direct and reliable information about the level of activism and political profile of the elected officials during the monitor. Debts reached the citizens before the voting processes.

Several hundred initiatives to improve the work of governments was sent, and 100 of them were accepted. One of the most important initiatives for the overall transparency of the work of the governmental institutions is the one that the CCI has been advocating for a long period of time – to ensure that government institutions (26 of them) work based on the adopted annual work plans that are available beforehand. After this significant breakthrough, the CCI’s start is to slowly open the process that would enable direct citizen participation in drafting these annual plans, ensuring that citizen inputs are taken into consideration and integrated in the annual work plans where possible and relevant.

In addition to this important document for the work of the institutions, the CCI insisted on adhering to the procedures and deadlines for budgeting, where significant progress was recorded and noticed⁶.

Nine qualitative analyses focused on the recommendations to remove problems in the functioning of the governmental and parliamentary institutions that were noticed and observed during the monitoring processes, were consequently taken into consideration and had positively

⁶ Almost two thirds of cantonal budgets in the past 12 years have been adopted with significant delays. After a persistent insistence from the CCI in the form of the initiative followed up by the series of the meetings, the situation changed for the better, resulting in a visibly improved work of the cantonal institutions in terms of meeting deadlines in financial planning and adoption of the budgets.

affected and influenced the work of the institutions. One quarter of submitted 400 recommendations was accepted and integrated in the work of the governments and parliaments – 100 recommendations in total.

Example: delegate Zdravko Krsmanović (NDP), invoking the CCI's research, initiated the adoption of the “Law on Effects of the Existing Legislation in the National Assembly in RS”. His initiative was unanimously accepted and integrated in the Work Plan of the National Assembly of RS 2016.

Elections – The Pod Lupom Coalition successfully monitored Local Elections 2016 and General Elections 2018, involving more than 7,000 citizens/non-partisan observers in the election observing. Consequently, the possibility of the electoral fraud due to systematic and intense monitoring was reduced. The citizen interest in monitoring the election processes was strongly stimulated and encouraged, focusing especially on the younger voters in conveying the message about the relevance of the monitoring of the electoral processes.

The Media

During the five-year implementation period, the project achieved extraordinary results in gaining visibility and ensuring strong media presence and attention. More than 11,000 press reports related to the CSSP activities had been documented. This is, without any doubt, the strongest visibility and media presence ever achieved by a project in BiH. Access to the media outlets helped the CCI and other participating civil society organizations to mobilize public interest regarding certain problems and topics more than they would be able to in a much longer period, but without adequate media coverage. During the project implementation, there were six media announcements per day related to the project activities (in average). The CCI's Internet TV, InicijativaTV, and the video production team along with other mechanisms available, produced and arranged broadcasting at the public broadcast TV in BiH – BHT. Two serials of the programs “12 Necessary”, strongly contributed to promotion and better understanding of the work of civil society organizations in BiH. The share of the press coverage of grantees in the total CSSP's coverage, increased from 6% in the first programming year, to 60% in the last programming years.

The project underlines the success of the two campaigns that were supported with strong media coverage:

- “I am the Museum” campaign generated enormously high interest of the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also huge international interest, coming from the cultural workers and artists of the world. During the two months of intense campaigning, approximately 3 to 5 articles a day about the process were released in printed media, web portals, in the form of agency news and/or TV program. The message about the campaign was reaching up to 150,000 citizens a day, leading to the rapid change of the public image of the National Museum, and awareness of the general public and decision-makers about the necessity to urgently resolve legal and financial status of the cultural institution in question.
- The campaign to stop discrimination against the new mothers under the name “We Are Not Alone” generated strong media attention. The event was simultaneously organized on March 8, 2016, in seven towns in BiH (Bihac, Livno, Mostar, Tuzla, Zenica, Sarajevo, Orasje). There were more than 80 media activities documented with regards to this event, by all media outlets in the country – state and entity level, but also smaller local media outlets. The message about the campaign and its relevance reached the large

number of citizens simultaneously, using strong power of united messaging through the multiple media outlets available.

BRANA Network of 23 organizations is the first civil society initiative in BiH dedicated to full transparency in the use of funds for the recovery of flooded areas after the 2014 floods. The Network contributed to the strengthening of overall transparency and accountability in the work of public institutions in BiH, the private sector and donors, especially in the sphere of donor funds expenditure. The network serves as an example of the good expenditures monitoring model in similar circumstances/for similar purposes. Based on the collected data on donations from international and national sources, in total value of over 400 million KM, BRANA had developed the unique database, available to public through an interactive map and web-portal www.brana.ba. The visitors have multiple browsing options under different criteria: donors, types of assistance, municipalities - locations, and donation values.

New communication tools

- 38 townhall meetings fostering the open dialogue between the elected political officials at the cantonal, entity, and state level and the citizens, having an open discussion about the real-life issues relevant for the quality of life of citizens and political engagement of their elected officials to meet the citizen expectations. These events enabled direct communication between 3,000 people and more than 200 elected officials from different levels of government.
- 14 townhall meetings were recorded and broadcast by the BHT1, every Sunday from May, 19 until August 13, 2017. The discussion about public security in Sarajevo Canton, was broadcast on May 21, 2017 and was the most watched program mission of this type on BHRT with the share of 4.65% (56,655).
- 24 programs with a focus on the work of civil society organizations were designed and produced, each of them covering one of the project thematic sectors and presenting key activities implemented by the civil society organizations/sectoral partners on the project. These programs were broadcast in two serials on BHT1 and on InicijativaTV programs.
- 12 video clips in duration of 10 to 12 minutes were made for the 12 sectoral partners to provide retrospective of the activities and elements of their campaigns, as well as to track the development of the sectoral networks since the early days in 2014 until June 2018.
- During the kick-off event in 2014, the CSSP presented the film, outlining all sectors and organizations that would be involved by the program. During 2018, one holistic movie captured the activities of all civil society organizations active under the auspices of the CSSP project, adequately presenting the key results achieved during the five-year implementation period.
- Monitoring data is stored in the form of a specialized electronic database presented to the public through the E- monitoring and the Virtual Parliament websites.

Component I: Establish partner networks

The CSSP either formed or improved the work of 11 sector networks⁷ that bring together more than 1,000 **members**/representatives of government, NGOs, business companies, the media and academic community. The members of the network identified more than 150 sector problems. The solutions for the problems were advocated through the project component III – advocacy campaigns.

New networks were established in the women’s rights, human rights, justice, education and employment and labor market sectors. Existing networks were expanded in the health care, economic policy, agriculture and rural development, and the environmental protection and energy efficiency sectors. In the anti-corruption sector, the CSSP is cooperating with an established network.

Sector networks have been strengthened structurally and their visual identity elements and slogans contributed significantly to fast-growing recognition in the media.⁸

In addition to the networks' meetings and individual meetings of the members, several tools have been established to achieve more intensive communication. An example that stands out is the Network for development of a more enabling business environment and its web platform created exclusively for this purpose, which, according to the sector leader, simplified and accelerated the overall communication by providing a single storage platform for all documents (analyses, correspondence files in a chronological order, bulletins, legislations, etc.) and that is available at all times to all members. Other sector networks have created open interactive web platforms, web pages, and are using social networks with profiles on Facebook and Twitter (KOMA, Akadamac, Womennet...).

Networks’ members also communicated and received information through newsletters and periodic bulletins. KOMA created the network’s electronic bulletins and distributed them to all members (including persons that collaborated with KOMA). The Network for development of a more enabling business environment in BiH and the Justice network also publish and send out periodic bulletins with information about the network’s activities.

BiH civil society efficiently and through sector networks created partnerships with various stakeholders in order to identify the necessary improvements of policies. The vast majority of the sector networks participated in public advocacy campaigns⁹.

The biggest achievement is that the sector networks will continue their work after the end of the CSSP project. Members of the sector networks apply to various donors use the networks as a tool for this purpose. The KOMA Coalition, ***EFEKT Network, Healthcare network, Akadamac, LedNet have continued their work after the end of the project and*** are using their members' strength to advocate for the solutions of the problems in their sectors. It is particularly important to mention that the stakeholders and public recognized these sector networks as the

⁷ It was not anticipated to establish a new formal network in the anticorruption sector; instead it was anticipated to establish cooperation with the existing networks and to work on their networking;

⁸ An effective slogan of the Justice network “In the service of justice!”

⁹ Verified in the mid-term evaluation findings.

authentic and expert groups with relevant content to offer in resolving specific sets of problems in the targeted sectors.

Sector 1: HUMAN RIGHTS OF MARGINALIZED GROUPS

Lead: Foundation for Social Inclusion (FSU) and its partner Initiative for Better and More Humane Inclusion (IBHI)

The Coalition of marginalized groups in BiH “KOMA” has 103 members from several sectors – NGO sector, businesses, representatives of government, the media and individuals. It represents and successfully advocates for the improvement of the status of marginalized groups even after the end of the project and it has become a significant actor in this area.



The inaugural convention of the Coalition took place on November 17, 2014. The Coalition adopted its memorandum of association; it elected the Executive Board and its working bodies. Moreover, the Coalition adopted its name, slogan and logo as well as the Coalition's Activity Plan. During the convention, KOMA presented the document “Priority problems in the sector of human rights of marginalized groups” and the web platform as the central information sharing point and a tool for communication with the public. In late January 2015, the interactive platform received its domain www.koma.ba, which was upgraded in March 2015 to provide an interactive forum. KOMA has a formal structure: the Executive Board, Public Advocacy Bodies (PAB) that manage and participate in implementation of public advocacy campaigns and a Commission for monitoring implementation of the Code of Conduct.

In 2014, the sector network identified 19 problems in the sector and additional 33 problems in 2015 -- KOMA focused on a total of 52 sector priority problems in the sector of human rights of marginalized groups.

“This is a pioneering attempt to shed some light on the problems of marginalized groups and to begin to find solutions in much more frank ways. Less politically, and more essentially.

Mladen Ivanic, the Chairman of BiH Presidency

During four (4) annual conventions that were convened during the project, KOMA set forth their future activities, presented analyses and research studies and agreed on the course of action. Besides representatives of KOMA, the conventions were also attended by representatives of government, the media and academic sector. Mladen Ivanic, the then

Chairman of the BiH Presidency attended the 3rd Convention of the KOMA Coalition.

On December 5, 2017, KOMA organized a media briefing event in Sarajevo to promote a song/video “On the margin”, addressing the (in)visibility of marginalized groups and pointing to the importance of reforms in the social welfare system, especially in the election year of 2018. The event brought together many artists, representatives of civil society, the media and citizens who had the opportunity to see the video for the song and to attend discussions



Promotion of the video
“On the margin”

with authors and performers of the song. The video “On the margin” (Na margini) is available on the FSU's Youtube channel¹⁰.



While marking the World Day of Social Justice, the FSU in BiH and IBHI organized another media briefing event bringing together representatives of the media, government and NGO sector and promoting four videos “Time to take action together ... erase the margins” in cooperation with TV 1 HD. The videos describe many problems of persons with disabilities intending to draw the attention of the public to the fact that persons with disabilities are also a productive part of society and should not be neglected because of their invalidity. The videos are available on the FSU's Youtube Channel¹¹.

Communication with members is regular via email, social networks and the webpage; furthermore, KOMA distributed six electronic bulletins. **The media's great interest in KOMA's activities** additionally bolstered the Coalition's status in the society (458 press reports in four years) .

Sector 2: EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR MARKET

Lead: Institute for Youth Development (KULT)

The Network for creating a more enabling business environment brings together 24 members representative of government/public sector, NGOs and the media. The network identified 10 priority sector challenges and problems in the field of employment and labor market. Creating this network promoted a new approach in laying down the pre-conditions for initiating reforms in the sector of employment and labor market based on horizontal and vertical networking and other forms of cooperation among various sectors (government/public, nongovernmental and business sector) and other social actors. KULT maintained regular communication with members of the Network through a specially designed web platform and Facebook page “BH Business Site” to inform the public about all activities carried out in the sector¹².



Different forms of the project activities covered a broad circle of important stakeholders: for example, the research activities engaged around 260 institutions of government whose information contributed to preparing an analytical report about allocation of incentives to economy; more than 20 media outlets reported on the project activities, and more than 350 institutions and vocational associations were informed in detail about the project through three Network's bulletins.

The Network's members facilitated communication with the decision makers during the creation, sending into procedure and adoption of sets of conclusions about the improvement of

¹⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pYILWxWbKl4>

¹¹ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4YbeVW75kaU_00iQtg3tog

¹² <https://www.facebook.com/rasteretimo.privreda/>

the incentive allocation process in Una-Sana Canton, which the Cantonal Assembly subsequently adopted.

The Network supported its own Association of the unemployed “Otium” in communication with the decision makers and by launching and introducing parliamentary initiatives for amending the Law on mediation in employment and social security of the unemployed individuals to parliamentary procedure achieved the desired result.

The network secured support of more than *30,000 representatives of businesses* for the initiative seeking amendments to the Law on the VAT of BiH, which KULT launched on behalf of the Network.

A functional network created under this project has provided many valuable resources in creating specific changes in the field of employment policies and labor market management and providing opportunities for a broad communication both within the sector and with other sectors too. The network helped to create ideas for how to improve business environment and provide support to businesses to unburden the economy to create new jobs. The network is continuing to work preparing recommendations, guidelines and measures to improve the situation in the sector of employments even after the CSSP project, while remaining recognized by government institutions at different levels as an advisory body.

Sector 3: CULTURE

Lead: Association Akcija and its partner Foundation Mediacycenter

The informal network KULTURA 2020 (K2020) that brings together more than 60 cultural workers, representatives of government, NGOs, the media and academic community was formed in a direct response to the fragmentation of the cultural sector in BiH hindering cultural stakeholders’ joint approach and solidarity. The K2020 network contributed to overcoming the antagonism among different cultural actors in BiH by helping define common grounds and activities focused on resolving the key problems of the entire cultural sector.



The network remains the only initiative of this type in the sector of culture in BiH even after the life of the project.

During the process of forming the network, Akcija carried out around 60 interviews with different representatives of the cultural sector in BiH: Zenica, Mostar, Tuzla, Banja Luka and Sarajevo. The goal was to map key issues/needs of the sector of culture in BiH. The initial meeting of the Network's Coordination Board and the Inaugural Assembly took place in February 2015.



Inaugural Assembly of the K2020 network, February 2015

The Assembly remained the principle body of the initiative (in addition to the informal status of the Network) and met three more times before the project ended. The meetings took place annually. During the meetings, the Assembly reviewed the current and actual activities (support for various initiatives or campaigns) and permanent issues, for example the formalization of the Network's status and membership fees were among the issues that were frequently came up during the meetings, however, no specific conclusions were made.



*K2020's 1st Annual
Assembly*

The structure of the KULTURA 2020 includes the network's Coordination Board (CB) that met three to four times a year and that had 22 members in its first composition. Due to practical and economic reasons, it transformed into a seven-member body in 2017.

The CB reviewed the actual topics and made decisions about relatively urgent issues, while the long-term and more sensitive issues were left to be discussed by the Assembly. In some cases, the CB tactically used the media interest to point to some of the burning issues; for example, during the 3rd meeting of the CB, on April 9, 2015, members and five directors of the Mostar theaters held a joint press conference to point to the extremely poor situation in the sector of culture in Herzegovina-Neretva Canton. **This event drew enormous attention in the media as it was the first joint appearance of the cultural workers from both sides of the City after 23 years.**

The network launched a portal for culture policy and practices www.kultura.ba, which came as the result of the need for more systematic collection and compilation of news, researches, views, policies and strategies in the domain of culture in BiH.

It should be noted that the K2020 network always supported Akcija's campaigns, as it was Akcija that due to its infrastructural capacities and supporting role has always remained the driving force of the Network. In that sense, the Network was embedded in all main activities of Akcija: I am the Museum, advocacy for creation of strategies of culture, discussion on "departization" of the public sector of culture, the campaign for co-financing of BiH applicants in the Creative Europe program, etc.

Cultural workers and activists in Tuzla organized public meetings under the umbrella of the K2020 Network pointing to some of the burning issues in the sector of culture in Tuzla. The November 30, 2015 public meeting "Toward the strategy of development of culture in Tuzla Canton" at the International Gallery of Portraits is an illustration of such an event; during almost two hours of discussions, the participating cultural workers in Tuzla Canton shared many of the problems that they encountered in the work with the public institutions and the primacy of politics over profession.



Advocacy for creation of cultural strategies in the areas from which members of the K2020 come is reflective of the decentralizing position of the cultural network.

Members of the KULTURA 2020 participate in the working groups for preparation of strategies of culture in Zenica and Central Bosnia Canton¹³.

Sector 4: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

Lead: Independent bureau for development (NBR) and its partner Association for entrepreneurship and business “LINK”

The already formed **Network for economic development in BiH** -LEDnet network was adapted as part of the work in the economic development policy sector. The LEDnet network was formed in



2011 however, in July 2014 in Zepce under the CSSP project it revised its memorandum of association in line with the CSSP program requirements¹⁴, which implied expansion of its membership to all three sectors, alignment of all program documents and a change in the management structure. Currently, the Network for economic development in BiH (LEDnet) has 30 members.

The NBR and LiNK as well as other members of the Network worked to identify and resolve the problems such as poor business environment in BiH that affects directly the business and NGO sector. Moreover, CSOs identified priorities and key problems of the business sector and created four advocacy campaigns.

16 regular quarterly meetings (with more than 500 participants) took place to analyze the key issues regarding the work of the network and business environment (economic policies) as well as the progress in finding solutions to these numerous issues. The LEDnet network leadership met during every meeting. Two meetings of the LEDnet's Assembly and 15 meetings of the Board of Directors took place during the program period.

Over 100 consultations and 50 meetings took place. 10 specific contacts were made with other networks. 16 technical meetings took place to discuss various topics relevant to the business environment in BiH, bringing together more over 500 participants.

¹³ The K2020 Esad Delibašić, Slavica Hrnkaš and Oliver Jović joined the Working group for the preparation of the Strategy of Culture of Central Bosnia Canton. Esad Delibasic and Slavica Hrnkas are also members of the Working Group in Zenica.

¹⁴ Bylaw; the Technical Secretariat's Rulebook ; Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, Application for membership, the analysis of implementation of the LEDnet's strategy, new directions and mechanisms of the LEDnet's work. Methodology for creating a new Strategy; the LEDnet's Strategy 2016-2019 was created; The analysis was carried out to examine the level of achievement of the overall and specific conditions for LEDnet membership where it was determined that 96% of member meet the requirements defined in the LEDnet's strategy, while 4% (1 member) does not meet the standards and was excluded from the network based on the Board's decision.

Regular technical meetings of the LEDnet network			
No.	Topic	Location	Date
1.	Revision of the network's program documents	Žepče	July 21-22, 2014
2.	Policies and measures of economic recovery after floods/landslides in BiH	Gradačac	August 27-28, 2014
3.	Accelerating the business registration at the courts in FBiH	Sarajevo	January 28-29, 2015
4.	Business incubation in BiH	Modriča	March 30-31, 2015
5.	Map of parafiscal levies – proposals and recommendations for reduction or abolishment	Mostar	June 7-8, 2015
6.	With advocacy toward better economic development policies for small farmers/agrobusinesses	Bihać	December 16-17, 2015
7.	3 rd Assembly of the LEDnet network	Sarajevo	April 19-2016
8.	Registration of business subjects in FBiH – situation and proposals for improvement	Sarajevo	September 27-28, 2016
9.	Significance and the role of NGO sector in preparing and monitoring implementation of economic policies in BiH	Mostar	December 16-17, 2016
10.	Electronic registry of parafiscal levies of Herzegovina – Neretva Canton in the function of reducing or abolishing parafiscal levies	Mostar	April 6-7, 2017
11.	Electronic registry of parafiscal levies of the Prijedor region in the function of reducing or abolishing parafiscal levies	Prijedor	July 5-6, 2017
12.	Technical and consultative meetings of the networks' bodies	Konjic	September 28-29, 2017
13.	Diversification of the credit and deposit system in FBiH	Sarajevo	December 13-14, 2017
14.	Active policies – improving the labor force employability and professional mobility	Prijedor	January 30-31, 2018
15.	Where are education and labor market in BiH heading?	Mostar	March 27-28, 2018
16.	Registration of business subjects in FBiH	Sarajevo	May 23-24, 2018

The LEDnet network focused on cooperation with government representatives. Many expert meetings were organized in partnership with government institutions such as the meeting organized with the Economic Council of the FBiH Government “Diversification of the credit and deposit system in FBiH” with a goal to emphasize the importance of diversification in creating a better business environment – to increase saving and investment rates that are necessary for economic growth. The FBiH Prime Minister took part in this event.



Expert meeting



Expert meeting in Mostar

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Herzegovina Neretva Canton, the LEDnet organized a conference “Where are education and labor market in BiH heading?” to analyze the possibility of introducing a dual education system in BiH.

During this past period, the network revised its program documents allowing for a more successful work of the network: members promoted the contents on its own web portals and the www.poslovnookruzenje.ba platform, which, in addition to being a database, is also a place for promotion of the network’s work and goals. Bulletins/Newsletter of the LEDnet network are distributed to 2,000 relevant addresses in BiH.

Representatives of the LEDnet network participated in over 150 meetings, public events, workshops, sessions, conferences, etc. They worked to establish partnerships and cooperation with key institutions/organizations from both the public and the private sector in order to advocate for a better business environment and advocacy goals as well as to recruit new members. The LEDnet network monitored and supported the work of other networks, with a focus on the ones with a strong influence on business environment: Network of business incubators, Network for rural development, Agromap network, Alliance for EU integrations, Network for creating a better business environment in BiH, Peace Building Network, Citizens for Europe and Global development network of BiH diaspora, etc.

The LEDnet's recruitment activities brought in 20 new members, representatives of the public and private sector and prominent individuals to help LEDnet become a recognized and respectable player in the sector.

The LEDnet network has built a serious reputation and has become a credible and reliable partner to decision makers in the field of economic development policies. The network participated in the working group for preparing the Action plan of the FBiH Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Crafts and the FBiH Budget Framework Document 2016-2018; the network was also a part of working group for competitiveness and innovations of the local development strategy IPA 2016-2017, the working group for agriculture; it participated in preparing the Strategy of Development of the City of Mostar 2015-2025, the Strategy for Development of Herzegovina Neretva Canton 2017-2020; the Strategy "Local integrated economic development" of Samac and Modrica. Also, the network established cooperation with the Office of Prime Minister of FBiH and secured the Prime Minister's participation in several meetings, which contributed to the visibility of the activity in the media.

Sector 5: JUSTICE

Lead: Forum of Tuzla Citizens and its partner Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Republika Srpska

The justice network brings together 24 members, representatives of the judicial institutions and associations from both BiH entities working together to identify the main problems, to advocate for improvements of the judiciary and to work successfully after the end of the CSSP project. The network has raised some politically challenging and sensitive issues regarding amendments to the Constitution of BiH and the Law on the HJPC and has continued to work on them ever since.



The webpage www.pravosudnamreza.org.ba and the slogan "In the service of justice" communicated some important activities and results achieved through the network's efforts.



Meeting of the Justice network

During seven working meetings, representatives of professional associations, holders of the court and prosecution authorities, NGOs and academic community worked together to develop proposals for how to improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of criminal procedures and strengthen independence of the judicial institutions.

37 electronic bulletins containing the information about the project's activities and projects were designed and distributed. The public and professional community soon recognized the Justice network as an unavoidable factor in the justice reform process in BiH. The network pointed to the necessary reforms of justice i.e. the need for a Justice Reform Strategy 2014-2018 as one of the key requirements in the EU integration process. Many interviews and appearances of the representatives of partner organizations in various media programs and invitations to take part in annual meetings of the judicial institutions, non-project activities (meetings of prosecutors, judges, conference of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council) point to the well-developed relations and mutual respect and acknowledgement within the Network.

The justice network achieved cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of BiH that monitored the project, fully accepted the recommendations and used the network's material as the working material of the Ministry's own working groups while preparing modifications to legislations in the justice sector.

Another significant success is involvement of prominent holders of judicial office (judges, prosecutors, lawyers) are directly involved in creating legislative proposals for improvement of this sector because all past reforms failed to involve professionals in this area and the solutions were frequently imposed without prior consultations and public hearings.

Sector 6: HEALTH CARE

Lead: Partnership for Health (PH) and its partner Initiative and Civil Action (ICVA)

The health care network brings together 45 representatives of NGOs and associations of citizens, representatives of government and the media and aims to send clear and unified messages, to create campaigns to help raise the standards, rights and quality of health care in BiH. The network formed several ad-hoc groups. The health network held 15 quarterly meetings during the implementation of the project.

Members of the network participated in organization and realization of forums, public hearings and other events. Some members contributed substantially to the implementation of activities during media campaigns, especially at the local level. The network collected more than 13,000 signatures in support of the campaign "Health is a right not a privilege". The Code of Conduct was adopted; during the December meetings the network presents and adopts the reports for the preceding year and adopts the Work plan for the subsequent year. The network's members discussed the selection of priority problems that should be in the focus.



Meeting of the network

Furthermore, the network developed the mechanisms and system of support to solving ad hoc problems, which boosted its visibility and credibility. The network is increasingly recognized across BiH and engages in the advocacy process.

The cooperation among the members of the Network capped off in signing the Memorandum of Support (internal agreement of the network's members) allowing the members to access funding from local and international donors. This is how the network's *operational costs for the post-project period are already been covered.*

Sector 7: WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Lead: Association “Women to Women” and its partner Women’s Interactive Rural Center Center

The network Womennet has been established as a tool to achieve a stronger influence on public policies in line with women’s human rights and gender equality. The network brings together over 300 members of civil society organizations, the media, academic community, business, representatives of legislative, executive and judicial authorities to advocate and lobby for changes in the women's rights sector and to eliminate any form of discrimination and exclusion of women that there exist. During 12 regular meetings, members were informed regularly about the activities and progress of the campaigns. 25 interested subjects from across BiH participated in the planning, developing, implementing, reporting, advocating for and contributing to the improvement of public policies in the sector of women’s rights and gender equality, from the local to the state level and to the Network’s sustainability, as an important tool for unification and strengthening of the effort to improve the current situation regarding discrimination and exclusion of women.

In year I, after mapping the situation in this sector (9 consultation meetings in 9 towns across BiH), the network carried out a survey involving more than 400 participants to discuss discrimination and social exclusion of women. The survey results delivered five (5) key problems on which the Network focused its further actions.

The Womennet members are also members of other networks, the Coalition of marginalized groups – KOMA that was also formed during the CSSP program, and the networks outside the the CSSP, such as the Peace Building Network, BiH Women's network, Justice Network, Safe network against violence against women, Sporazum plus, Regional women's lobby, Initiative of female citizens for constitutional changes, Network of women for rural development GARD, Initiative for monitoring the EU integration.

The Womennet network established a great cooperation with representatives of government who supported publicly the campaign and a number of public events were organized at the FBiH Parliament in partnership with the FBiH Parliament Women's Caucus, the President of the FBiH, the FBiH Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Gender Center, etc.

Out of all events, the 8th March events and thematic meetings at the House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament really stood out, as well as the “orange day” actions in ten towns across FBiH to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls. Further, the network’s street actions organized to point to the discrimination against new mothers and the need for tougher punishments for the perpetrators of violence against women also received notable attention from the press and public in general. The network involved the media directly in all events to encourage their participation (the breakfast with the media events) to ensure stronger contacts and viable relations with journalists to sensitize them to cover the issues.

Sector 8: EDUCATION

Lead: Youth Communication Center (OKC)



The Akadamac Association, with more than 100 members (representatives of legislative and executive government, business sector, NGOs, academic community and the media) for labor market and higher education alignment has continued to advocate for a market-oriented education system in BiH even after 2018.

The research showed that the universities' plans rarely or almost never align their enrollment numbers with the labor market needs and that the lack of practical training was yet another burning issue of the higher education system in BiH. The Research results were presented at the roundtable “Communication between the labor market and higher education – the role of the media”.



Akadamac started off with 40 members from four key economic, political and university centers: Banja Luka, Sarajevo, Mostar and Tuzla. The number grew to 100 members (and in the last period the number of members from the media grew extensively). Akadamac developed its Communication strategy (internal and external) as well as the long-term Strategic plan of the Association.

The Association's focus was to recruit new members from the targeted universities where the goal was to establish the Councils for higher education and labor market alignment. Every year, Akadamac organized two series of regional meetings in Mostar, Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Tuzla, along with regular monthly meetings with key members, leads of the campaigns' activities in that period.¹⁵

Some members of the sector network contributed greatly in the preparation and adoption of strategic documents in Republika Srpska, making sure that the goals and measures regarding alignment of higher education and labor market were embedded. The Association operated under the slogans “Educated and Employed” and “We connect universities and employers”.

www.akadamac.ba, and the Facebook page www.facebook.com/Akadamac.ba serve as the Association's main communication channel. Many specific and tailored events were organized to improve relations with the media such as the media weekend in Trebinje to bring together representatives of the media outlets and present them a broader picture of NGOs work, relations between the media and CSOs, and how that can be used in the work of the Akadamac Association.

The Association remains active after the life of the project and continues to be recognized and acknowledged as the key partner in this area in BiH.

¹⁵ Celebrating 20 years of the OKC was also used as an opportunity to award certificates to the most prominent members of the Akadamac Association.

Sector 9: FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

Lead: Transparency International BiH (TI BiH) and Center for investigative journalism (CIN)

A formal sector network has not been established in the anti-corruption sector because of the existing anti-corruption network ACCOUNT, and cooperation was established with various stakeholders to combat corruption more effectively and form a group of individuals and organizations to support and engage in anti-corruption efforts.

Cooperation with relevant institutions was strengthened to secure support for advocacy activities focusing on transparency of institutions, whistleblower protection, prevention of corruption, transparency in employment, and publication of monitoring reports in the mentioned issue areas.

Coordination was established with groups of MPs in entity's parliaments, and based on this cooperation, MPs discussed the initiatives of the Transparency International (for example, MPs in the National Assembly RS discussed the TI's recommendations and adopted the TI's amendment to the Criminal Code.

The Ministry of Justice of RS embedded in its Anti-corruption Action Plan the TI's proposals regarding the improvement of transparency of institutions, legal framework for access to information, conflict of interest, recruitment procedures in the public sector and strengthening of the capacities of government institutions.

Cooperation was established with the FBiH institutions to improve legal tools regulating transparency of recruitment in the public administration. The TI BiH prepared amendments to the Law on Labor (adopted by the FBiH Parliament prescribing the obligation of carrying out public competitions in the public sector) and draft of the Regulation on public competitions.

The TI BiH has established cooperation with the Ministry of Justice to work together on implementing public hearings on the Law on Freedom of Access to Information, which was withdrawn from the procedure upon the request from the TI BiH.

The initiatives of the civil sector were harmonized, and cooperation was strengthened to advocate more efficiently for the improvement of anticorruption legislation. The cross-sector anticorruption advocacy group was established to that end.

Sector 10: ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Lead: Center for Development and Support (CRP)

The Cross-Sector EFEKT network for environmentally friendly energy in BiH has 117 members from all spheres of life in BiH including key employees of international development agencies working in BiH in the field of environment protection, energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy. Members are also employees and representatives of the municipal, city,



cantonal and entity institutions of government, public companies, producers of energy efficient technologies, prominent professors, academic community, NGO experts, employees of BiH media outlets specializing in environmental issues and EU integrations.

As part of the CSSP project, EFEKT held 11 coordination meetings¹⁶ bringing together 151 members. In addition, the network's members maintained their regular communication via mailing list during the planning and implementation of advocacy campaigns.



Besides regular coordination meetings, a two-day training took place on July 6-7, 2017 in Neum for 27 members of EFEKT network. The topics covered were: Public advocacy, Networking, Monitoring and Evaluation. On June 22, 2018, a two-day training on Strategic planning was organized for 23 members of the EFEKT network. By realizing the activities of the Component II (campaigns 1,2, and 3) and other CRP's and Enkon's projects and consultation contracts, the network has increased its visibility, especially in the public administration sector, among the institutions and business sector. This significantly strengthened participation of representatives of these sectors in the network's membership. Involvement of relevant experts in the implementation of the CRP's and Enkon's contracts resulted in: i) constant increase of the EFEKT network's visibility; ii) achievement of the goals of the CRP's sustainability strategy 2015-2019.

Sector 11: AGRICULTURE

Lead: Association for Rural Development (ARD)

The cross-sector network for agriculture and rural development was formed initially through two bodies: the Network for rural development in BiH that brings together 18 NGOs in BiH and represents the civil sector in the cross-sector network and the Public-Private sector group that brings together representatives of the public and private sector from BiH. Through cooperation with the sector network and USAID FARMA II project, the ARD committed to advocating for the adoption of a Strategy for rural development at the level of BiH.

Because advocacy is relevant only through authentic representation, the ARD invested serious efforts to engage direct producers in the work of the network by changing the network's structure into a cross-sector network for agriculture and rural development that now has 57 members, representatives of associations of agricultural producers and processors, private agricultural sector (processors, buyers, distributors,...) and representatives of scientific and research institutions as public sector.

From October 2015 to September 2016, two workshops took place to promote the network and recruit new members. The cross-sector network was joined by 15 new members.

¹⁶ of its members (1) Sarajevo on November 6, 2014; (2) Banja Luka on April 3, 2015; (3) Mostar on October 6, 2015; (4) Bihać on May 13, 2016; (5) Sarajevo on September 20, 2016; (6) Tuzla on November 29, 2016; (7) Banja Luka on January 24, 2017; (8) Mostar on April 26, 2017; (9) Bihać on September 15, 2017; (10) Međugorje on November 22, 2017 and (11) Banja Luka on January 24, 2018.

From October 2016 to March 2017, the Cross-sector network organized three formal meetings and a number of informal meetings to discuss the ARD's advocacy campaign. Using the Google group and mailing list, the network's members communicated and shared information on a regular basis.

In order to examine the possibilities and provide justification for transforming the Private-Public Sector Group into a think-tank that would contribute to the work of the Cross-sector network, a roundtable meeting entitled "Agricultural policies and the work of think-tanks as a tool in improving public policies" took place on March 2, 2015, in Stanišići near Bijeljina, with participation of 25 representatives of the academic community and civil sector.

In 2016, the ARD, Nesto Vise from Sarajevo and the Center for Economic and Rural Development from Banja Luka formed a think-tank "AgorQuest" as the first think-tank in BiH to cover the agriculture and rural development sector.

Numerous activities on building the capacities of the Cross-sector network and training took place in 2014 and 2015 (a three-day training on strategic positioning of the network in Teslić, a three-day workshop on organizational development, five one-day trainings on Researching and Strengthening Public Policies, five one-day trainings on building capacities of the Network, training on Lobbying and Advocacy), as a contribution of the EU AcoRD project to the CSSP project. The Network for rural development strengthened its capacities through participation in the TACSO Vesta Training program, three three-day workshops to develop advocacy capacities of the network. As a result of the training, the Network for rural development in BiH prepared its advocacy plan and implemented a two-day workshop on strategic planning for a three-year period.

From October 2017 to March 2018 the network analyzed the sector problems in agriculture and rural development and examined relevant policies. The network also maintained the dynamics of the meetings. The problems were identified in the sectors of fruit and vegetable production, cattle breeding, beekeeping and medicinal and aromatic plants as well as relevant public policies and priority interventions and proposals for better monitoring of public policies. Furthermore, the network developed indicators of the priority interventions.¹⁷

Members of the Team for monitoring public policies for the sectors of fruit and vegetable production, cattle breeding, beekeeping and medicinal and aromatic herbs were appointed during these meetings. Moreover, the monitoring plans for the sectors were adopted. A format of the report on agricultural and rural development policies was created in early March 2018 while a monitoring plan for implementation of the strategic goals and priorities in the sectors of fruit and vegetable production, cattle breeding, beekeeping and medicinal and aromatic herbs

¹⁷ A working meeting of the Network was organized on December 21, 2017 to identify the problems and avenues to monitor policies in the sector of fruit production based on the research and relevant policies. Another meeting was organized on January 31, 2018 to identify the problems and ways to monitor policies in the sector of vegetable production based on the research and relevant policies. On February 27, 2018, the Network identified a set of problems and ways to monitor policies in the sector of cattle breeding while on March 28, 2018 the Network held a meeting to discuss the problems and ways to monitor policies in the sector of medicinal and aromatic herbs (MAP). Report on the situation and problems in the agriculture sector and a Summative report of all sectors were published on the ARD's site.

was prepared and sent to the 14-member team. The Policy report was published on the ARD's web site.¹⁸

Sector 12: PUBLIC FINANCES

Lead: Foundation Public Interest Advocacy Center (CPI)

Initially, the CPI Foundation focused on creating a network in the sector of public finances, identifying the high-quality interlocutors and actors in the civil and business sector, academic community, media and government. During the kick-off event of the sector network, all members decided to form *a Network for budgetary responsibility*.

The network identified 12 key problems in the public finance sector and selected three problems as the subject of the advocacy campaigns. Members of the network were actively involved in advocacy for introduction of a budget for citizens as a mandatory budgetary document in the budget cycle.

1. Introduction of a Budget for citizens as a mandatory document into budget cycles of BiH entities and Brcko District;
2. Improving implementation of Regulation on rules for participation of the interested public in the process of drafting FBIH legal documents and other regulations by the FBIH Ministry of Finance;
3. Introducing sanctions for adverse audit reports.

During nine regular meetings, the network presented the findings of the CPI's research studies. In addition, participants discussed the advocacy campaigns and activities of 32 network's members. The CSSP Forum through which the network's members and other interested visitors can leave their comments and proposals to relevant topics that are open for discussion was activated during the project. 14 discussions were opened on various topics within the relevant issue areas. The CPI Foundation held individual meetings with potential members from across BiH in order to expand the network and strengthen its expertise as well as to strengthen its media, business and academic component. The network worked intensely to attract and educate volunteers. Having gone through appropriate training and education, five volunteers remained at the disposal of the network.

The network developed a methodology to examine budget openness at the lower government levels (entities, cantons and Brcko District) and carried out a thorough research for the lower levels, according to previously selected areas:

- Presence of budget classifications (economic, administrative, functional) in the budget documents;
- Accessibility of information about debt and composition of the debt in the budget documents;
- Presence of program budgeting in the budget documents;
- Assessment of multi-year revenues and expenditures.

¹⁸ www.ardbih.org

The network carried out a survey in 144 municipalities in BiH focusing on the issues such as publication, availability and timeliness of the eight most important documents in the budget process (Budget Framework Document, Budget Proposal, Adopted Budget, Execution of Budget (quarterly and annually). The network's members participated directly in advocacy campaigns of the Foundation CPI: in preparing the amendments to the finance legislation at the levels of Federation of BiH, Republika Srpska and Brcko District, in the initiative for introduction of the budget for citizens as a mandatory document in the budget cycle and in preparing amendments to the Law on Parliamentary Oversight of BiH.

Component II: Capacity building and sustainability

Significant, visible and measurable progress has been made in many aspects regarding the development and improvement of CSOs' functioning. Below are several highlights of this aspect:

Building legal framework for NGO work and institutional cooperation with government

- Protocol of Cooperation was signed between the Council of Ministers of BiH, the Government of FBiH and NGOs in BiH;
- Establishment of procedures for a transparent allocation of funds for NGOs in BiH;
- Creating legislative assumptions for the creation of an affirmative environment for the development of philanthropy;
- Establishment of self-regulating mechanisms for NGOs in BiH – a Code of Conduct.

There are many positive changes that partner CSOs initiated and implemented through their networks, both individually and in cooperation with other partner organizations. This joint approach and networking partially compensated for the lack of capacities on the part of many CSOs in BiH, especially because their social role and visibility are somewhat weak and their impact much smaller than it could be. Citizens and representatives of government institutions share similar views of the CSOs' capacities as they require reliable partners with expertise. This confirms that building the capacities of the networks and of the participating CSOs is a necessary step in the realization of the CSSP.

Collection, distribution and sharing of information and organization of educational contents as part of the work of the Resource Center

With limited funding, the SMART Resource Center, the only of this type in Bosnia and Herzegovina, provided many services in 2018: free legal advice for CSOs, a broad spectrum of free training, updated web page information about grants offered by international and local institutions, mentorship and consultation services, access to database of associations and foundations and online library with hundreds of publications that are important for the work of civil society. The Resource Center developed a pool of 65 trainers; many beneficiaries, individuals, organizations and public institutions visit both the webpage and the FB page on a daily basis. Using different social networks, the Center engages with more than 7,000 followers and indirectly has more than 140,000 reactions. During 2018, the webpage registered 4,000,000 visits ¹⁹.

¹⁹ Peace Building Network's webpage presents important information about funding opportunities and other topics relevant to CSOs; the yearly number of visits is over 3,000,000

OCA process – raising and building the capacities and quality of work of the participating CSOs

The CCI and CSPC hired a team of consultants to implement an initial assessment of organizational capacities (OCA) for 22 CSOs participating in the CSSP project. The goal was to allow the CSSP to identify, design and deliver adequate technical and financial support to partner organizations to reach their goals and expected results. The results of the initial assessment laid down the foundation for monitoring the work of partner organizations in all 10 areas of organizational capacities:

- Strategic management
- Relations with membership and target groups
- Project management
- Advocacy capacities and monitoring of public policies
- Service delivery and care for beneficiaries
- Cooperation, partnership and networking
- Management and structure
- Human resources
- Finance and administration
- Media and Public relations

The main outcomes of the initial OCA process were:

- The CSSP's Management Team, managers and employees of 20 evaluated CSOs gained a clear picture of the shortcomings and possibilities for improving their organizational capacities;
- Capacity Building Plans were prepared for every organization participating in the initial assessment;
- Partner organizations used the findings of the initial OCA to develop their own communication and sustainability strategies. CSOs have implemented their Capacity Building Plans since 2014.

In 2016, the second mid-term OCA analyzed the effectiveness of the implemented capacity building interventions, assessed the progress made and identified challenges, new needs and strategies to improve the CSOs' effectiveness and efficiency. The outcomes of the second (mid-term) OCA process were used to adjust and amend the CSOs' Capacity Building Plans through the end of the project in 2018. The main goal of the final OCA process from the first half of 2018 was to assess the effectiveness and progress of the capacity building interventions in 20 CSOs.

The final outcome of the OCA process delivered the following results:

- Almost 300 documents were either adopted or revised as part of the CSOs' communication and sustainability strategies;
- More than 330 activities and 170 trainings on 80 topics were implemented as part of the Sustainability plan.

CSOs secured more than 4,500,000 KM from alternative sources, i.e. almost 1,600,000 KM from local budgets and almost 2,800,000 from commercial activities. The financial resources provided from alternative sources at the end of the project amounted to over 4,500,000 KM, exceeding the projected increase in the provision of these funds by 30%, and compared to the initial estimated amount of 2,783,318 KM needed to finance core activities of partner organizations. It must be noted that not all partners were equally successful in accessing funds from domestic sources, selling their services on the market, or collecting donations and membership fees. Thus 45% of the partners ensured national/domestic funding in total value of more than 1,600,000 KM. 60% of the partners collected funds from their commercial activities in total value of 2,800,000 KM. Finally, remaining 50,000 KM was ensured by approximately 15% of the partners from donations and membership fees.

The following results are visible at the end of the CSSP project cycle:

- Protocol of Cooperation between the Council of Ministers of BiH and NGOs in BiH was signed;
- Consultations on Protocol of Cooperation between the Government of FBiH and NGOs were launched;
- Process of preparing a Rule on Criteria and Conditions for financing and co-financing of the projects of public interest implemented by associations and foundations was launched;
- Process was launched to form a Council for Civil Society at the Council of Ministers of BiH;
- Initiatives were filed to amend the Law on Tax Income and Law on Tax on Profits in the FBiH and RS;
- A Code of Conduct for NGOs in BiH was prepared, promoted and signed;
- The number of news items published through the RC is almost 10,000; the number of educational events-550; more than 7,500 participants directly through the Resource Center and more than 30,000 through other places; the visits to the web page include 3,000,000 entries; almost 8,000 FB users;
- The funding secured from alternatives sources amounted to 4,500,000 KM at the end of the project;
- Almost 300 documents concerning the improvement of internal capacities in the field of sustainability and communications were either prepared or revised;
- More than 330 activities and 170 trainings on over 80 topics focused on building he CSOs' capacities in implementing their communication and sustainability strategies.

Creating a more affirmative environment for sustainability of civil society in BiH

Significant progress and results were made during the CSSP project laying the foundation for future development and sustainability of civil society in BiH, as it is visible in the following achievements:

- New Law on Foundations and Associations in BiH was enacted;
- Protocol of Cooperation between the Council of Ministers of BiH and NGOs in BiH;

- Rule on Criteria and Conditions for financing and co-financing of the projects of public interest implemented by associations and foundations was prepared;
- Initiatives were filed to amend the Law on Tax Income and Law on Tax on Profits in the FBiH and RS;
- More than 200 CSOs from all over BiH signed the Code of Conduct for CSOs in BiH.

Matrix for assessment of the environment for CSOs in the segments of basic freedoms -- freedom of speech, freedom of access to information and freedom of association in BiH; Legal, institutional and fiscal framework for CSOs; participation of CSOs in the decision-making and public policy processes -- was performed twice, in 2016 and 2018. The environment analysis showed that little progress was made and there was regression in some of the observed areas (freedom of speech, access to information).

Considering that the individual success stories of the CSSP's CSOs could not contribute to a complete change of the environment in the country, it is imperative to mention that the efforts of the Council of Ministers of BiH are observed in the light of EU integrations and their fulfilling the requirements regarding the institutional framework for the development of civil society, to which CSSP's CSOs significantly contributed.

New Law on Associations and Foundations was enacted in late 2016 with active participation of CSOs in the consultation process. The law complies with the Moneyval and FATF requirements.

There has been no progress with regards to tax reliefs and a broader spectrum of activities that should have had a positive impact on stimulating philanthropic activities. The amendments to the Law on Income Tax and Law on Tax on Profits that were submitted to the House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament and National Assembly of RS were not considered or embedded in the agenda of any other parliamentary session, regardless of the fact that parliamentary caucuses assessed them as positive and acceptable. They were not considered because of political conflicts burdening the atmosphere in the parliaments, especially during the two years leading up to 2018 General Elections. In order to raise awareness about the importance of this approach, the CSSP organized two public meetings "Taxes: Profits or Deductions" and "What medical services do we need and what medical services do we get?". These events addressed the issues of amending the both laws and they left a significant mark in the public.



The European Commission’s 2016 Report on BiH assesses that there has been some progress in establishing relevant institutional mechanism for cooperation between government and CSOs and transparent public funding of CSOs. However, the strategic framework for cooperation between government and civil society at all levels is yet to be developed, and the web platform for e-consultations, as newly available tool for consultations, should be fully utilized. A broad education of CSOs was organized in partnership with BiH Justice Ministry to train CSOs on how to register on the platform, how to use all available options, to learn about how to initiate a procedure for adoption of a regulation, to have the possibility to submit proposals and to receive feedback on their status. More work is required in this respect in order to make civil society become a constructive partner in preparation of laws and other regulations.

A public hearing on allocation of public funding to CSOs took place in 20 BiH towns. It was emphasized on a number of occasions that the allocation of public funds is frequently non-transparent or barely transparent (and even contrary to the legal regulation), which questions the entire process. A research was conducted to examine the allocations to CSOs at all government levels, which verified that government frequently used public funds for financing of CSOs in a non-transparent manner; the government failed to disclose the information, ignoring the requirements and obligations under the Freedom of Information Act and it is very difficult to get any insight into the overall picture and exact data on this problem.

CSOs require more initiative on the part of the state authorities that should oversee and control the public expenditure. In cooperation with the Ministry of Justice an initiative was launched to prepare a document on transparent allocation of public funds. A similar initiative was filed with the General Secretary of the FBiH Government, however, the recent protests of Bosnian war veterans seeking a transparent allocation of public funds for their associations, as a clear illustration of this problem, have stopped any further activities in that respect, until a long-term solution for this extremely vulnerable group and all other CSOs is found.

CSOs advocated for a long time for the adoption of the Protocol of Cooperation between the Council of Ministers of BiH and CSOs after the unsuccessful attempt in 2017. Although this Protocol is not a binding document, it does specify clear obligations of both sides. In that sense, some CSSP's CSOs already demonstrated a more serious approach and credibility of partnership with government and participated in a broader pool of CSOs in answering the EU Questionnaire for BiH.





One of the CSOs' commitment anticipated under the Protocol of Cooperation between the Council of Ministers of BiH and CSOs is to prepare, adopt and support a Code of Conduct for CSOs in BiH.

The Code underwent all stages of consultations and public hearings and more than 100 CSOs across BiH contributed to and took ownership over the process. The Code received support from more than 200 CSOs in BiH that agreed that a declarative approach in the implementation of the Code must become essential, because the credibility of the entire civil sector in BiH depends on it.

During the talks about the Code, the issue was raised about the approach that will be used to verify to what extent CSOs comply with the Code i.e. how to make a difference between CSOs strictly complying with the Code and those CSOs that declaratively support the Code or even those that do not anticipate to adopt it at all. Currently, the efforts need to be invested toward sensitizing the government to cooperate only with those CSOs that strictly follow the Code. With higher-quality monitoring and evaluation and assessments of the effects of the allocated funding, government should disclose such information as part of their reports on CSO grants to show which CSO did not comply with the principles of transparency, responsibility, openness and professionalism and the clearly specified financial policy and good governance.



The campaign for creating a more affirmative environment for development of social entrepreneurship organized a Conference “*Entrepreneurship of Associations: Model for (in) stability*”. The goal was to identify the challenges of entrepreneurship and CSOs’ economic activities as a form of their sustainability, to promote organizations working with entrepreneurship and to share experiences and recommendations for CSOs. Although this topic was vital for

sustainability of BiH civil society, the government is not doing enough to create the institutional framework for the development of social entrepreneurship. This event was a step toward encouraging and directing the associations to take a more serious approach to planning and implementing these activities. The Conference brought together representatives of political parties who will identify this as priority issue area in the upcoming cycle of forming parliamentary majorities 2018-2020.

The final event of the project “State of affairs in civil society: Sustainability and stability” addressed the challenges of CSO funding, the underdeveloped legislative framework for securing sustainability from independent activities, the fact that there is lack of institutional support to these solutions to help the hard-to-employ categories and lack of significant financial effects to influence the growth of economy in BiH.



SMART Resource Center

The Resource Center, with its ten years of experience, a well-built infrastructure, multimedia room and developed procedures, enabled many CSOs to build their capacities. CSOs received various tools, know-how and resources required to develop their advocacy, analytical and sector-relevant negotiation skills necessary for taking part in politics and social dialogue. A special emphasis was on prompting volunteering and reviving local communities where many CSOs implemented a large number of their activities. Simultaneously, cooperation between the two sectors at the local level was developing based on the signed Protocols; the procedures for transparent allocation of public funds were improving and citizens were offered higher-quality and more appropriate services. The Resource Center stepped out and proved itself during the 2014 floods in BiH when dozens of volunteers sorted and packed tons of food, clothes and household supplies for those affected by flooding.

The SMART Resource Center supported a broad range of CSOs in BiH through many services anticipated both within and beyond the program, on ad hoc basis, by serving as a service center offering capacity building programs, help-desk services, research, PR and information services, organization of public events, conferences and similar activities. SMART contributed substantially to capacitating the civil sector for becoming a competent and publicly recognized player in all phases and decision-making processes – from consultations to participation in the work of various committees and working bodies.

The SMART Resource Center ensured a broad spectrum of high-quality services to both its clients and a broader public, such as information about CS activities updated on a daily via newsletter, web page, FB and Twitter; legal advice for associations and foundations in the field of registration and legal and labor relations; preparation and distribution of publications; research; offers of various education/training and services with emphasis on the Project Academy Program for preparing applications for the EU funding; organization of various events to inform the public and advocate for legislative changes; organization of roundtable meetings; panel discussions on key issues/problems and facilitation of a direct communication among stakeholders. The Center also prepared a certification scheme, methodology for assessment and establishment of the quality systems for CSOs, as a logical continuation of the previous CSOs' efforts to allow them to assess and certify their quality system at an affordable price.

A special attention was given to education of sector leaders, and additional support for organization of education and training within partner organizations was secured. The Resource

Center offered to sector leaders and members of their networks to participate free of charge in other trainings and services organized by the Resource Center outside the CSSP program.

The SMART Resource Center has made a significant contribution to the development of strategic connections among advocacy and watch dog organizations, think-tanks and media outlets, by sharing information about all reports/proposals/analyses/campaigns via its web page. The RC's monthly newsletter provided information about various opportunities of cooperation with the donors, government and business sector.

A special thematic event that the RC organized, especially with a goal to bring closer analytical information to CSOs, has proven to be a successful approach. For example, the Arena a dialogue forum promoted key issues of a transparent award of public funding to associations and foundations at all levels, preventing money laundering and financing of terrorism through CSOs' activities, in line with the recommendations of the Council of Europe's Moneyval Committee and FATF.

SMART Resource Center has for four years participated in organizing education activities for children from elementary schools from BiH about the basics of programming. This is done as part of the worldwide campaign Hour of Code. Moreover, the action Girls in ICT improved the number of participants relative to the total population in BiH, due to which BiH ranks high in the world.

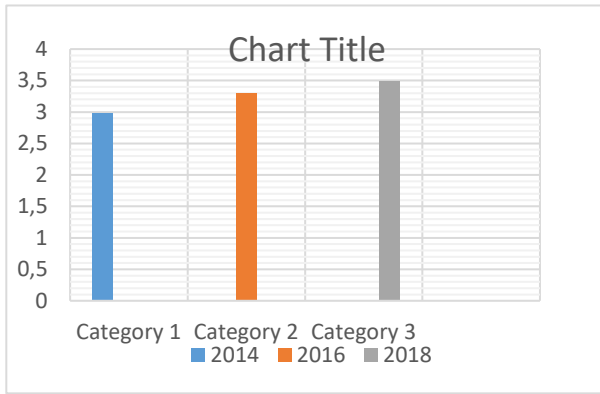
The numbers clearly support the affirmative narrative:

- Number of published news items 9,797
- Number of educational events 546
- Number of participants 7,536 (with participants of Hour of Code and Girls in ICT across BiH) the number exceeds 30,000)
- Number of hired trainers is 183 (over 60 are trainers from the RC's database)
- 2,779,854 visits to the web page
- RC's FB page users 7,649
- RC's data base 5,899

Building CSOs' capacities – OCA

A short overview of the findings of the final OCA assessment:

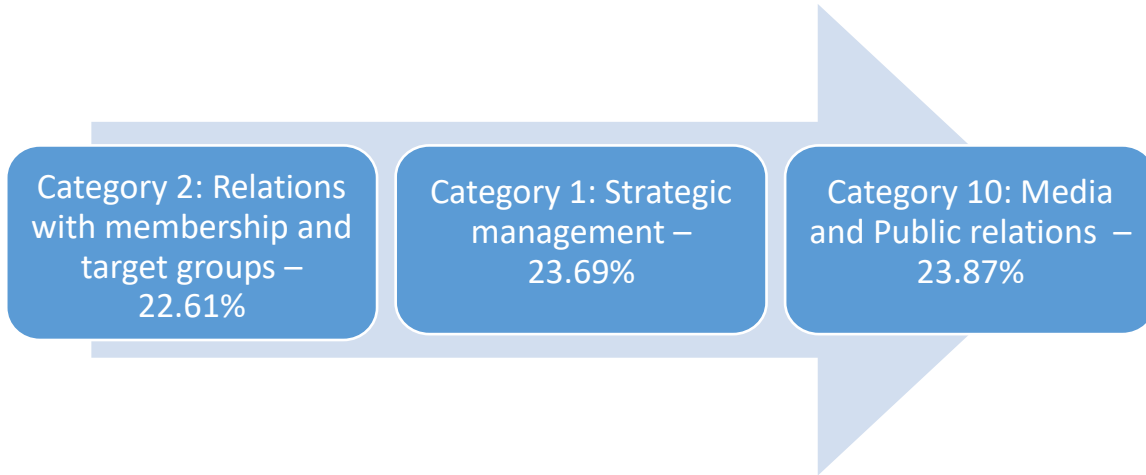
Total OCA index for partner CSOs is 3.49 (on the scale 1-4), which is an increase by 17.74% relative to the baseline level of 2.97 in 2014.



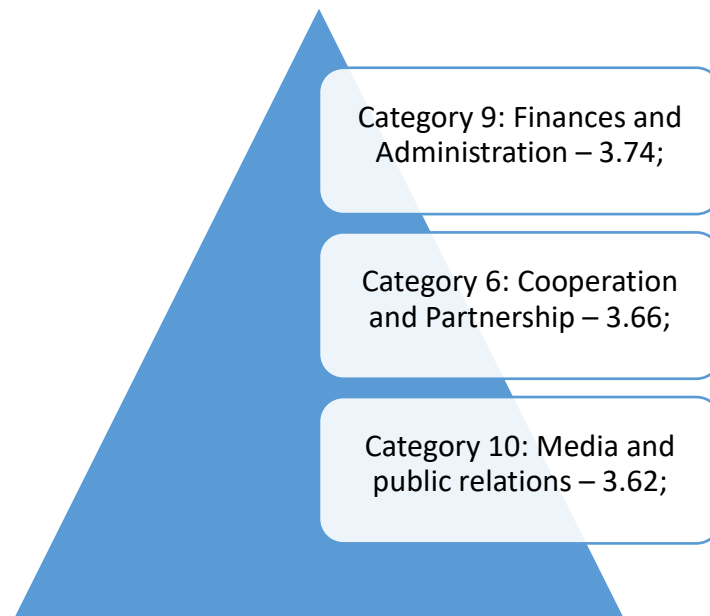
All 20 CSOs whose capacities were assessed at the end of the OCA process showed an increase of their individual OCA Index. Some CSOs registered a 44% increase.

The OCA categories and indicators

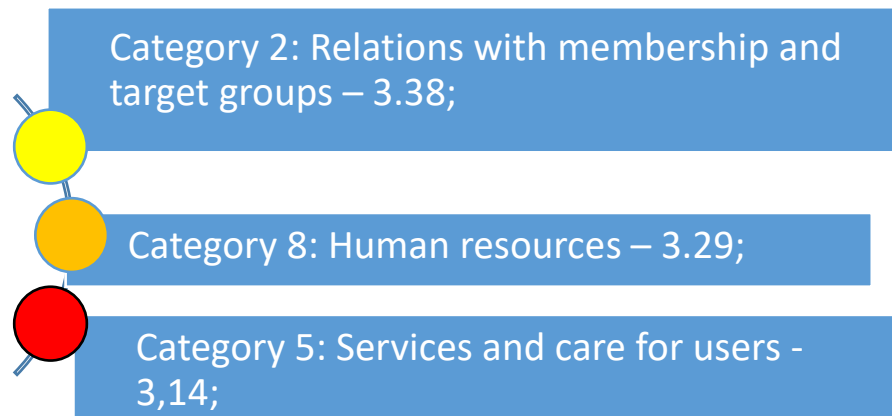
Cumulative average status has increased in all 10 categories. The largest progress was made in the following categories:



The categories with the highest average level during the project's implementation and CSOs' capacity building are as follows:



The smallest average progress observed during the final OCA process was in the following categories:



The Capacity Building Plans and the level of fulfillment

The final OCA measured the goals of the capacity building plans through the end of the project. The results of the measurements are as follows:

- 42% indicators of objectives fulfilled;
- 5% indicators of objectives exceeded;
- 38% of indicators of objectives show progress in achieving the objective;
- 15% indicators of objectives stagnate;
- 0% indicators of objectives regressed.

The numeric indicators of the achievement of the partners' communication and sustainability strategies show that 293 strategic documents were either created or revised (almost 15 documents per organization on average), which signalizes an enormous need for internal consolidation in the vast majority of CSOs in BiH, taking into account that the CSSP selected CSOs were considered as the most developed CSOs in BiH. Over 330 activities from the OCA sustainability plans are completed. More than 170 trainings on over 80 topics took place.

The financial resources provided from alternative sources at the end of the project amounted to over 4,500,000 KM, exceeding the projected increase in the provision of these funds by 30%, and compared to the initial estimated amount of 2,783,318 KM needed to finance core activities of partner organizations. It must be noted that not all partners were equally successful in accessing funds from domestic sources, selling their services on the market, or collecting donations and membership fees. Thus 45% of the partners ensured national/domestic funding in total value of more than 1,600,000 KM. 60% of the partners collected funds from their commercial activities in total value of 2,800,000 KM. Finally, remaining 50,000 KM was ensured by approximately 15% of the partners from donations and membership fees.

Despite these discrepancies in the performance of partner organizations, the sharing of information and support has been strengthened and the need for additional improvement of CSOs' knowledge and skills has been observed in some areas that may become commercial. Increasing membership's confidence and development of philanthropy will contribute to financial stability and long-term sustainability of many CSOs. It is interesting that the money earned through delivering services is

nearly twice the amount coming from local grants, which points to at least two aspects: the first is that grants from local sources are relatively small and do not secure financial stability of organizations and a number of high-quality organizations cannot access them. This may imply that the process is not sufficiently transparent.

The findings suggest that there is an urgent need to build institutional mechanisms to secure a transparent distribution of public funds to CSOs at all level that support these activities, from the municipal to the level of the Council of Ministers of BiH. On the other hand, extremely small and almost negligible contributions from philanthropic donations suggests that the system is not regulated, that there is no incentive for potential donors to direct their funds to socially beneficial activities and that it is possible that there is a lack of confidence on the part of potential philanthropists that the funding will be used purposefully. With all the necessary explanations and elaborations, it is evident that the funding that CSOs secure from international donors is much higher than the funding secured from any of the listed and analyzed forms of alternative sources.

All of the above point to the following conclusions regarding the basic CSOs' sustainability benchmarks:

- *The project's activities provided significant improvements in the capacities of partner organizations – almost 20% on average;*
- *The project provided a unique opportunity to the vast majority of partners to allocate financial and human resources to build their own capacities;*
- *Structural support provided through the project ensured an effective capacity building for all project's participants, as it is especially visible in the example of Strategic management and Media and Public Relations;*
- *A visible impact of the joint efforts has been achieved in other two components of the project (Networks and Campaigns), which strengthened partner CSOs' organizational capacities;*
- *The project allowed for an increased financial viability in the majority of project's partners;*
- *The design of the sustainability component is appropriate for the majority of CSOs and allows for a meaningful development of CSOs' capacities;*
- *The partner-based approach allowed CSOs to have a significant degree of flexibility in the capacity building component by enabling more efficiency and effectiveness in the capacity building process of every partner organization;*
- *A successful and sector-based advocacy campaign increased the visibility and improved the overall perception of CSOs in the public space. Further, the joint advocacy efforts and results of effecting specific legislations regarding the functioning and financing of CSOs will strengthen the role and position of civil society in BiH;*
- *Organizations materialized from sharing of know-how, information and experiences.*

Based on the experience obtained in the capacity building process, it is possible to infer that there is a great need for further and targeted building of CSOs' capacities in BiH, with a special focus on financial viability, relations with membership and delivery of services. It is imperative for the leading national and regional CSOs to continue to launch joint public advocacy campaigns to modify legislations to enable a more affirmative environment for the work and financing of CSOs, to provide a credible participation of representatives of civil society in the EU accession processes, to lobby the donor community to create mechanisms of financing that are adjusted to the needs of CSOs, their beneficiaries and target groups.

It is necessary to continue to build CSOs' capacities in the field of project planning and development of project proposals, especially in the case of the EU funding and the anticipated procedures of implementation and reporting. There is also a need to build capacities in the field of monitoring and evaluation. Long-term development and survival of key CSOs require creating possibilities for institutional grants as well as mandatory capacity building components as part of other programs and mechanisms of financing.

Component III: Campaigns and monitoring

Sectoral partners conducted advocacy campaigns identified by participating in sectoral network (Component 1 project). Advocacy campaigns addressed priority issues in sectors such as providing maternity benefits, judicial reform, providing health insurance for unemployed people, linking education needs with the labor market, creating conditions for urban areas to become environmentally sustainable areas, improving position of marginalized groups in the FBiH, increasing penalties for perpetrators of violence against women, and many others.



Below is a more detailed description of activities and results achieved as part of CSSP campaigns.

Sector 1: HUMAN RIGHTS – MARGINALIZED GROUPS

Lead: Foundation for Social Inclusion (FSU) and its partner, Initiative for Better and More Humane Inclusion (IBHI)

During this reporting period, four advocacy campaigns were implemented:

- **Minimum social security and equal opportunities**
- **Adoption of new policies and measures in the area of social entrepreneurship**
- **Extra-institutional support to marginalized groups**
- **Election rights of national minorities**

In the past four years, CSOs advocated for relevant measures and policies to be embedded in the government agendas. The campaigns provided an opportunity to improve the status and visibility of marginalized groups by eliminating some key causes of the problems in the sector.

During the Inaugural Convention of the Coalition for marginalized groups-KOMA, members elected and formed the working bodies of the Coalition – four advocacy bodies that were the backbone of the CSSP's public advocacy campaigns.

The **Campaign for establishing minimum social security and equal opportunities**“ aimed to introduce minimum social security for all citizens as well as new and more efficient methods of selection of welfare beneficiaries, which may lead to reduction of poverty in BiH. The policy analyses of the current situation in these two advocacy areas in BiH were completed at the very beginning of the project and these also included concrete recommendations and solutions in these areas. A roundtable discussion for the “campaign for establishing minimum social security and equal opportunities” was organized in February 2015, bringing together representatives of both entity Ministries responsible for this area. The representatives delivered introductory speeches and thus expressed their support to the process of solving the sector problems.

A total of six public debates were held in April and May of 2015 as part of the “community mobilization” efforts. Simultaneously, the campaign launched an action “My story – Why am I on a margin” aiming to collect personal experience, objections and suggestions. These stories are published on the website of KOMA and on the portal www.manjine.ba.



At a roundtable titled “Minimum social security and Law on the Basics of Social Care in FBiH” took place on November 18, 2016, to present specific proposals to accelerate the procedure of adopting this legislation.

The debate titled “Social welfare reform - situation and perspectives in FBiH” took place on February 14, 2017. The conclusions were submitted to the FBiH Government Prime minister Fadil



Sarajevo February,
2017

Novalić and the FBiH Minister of Development, Entrepreneurship and Craft Vesko Drljača along with a Policy brief “Why minimum social security and new Law on the Basics of Social Care in FBiH”. The letter received from the FBiH Minister of Labor Vesko Drljaca in response to the FSU's and IBHI's letter from February reads that the FBiH Ministry of Labor anticipates to prepare a pre-draft of the Law on Basics of Social Care in FBiH and is willing to accept the FSU's and IBHI's recommendation regarding the minimum social security issue.

The campaign “Establishing a minimum social security and equal opportunities” organized a public debate in Banja Luka on June 14, 2017 in order to advocate for the solutions to improve public policies in the area of social welfare. The conclusion is that the work must continue to strengthen the dialogue between the government and non-governmental institutions and that BiH entities must specify a minimum-security threshold.



Banja Luka , June 14, 2017

The FSU in BiH and the IBHI organized a roundtable meeting “Analysis and monitoring of the situation and priority problems in the field of human rights – marginalized groups in BiH²⁰” to present the state of affairs in this sector, i.e. shortcomings and problems as well as progress that came as the result of advocacy for improvement of the status and position of marginalized groups in the past four years.



In cooperation with the FBiH Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the campaign organized a focus group and a press conference to discuss the importance of passing the Law on the Basics of Social Care in FBiH. The event brought together representatives of government and NGO sector. Fikret Zuko, the President of the Coalition of persons with disabilities, believes that ***“passing the Law has great significance for persons with disabilities, primarily because it will define a social minimum, which is important for true inclusion of persons with disabilities in the society, and services as a type of support to them and their families.”***

Several meetings took place with representatives of the FBiH Government and Parliament to advocate for adoption of the Law on the Basics of Social Care. Also, Policy brief “the Law on the Basics of Social Care in FBiH – the importance of its adoption 2018” was submitted to all MPs in both Houses of the FBiH Parliament, ministries in the FBiH Government and ministers of labor and social policy at the cantonal level (178 addresses). The intention was to inform the decision makers about the essential findings and importance of the Law, since it has been programmed in the 2018 Work plan of the FBiH Government.

²⁰ <http://koma.ba/analiza-i-monitoring-stanja-i-prioritetnih-problema-u-oblasti-ljudska-prava-marginalizovane-grupe-u-bih-sarajevo-maj-2018/>

The initiative to include the Law in the Work plan for 2018 with the FSU's recommendations was filed with the FBiH Government. The FBiH Government accepted the initiative and in early 2018 adopted its Work plan for 2018 which anticipated enactment of the Law on the Basics of Social Care in FBiH. The Law includes the principle reforms of the social care system (minimum social security, a better targeting and professional activation of beneficiaries) that FSU in BiH/IBHI advocated throughout the CSSP.

The campaign “**Adoption of new policies and measures in the area of social entrepreneurship**” aims to advocate for systemic solutions in the field of social entrepreneurship. The campaign organized a public debate “Improving the social entrepreneurship development process” to point to the for preparing a Strategy for development of social entrepreneurship and the Law on Social Entrepreneurship in FBiH.

On March 29, 2017, CSOs organized Social entrepreneurship fair “Let's Cooperate, Business is Business”. The goal was to establish contacts and initiate future collaboration between businesses and social enterprises in order to improve the concept of social entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility. *„This Fair helps social companies in a way that we connect with profit companies. We show that marginalized groups and persons with disabilities can develop high-quality products, that they can be reliable partners to all other companies and that they can complete their tasks professionally”*, said Kenan Dozo participant of the fair and representative of Transfer Print Sarajevo. Many citizens visited the fair expressing their interests in social entrepreneurship.



One goal of the advocacy campaign was to contribute to implementation of the measures from the adopted Strategy of Development of Sarajevo Canton 2020 (adopted in September 2016). Another goal was to influence the implementation of the Sarajevo Canton Model of social entrepreneurship in other cantons and at the FBiH level. To that end, the campaign organized a roundtable meeting “Planning the development of social entrepreneurship – an example of Sarajevo Canton” in Sarajevo in April 2017 to discuss and advocate for the implementation of the measures outlined in the Strategy of development of Sarajevo Canton. The recommendations listed in the Strategy were adopted and it was recommended to launch the initiative in other cantons.

As part of the “Adoption of new policies and measures in the area of social entrepreneurship” campaign, the FSU in BiH and IBHI were invited by the FBiH Ministry of Labor and Welfare Policy to revise the sections of the draft Strategy of Employment of FBiH 2017-2020 concerning the development of social entrepreneurship (Law on Social Entrepreneurship, precise public policies of support to social entrepreneurship, cooperatives, forming of a Center for Development of Social Entrepreneurship, etc.). Several advocacy meetings took place underlining the need to adopt the Strategy for employment 2018-2021 to reflect the government’s strategic commitment to developing social entrepreneurship as initiated by the FSU and IBHI. Some important strategic elements were integrated in the Strategy. The Government of FBiH endorsed the Proposal of the Strategy of

Employment in FBiH 2018-2021 at its 150th session (July 12, 2018) and sent it to the FBiH Parliament for review and final approval.

Members of KOMA engaged in the preparation and adoption of the strategies for the improvement of the status of persons with disabilities through *the campaign “Extra-institutional support to marginalized groups”*. The campaign prepared an Analysis of the needs, rights, and position of persons with disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina²¹ with a proposal of systemic passive and active measures of support in the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska. Many goals and recommendations proposed by KOMA have been embedded in the Strategy for improving the rights and position of persons with disability in the Federation of BiH (2016-2021) and the Strategy for improving the social status of persons with disabilities in Republika Srpska 2017-2026 with Action plans.

In mid-February 2016, FSU and KOMA **launched a minority empowerment campaign**. The conclusions and recommendations of the public debate “Minorities” held on December 12, 2016, were sent to members of the Inter-department Working Group for amendments to the Election Law of BiH, cabinets of the members of the Presidency of BiH, members of the National Minority Council of BiH, the OSCE mission in BiH, national minority associations, and others.



On April 27 2017, the campaign organized a public debate “Reform agenda and improving the status of marginalized groups in BiH” in Sarajevo in order to advocate for a full implementation of the Reform agenda and its segments concerning the social care and vulnerable categories.

Results and Impacts

- KOMA’s proposals are embedded in the FBiH Strategy for improving the status and rights of persons with disabilities 2016-2021;
- KOMA’s proposals are embedded in the RS Strategy for improving the status and rights of persons with disabilities 2016-2021 and Action plans, including the Platform of Social entrepreneurship in RS;
- On the initiative of the FSU/IBHI, the 2018 Work plan of the FBiH Government embeds the adoption of the Law on the Basics of Social Care in BiH, which will specify the fundamentals of social care reform (minimum social security, a better targeting and professional activation of beneficiaries);
- The Government of FBiH endorsed the Strategy of Employment in FBiH 2018-2021 and sent it to the FBiH Parliament for review and final approval. The Strategy contains strategic commitments to the development of social entrepreneurship initiated by the FSU in BiH and *IBHI*²².

²¹ <http://www.sif.ba/dok/1491989715.pdf>

²² Draft Strategy of Employment 2017-2020 already had segments relating to social entrepreneurship, especially of the marginalized groups. The text of the amendments integrates some strategic determinants with regards to new measures and policies on social entrepreneurship (Law on Social Entrepreneurship, specific public policies of support to social entrepreneurship, cooperatives, formation of a Center for Development of Social Entrepreneurship in FBiH.

Sector 2: EMPLOYMENT AND LABOR MARKET

Lead: Institute for Youth Development (KULT)

In the reporting period, four campaigns were implemented:

- **Campaign to improve incentives for prospective branches of economy and employment**
- **Campaign to modify existing fund spending programs, i.e. allocation and appropriation of budget funds (for youth, women and newly formed businesses)** by the Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Crafts of FBiH and the Ministry for Economic Relations and Regional Cooperation of RS) aimed at actively combating unemployment.
- **Campaign for modifications of the Law on VAT**
- **Campaign for the adoption of the measures to improve budgetary incentives to economy**

In the first half of 2015, the **Campaign to improve incentives for prospective branches of economy and employment** analyzed audit reports and public calls on budget funds earmarked for entrepreneurship development programs in BiH as well as an analysis of strategically prospective branches of the economy. The results of the research on budgetary incentives in the BiH economy were presented in a press conference on June 10, 2015 in Sarajevo. The campaign also prepared analysis of self-employment incentives in FBiH.²³

As part of the **Campaign to modify existing fund spending programs, i.e. allocation and appropriation of budget funds** the FBiH Government at its 32nd session held on December 3, 2015 adopted a Regulation on promotion of employment. It regulates the conditions for utilization of subsidies and eligibility in case of recruiting unemployed individuals with no experience in the areas for which they are educated and long-term unemployed individuals²⁴. The FBiH Government **committed to allocate around 70 million KM to private sector in 2016 to support employment**. Out of 70 million KM, 50 million KM will go for employment of young people. Such a program did not exist in the previous years. 2,248 individuals (for self-employment) and 1,735 employers with 4,818 jobs applied under the Public call - total of 7,066 persons.

On February 18, 2016, the FBiH Public Employment Service announced on its web portal the Public call for applications for subsidies for first employment and self-employment, in line with the decision passed by the FBiH Government in late 2015. KULT supported the Regulation on employment promotion and Public call by promoting them publicly to reach entrepreneurs, potential entrepreneurs and unemployed individuals.

The Institute for Youth Development (KULT) participated in the making of the Public Competition²⁵ for selection of 2016 beneficiaries of the FBiH Ministry for Development,

²³ <http://mladi.org/v2/bs/projekti/1/poslovni-prostor-bih>

²⁴ The subsidy is a type of public financial aid awarded to employers in private sector to refund their costs of contributions, salaries and income tax of new employees or self-employed persons

²⁵ According to the list of beneficiaries, subsidies will be allocated to: 10 innovators - individuals; 4 applications for improvement of institutional and entrepreneurial infrastructure; 5 applications for subsidies to projects funded by EU and other foreign donors; 17 applications of associations, chambers and education institutions; 32 applications for technical alignment (introducing ISO and HACCP standards and CE marking), 89 traditional and old craft, 74 small

Entrepreneurship and Craft grant for 2016. KULT contributed to improving the criteria for youth and women projects and the projects involving newly formed businesses. 1,146 applications were received, while 456 applications met the requirements, and 690 applications were rejected. To support the realization of the Public Call, the Ministry allocates around four million KM.

As part of the **campaign to amend the Law on VAT**, in early June 2016, KULT submitted the official initiative for modifications of the VAT Law to the Board of Directors of the Indirect Taxation Administration. The initiative seeks modifications to the VAT Law according to which taxpayers would pay VAT after receiving payment for their goods and services and not upon issuing of an invoice. In addition, taxpayers would be entitled to deduct input tax once they pay for goods and services rendered to them; the deadline for payment of VAT would be moved from the 10th in the month to the last day of the month for the previous month. These modifications will affect those taxpayers with annual revenue (excluding VAT) of up to million convertible marks.

The initiative was forwarded to all MPs in the House of Representatives and House of People of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, members of the Presidency BiH, chair and ministers in the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the BiH Ministry of Finance and Treasury and Indirect Taxation Administration. The goal of this correspondence was to present the Initiative and advocate for the participation in the solving the problems.



The letter of support for the Initiative was signed by more than 30,000 business representatives gathered around chambers of economy and crafts in BiH²⁶.

A press conference promoting the Initiative to modify VAT law took place in the Parliamentary Assembly BiH on March 28, with support from MP Sasa Magazinovic. He endorsed the effort and filed an official initiative in a form of an MP question addressed to the Council of Ministers, Indirect Taxation Authority and Board of the Indirect Taxation Authority (composed of finance ministers). The second press conference regarding the VAT initiative was organized on July 4, 2017 during which MP Sasa Magazinovic posed his second parliamentary question to the Council of Ministers of BiH, the Indirect Taxation Authority and the Board of Directors of the Indirect Taxation Authority regarding the demand to move the deadline for payment of VAT from the 10th in the month to the last day of the month for the previous month and to reduce the late payment interest rate from 0.04% to 0.02%

and midsize businesses for strengthening their technological competitiveness; 132 start-ups, 48 women businesses and 45 youth businesses; Information about the public competition published on KULT's web site reached 15,000 persons.

²⁶ They are Chambers of Crafts of Central Bosnia Canton, Tuzla Canton, Zenica-Doboj Canton, Una-Sana Canton, Posavina Canton, Sarajevo Canton; Chamber of Economy Banja Luka, Sarajevo Canton, City of Mostar, Bosnia-Podrinje Canton, Tuzla Canton, Una- Sana Canton, Zenica-Doboj Canton, Federation of BiH Association „Buy Domestic“, Association for improving the economic relations between Germany and BiH, Association of Employers of FBiH and individual businesses.

A roundtable meeting was organized as part of the campaign for modifications of the Law on VAT in May 2017 at the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH in Sarajevo. MPs and business sector representatives were presented the VAT initiative. Moreover, to draw the attention of the public, the campaign published texts relevant to the VAT initiative on the 10th of every month, because the 10th day is the last day for VAT payment. A total of 20 texts were published in Dnevni Avaz, Oslobodjenje, Nezavisni list, KULT's web page and Facebook page. Below are several examples:



- Economy after the holiday euphoria²⁷
- Unemployment as a cause of social exclusion²⁸
- The World's Number 1²⁹
- A lifetime employability vs lifetime employment³⁰
- Final shift of the deadline!³¹
- Race of the lifetime for BiH businesses³²
- Black on white, we are regressing³³

KULT brought together around 30,000 representatives of the BiH business sector who supported the Initiative to modify the Law on VAT. Citizens recognize the importance of the Initiatives as well as many politicians who stated that the initiative was worthy of attention and that it could bring the benefits that are much needed by businesses in BiH. The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of BiH Denis Zvizdic endorsed the Initiative in his press statement and tasked the Board of Directors of the Indirect Taxation Authority to embed the demands in the modifications of the Law on VAT.

The VAT initiative was promoted among businesses and government representatives at several Business Forums in Tuzla, Bijeljina, Tešanj, Neum³⁴ and Bihać³⁵. The Forum in Tuzla was organized in collaboration with Tuzla Canton Government and the Ministry for Development and Entrepreneurship of Tuzla Canton; the Forum in Bijeljina was organized with local administration departments (the event was attended by the member of the BiH Presidency Mladen Ivanic); the Forum in Tesanj was organized with Tesanj Municipality. The VAT initiative was the most discussed topic. The representatives of the businesses supporting the initiative note that this modification would facilitate significantly their business operations. In addition to the VAT initiative, the participants also discussed budgetary incentives and their improvements.



²⁷ <https://www.oslobodjenje.ba/dosjei/kolumne/ekonomija-nakon-praznicne-euforije>

²⁸ <https://www.oslobodjenje.ba/dosjei/kolumne/nezaposlenost-kao-uzrok-socijalne-isključenosti>

²⁹ <https://www.oslobodjenje.ba/dosjei/kolumne/prva-u-svijetu>

³⁰ <https://www.oslobodjenje.ba/dosjei/kolumne/zaposljivost-umjesto-zaposlenja-354783>

³¹ <https://www.oslobodjenje.ba/dosjei/kolumne/konacno-pomjeranje-roka>

³² <https://www.oslobodjenje.ba/dosjei/kolumne/utakmica-zivota-bh-privrednika>

³³ <https://www.oslobodjenje.ba/dosjei/kolumne/crno-na-bijelo-nazadujemo>

³⁴ Video story about the public forum: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_CLV_01P4Q

³⁵ Video story about the forum is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmuRgXzfcY>

Economy, as the main nucleus of new jobs that prevents young people from leaving, must have less burdens and the Law on VAT should be amended to facilitate businesses in their operations, said Husein Rošić, Prime Minister of the Una Sana Canton *at the Forum in Bihac.*



The Campaign for the adoption of the measures to improve budgetary incentives to economy

published two analytical reports on budgetary incentives: the Analysis of budgetary incentives in the BiH economy 2013 – 2014 and the Analysis of budgetary incentives in the BiH economy in 2015 with a proposal of the measures to improve the award process³⁶. The analyses also presented the most perspective branches of the BiH economy and the Analysis of budgetary incentives in the BiH economy in 2015 was presented in May 2017 at the Conference “How to help economy in BiH through incentives?”.



Some of the key measures aimed to improve budgetary incentive to economy are adopted in Livno, Konjic, Kalinovik, Rudo, Visoko, Tešanj, Teslić, Prijedor and Zvornik. The incentive programs of these local communities integrated the following recommendations: 1) to analyze the situation in economy; 2) to program the support activities with other engaged stakeholders; and 3) to coordinate the incentives with other government levels.

The campaign for adoption of the measures to improve budgetary incentives to economy created the analysis of the procedures, processes and principles of budgetary incentives to economy in 15 municipal/town administrations (Bihać, Orašje, Tuzla, Žepče, Goražde, Vitez, Čitluk, Široki Brijeg, Centar Sarajevo, Tomislavgrad, Banja Luka, Bijeljina, Gacko, Gradiška, Derventa) to determine the current situation and to define the measures that the administrations should improve.

Una-Sana Canton Assembly adopted a set of conclusions that programming of incentives should occur with a broad group of stakeholders and there should be a working body to monitor the implementation and to assess the effects of the allocated funding. Regular reporting to the Government and Assembly of Una Sana Canton is also implied as well as an establishment of a special program to support the development of youth entrepreneurship. KULT and the Network for creating a more enabling business environment initiated the adoption of the conclusions through Kenan Keserovic MP in Una Sana Canton Assembly. A promotional video³⁷ was created as part of the campaign to improve the social entrepreneurship development programs at the entity level and the regulation of budget incentives for agricultural development. The promotional efforts included

³⁶ <http://mladi.org/v2/bs/projekti/1/poslovnji-prostor-bih>

³⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIWre4HG40Q>

31 paid advertisements on four leading BiH TV channels; 217,000 Facebook users saw the posts with the promotional video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIWre4HG40Q>.

Moreover, three texts were published, addressing the prospective branches of economy, leaning on the results of the analysis of budgetary incentives to economy in BiH.

- Can (IT) industry prevent the enormous brain drain of young people from BiH?³⁸
- BiH – a country with the smallest number of enterprises per³⁹
- Can BiH bring back the position of a regional leader in producing and exporting energy?⁴⁰

Results and Impacts

- KULT's initiative to amend the Law on VAT to shift the VAT payment deadline gained support of more than 30,000 businesses;
- Advocacy efforts were launched to accept the initiative to modify the Law on VAT; 20 texts on the VAT initiative and youth employment were published in Oslobodjenje;
- Five Business forums took place to emphasize the importance of the VAT initiative;
- Nine municipalities in BiH (Livno, Konjic, Kalinovik, Rudi, Visoko, Tesanj, Teslic, Prijedor and Zvornik) adopted various policies to improve subsidies for business;
- Analysis of economic subsidy award procedures, processes and principles was created to determine the situation and define the measures that should be improved in 15 municipal/town administrations

Sector 3: CULTURE

LEAD: Association Akcija and its partner Foundation Mediacycenter

The campaign implemented during this reporting period include:

- **Campaign for establishing the Creative Europe Desk**
- **Campaign to solve the legal-financial status of the National Museum**
- **Campaign to create a Strategy of culture at administrative levels in BiH**
- **Campaign to de-politicize managerial structures in the public institutions of culture**
- **To create a model of systematic matching of funds for the project supported by the Creative Europe in BiH**

The Campaign for establishing the Creative Europe Desk launched advocacy efforts to establish the Desk for BiH and mechanisms and measures of support to allow the culture and media sectors to become sufficiently competitive for grants under the Creative Europe Program.⁴¹

³⁸ http://mladi.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2765%3Amoe-li-it-industrija-sprijeiti-enormni-odlazak-mladih-iz-bih&catid=165%3Aposlovniprostor-bh&Itemid=524&lang=ba;

³⁹ http://mladi.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2790%3Abih-drava-s-najmanje-preduzeapoglavi-stanovnika&catid=165%3Aposlovniprostor-bh&Itemid=524&lang=ba;

⁴⁰ http://mladi.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2804%3Amoe-li-bih-vratiti-poziciju-regionalnog-lidera-u-proizvodnji-i-izvozu-elektrine-energije&catid=165%3Aposlovniprostor-bh&Itemid=524&lang=ba

⁴¹ The Creative Europe is a seven-year program (2014-2020) with a budget of 1.46 billion euros. BiH has fulfilled two necessary requirements to access funding of the program: political and administrative (The Creative Europe Agreement

Following intensive advocacy by Akcija, the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH announced a Public call to civil society organizations from both entities to submit their application for election of an Office to perform the role of a Coordination Desk for BIH. The requirement was to have two organizations one from each entity. the BiH Minister of Civil Affairs, Adil Osmanović, passed a decision in June by which Association “Akcija” from Sarajevo, in cooperation with the Association for visual culture “Vizart” from Banja Luka, was assigned the role of the Coordination desk for the Creative Europe program at the BiH level.

This was Akcija's first successfully implemented advocacy campaign aimed to resolve priority problems in the sector of culture at all levels in BiH and a success story for the entire sector of culture in BiH – both at the national and international level, as it allows for competitiveness in the international cultural context. The goal of **the campaign to solve the status of the National Museum** of BiH was to incentivize the public and decision makers to solve the problem of the National Museum that has been falling into ruin due to unsolved legal status and appropriate budget financing.

Aiming to change the public image of the National Museum of BiH and raise awareness among the public and decision makers in BiH, Akcija launched the following interventions:

a) A proposal of a model to systematically solve financing of the BiH National Museum (mandatory funding from the budget for so-called “passive standby operations” of this institution that covers employees’ salaries and maintenance costs). This was the fundamental requirement to revive this institution and head for development of programs and projects). The campaign created a Policy proposal, a **proposed financing model was adopted in the form of an Agreement that was signed on September 15, 2015 and the National Museum was reopened for the first time after three years.**

b) *To sensitize the public about the value and importance of the collection preserved by the National Museum.* The collection is older than any division in BiH and it testifies about the life of different cultures in these areas. The campaign started an action called “I am the Museum” involving daily lookouts at the Museum and bringing together more than 3,000 citizens from BiH, region and the world, representatives of business sector, universities, religious communities, diplomatic offices in BiH, international community, non-government organizations and individuals . Several hundreds of messages were received every day from all over BiH in support of the action.

was signed on July 22, 2014)) and financial support (BiH pays 205 000 euros for its participation in this program). Paying for the entry ticket does not necessarily mean withdrawal of funds from this program. To be able to utilize the benefits of the program, it is necessary to establish an efficient functional Creative Europe Desk (this was the 3rd unfulfilled requirement for a successful participation in the Creative Europe Program).

c) *To sensitize the public about the problem of the Museum's employees, who, despite the fact that the Museum has been closed and that they have not received 30 salaries, come to work every day and look after the collections. This was performed as a media action "I am on a duty watch" during which public figures from cultural, political, scientific and social life in BiH perform duty watches at the Museum and support the employees and draw the attention of the public to the alarming situation of the Museum. The story about the employees who come to work despite the fact that they do not get paid was a real discovery for the media and the public in general. An exhibition of photographs by Zijah Gafic drew enormous public attention (more than 500 visitors and 20 media outlets at the opening event). Column KUN in daily Oslobođenje published portraits of all employees every day.*



d) *To affirm solidarity and collective civic action through arts and other programs, debates and presentations – the entire sector in BiH was invited to give one gift (program) to the Museum. Many cultural organizations and artists from BiH and abroad expressed their interests in donating a program, however, due to limited technical, financial and safety reasons (collections at the Museum), only the film, visual and music programs were selected to support the campaign and attract the attention of the public.*

e) Raising the Museum's capacities through a web page to tell a story about the Museum in several languages, to allow for a story to reach as many users in BiH and in the world and to call for donations to the Museum that will be used to purchase technical equipment that is either broken or lacking. The campaign relaunched the website www.zemaljskimuzej.ba with a subpage for I am the Museum jasam.zemaljskimuzej.ba.

During the campaign, the project team moved its operations to the National Museum to provide logistical, programmatic and communication support. Special teams were formed to take care of the production, logistics and media promotion activities. Media sponsors were also provided (OSLOBODENJE, Klix, BH Radio 1 etc.) to cover the entire campaign.

As the key impact of the campaign **to solve status of the BiH National Museum**, the model of financing of National Museum that was proposed by Akcija in its policy analysis was adopted following realization of the advocacy campaign in the form of an Agreement that was signed on September 15, 2015 and the National Museum was opened for the first time after three years. The verification of the success came the following year when NGO Akcija and employees of BiH National Museum **received the prestigious award Europa nostra 2016 and special Grand Prix**. The award was officially handed to Mirsad Sijaric, director of the National Museum and Aida Kalendar, Akcija's Director. In October 2016, the National Museum hosted an open event to celebrate the award with citizens and activists of the I am the Museum campaign. The celebration



was also a great opportunity to take a group photo of all activists, employees and citizens together with guests from the Europa Nostra team and the award.

Creation or revision of the existing strategies of culture were initiated as part of **the Campaign for creation of cultural strategies**. Many administrative levels in BiH (town, cantons, entity or state) either do not have the strategies or their strategies are well outdated. Due to the need to assume a strategic approach to regulating the sector of culture in BiH and the fact that it is one of the requirements of the EU funding, Akcija developed several tactics to convince the decision makers to start the process of creating and adopting the strategies at various administrative levels.

Akcija selected the European Capital of Culture Program (ECC), the oldest and most significant program in the sector of culture in the EU, to motivate the decision makers to prepare their strategic documents. This program was previously available only to the EU cities, however, due to the latest changes in the 2014 Program, cities from candidate and potential candidate countries are now entitled to apply for the ECC designation 2024. The ECC program brings many benefits to participating cities/countries: it brings investments in programs and infrastructural projects in the area of culture. The key requirement is to have a strategy of culture in the next 10 years that is aligned with strategies of culture of higher administrative levels. Therefore, the campaign started from the level of towns and expanded to the higher levels.



Public debates were organized on May 16, 2016 at the Meeting point cinema in Sarajevo and on December 16 in Zenica. The goal was to inform the professional community and the sector of culture in BiH about the ECC program and to open a discussion about its potentials and benefits for BiH towns. A brochure the European Capital of Culture -- a chance for strategic development of culture in BiH⁴² written by Akcija was presented during these events. The brochure contains thorough information about the project as well as some specific information about the steps that BiH applicants should undertake in order to prepare and apply for the ECC title.

In cooperation with the City Administration of Mostar, the campaign organized a special public event in Mostar on May 15, which was opened by Mostar Mayor Ljubo Beslic. The European Capital of Culture (ECC) 2024 program was presented by Akcija's Nebojsa Jovanovic. Numerous representatives of the public and independent sectors of culture took part in this event. The Initiative was recognized as one positive opportunity to redefine Mostar in the eyes of international community and the rest of the country, and especially in the eyes of Mostar citizens. According to Tatjana Micevic-Duric, a historian of arts, the application for ECC offers us an opportunity *“to give our children a chance to be proud of their city”*.



⁴² <http://akcija.org.ba/akcije/publikacija-evropska-prijestonica-kulture-sansa-za-strateški-razvoj-kulture-u-bih>

The campaign to adopt Strategies of culture at administrative levels in BiH organized a panel discussion “Banja Luka/Mostar – Candidates for the European Capital of Culture 2024” to discuss the motives that prompted the cities to run for the European Capital of Culture 2024 title.



On March 23, 2018, the Music Atelier Staklenac in Banja Luka hosted a panel-debate on the role of independent cultural sector in the applications of Banja Luka and Mostar for the title of the European Capital of Culture (ECC) and the creation of cultural strategies. The debate titled the “ECC in BiH - challenges of the independent cultural sector” involved representatives of the Banja Luka and Mostar ECC’s teams, and also representatives from Novi Sad who shared their experiences

Representatives of Akcija met with representatives of local/cantonal administrations (City of Sarajevo, Tuzla, Mostar Bijeljina, Zenica, Central Bosnia Canton and Sarajevo Canton) to initiate preparation of Strategies of culture.



The City of Banja Luka at its 24th session *adopted the Strategy of development of culture for the period 2018-2028*, which is a part of a broader plan of activities regarding preparation of the bid for the European Capital of Culture 2024 title.

A draft Strategy of culture of Central Bosnia Canton was prepared in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport. Also, three public hearings were organized.

As part of the campaign “**De-politicization of managerial posts in the public institutions of culture**”, Akcija’s Jasna Kovo prepared an analytical report of the employment and management policies and procedures in the public institutions of culture in Sarajevo Canton and of all existing legislation and other regulations. The analysis was published as part of a publication "Public accountability of the institutions of culture in Sarajevo Canton" in June 2017 at the Museum of Literature and Theater Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The edition brings a summary of the analysis and recommendations; it examines the relations that the public institutions build with professional community, audiences and citizens, and the cooperation with various stakeholders of the public, independent and private sector, as well as a level of transparency in communication with the public.

The document provides recommendations for improving public accountability and relationship with various publics through the future work of the public institutions of culture in Sarajevo Canton.

The research process and the importance of accountability in the public institutions of cultures in Sarajevo Canton and in BiH were addressed by members of the Research team – UNESCO’s Cultural Policy and Cultural Management Department in Belgrade Goran Tomka and Department for cultural policy and covered twelve institutions of culture in Sarajevo Canton and Višnja Kisić. According to Goran Tomka “**the institutions of culture are dependent on politics and there should be no insisting on independence but on dependence on profession**”, and Visnja Kisić

pointed that **“culture and institutions of culture are public good and they need to develop sociability and democratic spirit.”**

The campaign to develop a co-funding model for the projects supported by the Creative Europe held a conference in cooperation with the Ministry for Civil Affairs of BiH to discuss the EU funding for cultural project and how to improve regional cooperation and support from the local sources. Regional representatives shared their experiences regarding the co-funding models. It was concluded that it would be necessary to establish the mechanisms for co-financing of the successful projects from BiH in order to make the participation in EU programs and especially in the Creative Europe programs even more successful. **“Experiences from the**



region indicate that different administrative levels in BiH must have the co-financing mechanisms for the projects under the EU Creative Europe program”, said Edin Veladžić of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH. The publication **“Challenges of the co-financing of the projects under the EU Creative Europe program in BiH: Analysis and recommendations⁴³”** was also presented during the conference⁴⁴.

A meeting took place with the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Central Bosnia Canton who supported and recognized the importance of the initiative. He announced that the cultural projects from Central Bosnia Canton competing for EU funding would have the support of the Ministry. **A proposal to integrate the recommendation regarding systemic support for the EU-funded projects into the Strategy of culture was accepted, as well as the recommendation to introduce relevant criteria into the competitions implemented by the Ministry**

In late December 2018, a meeting took place in Mostar with Rešid Hadžović, the Minister for Education, Science, Culture and Sport in Herzegovina Neretva Canton. After representatives of Akcija presented the principle models of financing, as explained in the brochure, **the Minister suggested that the optimal solution would be to introduce a special budget item to support the projects of international cooperation, and said that he would propose this to the Government of Herzegovina Neretva Canton.**

Meetings took place with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Una-Sana Canton. **Minister Ramic said that the funds for the applicants receiving EU funding under the Creative Europe program should also be secured in BiH, therefore it remains to find the most suitable model.**

A meeting was held with representatives of the Ministry of Education and Culture of Republika Srpska, during which it was stressed that **co-financing of the Creative Europe projects was one of the Ministry’s strategic commitments.** Furthermore, the recently published competition of the Ministry anticipates co-financing of the international cultural projects, without any special emphasis on the Creative Europe projects.

⁴³ <http://www.akcija.org.ba/akcije/publikacija-izazovi-finansiranja-projekata-u-okviru-eu-programa-kreativna-evropa-u-bih>

⁴⁴ <http://www.akcija.org.ba/akcije/publikacija-izazovi-finansiranja-projekata-u-okviru-eu-programa-kreativna-evropa-u-bih>

Results and Impacts

- As the key impact of the campaign **to solve status of the BiH National Museum**, the model of financing of National Museum **that was proposed by Akcija in its policy analysis was adopted following realization of the advocacy campaign in the form of an Agreement that was signed on September 15, 2015 and the National Museum was opened for the first time after three years;**
- The policy proposal was adopted, and the call for the civil society organizations and non-government sector to become Creative Europe Desk for BiH was published for the first time in the history of BiH as the result of successfully implemented campaign **for urgent establishing Creative Europe Desk**. Two organizations that will act as the Creative Europe Desk were selected. These are **Association Akcija from Sarajevo and Association for visual culture Vizart from Banja Luka**. This is a success for the entire sector of culture in BiH --both at the state level, but also in the international framework since it enables competitiveness in the international cultural context;
- The campaign “I am Museum” received international recognition. NGO Akcija and employees of BiH National Museum received the prestigious award Europa nostra 2016 and special Grand Prix at the ceremony that took place in the historical theater Zarzuela in Madrid, on May 24, 2016;
- The City of Banja Luka passed a Strategy for Development of Culture 2018-2028, with NGO Akcija providing support in the process of preparing the Strategy;
- The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Central Bosnia Canton endorsed the initiative for systemic support to local EU-funded projects and will integrate this recommendation into the Strategy of Culture as well as the recommendation to introduce relevant criteria into competitions implemented by the Ministry;
- The Draft Strategy of Culture of Central Bosnia Canton was created in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Central Bosnia Canton and three public hearings were organized;
- Representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Herzegovina Neretva Canton will consider introducing a special budget item to support projects of international cooperation;
- The Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Una-Sana Canton endorsed the initiative for systemic support to local EU-funded projects;
- The publication “Challenges of co-financing of the projects of the Creative Europe program in BiH – Analysis and recommendations” was presented; it contains solutions to the problem of co-financing the projects supported by the Creative Europe program;
- Presentation of a research report on de-politicization of managerial functions in the public institutions of culture.

Sector 4: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

Lead: Independent bureau for development (NBR) and its partner Association for entrepreneurship and business “LINK”

NBR and LINK continued their four advocacy campaigns:

- **Campaign to accelerate the business registration process in FBiH;**
- **Campaign to lower the number of parafiscal levies;**
- **Business/agro incubators**
- **Campaign to increase efficiency of funds invested in flood:**

Advocacy to accelerate the business registration process in FBiH was realized through four (4) campaigns (one per year), and the goal was to raise awareness among the respective institutions about the importance of the legislative reform to accelerate the business registration process.

The campaign created a MAP for accelerating the business registration that contains the following: 1) the current situation; 2) the problems hindering the process; 3) institutions responsible for each of the problems; 4) proposals and recommendations for improvement.

The Map illustrated how the business registration process can be faster and it pointed to the legal regulations, discrepancies among the cantons, steps and processes.



Interactive advocacy process included 25 different events (meetings of experts, focus groups, meetings with MPs) bringing together 408 participants, preparation and filing of the Initiative with the competent institutions (3 initiatives).

Every event was designed to ensure participation of representatives of competent government institutions (FBiH Parliament, FBiH Government, F BiH Ministry of Justice, FBiH Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, cantonal courts and governments, cantonal ministries, FBiH Taxation Authority, the FIA, the APIF FBiH, the APIF RS, etc.), NGOs (LEDnet networks, the LRA, Associations of Entrepreneurs, Chambers of Commerce and Trades, the SMB sector and media).

The topics of the events were defined based on the MAP for accelerating the business registration process, the FBiH Reform Agenda and other strategic documents. The goals were as follows:

- Analysis of the legal regulation concerning the registration of business entities – proposals and recommendations;
- Harmonization of the registration process at the level of BiH entities – FBiH and RS;
- Equalization of the registration process at the level of cantons in FBiH;
- Establishment of a one-stop registration system;

This event brought together the key players in the business registration process and allowed for a dialogue among them. This is verified by the fact that all proposals and recommendations from the Map for accelerating the business registration process were embedded in several strategic documents such as the FBiH Government Work plans (2016, 2017, 2018), Herzegovina Neretva

Canton Program for Small Business Development 2016-2020, the Ministry for Veterans Issues Program of Formation of Cooperatives, etc.

The conclusions made during the events served to prepare three initiatives:

- I. *Initiative to amend the Law on the Registration of Business Entities (submitted to the FBiH Parliament, the FBiH Ministry of Economy, the FBiH Government, Caucuses of MPs in the Parliament MP Faruk Cupina); Herzegovina Neretva Canton Assembly, FBiH*
- II. *Initiative to amend the Law on Business Societies (submitted to the FBiH Government, the Ministry, of Energy, Mining and Industry, the Parliament of FBiH);*
- III. *Initiative to amend the Law on Court Fees (submitted to all governments of the cantons in FBiH);*

The media campaign “Time Is Money” included 15 thematic shows, 70 aired messages (a poster of the Map), 90 radio jingles, over 300 web advertisements, and 10 live calls to radio shows.



The results and impact achieved during this program period clearly point to the fact that the LEDnet network raised public awareness among the targeted government institutions. The work on reforming the registration process for business subjects has started and the campaign helped to create a dialogue among all actors etc. The impact was made on the following:

- *Law on Business Societies in FBiH was adopted and published in the Official Gazette (2015);*
- *Initiative to amend the Law on the Registration of Business Societies and deletion of Article 33 was adopted by the FBiH Government and Parliament. It was sent for harmonization with other Initiatives introduced by MPs in the Parliament so that all changes are introduced together;*
- *Elimination of Monopoly held by notaries in the process of registration to allow the registration to be performed by lawyers (Decision of the BiH Constitutional Court);*
- *Law on Business Societies was adopted under shortened procedure as part of a set of Laws on One-Stop Shop (June 2018). This was the LEDnet's proposals regulating the start of a business activity that was embedded in the text of the Law. The Law was approved by the House of Representatives and its approval by the House of People is expected;*
- *Law on amendments to the Law on Court Fees of Herzegovina Neretva Canton was adopted with a tariff regulating the 50% reduction of the court fees for making an entry in the court registry (July 2018).*

The campaign to reduce or abolish parafiscal levies was launched in 2014 and lasted until the end of the project in 2018, with certain adjustments throughout the years. The campaign created a MAP of the parafiscal levies. The goal of the MAP was to illustrate the problem and monitors its resolving. The MAP has been created in a way that it contains the current numbers and amounts of fees, the institutions imposing the fees and possibilities of reducing the fees.

In the beginning, the campaign was only affirmative, where the NBR and LiNK used the MAP to point to the problem of parafiscal levies burdening the BiH economy and to point to the need to introduce a Registry of parafiscal levies. The network held a press conference and a roundtable

meeting in Mostar and five expert meetings (Mostar, 2x Sarajevo, Srebrenik and Tuzla) with a goal to draw the attention of BiH institutions and the media to this burning issues. Participation of representatives of the key institutions was secured at the meetings (Office of the Prime Minister of FBiH, the FBiH Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, Cantonal ministries and municipalities), businesses and the media.

Based on the analysis of the parafiscal levies in North-east Bosnia, previously crated by the NBR, the Network continued to advocate in the targeted municipalities in Tuzla Canton to abolish or reduce the fees that are under their jurisdiction. In addition, a list/initiative was created as a proposal to municipalities to reduce or abolish certain parafiscal levies to facilitate doing business, which was adopted at the LEDnet's Board of Directors on September 27, 2016 and sent out to 142 self-government units.

The network created the Analysis of parafiscal levies for Herzegovina-Neretva Canton and Prijedor region. Both analyses were finalized, and data was entered into the database of parafiscal levies on the LEDnet platform www.poslovnookruzenje.ba. Parafiscal levies were classified based on the level of government responsible for collection, payer of the parafiscal levy, legislation or regulation prescribing it, the rate for determining the amount of the fee and name of the parafiscal levy. The Registry/database provides an overview of all parafiscal levies in three regions: Northeast Bosnia, Herzegovina Neretva Canton and Prijedor region, at the level of the state and entities and in three cantons (Posavina, Tuzla and Herzegovina Neretva), and in 27 municipalities – a total of 7,614 parafiscal levies.

The analyses and overviews were finalized through focus groups in the targeted municipalities (Prozor-Rama, Jablanica, Prijedor, u Mostar and Kostajnica). The goal was to verify the results of the analyses and mobilize experts to implement reforms and reduce parafiscal levies that had been imposed by different rules and regulations. (2x Tuzla, 3x Mostar, Kostajnica, Novi Grad and Prijedor) in order to advocate the government (municipal and cantonal level) to reduce or abolish parafiscal levies that are under their jurisdiction.



Besides expert meetings, there should be a note of cooperation with the FAR project and the efforts to provide support to ensure the achievement of better results. Four meetings took place to present the work to date and to agree upon the future actions.

The project's activities focused on 9⁴⁵ municipalities to present the initiatives of the LEDnet network to reduce or abolish parafiscal fees. The goal of reducing the parafiscal fees is to increase sustainability and competitiveness of SMBs and to increase employment and performance of the municipalities. Municipal mayors endorsed the activities and expressed their willingness to cooperate on this matter. Through a joint analysis of the parafiscal levies in the targeted municipalities they agreed on the courses of action in order to unburden the economy and improve business environment in their municipalities.

⁴⁵ The activities are implemented in Zavidovići, Bosanska Krupa, Novi Grad, Prozor-Rama, Jablanica, Vukosavlje, Gračanica, Bihać and Prijedor

After that, specific Initiatives were filed with the mayors of all nine municipalities to reduce or abolish administrative municipal and utility taxes. The campaign organized nine (9) focus groups and five (5) expert meetings during which the representatives of the targeted municipalities reviewed and discussed the initiatives and possibilities to make interventions and reduce municipal administrative and utility taxes. *„Gračanica municipality has introduced tax exemptions for some categories and will continue in the future to work toward introducing benefits and tax reliefs for start-ups during their first year of doing business, and fee cuts for the building permissions, said Gracanica's mayor Nusret Helic during the meeting in Gracanica.*



Expert meeting in Gracanica



The media campaign “Smaller burdens—larger achievements” followed the campaign. It achieved

a series of media appearances (press conferences, TV and radio programs, press release and articles, web banners, city-light campaign).

More than 75 events (meetings, roundtables, focus groups, etc.) took place bringing together over 450 participants.

The campaign made impact on 14 municipalities in BiH (Banovići, Lukavac, Kladanj, Gračanica, Vukosavlje, Šamac, Zavidovići, Vareš, Goražde, Prozor-Rama, Jablanica, Konjic, Bihać, Velika Kladuša), **with 23 parafiscal fees such as administrative municipal and communal taxes for SMBs being reduced or abolished.**

The campaign Business/agro incubation was implemented in the first two years of the CSSP program in order to create a consistent Model of a Business/agro incubation and integrate it in the programmatic and financial documents of the responsible institutions. The model of business/agro incubation was also developed and presented to the public at the beginning of the project and it served as a policy document that clearly defined the notion of business incubation, types, conditions, and models of support to the work of business incubators.

On March 30/31, 2015 the campaign organized 7th Conference of business incubators, bringing together around 60 participants to review and verify the Model of business incubation. The document was presented additionally at 20 different events and meetings throughout the campaign in Mostar, Trebinje, Konjic, Modriča, Odžak and Srebrenik. The goal was to promote the Model and its importance for the existing business/agro incubators in BiH and to encourage the new ones.

Updated database of business incubators in BiH and the Model/program of business/agro incubation was submitted to the FBiH Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Crafts.

The campaign and the FBiH Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Crafts organized a meeting “The role and importance of business/agro incubators in starting up new businesses and jobs”. The goal was to emphasize the importance of adopting the Model of Business/agro Incubation by BiH entity ministries, as well as by cantonal authorities and local self-government units.

The Ministry of Development and Entrepreneurship of Tuzla canton accepted the program/model of business/agro incubation and embedded it into its action plans for 2016.

The FBiH Ministry of development and entrepreneurship and crafts accepted the Model of business/agro incubation. Business incubation has been included as a special category for allocation of subsidies in 2015.

The impact was made in three municipalities (Modriča, Konjic i Odžak), which assumed a number of activities regarding starting up business incubators, through infrastructural investments, transfer of know-how from the existing incubators in BiH.

The fourth **campaign “Increasing efficiency of the funds that are being invested in flood recovery”** was implemented in the first two years of the program. The initial activities included preparation of the Analysis and program of interventions for small and mid-sized businesses in the aftermath of floods” and the “Analysis of recovery support to businesses in the flooded areas in BiH”. The documents were prepared by experts who verified the contents of the reports with over 170 participants of ten (10) focus groups (Domaljevac, Šamac, Odžak, Tuzla, Srebrenik, Žepče, Doboj, Bijeljina, Prijedor and Vukosavlje).

The documents and the Initiative were handed on February 3, 2015 to the FBiH Prime Minister Nermin Niksic. They were also submitted to the FBiH Minister of Development, Entrepreneurship and Crafts Amir Zukic at the meeting in Mostar on June 8, 2016.

During the year 2 of the campaign the Flood recovery program was sent to 10 relevant ministries in both entities. The goal was to influence the ministries to adopt the Analysis/program to allocate the funding to prevent and make interventions in the case of repeated catastrophic floods. The part of the campaign addressing a more efficient and transparent expenditure of flood recovery funds prepared a letter to all self-government units asking them to accept the Program of Recovery of Business Sector. The letter was sent out to municipalities Domaljevac-Šamac, Odžak, Modriča, Šamac, Vukosavlje, Prijedor and Tuzla Canton Ministry of Development and Entrepreneurship. Several municipalities reacted to the Call to prepare their own recovery program for business sector. Vukosavlje Municipality submitted their official notification of accepting the Program, while the Ministry notified of their intention to create the Program during the subsequent year, due to lack of funding.

Results and Impact

- Concrete impact was made on 14 municipalities in BiH (Banovići, Lukavac, Kladanj, Gračanica, Vukosavlje, Šamac, Zavidovići, Vareš, Goražde, Prozor-Rama, Jablanica, Konjic, Bihać, Velika Kladuša) through the CSSP project, with 23 parafiscal levies (administrative municipal or utility taxes representing a burden for SMBs) being either reduced or abolished;
- The House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament adopted the draft amendment to the Law on Business Societies. The LEDnet network's proposal regulating the start of business activity is integrated in the text of the Draft Law, and its adoption by the House of People is expected in the upcoming period;
- The House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament adopted the amendment to the Draft Law on Registration of Business Subjects in FBiH introduced earlier by MP Faruk Cupina on

behalf of the NBR. The amendment relates to deleting Article 33 that defines the identification documents required for making an entry into the register of changes of data relevant for legal transactions; in addition, notary processing for some decision is abolished;

- The Law on amendments to the Law on Court Fees of Herzegovina- Neretva Canton was adopted on the NBR's initiative seeking reduction of court fees for making an entry into the court register;
- The FBiH Parliament enacted the Law on Registration of Business Subjects in FBiH eliminating legal uncertainty and strengthening competitiveness of the market in FBiH as a single economic space in BiH and creating identical criteria for registration and start of business activity;
- Two analytical reports of parafiscal levies for the regions of Herzegovina Neretva Canton and Prijedor were created. Based on the reports, the campaign created electronic registry of parafiscal levies www.poslovnookruzenje.ba; currently it contains 7,614 parafiscal levies for the reas of: Northeast Bosnia, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton and Prijedor region.
- The FBIH Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurship and Crafts accepted the Model of Business/Agro incubation and business incubation has been included as a special category for allocation of subsidies in 2015.

Sector 5: JUSTICE

Lead: Forum of Tuzla Citizens and its partner Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Republika Srpska

The Forum of Tuzla Citizens in partnership with the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Republika Srpska continued to implement their advocacy campaigns to contribute to the establishment of an efficient judiciary:

- **Campaign to ensure constitutional and legal assumption for independence of judicial institutions;**
- **Campaign to improve process of appointing judges and prosecutors and strengthening the role of the HJPC BiH as an independent institution**
- **Campaign to ensure financial independence and autonomy of judiciary in BiH;**

The **Campaign to ensure constitutional and legal assumption for independence of judicial institutions** prepared the Analysis of the survey “Perception of actors in judiciary of Bosnia and Herzegovina about most significant obstacles, which affect efficiency and independence of judicial institution” was completed. The survey sampled 371 respondents. The analysis, conclusions and recommendations on main directions of judicial reform, was presented at a two-day conference on March 13-14, 2015 in Bijeljina. Conference participants included 54 representatives of recognized stakeholders, networks’ members, representatives of academic community and other NGOs.

Working group I, “Efficiency and impartiality of judiciary and accountability of the judicial office holders” created legislative proposals to improve independence and efficiency of the judiciary in BiH. These proposals were discussed at public hearings that gathered judges, prosecutors, lawyers, government representatives, CSOs and international community members. The most important

legislative proposals address simplifications and shortening of criminal procedures, such as introducing a mechanism for postponing criminal prosecutions, larger number of shortened criminal procedures, strengthening of the role of injured party in criminal proceeding, harmonization of regulations, harmonization of criminal laws in BiH, etc.

Recommendations were made to the Ministry of Justice of BiH for improving the efficiency of the judiciary and the responsibility of the judicial office holders. The proposal of recommendations “The Application of new institutes in criminal law and other issues to improve efficiency, analysis, recommendations” is fully supported by the professional community, both by the professional associations and the judicial practitioners. The Ministry of Justice formed a Working group for modifications of the Criminal Code of BiH.

The Ministry of Justice of BiH submitted the information about endorsing the recommendations submitted by the Working group, especially the ones regarding the harmonization of criminal legislation in BiH, which is the Ministry's intention to address in the future to contribute to a better legal security of BiH Citizens.

Meetings were held with representatives of the parliamentary parties during the reporting period. Here, we would like to single out the meeting held with Lazar Prodanović (SNSD); Amir Fazlić (SDA); Mirsad Džonlagić (SBB); Damir Arnaut (SBB), Mirsad Mešić (SDP), Šemsudin Mehmedović, as part of the advocacy activities i.e. informing the representatives about the recommendations of the working groups and lobbying their support to the recommendations made. Representatives of the Forum of Citizens of Tuzla received a draft Law on the amendments to the Law on Criminal Procedure of FBiH that integrated the recommendations identified by FGT and the Justice network such as reintroducing an institute of request to protect legality as a special legal remedy and complaint of the injured party, which should improve the position of the injured party in the procedure.



A total of five expert panel discussions on the Draft recommendations for amendments to the Law on HJPC were held under the **campaign to improve the procedure of electing the judges and prosecutors and strengthening the role of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of BiH (HJPC).**

The expert panel discussions were held on January 27-28 in Banja Luka, on February 25 in Bijeljina, on April 1 in Mostar, on May 11 in Sarajevo and on June 14-15 in Teslić whereafter the recommendations on amendments to the Law on HJPC were defined. The expert panel discussions, organized by FGT, brought together judicial office holders, representatives of the professional associations and representatives of civil society, who discussed the mechanisms to improve the procedure of electing the judges and prosecutors and strengthening the role of the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council of BiH as an independent institution. The FGT has officially forwarded proposals on amendments to the Law on HJPC to the BiH Ministry of Justice, and the representatives of the competent ministry have supported activities of the FGT.

Amendments to the Law on HJCP imply limiting the term of office for all presidents of courts and chief prosecutor and chief prosecutors⁴⁶, establishing a balance of the HJCP's membership at all three government levels and establishing responsibility for the overall judicial system in BiH, improving independence and autonomy of the Disciplinary Prosecutor's Office, etc.

21 meetings took place with MPs in the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH as part of the campaign to improve the process of appointing judges and prosecutors and strengthening the role of the HJPC BiH as an independent institution. MPs were presented the recommendations regarding the modifications of the Law on the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council. Subsequently, the recommendations for modifications of the Law were submitted to the Secretariat of the Parliament of BiH to distribute them to all political party caucuses and the House of People of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH. The recommendations were also submitted to the Ministry of Justice of BiH. The recommendations were mainly endorsed at the meetings that took place during the previous period as part of advocacy efforts, however, considering that justice reform is a sensitive topic in BiH there needs to be agreement among leadership of the political parties in BiH. Regardless of which political options they belong to, all interlocutors of the meetings identified justice reform as priority in fulfilling the conditions for EU membership.

The Conference “Justice – How to ensure independence, efficiency, professionalism, autonomy and responsibility” took place with a goal to present the civil society recommendations to ensure independence, efficiency and responsibility of the judiciary in BiH. Participants of the conference were addressed by Peter Duffy, USAID Mission Director, Richard Wood, the Head of the Legal Department of the Delegation of EU in BiH, and Deputy Justice Ministers Nezir Pivic. The conference proved that the judiciary community and holders of judiciary are interested and willing to engage in the justice reform process especially with regards to the necessary modifications in the highest judicial institution in the country – the High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council. The recommendations to modify judiciary regulations caught considerable attention of the institutions responsible for reforms in the justice sector as well as of BiH MPs. Certain changes were made to the recommendations for amendments to the Law on HJPC in order to harmonize the text of the law with the suggestions accepted at the conference before submitting to the competent institutions.



Three expert discussions were held under the **campaign to ensure the financial independence and autonomy of the judiciary in BiH**. The expert discussions were held in Tuzla on June 12, in Sarajevo on June 29, and in Mostar on September 28, aimed at drafting recommendations that should contribute to financial independence and autonomy of judicial institutions in the FBiH. The discussions have revealed that the problem of financing is particularly expressed in the FBiH due to a decentralized method of financing the judicial institutions. The financing of the judicial institutions

⁴⁶ The proposal is for terms to last up to four years, twice in a row, the most. In the largest number of cases, according to the current legislation last up to six years and are indefinite. Terms of some judges and prosecutors have been renewed for the third time.

by the cantonal levels of authority, which hinder the work of the municipal courts, has been also observed. The participants in the discussion also supported the initiative to establish court budgets and financial independence of the judiciary, i.e. centralization of the process of financing judicial institutions in the FBiH, since the executive authority is currently having control over the normal functioning of the judiciary.



Discussion in Mostar

The most significant success is directly involving judicial office holders in the process of creating legislative proposals. In all previous reforms, professionals were mainly excluded from the process and the solutions were imposed upon them without any prior consultations and high-quality public hearings.

Results and Impact

- The recommendations for amending the Law on the HJPC were submitted to the Ministry of Justice of BiH;
- The FGT's and the Justice network's recommendations referring to re-introduction of an institute of request to protect the legality as a special legal remedy as well as a complaint of the injured party that should contribute to a better position of the injured party in the procedure;
- The final proposal of the recommendations for amendments to the Law on the HJPC was created with participation of the justice community and submitted to the competent institutions;
- More than 50 meetings took place with MPs in the BiH Parliament to inform them about the proposal of recommendations for modifications to the Criminal Code and Law on the HJPC of BiH to secure their support;
- The most significant success is involvement of some most notable holders of judicial office (judges, prosecutors, lawyers) in creating legislative proposals for improvement of this sector. All past reforms failed to involve professionals in this area and the solutions were frequently imposed without prior consultations and public hearings.

Sector 6: HEALTH CARE

Lead: Partnership for Health (PH) and its partner Initiative and Civil Action (ICVA)

Over the course of this reporting period the following campaigns were implemented:

- **Campaign titled “Health for All” that advocates for providing health care services in the geographically closest health care institution**
- **Campaign titled “My Health Has no Deadline” that advocates for abolishing of the 30-day deadline for reporting to Employment Bureau to achieve health insurance coverage**
- **Campaign titled “Health is a Right, not a Privilege” advocates for implementation of rights guaranteed by the laws in FBiH so that all persons who are under 18 years of age; above 65 years of age; and pregnant women or postpartum women would have free health care.**

The Campaign titled “Health for All” advocates for providing health care services in the geographically closest health care institution. It would end the current practice whereby service is health service is provided only within the same entity regardless of the distance, related costs or danger to health. For example, currently patients from Sanski Most must travel to Bihac and patients from Trebinje must travel all the way to Banja Luka instead of to the closer city, Mostar. This situation is sometimes impossible due to patient’s poor health or financial status. Sector partners intensively researched and **mapped all available health care institutions and services in BiH.** In addition to serving as the foundation for future advocacy activities, this data is available on a regularly updated interactive website so that for the first time the public can find detailed information on all health care institutions and the services they provide – and find the closest service to meet their needs. The campaign also developed Health for all website <http://www.zdravljezasve.ba/> where all BiH citizens can easily find the desired institution or a required medical service.

The campaign My Health Has no Deadline advocates for the lifting of the 30-day deadline to register with Employment Bureau in order to access health insurance. The campaign organized more than 50 street and petition signing actions collecting more than 13, 000 signatures of support for the cause.



Street action Čelić



Street action Travnik



Street action Sanski Most



Street action Fojnica

On the initiative of the PH and healthcare network, MP in the FBiH Parliament Amra Krtina initiated the modification of the Law on Health Insurance (article 19 and 86) to terminate the provision according to which many unemployed persons lost their right to health insurance. The House of Representatives of the Parliament of FBiH at its 16th session approved the initiative to introduce obligatory health insurance for children up to 15 years of age in case they are not insured on any other account and to terminate the deadline of 30-90 days to report to Public Employment Service as a condition to obtain health insurance.



The campaign organized Public discussion “Health Care for Everyone” brought together representatives of the competent health ministries, NGOs and parliamentarians to discuss the amendments to the Law on Health Insurance to reduce the number of uninsured individuals in FBiH. Representatives of the FBiH Ministry of Health stated that the answer from the Constitutional court on the constitutionality of the Law on Health Insurance is pending. The appeal was filed by the FBiH Vice President Milan Dunovic. After the adoption of the draft law a public discussion was organized to secure support for this legal solution. The PH and health network will continue their advocacy efforts to adopt the final Proposal of the Law on Health Insurance.

The Campaign Health is a Right not a Privilege advocates for compliance with the Law on Health Care guaranteeing free health care to every child under 18 years of age, every person above 65 years of age and pregnant women/postpartum women to the child's sixth month even if they do not have health insurance. Two roundtable meetings took place in Herzegovina Neretva Canton about introducing healthcare councils in Herzegovina Neretva Canton and advocating for a consistent implementation of the Law on Patients' Rights and improvement of the quality of medical services.

Using media attention and direct contacts, the networks exerted pressure on the Health Insurance Funds and health ministries in four cantons (Tuzla Canton, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, Central Bosnia Canton and Western Herzegovina Canton) to change their decision and terminate the co-payment requirement for exempt groups.

On February 22, 2016, Partnership for Health (PH), its partner Initiative and Civil Action (ICVA) and NGO Zemlja djece (member of the healthcare network) participated in the meeting of the FBiH Parliamentary Committee for Health. They presented the problems of the citizens, especially with regards to non-compliance with the FBiH Parliament's decision, under which some categories are exempt from copayments for medical costs. The Committee endorsed the campaign's demands and supported the participation in the planned thematic session of the FBiH Parliament.

FBiH MP Aiša Čenanović (SDA) filed parliamentary initiative on behalf of the healthcare network requesting the information from the FBiH Ministry of Health to answer why several cantons failed to comply with the FBiH Decision on exemption of cost-sharing.

The campaign prepared a leaflet that was used during the petition signing and street activities. The signed petition forms were sent to several addresses in the Una Sana Canton (Ministry of Health, Health Insurance Fund, Government of Una Sana Canton, ...). As a result, the Una Sana Canton Health Insurance Fund in early 2017 passed a decision on exemption of 12 (of 14 listed in the FBiH Parliament's Decision from 2009) categories of patients from cost-sharing requirement.

Following intensive advocacy activities, Tuzla Canton Assembly on November 30, 2017 passed a ***Decision on direct participation of insured individuals in the costs of health care under which children up to 15 years of age, pupils and regular students up to 26 years of age and insured individuals registered with the Employment Bureau as unemployed entities are exempt from cost-sharing***. The Decision anticipates that other categories of population as defined earlier in the FBiH Decision will be exempt as of January 1, 2019. The members of the health care network greatly contributed to the activities of this campaign.

Results and Impact

- Tuzla Canton passed a Decision on direct participation of insured individuals in the costs of health care under which children up to 15 years of age, pupils and regular students up to 26 years of age and insured individuals registered with the Employment Bureau as unemployed entity are exempt from cost-sharing;

- After an intensive advocacy and media campaign, the Una Sana Canton Health Insurance Fund in early 2017 passed a decision on exemption of 12 (of 14 listed in the FBiH Parliament's Decision from 2009) categories from the cost-sharing requirement;
- Draft Law on amendments to the Law on Health Insurance was adopted introducing obligatory health insurance for children up to 15 years of age unless insured on any other account and to terminate the deadline of 30-90 days to report to Employment Bureau precondition for the access to the healthcare insurance;
- More than 13,000 citizens supported the campaign “My Health Has no Deadline”, which advocates the lifting of the 30-day deadline for registering with the Employment Bureau as a precondition for the access to the healthcare insurance;
- Analysis of the available healthcare institutions and medical services in BiH; the campaign developed a website where citizens/patients could find information about the nearest health care institution that could provide medical services unavailable in their area.

Sector 7: WOMEN’S RIGHTS

Lead: Association “Women to Women” and its partner Women Interactive Rural Center

During this reporting period, Women to Women and Womennet implemented the following advocacy campaigns:

- **Campaign “Violence against women and domestic violence – general social condemnation**
- **Campaign (No) Discrimination against new mothers in FBiH**
- **Campaign to stop violence against women and domestic violence**
- **Improving the position of women in rural areas**

The advocacy campaign “Violence against women and domestic violence – general social condemnation” aimed to raise public awareness of the broader community about women's human rights and to influence government representatives to work responsibly and transparently in enforcing the policies, laws, strategies and other documents as well as to involve CSOs in the decision-making process.

The campaign held more than 30 public events and meetings with stakeholders. Besides sharing experiences the meetings helped participants identify measures that are necessary for providing adequate protection and support to victims of violence and to improve the repressive and preventive fight against domestic violence. The goal of the meetings was to engage representatives of civil sector in the decision-making processes.



The campaign’s direct result is the initiation of the process of amending the FBiH Law on protection from domestic violence, especially its Article 35 that regulates establishment, work and financing of safe house. The FBiH Parliament approved the Draft Law on amendments to the Law on Protection against Violence according to which a safe house is to established in line with the Law on institutions, and the funding of temporary care for victims of violence will be secured through

the Budgets of the Federation of BiH in the amount of 70% and from the budgets of cantons in the amount of 30% of costs of accommodation in a safe house.⁴⁷

At the community level, this campaign managed to bring together and motivate members of the Network Womenet to lobby with the decision-makers and to increase their participation in the process of adopting the Rulebook on safe houses. Urgent endorsement of this regulation is very important for prevention and protection against domestic violence.

The campaign filed the Initiative for Harmonization of the Rulebook on Conduct of Police Officers in Cases of Domestic Violence (Women to Women was involved in preparation and endorsement of the Rulebook) with the CAHVIO Convention - the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic violence⁴⁸.

The **campaign to stop discrimination against new mothers** organized various public events as part of the media campaign to point to the problem of discrimination against postpartum women in the FBiH, however, the activities were specially focused on Herzegovina Neretva Canton, as this was the only canton that did not regulate maternity benefits.

More than 100 public events took place during this reporting period to point to the problem of maternity compensations and discrimination against new mothers in the FBiH. **On March 8, Women to Women and Womenet** organized a parliamentary debate in the FBiH Parliament as part of their campaign (No) Discrimination against new mothers in FBiH. Female MPs pledged publicly to engage in solving this problem.



Women to Women and Womenet collected 12,086 signatures of citizens demanding equal payments of maternity compensations to postpartum women in FBiH. The petition was handed to the President of the FBiH who on July 19, 2017 organized a roundtable meeting „Modalities of solving a social status of postpartum women and payment of child benefits in the Federation of BiH“ in Sarajevo. Among co-organizers were the Chairwoman of the House of People of the FBiH Parliament Lidija Bradara, the Chairman of the House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament and the FBiH Labor Minister Vesko Drljaca. The goal was to review the situation regarding the status of postpartum women and payment of child benefits as well as to initiate improvements.

In April 2016, the campaign sent out 257 postcards-messages from citizens to government representatives to remind them of the discrimination that new mothers in FBiH have faced. Postcard bore stamps printed as part of the campaign Silence is not Golden to draw the public attention to discrimination against postpartum women in BIH as well as violence and sexual violence against women and children in BiH.

⁴⁷ Status quo remains with regards to the draft law, as the responsible institutions and NGOs that manage safe houses have not reached the agreement on how to set up a safe house. According to the draft, Safe houses should be formed as social institutions, while NGOs demand that safe houses can be formed either as social institutions or non-governmental organizations.

⁴⁸Official Gazette of BiH 15/13. The Convention was adopted on May 11, 2011, in Istanbul

Support to the campaign came from the FBiH Prime minister, Vice President, Ministry of Labor and Welfare Policy, Gender Equality Committee of the House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament, the FBiH Parliament, Women's Caucus, representatives of executive and legislative government, BIH Agency for Gender Equality...

On December 16, 2016, Herzegovina Neretva Canton Government endorsed the Draft Law on the Protection of Families with Children while in July 2017 the Herzegovina Neretva Canton Assembly for the first time adopted the final proposal of the Law on the Protection of Families with Children. **Maternity benefits were not paid in this canton for 18 consecutive years, and according to the new Law, the payment of the maternity compensation will start on October 1, 2017.**

Furthermore, after an intensive advocacy and media campaign, the FBiH Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare Policy prepared a pre-draft of the Law on the Support of the Families with Children of FBiH to regulate the issue of maternity rights in FBiH. The purpose of the new law is for employed postpartum women to be registered in the system of rights emanating from employment and health insurance, while the unemployed postpartum women will remain in the social welfare system under the unified criteria and with minimum amounts.



of social work and NGOs.

Women to Women and Womennet in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy in FBiH organized five consultations about the pre-draft Law on support to families with children in FBiH in Sarajevo, Tuzla, Grude, Sanski Most and Vitez, bringing together representatives of cantonal labor ministries, finance and health ministries as well as representatives of centers

We can freely say that this type of discrimination against new mothers, unequal treatment and unprotected status is one of the worst forms of violence against women and I have the pleasure of being able today to announce the arrival of a new reform Law on the Protection of Families with Children. The issue of discrimination against new mothers in the aspect of maternity benefits in FBiH has been „one of the key issues in the last 15 years that should have been solved by now.“

President of the Gender Committee of the House of Representatives Jasna Durakovic

A press conference took place after public consultations organized together with Gender Equality Committee of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of FBiH. Besides members of NGO Women to Women, the press conference was attended by Jasna Durakovic, the President of the Gender Committee and Miroslav Juresic, the Assistant Minister of Labor and Social Welfare of FBiH who announced the adoption of the Law on the Support for Families with Children in FBiH, which will also regulate maternity and child benefits. The text of the Law will resolve the issue of maternity benefits, especially with regards to



unemployed new mothers who will be treated equally regardless of in which canton they reside. The Law will solve the issue of child benefits, i.e. the funds will be allocated from the FBiH budget.

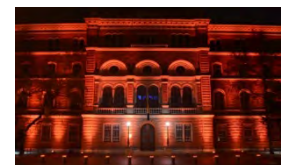
The FBiH Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare introduced the Draft Law into parliamentary procedure and received negative opinion of the FBiH Finance Ministry due to the resources required. Despite this negative position of the FBiH Finance Ministry, the FBiH Government endorsed the **Draft Law on the Support to Families with Children** at the 149th session and introduced it into parliamentary procedure. This Draft Law equalizes child support and financial aid to unemployed new mothers across the cantons in FBiH.

A meeting was held with new and expectant mothers in Zenica to discuss the problems of women, mothers and expectant mothers in Zenica Dobojski Canton. Participants highlighted several problems regarding maternity leave, expressing their concern that this population policy will reflect negatively on birth rate. Participants also discussed a problem of expectant mothers who have thrombophilia and who require circ., 3 000 KM to maintain pregnancy without putting in danger their own lives and the lives of their unborn children. The media covered this story putting focus on a young expectant mother who said that they would take smaller doses of the medicine to make it last longer, which brings many risks. Two days after the event, the chairman of the Zenica Dobojski Canton Jasmin Duvnjak requested the funding for treatment of expectant mothers diagnosed with thrombophilia to be secured urgently and called upon the cantonal Health Insurance Fund to plan the funding required to refund 100% of costs until the new essential lists of medicines integrating “Clenex” into the A list is adopted in this canton.



The campaign Stop violence and sexual violence against women and children in BiH was launched on November 24, 2016” during a press conference in the Parliament of BiH. The campaign addresses inappropriate punishments for the perpetrators of violence and sexual violence and disharmony of BiH criminal legislation with the Council of Europe Convention.

Orange events were organized across BiH on November 26, 2016, (Tuzla, Sarajevo, Banjaluka, Bihać, Bijeljina, Brčko, Istočno Sarajevo, Mostar, Orašje and Zenica) calling upon citizens to sign the petition demanding the government to demonstrate a stronger political will in fighting violence and sexual violence against women and children by introducing tougher punishments for the perpetrators of such violence. Buildings of the Presidency of BiH, Council of Ministers and Parliament lit up orange in support of the campaign.



The campaign was also supported by representatives of international community headed by US Ambassador in Bih Maureen Cormack. *“When perpetrators of violence against women and children are not adequately punished, it means that the authorities and the society approve of such acts. Domestic violence is not just a problem in the family; it is a social problem that we all need to address.*

In BiH this means stronger punishment for the crime committed whilst providing protection to victims”.

Support for the campaign came from a number of government and media representatives such as Vice president of the FBiH, Women's Caucus in FBiH Parliament, Minister of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH, Minister of Labor and Social Policy, Displaced Persons and Refugees of Sarajevo Canton, Chairwoman of Sarajevo Canton Assembly, editors of the most relevant media outlets, etc.

Billboards with messages of the campaign were visible across BiH (Banja Luka, Bihać, Bijeljina, Tuzla, East Sarajevo, Livno, Mostar, Orasje, Sarajevo and Zenica) and many media outlets accepted to sponsor the campaign and actualize the need for tougher punishments for the perpetrators of domestic violence.



Postal stamp

The importance of the campaign was recognized by BiH Postal Service that supported the campaign by creating a special-issue postage stamp (20,000) and envelopes bearing the campaign poster and slogan. This significantly contributed to raising public awareness about the problem of violence, while the profits from stamp sales were directed to the sustainability of safe houses in BiH.

NGOs engaged in the campaign successfully implemented public awareness campaign and secured support among citizens, government institutions, NGOs and the media. Roundtable meetings and public events in local communities, the petition signing and street actions, distribution of information, media shows, and media appearances were organized to support the cause of the campaign. Moreover, the direct output of the campaign are the initiatives to amend the FBiH, RS and Brcko District Criminal Codes. After an intensive advocacy campaign (more than 150 meetings), the National Assembly of RS on June 13 adopted the amendments to the Criminal Code introducing tougher punishments for the perpetrators of violence and criminal violence.

The agenda of the 27th session of the House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament (June 19, 2018, 30th point) included the ***Draft Law on amendments to the Criminal Code of the Federation of BiH***—proposed by Emina Kahrman on behalf of NGO Women to Women. The session of the House of Representatives was suspended, and its continuation is expected to take place soon.

The Violence against women and domestic violence campaign advocated to amend the Criminal Code of Brcko District to introduce tougher punishments for the perpetrators of violence and sexual violence. A roundtable meeting titled “Fighting violence against women and children” was organized in cooperation with the mayor of Brcko District Sinisa Milic. The participants of the meeting endorsed the initiative to amend the Criminal Code in Brcko District and it was agreed that the initiatives should be sent to the Judicial Committee of the Brcko District, which is the authorized proposer of the Criminal Code. The Judicial Committee of Brcko District formed a Working group for preparing the Proposal Law on amendments to the Criminal Code, on the initiative of Women’s



Interactive Rural Center. Amendments to the to the Criminal Code of the *Brcko District*⁴⁹ to introduce tougher punishments for perpetrators of violence and sexual violence against women and children were adopted by Brcko District Assembly.

During the implementation of the project, a special attention was paid to securing the support of the media to the advocacy process. Many journalists supported the campaign “Silence is not Golden”. They were photographed holding messages and demanding adoption of the amendments to the Criminal Code.



Representatives of the campaign to improve the status of women in rural areas met with members of the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry RS to advocate that subsidies for women in rural areas should be included into the Rules on agricultural subsidies. In March, *the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry RS adopted the Rules on the eligibility and conditions applicable to subsidies for the development of agriculture and rural areas 2018*. Article 37, paragraph 1 “Registered agricultural clusters and agricultural cooperatives and women associations in rural areas, which apply to the Agency and submit relevant documentation, are entitled to subsidies for the development, adaptation and organization of business facilities, as well as for the procurement of basic business means and equipment”.

Results and Impact

- The Government of the Federation of BiH accepted the Draft Law on the Support to Families with Children of FBiH at its 149th session and introduced it into parliamentary procedure. The Draft Law equalizes child support and financial aid to unemployed new mothers across the cantons in the FBiH;
- After the meeting with the new and expectant mothers in Zenica during which the participants highlighted the problem of expectant mothers who have thrombophilia, the chairman of the Zenica Doboj Canton Assembly requested urgent funding for the treatment of expectant mothers with thrombophilia;

⁴⁹ The Law stipulates tougher sanctions for crimes against sexual freedom and morality and crimes against family (Rape in Article 200, paragraph 1, sexual intercourse with a helpless individual in Article 201 and Domestic Violence in Article 218, paragraph 1) thus fully accepting the initiatives of the NGO sector.

- The advocacy campaign implemented by Women to Women and its network effectuated enactment of the Law on the Protection of Families with Children in Herzegovina Neretva Canton after which the Canton for the first time in 20 years regulated the issue of maternal compensation;
- The National Assembly of Republika Srpska accepted the amendments to the Criminal Code to introduce tougher punishments for the perpetrators of violence and criminal violence in RS;
- Discussion of the Draft Law on amendments to the Criminal Code in FBiH was on the Agenda of the 27th session of the House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament, as initiated by the NGO Women to Women;
- Based on the initiative of the Association Women Interactive Rural Center, Brcko District Assembly adopted the Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Brcko District to introduce tougher punishments for perpetrators of violence against women and children;
- On the initiative of Women's Interactive Rural Center, the Rules on eligibility and conditions applicable to subsidies for development of agriculture and rural areas in 2018 includes women associations as beneficiaries.

Sector 8: EDUCATION

Lead: Youth Communication Center (OKC)

During this reporting period, the Youth communication Center implemented four advocacy campaigns:

- **Campaign – Strategic documents – influencing the preparation of strategic documents on education and labor market**
- **Campaign to establish Councils for higher education and labor market alignment (HUB) at faculties**
- **Campaign to implement the Rulebook on Internship according to the new Law on Higher Education in Sarajevo Canton**
- **Campaign to initiate the creation of Education policy for Herzegovina Neretva Canton**

The OKC and Akademac members participated in the drafting of the RS Youth policy document 2016-2020 and in public hearings as part of the **Campaign for the adoption of this strategic document**⁵⁰. The RS National Assembly at its 13th session on October 13 and 14, 2016 adopted the Proposal of Youth Policy⁵¹. It is the direct influence of the OKC and Akademac that the first goal of the document addresses employment of young people and the first measure under this goal implies alignment of higher education and labor market.

In this reporting period, the RS National Assembly approved the Strategy for development of education 2016-2020⁵². Akademac worked hard to ensure that strategic goal II in this strategy

⁵⁰ The OKC organized several activities with the RS Ministry of Culture and Education and RS Youth Council that preceded the final version of the document <http://www.omladinskisavjet.org/?p=1697>

⁵¹ Document can be downloaded at: <http://www.omladinskisavjet.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Prijedlog-omladinske-politike-RS-od-2016.-do-2020.-godine.pdf>

⁵²<http://www.narodnaskupstinars.net/?q=la/vijesti/okon%C4%8Dana-10-redovna-sjednica-usvojena-strategija-razvoja-obrazovanja-republike-srpske>

addresses the alignment of the scientific and research work, and higher education with labor market. The measure 2.7 under the strategic goal II addresses the strengthening of communication between higher education institutions and business sector, which will help in further advocacy for higher education and labor market alignment.

It is important to note that the alignment of labor market and higher education has been embedded in the strategic goals and measures of the key education documents. The decision makers changed their rhetoric about this issue and made some specific decisions accordingly (for example, enrollment at the “oversupplying” schools declined by 10%; in Tuzla, moratorium is considered to be introduced to the programs in school year 2018/2019 that have high number of the unemployed registered with Public Employment Service; in Mostar, a study is being prepared for introducing an Institute that would link academic community and economy through scientific and research work at the University Džemal Bijedic).

The campaign to align labor market and higher education in BiH advocates for the formation of the Councils for higher education and labor market alignment at BiH faculties (HUB), which would increase student practice programs and bring into harmonization curricula and enrollment policy with labor market.

The campaign organized 25 meetings⁵³ with employers bringing more than 1200 students. Participants were given the opportunity to discuss how to align employers' expectations of students and vice versa and how to make practical training in private companies more popular among students.



To date, the Councils for linking with labor market are formed at six (6) faculties; the process of forming the Council is ongoing at six (6) faculties plus the University of Džemal Bijedic Mostar, which only has the possibility to form the Council at the level of University with independent branches at every Faculty.

The Councils have been formed at the following faculties:

- Faculty of Economics Banja Luka
- Veterinary Faculty Sarajevo
- Faculty of Traffic Engineering Dobož
- Faculty of Economics Tuzla
- Faculty of Mechanical Engineering Banja Luka
- Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation Tuzla

⁵³ Faculty of Economics Banja Luka, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering Mostar, Veterinary Faculty Sarajevo, Faculty of Economics Pale, Faculty of Economics Tuzla, Faculty of Information Technology Mostar, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering Banja Luka, Faculty of Electrical Engineering Sarajevo, Faculty of Traffic Engineering Dobož, Faculty of Mining, Geology and Civil Engineering Tuzla, Faculty of Philosophy Mostar



During this reporting period, the Council at the Faculty of Traffic Engineering Dobož created its plan of activities through 2017. Contact information provided in 800 surveys on students' need for practical training was used to organize Live libraries with employers (mini café events to discuss practical training in BiH companies). 1200 students participated in meetings with employers. 800 students filled out surveys thus helping Akadamac create the largest database of students interested in practical training in BiH. The database is currently administered by the OKC. This database helped in organizing a series of events "Coffee with Employers" to establish cooperation between students and companies. 100 practical trainings were implemented in the companies during the reporting period.

Furthermore, a media campaign entitled "I studied free of charge, but for nothing" has been launched, wanting to draw attention to the need of connecting high education with the needs of labor market. According to available Facebook statistics, around 100,000 young people (between 18 and 30 years of age) from the Banja Luka region, Tuzla Canton, Canton Sarajevo, East Sarajevo and Pale area, as well as Herzegovina Neretva Canton have seen the campaign "I studied free of charge, but for nothing", as well as commercials and ads for public debates with the employers that were organized throughout BiH.



Moreover, a study "Practical training at the institutions of higher education in BiH – an example of good practice Faculty of Economics Banja Luka", which shows in detail the benefits of introducing practical training at faculties and how it can be integrated into the existing or new study programs was created.

The campaign "What is the cost of studying without internship?" started with a series of texts written by experts in electronic media (the Nezavisne novine, Buka portal, Banjaluka.net) about the cost that employers have to pay when hiring interns without appropriate practical knowledge.

The campaign for the implementation of **the Rule for practical training according to the new Law on Higher Education in Sarajevo Canton** held several meetings with the University representatives. After the meeting with the Deputy Dean Supic (Faculty of Electrical Engineering Sarajevo), the Dean Fejzic (Veterinary Faculty Sarajevo) and the Deputy Dean Sarajlic (Faculty of Architecture Sarajevo), expert teams were formed to prepare a Rule on the realization of practical training according to the new Law on Higher Education in Sarajevo Canton at the Veterinary Faculty Sarajevo, the Faculty of Electrical Engineering Sarajevo and the Faculty of Architecture and Civil Engineering Sarajevo.

The campaign to initiate the creation of Education policy for Herzegovina Neretva Canton received support from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Herzegovina Neretva Canton regarding the preparation of the Strategy of education for alignment with labor market.

A team made of members of the Ministry of Education of Herzegovina Neretva Canton, OKC (Akadamac) and the Prilika Plus project (the largest project connecting schools and economy in BiH) met on March 26, during the meeting of the Expert Council of Herzegovina Neretva Canton

(expert council's members include representatives of the ministry, education institutions and employers) as part of the campaign to initiate the creation of education policy for Herzegovina Neretva Canton. Education Minister Hadžović said **that the Herzegovina Neretva Canton Assembly formally confirmed the development of the Strategy for development education 2018-2023.** The OKC (Akademac) and Prilika Plus are seen by Hadžovic as the leaders in the process of developing the document. The Government of Herzegovina Neretva Canton appointed the Ministry of Education as a lead of the process.

Results and Impact

- Strategic documents for education in RS⁵⁴ embed the measures and policies regarding alignment of labor market with the education system;
- The Councils for alignment with labor market are formed at six (6) faculties; the process of forming the Councils is ongoing at six (6) faculties, whereas the only possibility at the University of Dzemal Bijedic Mostar is to form the Council at the level of the University with separate branches at every Faculty;
- The Council of the Faculty of Traffic Engineering Doboj also created a plan of activities for the Case Study that will be carried out by the Council, and which serves as an example of good practice for establishment of the Council at other faculties;
- 1200 students participated in meetings with employers; 800 students filled out the surveys thus helping create the largest database of students interested in practical training in BiH. The database is currently administered by the OKC. This database helped in organizing a series of events “Coffee with Employers” to establish cooperation between students and companies. 100 practical trainings were implemented in the companies during the reporting period.
- The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sport of the Herzegovina Neretva Canton supports the preparation of the Strategy of Education for alignment with labor market;
- Expert teams were formed at three schools of the University of Sarajevo to develop the Rules on practical training according to the new Law on Higher Education in Canton Sarajevo;

Sector 9: FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

LEAD: Transparency International BiH (TI BiH) and Center for investigative journalism (CIN)

The TI BiH and CIN implemented the following public advocacy campaigns:

- **Campaign to change and improve the Public Procurement Law,**
- **Campaign to change and improve the Law on Conflict of Interest and to establish mechanism for monitoring accuracy of elected officials’ asset declaration forms and responsibility for reporting false and incorrect information in the asset declaration forms**

⁵⁴ Youth policy of Republika Srpska 2016-2020 and Strategy of education development in Republika Srpska 2016 – 2020

As part of **the campaign to improve Public Procurement Law**, the TI BiH brought together a coalition of NGOs working in the field of public procurement in order to act on the process of amendments to the Public Procurement Law (TI BiH, ACCOUNT, FOD, Tender, CIN).

The coalition held several meetings and agreed on key points of the Law in need of interventions, prepared recommendations that were submitted to the Public Procurement Agency and Working group for preparation of amendments to the Public Procurement Law.

The first step was a comprehensive analysis of the Law on Public Procurement with recommendations and amendments to improve the Law. The analysis contains an overview of the new Law and points to the contentious points that should be modified to improve the prevention of corruption in this area. The focus of the amendments was on three key issue areas: annual procurement plans, conflict of interest in procurement and sanctions, in order to keep the focus of the advocacy efforts.

The first initiative for changes to the Public Procurement Law was presented at a conference entitled “Improving the Public Procurement Law” held in May 2015 in Sarajevo. At the conference, CIN also presented its survey on public procurement to support the initiative and arguments underpinning the need to change the Law.

After presenting the proposals, the TI BiH began coordination of activities with OCDs that have been active in this sector (Account, Tender, the FOD, the Employer Association, etc.). Advocacy proposals were sent to members of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH and meetings took place; continual coordination regarding the launch of the law modification procedure. To promote the amendments developed by CSOs, the TI BiH organized a conference – Anticorruption standards in public procurement on December 3, 2015. One of the panels addressed the amendments and initiatives of OCDs to improve anticorruption mechanisms in the Law on Public Procurement.

The TI BiH also organized a joint press conference with Account, Tender, Employers Association and the FOD on December 9 at the Parliament of BiH to present the amendments that were sent to the parties, and DF and SDS announced introduction of the amendments into parliamentary procedure. However, despite the initial support and progress that was made during advocacy efforts, representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH who previously endorsed the amendments introduced their own changes completely neglecting and ignoring the proposals of the NGO coalition. The TI BiH tried to point to the need for systematic changes to the Law and called upon MPs to use the changes introduced by the DF MPs to improve the anti-corruption mechanisms, however, the proposal that was introduced was neither considered or adopted.

However, having in mind some aggravating circumstances surrounding the modifications to the Public Procurement Law,⁵⁵ the TI BiH and ACCOUNT prepared a set of proposals of new steps in advocacy process and organized a meeting of the coalition to specify the plan of the activities. The CSOs launched advocacy aiming at the EU Delegation and Public Procurement Agency to integrate the proposals and the coalition itself in the announced activities on harmonizing the Law with the

⁵⁵ The previously secured support has disappeared due to disturbed relations among political parties and within the parties

EU directives and to use the process to improve the anti-corruption mechanisms in the Law. The TI BiH organized consultations with the Public Procurement Agency, Office of Complaint Review, the EU Delegation, USAID and other civil society organizations to establish cooperation efforts to amend the Public Procurement Law. Participants agreed during the meeting about modalities of cooperation and engagement of CSOs in the process of preparing the amendments to the Law. As a result, the Public Procurement Agency invited the TI BiH to submit the recommendations for improvement of the Law.

The TI BiH reconvened the coalition of NGOs working in the field of public procurement, in order to effect changes of the Public Procurement Law (TI BiH, ACCOUNT, the FOD, Tender, CIN). Several meetings of the Coalition took place when members agreed on key points of the Law that require interventions. The Coalition prepared a set of recommendations and sent them to the Public Procurement Agency and the Working group for modifications to the Law on Public Procurement. In addition, the meeting took place between the NGO Coalition and Working group to present the recommendations and to formulate amendments that were presented to the Working group. As a result, several proposals of the TI BiH and NGO coalition especially the ones in the segment of ***improving transparency and preventing conflict of interest was incorporated in the Draft Law on Public that was published by the Public Procurement Agency and forwarded to the Council of Ministers for endorsement and further procedure.*** Of 18 proposals submitted by the TI BiH and the NGO Coalition, seven (7) proposals were embedded in the Draft, two of which were fully integrated (especially the Article regulating conflict of interest), five (5) only partially and 11 of them were not integrated at all. The TI BiH intends to continue to advocate for the improvement of the proposed solution during the Draft adoption procedure.

To promote further the NGO proposals and allow for a public discussion on the draft of amendments to the Public Procurement Law, the Conference “Reform of public procurement system in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, which was organized by the TI BiH, the Anti-corruption network ACCOUNT and BiH Agency for Public Procurement took place in June 2018 Sarajevo to present the planned activities of government institutions and civil society organizations to improve Public Procurement Law and monitor public procurements in BiH.



The United States Ambassador Maureen Cormack participated in the Conference and *expressed satisfaction that civil society organizations and BiH Public Procurement Agency organized this event together, which showed a high degree of trust and maturity of cooperation between experts from both the government and the non-governmental sector. Expressing her hope that the amendments to the Law would be adopted soon, the US Ambassador emphasized that public procurements are the most frequently mentioned problem in the context of systemic corruption, as they are one of the largest parts of economic activity in Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

During this entire time, the TI BiH continued to advocate for and point to the shortcomings in the legal framework and to monitor the implementation of the Law on Public Procurement, to point to the cases of misuse of public procurements to illustrate additionally the need to change the respective legal framework.

As part of advocacy efforts, the TI BiH launched an online campaign to underline the key segments of modifications of the law. The campaign involved four different solutions used interchangeably on social networks and online portals. The contents were promoted on social networks and portals such as Klix, Capital, Istinito, etc.).

CIN's efforts and support to this advocacy initiative came in form of investigative stories revealing conflict of interest in public procurements. In line with the project plan, the goal of the stories was to open the floor for public discussion on the issues that were in focus of advocacy efforts.⁵⁶

Making its contribution to transparency of public procurements in BiH CIN developed a database of public procurements i.e. a database of contracts concluded in the public procurement process in the period 2011- 2014 (has more than 40,000 entries). CIN published the database in February 2015. The database provides options to search by name of company, institutions, value, etc. Subsequently, CIN added 2015 data and published them in April 2016 <http://www.cin.ba/javnenabavke/nabavke.php?god=2015>

Several texts were published to point to corruption in public procurement:

- "More than a billion of KM for public procurement in last year⁵⁷" – public institutions signed 11, 864 contracts worth 1 billion KM;
- Based on the information collected about public procurement contracts, CIN created profiles of 50 most successful companies that regularly win contracts. Similar to the profiles of politicians, CIN developed a database providing information about every company, its property structure, debt, taxation obligations, financial stability and amounts received through the contracts during 2011-2015;
- „Private interests are stronger than laws⁵⁸” addresses councilors and how their private companies are winning contracts in public procurement bids. The story reveals that 23 companies contracted business operations through 22 officials in the amount of 85 million KM from September 2010 to December 2015;
- CIN published a research report⁵⁹ and a video story. The research report addressed business operations of Fahrudin Radoncic and how he withdrew funds from his former media company “Avaz-roto press”, which he sold to his ex-wife five years ago after the divorce to avoid sanctions under the Law on Conflict of Interest. Given the importance of the topic⁶⁰ and information learned, CIN also created a video story.⁶¹

⁵⁶ The story addresses spending of public money on political bargaining. The FBiH Minister of Trade, after taking the office, purchased a vehicle for his cabinet from a Car Shop owned by the family of his political party boss. The public procurement procedure was carried out in a way to exclude a transparent and responsible procedure.

⁵⁷ <https://www.cin.ba/vise-od-milijardu-km-za-javne-nabavke-u-prosloj-godini/>

⁵⁸ <https://www.cin.ba/privatni-interesi-jaci-od-zakona/>.

⁵⁹ <https://www.cin.ba/crnogorski-raj-fahrudina-radoncica/>

⁶⁰ Immediately after the publication of the text, the FBiH Police Administration opened an investigation against Radoncic and formally requested CIN's documentation on Radoncic's assets in Montenegro and the contentious contracts regarding transfer of his shares in Avaz Roto press to his ex -wife. Upon the call from the Police Administration in Sarajevo, CIN's journalists talked to the investigators about the findings published in the text.

⁶¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Dq1Lro0H2k>

As part of the campaign to improve the Law on Conflict of Interest, the TI BiH consulted with relevant institutions to complement the information required for the improvement of the legal framework. To that end the TI BiH organized a conference in October 2015 “Conflict of Interest and Asset Declaration Forms – long-term solutions for the institutional and legal frameworks”. The conference brought together around 50 participants, representatives of the enforcing institutions, representatives of legislative government, civil society, the media and international organizations. The TI BiH presented the initiative to improve the legal framework regulating the conflict of interest and asset declaration requirements. The TI's initiative focused on eliminating discrepancies in terms of persons and situations to which the regulations apply and to extend the pool of persons covered by the legislation to introduced tougher sanctions. The initiative also covers ensuring the efficient and objective implementation of the conflict of interest law – to depoliticize law enforcement body – to allow for extension of the competencies and capacities of the Agency for Prevention and Coordination of Anticorruption Activities instead of the current committee made up of representatives of parliament. This would be a logical choice of the institutions that should be responsible for enforcement of the conflict of interest legislation. The TI BiH asked for removal of obstacles to disclosure of assets declaration forms, so as to allow for citizens to have access to information contained in the assets forms. Moreover, the TI BiH requested adoption of provisions on oversight and control of accuracy of information from the assets declaration forms along with sanctions for providing false information. The TI BiH informed all relevant institutions about the conclusions of the conference and the coming TI's initiative.

After presenting the initiative, the TI BiH continued to point to many shortcomings of the legal framework -- the long-term blockage of enforcement of the conflict of interest regulation--by responding publicly and providing recommendations to improve the legal framework.

The TI BiH prepared proposals of modifications of the Conflict of Interest Law based on the previous analyses and consultations with representatives of relevant institutions. On May 12, 2016, the TI BiH promoted the proposed modification of the Conflict of Interest Law and distributed the initial amendments to the law. The Conference in Sarajevo brought together 50 participants, representatives of legislative and executive governments, civil society, media and international institutions. A short video story was also presented at the conference. The story created by CIN shows a snapshot of the situation, legal and institutional problems in the field of conflict of interest⁶².

Because of these efforts, **the proposal of the Law on Conflict of Interest in the institutions of BiH was introduced into parliamentary procedure** as the initiative signed by 8 MPs in the House of Representatives of BiH Parliament: Hazim Rančić (SDA), Damir Arnaut (SBB), Borislav Bojić (SDS), Saša Magazinović (SDP), Maja Gasal Vražalica (DF), Senad Šepić (Independent block), Jasmin Emrić (A-SDA) and Diana Zelenika (HDZ 1990). The proposal is embedded in the agenda of the House of Representatives; prior to that it was reviewed by the Committee for Constitutional and Legal Affairs that concluded that BiH Ministry of Justice, the Anti-Corruption Agency and the Central Election Commission of BiH should submit their opinions before the vote on the proposal.

⁶² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JgjBiGaJe6Q&feature=youtu.be>

Furthermore, these advocacy efforts included a regional conference to mark international anti-corruption day on December 12, 2017 organized by the TI BiH in cooperation with the ACCOUNT network and BiH Anticorruption Agency. The Conference provided some general insights into the level of implementation of anti-corruption reforms in BiH and in the region, however, it also addressed the issue of conflict of interest, the current results of the Initiative and good practices. The opening remarks were given by US Ambassador Maureen Cormack, the EU Special Representative in BiH Lars Gunnar Wigemark, British Ambassador Edward Ferguson and German Ambassador Christina Hohman.



Currently, one of the most important anticorruption laws, the new Law on Conflict of Interest at the state level is discussed in Parliament. The adoption of this law will be an important step for the credibility of the country's anticorruption efforts on its road to EU. This is a golden opportunity for members of Parliament to show their real commitment to the principles of accountability and transparency. I invite all political actors to set an example for the future of BiH and adopt this new Law on Conflict of Interest.

US Ambassador Maureen Cormack

Since the Proposal of the Law on Conflict of Interest entered the parliamentary procedure before the Conference, all the actors stressed the importance of adopting this piece of legislation, and a joint statement was issued by the Embassy of the United States, the EU Delegation, the British Embassy and OSCE calling on BiH MPs to use the opportunity to improve the Law on Conflict of Interest.

On June 18, 2018 the Committee for Constitutional and Legal Affairs of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH endorsed the principles of amendments to the Law on Conflict of Interest⁶³.

To strengthen advocacy activities in this area, CIN investigated and published a story about the conflict of interest of public officials focusing on the spending of public funds to promote individual. It also featured a video story. The story may reach a large number of readers and provoke stronger public interest in this topic. Although according to the law it is a potential conflict of interest, this situation was not properly addressed by the law, which pointed to the need to improve the law in this segment.

With regards to elected officials' asset declaration forms, TI BiH monitored the activities on modifications to the Election Law and sent a set of recommendations to the Working group. These recommendations included the need to regulate the obligation to file and control asset statements. One of TI's recommendations that the regulations on asset declaration forms should apply only to elected and appointed officials and not to all officials was accepted. This is only a partial success considering that the provisions regarding establishment of oversight have not yet been embedded.

⁶³ Modification of the law was scheduled to be considered on September 4, 2018, at the 64th session of the House of Representatives of the BiH Parliament that was suspended.

CIN published a story ⁶⁴ about potential conflict of interest of the chairman and members of the Independent Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH. CIN discovered that at least three members of the Committee whose duty, as civilians, is to oversee work of the police bodies in BiH, are members of parties and that parallel to being members of the Committee they are also working in the public institutions and enterprises, which is prohibited by the law and constitutes likely conflict of interests. During the period of 86 months, the Committee held 61 sessions and the members were paid out almost 859, 000 KM on the account of their engagement on the Committee. During that time, they made no significant decision, despite the situation in the country and the objective need.

In December 2016, CIN published two stories⁶⁵ on the penalties that the Committee for Deciding Conflict of Interest had imposed to the chairman and members of the Committee Žika Krunić and Miroslav Škorić. CIN published that the Committee penalized them because they violated the national Law on the Conflict of Interest. During their engagement on the Committee, they were employed elsewhere, which is prohibited by the Law, as such arrangement presents incompatibility of functions. Krunić is the CEO of Coal Mine and Thermal plant “Ugljevik” (RiTE), and Škorić is a member of the Supervisory board of the Public company Water and Sewage in Bijeljina. The Committee imposed financial sanctions. Krunić shall pay 30% of the compensation received while on the Independent Committee during the six-month period, while Skorić wil pay 10%, as they were in conflict of interest since March 2014.

Another story published CIN was that Krunić submitted his irrevocable resignation after the Committee's decision. **The Committee's decision followed after CIN published information about the potential conflict of interest of Krunić and other members of the Independent Committee.**

As part of advocacy efforts, the TI BiH and CIN produced a video story to demonstrate why it is necessary to adopt the Proposal. The story prepared by CIN covered the conflict of interest case, i.e. the story about how political non-governmental association Croatian National Assembly headed by Dragan Covic has received public funds since 2014, which is a situation strictly prohibited by the Law on Conflict of Interest in the institutions of BiH. After this case was reviewed by the Committee, the Committee did not have a quorum because the two members of HDZ BiH did not attend the session of the Committee during which they were supposed to discuss and conclude about possible conflict of interest of their party chief.

This video story also includes the positions of the TI BiH and the efforts to alert about the shortcomings of the law allowing this practice and politicization of the Committee.⁶⁶

Furthermore, the TI BiH worked to improve the law by filing individual charges in the cases of conflict of interest in order to point to inadequate functioning of the Committee for Conflict of Interest. The TI BiH filed charges against Dragan Anđelić, former member of the Committee and former deputy of the Anticorruption Agency (APIK). This also received significant publicity and the

⁶⁴ <https://www.cin.ba/nezavisni-odbor-u-sluzbi-politike/>

⁶⁵ <https://www.cin.ba/predsjednik-i-clan-nezavisnog-odbora-u-sukobu-interesa/>

⁶⁶ Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbVSHvGr8PU>

opportunity was used to point to the lack of Committee's independence and the need to adopt advance legal solutions.

To actualize the lack of enforcement of the Law on Conflict of Interest in the Federation of BiH, CIN published a story “Babo's advisors chasing two rabbits⁶⁷”, which depicts not only the lack of enforcement but also inappropriate legal solutions that do not cover many practices that are in fact conflict of interest. It also features a video story that embeds the TI's position on the current legal framework and the case itself.

Results and Impact

- The proposals for improving the Law on Public Procurement were created and presented to the Working group for amendments to the Law;
- NGOs' proposals are embedded in the Draft law on Public Procurement and the Draft law was sent to the Council of Ministers for approval and further procedure;
- The TI's proposal of the Law on Conflict of Interest was introduced into parliamentary procedure as an initiative signed by eight MPs in the House of Representatives
- The Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly on June 18, 2018 endorsed the principles of the Law on Conflict of Interest; the Law is scheduled to be considered during 64th session of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH;
- Investigative stories pointed to corruption in public procurement and conflict of interests. Following their publication, several investigations into the allegations were launched.

Sector 10: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Lead: Center for Development and Support (CRP)

Center for Development and Support (CRP) from Tuzla has implemented three campaigns:

- **Campaign to increase the political will and competencies of local BiH authorities (municipalities, cities, cantons) for “greening” the local energy sector through planning and implementation of the EE & RES measures**
- **Adoption of the Law on Energy Efficiency**
- **Campaign to motivate and educate citizens to implement concrete EE & RES measures in their households and businesses**

The campaign to increase the political will and competences of the local BiH authorities for “greening” the local energy sector conducted analysis of the situation in all BiH local and cantonal administrations in the segment of increasing efficiency and implementation of renewable sources of energy as a measure of environment protection and sustainable development. The focus was on a question of whether BiH municipalities and towns adopted appropriate energy efficiency action plans. Two series of 14 workshops were organized for representatives of all self-government units

⁶⁷ <https://www.cin.ba/babini-savjetnici-u-dvije-fotelje/>

in BiH to discuss energy efficiency, renewable sources of energy and systemic energy management at the local level – the importance of energy efficiency action plans.

Following the successful workshops (2015-2016) for self-government units in BiH, the campaign launched its third round of seven workshops for 14 municipalities and towns ⁶⁸ that showed interest to prepare Energy efficiency Action plans. With mentorship and by adhering to legal frameworks and conditions, the municipal teams prepared their EEAPs that would be adopted as official strategic documents by municipal councils or assemblies by the end of 2018.



As part of the campaign for **enactment of the Law on Energy Efficiency of FBiH** the CRP and EFEKT network formally requested that the House of Representatives of the BiH Federation Parliament enact the law. The network also forwarded the request to all relevant domestic and international institutions and organizations and to specific individuals in these institutions (to more than 600 addresses). The network held two press conferences in Sarajevo to exert additional pressure on the decision makers.

To mark the Earth Day the CRP and EFEKT network organized a public event in front of the BiH Parliament on April 22, 2016 to mark the Earth Day under the slogan “EFFEctive BiH (r)evolution of energy efficiency”. Using street performance, CSOs called upon the FBiH government to enact the Energy Efficiency Law. The goal of the event was also to show how BiH is seriously lagging behind world trends in environment protection and sustainable energy development and that we all feel the consequences on a daily basis. This was an opportunity to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy sources as best mechanisms in protecting planet Earth.

On August 17, 2016, CRP and EFEKT network participated in a whole-day event EnviroDay – PiroDan, organized by the United Nations Environment Program UNEP, as part of the Sarajevo Film Festival. CRP and EFEKT network presented the goals of CSSP campaigns and distributed relevant promotional and educational materials.



EFEKT network and its partners and associates formed a pressure group to advocate for enactment of the Law on Energy Efficiency of the FBiH. Following an intensive advocacy campaign, the Law was adopted on February 15, 2017. EFEKT sent out more than 100 letters and held more than 100 meetings with representatives of government and MPs to secure support for this Law. Enactment of the law is the result of the multiyear effort of NGOs, citizens and government representatives who recognized the benefits that BiH may have

⁶⁸ Kotor Varoš, Lukavac, Modriča, Brod, Prnjavor, Grude, Živinice, Srebrenik, Orašje, Maglaj, Gornji Vakuf – Uskoplje, Tomislavgrad, Derventa and Srebrenica

from enforcing the Law. This is also a step toward BiH fulfilling a part of its assumed international obligations in this field.

The Center for Development and Support on behalf of EFEKT coalition prepared comments and proposals to the Law, which received a broad support and as such were submitted to the Working group for preparation of the law. The final proposal of the Law integrated over 20 CRP's proposals such as for example, to define responsibility for implementation of energy efficiency policy, to emphasize the importance of the energy efficiency system as the foundation of energy management, to define terms of energy efficiency audit (allowing physical entities to conduct energy audit). The law adoption procedure took more than four years.



Monitoring of the implementation of the law followed soon after its enactment. Three workshops took place in Mostar, Sarajevo and Tuzla to bring together representatives of relevant cantonal ministries, with presence of the FBiH Fund for Environment Protection, FBiH Ministry of Energy, Mining and Industry, FBiH Ministry of City Planning).

During this period, three media events took place. The Lunch with the media events focused on the campaign for the adoption and enforcement of the Law.

Two roundtable meetings titled “Energy efficiency in BiH – progress, news and further steps” took place (Sarajevo on May 24 and Banja Luka on June 7). Participants of the events presented the process of implementation of the Law on Energy Efficiency, the activities that have been realized by the government institutions and international organizations.



The conclusion of the roundtable is that positive steps were made in the field of energy efficiency over the past year since the Law was adopted. Many strategic documents were created to provide a framework for actions in the area of energy efficiency.

The final versions of data entry supporting tools required for creating cantonal and local EEAPs and the EEAP forms are also completed as well as the principles of classification of indicative goals for energy efficiency. These tools were handed to the FBiH Ministry of Energy, Mining and Industry, the RS Fund for Environment Protection and Energy Efficiency, the RS Ministry of City Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology, the RS Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining. The documents will be showcased and submitted to the competent cantonal ministries for further implementation.

The campaign to motivate and educate citizens to implement specific energy efficiency measures organized 63 eco seminars for citizens in Tuzla, Banja Luka and Mostar. The workshops are free consultations that the CRP, ENKON and



EFEKT network provided to citizens during four years in order to present various avenues and opportunities for citizens to reduce their energy consumption and save on energy bills in their households and to present other benefits of energy efficiency measures. The educational programs named “Energy evenings with citizens” motivated and educated 1,208



participants. The impact of this campaign can be seen in an increased interest of citizens to learn more about energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy, and to raise their awareness about the risks of using fossil sources of energy such as coal and oil as they are the biggest threats to environment, human health and sustainable development in general.

Results and Impact

- After more than four years the FBiH Law on Energy Efficiency was approved after an intensive advocacy campaign implemented by the CRP and EFEKT network. The Law proposal integrated more than 20 proposals from NGO sector⁶⁹ to improve the energy efficiency sector in the FBiH;
- 14 municipalities completed their Energy Efficiency Action Plans that should soon be adopted by municipal mayors or councils;
- The final versions of data entry supporting tools required for creating cantonal and local EEAPs and forms for EEAPs are completed as well as the principles of classification of indicative goals for energy efficiency;
- 63 eco seminars for citizens in Tuzla, Banja Luka and Mostar to present avenues and opportunities to save on energy bills in households and in public sector.

Sector 11: AGRICULTURE

Lead: Association for Rural Development (ARD)

During the implementation of the project, the following campaigns were implemented:

- **To improve and monitor legislative framework for subsidies to agricultural and rural development in Republika Srpska – Campaign for subsidies “6%”**
- **Right to healthy – to improve organic production sector**
- **To prepare and adopt a Strategic plan of rural development of BiH**
- **To strengthen a dialogue between agricultural producers/processors and public institutions to work together to advocate for the solutions in the field of protection of bees from pesticide poisoning and organization of cadaster pastures in the Federation of BiH and Brcko District**

The RS Government was under the **campaign for incentives requested to observe the legally prescribed volume of funds for the agricultural budget that should amount 6% of the total domestic revenue of the RS Budget**. More than 250 letters were sent to the representatives of RS Government, National Assembly, and MPs in the lobbying process. More than 20 press releases were sent to addresses of more than 120 media outlets and other interested parties.

⁶⁹ To specify responsibility for implementation of the energy efficiency policy; to stress the importance of the energy efficiency system as the foundation for energy management; to specify requirement for performing energy audits (to enable physical entities to carry out energy audits).

A roundtable discussion “The level of 2017 agricultural budget” was held in Banja Luka on December 5, 2016, bringing together 20 participants. Two press conferences were held, whereof one was held as part of the roundtable discussion, while the second was held in front of the RS Government building before beginning of the RS NA’s session at which the RS Budget for 2017 was considered. Despite all the efforts representatives of the civil society



were not consulted in the process of preparation and adoption of Economic reform program 2017-2019 and the RS Budget for 2017. The Government adopted the preliminary draft 2017 Budget under urgent procedure as a proposal that was adopted with initially proposed 60 million for the 2017 agricultural budget. In spite of all the efforts, proposed amendment to increase this budget that was put forward by the PDP caucus upon ARD’s initiative was not adopted by the Assembly. The ARD participated in organization of agricultural producers’ protests relating to adoption of agricultural budget of 60 million for 2017, as well as in the process of preparation of the Rulebook on allocation of incentives.

Representatives of agricultural producers have in agreement with ARD sent a joint appeal to the Constitutional Court of Republika Srpska with the aim of having this court review the validity of the RS Budget for 2017, since the budget wasn’t adopted in line with the Law on Ensuring and Directing funds to Stimulate Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas, i.e. Article 2 of this Law that sets forth that the volume of funds intended for incentives amounts at least 6% of the total domestic revenue of RS Budget. The adopted RS budget allocates BAM 60 million to the agricultural budget and incentives, which is 3.3%.

Over 70 meetings and more than 20 public events took place as part of the „6% campaign. Also, the campaign included sending out more than 250 letters and over 20 press releases. More than 20, 000 beneficiaries/citizens/agricultural producers were informed about the campaign and its results via various media and communication channels, and around 5,000 citizens participated in the campaign in various ways.



Organic Saturday Banja Luka

The advocacy campaign to improve organic production in BiH “Right to healthy” engaged more than 4,000 citizens. In 2016, the campaign organized mini fairs of organic produce and domestic traditional agricultural products that were produced according to good agricultural practice. Over 40 agricultural producers participated in the Organic Saturday fairs. Organic Saturdays took place in Banja Luka on October 15, in Sarajevo, on October 29, in Bijeljina on October 12 and in Mostar on November 26.

10 towns in BiH hosted 14 petition signing events to secure support for the initiative. More than 4,000 signatures of support were collected. The initiative was sent to the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH and entity ministries to embed the Road map in the Work plan of the Council of Ministers for 2017.

In December 2016, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH sent out a letter to the entity institutions and Brcko District requesting their position on engaging in the preparing of a Road map for improving organic production in BiH. The FBiH Ministry of Agriculture and Brcko District Government shared their positive position and willingness to prepare the document, while the Ministry of Agriculture of RS expressed their negative position and did not support the joint strategic document due to their concern that the strategic document at the state level would lead to enactment of the national Law on organic production, which would be in collision with the Constituting of BiH. The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations formally withdrew from any further steps concerning the Road map because of the disagreements between the entity institutions. The ARD decided to work independently, i.e. in cooperation with experts in this area to prepare and submit a proposal to the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH for approval.

The ARD worked intensively on preparing the Action plan for improving organic production in BiH 2017-2021. All competent institutions were informed about the document. Several consultations took place with representatives of the FBiH Ministry of Agriculture and Brcko District Government. The team for preparation of the Action plan was formed. The Action plan contains three overall goals, 16 objectives and 50 activities.

A study trip to Hungary was organized during the period November 9-11. The participants were representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry of Republika Srpska and FBiH and Brcko District, the Institute for Accreditation–BATA and members of the team for development of the Action plan for improving the organic production sector (around 13 participants). The study involved visits to organic farms in Hungary and the meetings with the Ministry of Agriculture where the participants learned about policies for development of organic production.

The Initiative to integrate the Action Plan for improving organic production 2017-2021 into the Work plan of the Council of Ministers of BiH for 2018 was filed with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH on November 27, 2017. After filing the initiative, the meetings took place with the competent institutions to present the Action plan.

As part of the campaign **to create and adopt a Strategic plan of rural development in BiH**, the ARD implements the activities in synergy with USAID FARMA II project. New activities are introduced to advocate for the adoption of the Strategic plan of rural development in BiH, as the first requirement for opening IPA funding for agriculture and rural development in BiH.

The ARD took part in preparing the Strategic plan of rural development in BiH and along with participation of 111 different stakeholders (agricultural producers, processors and public sector) prepared 14 advocacy plans for the strategic goals and 42 priorities. It is important to mention that ***90% of the proposals created by the ARD are accepted and integrated in the Draft Strategic Plan of Rural Development in BiH.***⁷⁰

⁷⁰ Strategic plan of rural development of BiH was adopted on February 20, 2018

After the adoption of the Strategic Plan of Rural Development in BiH, in the creation of which ARD participated through the CSSP project, the ARD launched **the activities regarding the implementation of the measures from the Strategic plan of rural development**. More precisely, this includes the activities regarding *protection of bees from pesticide poisoning and organization of the cadaster pastures in FBiH and Brcko District*. The aim is to increase public awareness among fruit producers and farmers about utilizing adequate practices in order to prevent bee poisoning from pesticide. The Campaign also implies adoption of a Regulation on the fruit production practices by the associations of fruit producers to define a Code of Conduct for fruit/vegetable producers.

The activities also focused on organization of cadaster pastures, control of health standards of bee hives and bee health in the FBiH and Brcko District.

Several proposals regarding improvements in the field of pasture organization and protection at the level of the FBiH were specified at various meetings and focus groups. 10 working meetings took place with the associations of fruit producers and beekeepers to present the campaign and to advocate for the adoption of a Rule by the Federation of Associations of Fruit Producers and the Federation of Associations of Beekeepers.

At the initiative of the ARD, the Union of Beekeepers in Federation of BiH adopted the *Regulation for implementation of adequate protective practices during the treatment of agricultural crops with products for protection of plants*.

The ARD filed an Initiative with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Brcko District seeking the adoption of the Law on Beekeeping in Brcko District. The current situation in the sector of beekeeping production in BiH was analyzed during the preparatory phase of the Law and in cooperation with the Network for agriculture and rural development in BiH that brings together 56 agricultural producers, processors and public sector. This law would initiate an equal development of beekeeping production as a high-income branch of agricultural production (which would improve the position and market orientation of bee products) and it would also allow for attracting future donors, primarily the funding allocated through IPARD program.

In order to increase farmers' interest in the protection of bee health, a workshop was organized on April 11 in Brcko in cooperation with a Department for Agriculture, Forestry and Water management of Government of Brcko District. The workshop brought together agricultural advisors and producers/processors – farmers, vegetable and fruit growers to discuss the opportunities for achieving higher yields through use of bee pollination.



The ARD sent to the Union of soft fruit producers in BiH the Initiative to adopt a Regulation for good fruit-growing practices and responsible conduct during treatment of fruit with plant protection products. The intention was to open a dialogue between institutions and civil sector to allow for a better organization of the beekeeping sector. In other words, the beekeeping sector needs solutions to protect bees against pesticide poisoning and to define minimum good practices and a responsible conduct of fruit farmers during treatment of fruit with plant protection products.

The ARD filed the Initiative with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry of FBiH seeking the adoption of the Regulation on the cadaster of bee pasture and pasture organization in FBiH.

Results and Impact

- 90 percent of the proposals created by the ARD in cooperation with other interest groups were accepted and integrated in the Strategic Plan of rural development in BiH that was adopted in February 2018.
- The Action plan for improving organic production in BiH 2017-2021 was created; it contains 3 general goals, 16 objectives and 50 activities and the initiative was filed to integrate the Action plan for improving organic production in BiH 2017-2021 into 2018 Work plan of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH;
- On the ARD's initiative, the Union of Beekeepers in Federation of BiH adopted the Regulation for implementation of adequate protective practices during the treatment of agricultural crops with plant protection products
- 4,000 citizens supported the petition to adopt a Road Map/Action plan for organic production.
- More than 200 letters were sent out to MPs in the RS National Assembly and members of the RS Government demanding an increase of the agricultural budget. The campaign secured a joint approach and one voice of representatives of the umbrella agricultural associations, which previously was not the case.
- The ARD participated in organization of farmers' protests against the adoption of the agricultural budget in amount of 60 million KM for 2017. Moreover, the ARD took part in preparing the Regulation on subsidy award.

Sector 12: PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT

Lead: Foundation Public Interest Advocacy Center (CPI)

During this reporting period the CPI worked on five advocacy campaigns:

- **To contribute to the adoption of the Law on Parliamentary Oversight to increase the degree of realization of auditing recommendations at the state level;**
- **Campaign to amend the Law on Budgets in FBiH to introduce Budget for Citizens in the process of budget preparation as a mandatory budget document;**
- **Campaign to amend the Law on budget of Brčko District to introduce Budget for Citizens in the process of budget preparation as a mandatory budget document;**
- **Campaign to improve implementation of Regulation on rules for participation of the interested public in the process of drafting FBiH legal documents and other regulations by the FBiH Ministry of Finance**

As part of the **campaign to contribute to enactment of the Law on Parliamentary Supervision** the CPI Foundation had on February 3, 2017 in Sarajevo organized a roundtable discussion entitled “Is there a right response to the recommendations of the audit of BiH institutions?”

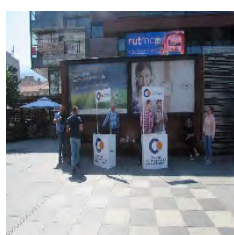
aimed at actualizing significance of penalties concerning adverse audit opinions. Referring to the entire mechanism of public sector audit, but also presenting the perspective of a taxpayer, the participants of the roundtable discussion noted that the audit has become an end in itself. The significant of performance audit has been emphasized especially the lack of high-quality analysis of the situation.



The CPI prepared amendment to the Law on Parliamentary Oversight to increase the degree of realization of auditing recommendations at the state level. The Law was introduced to parliamentary procedure by delegate Ljiljana Zovko. Several meetings took place with representatives of the Parliament of BiH in order to gain their support for amendments to the Law on Parliamentary Oversight. Meetings also took place with representatives of international organizations that had been involved in the process of making the Law (the OSCE, the IMF).

The CPI’s intensive advocacy efforts were successful as they resulted *in the adoption of the amendments to the Proposal of the Law on Parliamentary Oversight of BiH*. The amendments were adopted at the 5th urgent session of the House of People of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH on December 22, 2017. This fulfilled the campaign's goal to strengthen oversight over the budget process by engaging Parliament in discussion on audit reports with adverse opinions and by introducing the requirement to act according to the recommendations of the Office for Auditing of the Institutions of BiH. Since the Law was adopted in different texts, it was necessary to harmonize the text and the final text of the Law was adopted on March 7, 2018, at the 58th session of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH.

The campaign to modify the Law on the Budgets of the FBiH prepared the analytical report „Introducing the practice of Budget for Citizens in the FBiH, RS and Brcko District. The report and initiative were presented at the roundtable meeting in April 2016.



To inform the public about the idea, content and goal of the Budget for citizens, the CPI realized public information campaign “Looking for a budget for citizens”. The campaign was launched on October 27, 2016 at the press conference. Street actions and distribution of material took place across the country: November 15, Sarajevo, December 6, Mostar, July 24 Banja Luka, July 31, Prijedor, August 1 Bihac, August 31, Sarajevo and September 13 Brcko.

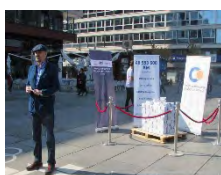
In April 2017, a public event “Budget for Citizens – Get to know it and take action” took place in Sarajevo. The goal was to actualize the topic as a form of pressure on decision makers in order to make legislative changes and introduce a budget for citizens as an obligatory document in the budget cycle in the FBiH. Additional focus was on a problem of methodological guidelines observed through the meetings with government representatives, and the event was opened by representative of the World Bank Tatiana Proskuryakova, Country



Manager for BiH. This event presented three thematic areas: openness of budgets in BiH, world and regional practices in preparing the Budgets for Citizens, and practices and the guidelines with the field experiences.

Members of the Committee for Economic and Financial Policy of the House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament were presented with the Analysis “Introduction of Budget for Citizens as obligatory budget document in a budget cycle” as well as the Proposal of the Law on amendments to the Law on the Budgets of FBiH. Members of the Committee for economic and financial policy supported the suggestion to be proponent of the amendments to the Law on Budgets in the FBiH that would introduce budget for the citizens.

As part of the campaign to amend the Law on Budgets in FBiH, the CPI and the Committee for Economic and Fiscal Policy of the House of Representatives of FBiH Parliament organized on February 28, 2018 a thematic session titled “With budgets for citizens toward better planning, allocation and expenditure of public funds”. Participants discussed the need to introduce a Budget for Citizens as one of the mandatory documents in the budgetary cycle of FBiH. The Head of the Croatian Institute for Public Finances prof. dr. Katarina Ott shared her experiences regarding the preparation and publication of Budget for Citizens. The CPI’s members held four advocacy meetings with representatives of political parties to secure support of MPs when the Law enters parliamentary procedure. The meetings were held with Dennis Gratz-Naša stranka, Mirsad Topčagić-ASDA, Adisa Omerbegović-SBB and Azra Hadžiahmetović-SBiH.



Street action

As part of the Campaign to modify the Law on the Budget, the CPI Foundation organized a street action in Sarajevo to show daily consumption of public money in BiH. Also, the citizens were informed once again about the activities of the CPI Foundation and the initiative to introduce the Budget for citizens as a mandatory document in the budgetary process in the Federation of BiH. The campaign distributed around 2,000 informational leaflets.

Proposal to the Law on amendments to the Law on the Budgets of the FBiH proposed by the Committee for Economic and Finance Policy of the House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament entered the procedure on June 19, 2017. The FBiH Government considered the initiative to amend the Law on the Budgets. It was the Government’s position that the Budget for Citizens should not be introduced as a mandatory practice. Representatives of the Committee believe however that the amendment to the Law should be considered in parliamentary procedure despite the Government's position.

As part of the campaign to **amend the Law on budget of Brčko District to introduce a Budget for Citizens in the process of budget preparation as a mandatory budget document**, the CPI



organized a roundtable meeting in Brcko on September 12 “How to get a budget for the citizens?” The goal of the roundtable discussions was to actualize the topic of the Budget for the citizens as a type of pressure on the decision makers, but also to familiarize the participants with the methodology and specific guidelines for drafting the budget for the citizens in practice. Osman Osmanović, Director of the Treasury of the Finance

Directorate of Brčko District, confirmed the information that the Finance Directorate should together with the OHR harmonize the final proposal of the Law on Budget of the Brčko District, which was earlier considered by the OHR, and that all CPI's amendments concerning the budget for the citizens have been kept in the final document.

The CPI Foundation held a meeting with representatives of the Brcko District Finance Directorate and OHR to discuss the legal grounds for the adoption of a Regulation on creating a Budget for Citizens by the Brcko District Finance Directorate and some other legal modalities in order to avoid legal vacuum until the Law is adopted.⁷¹ In agreement with the Brcko District Finance Directorate it was decided to prepare Instructions for the Budget for Citizens, thus to introduce Budget for citizens into the Brcko District's budgeting cycle.

During the continuation of the 38th regular session (June 8, 2018), the Government of Brcko District adopted *the Guidelines for preparing a draft of Instructions for development of the Budget for citizens in District of Brcko*.

During the campaign to improve the implementation of Regulation on rules for participation of the interested public in the process of drafting the FBiH legal documents involved many sets of meetings with representatives of the FBiH Government and Ministry of Finance. The CPI worked according to the OGP (Open Government Partnership) Action Plan, which defined four areas of activity such as access to freedom of information, improving the financial transparency, strengthening the integrity of institutions at all levels and improving the institutional cooperation with civil society.

During the project, the CPI prepared analytical report "Representative citizen" in support of advocacy campaigns, to show accessibility of budget information and documents at the level of municipalities in BiH. In addition, the CPI conducted a public opinion survey: Citizens' views on the Budget and its function.

On June 28, the CPI Foundation organized a closing event of the CSSP activities related to the Network for a budgetary responsibility, Budget for Citizens, the Law on Parliamentary Oversight in BiH and Open Government Partnership. The CPI Foundation presented Certificates of Recognition to the winners of the recent survey on openness of the budgetary cycle at the lower levels of government in BiH. The survey measured whether the bodies of administration timely and throughout the year publish the most important budgetary documents and whether these documents contain all the necessary data.



The winners of certificates of recognition for openness and transparency of budget cycle are: Bijeljina, Prnjavor, Tešanj, Sarajevo- Centar, Sarajevo- Novo Sarajevo, Sarajevo- Stari Grad, Zenica, Gradiška, Mrkonjić Grad, Bosanska Krupa, Bihać, Odžak, Gračanica, Lukavac, Tuzla, Sarajevo Canton, Zenica-Doboj Canton, Posavina Canton.

⁷¹ Draft Law on the Budgets of Brcko District contains articles disapproved by the OHR, and that is why the Law was not considered for almost more than one year

Results and Impact

- The CPI's amendments to the Proposal of the Law on Parliamentary Oversight of BiH to increase transparency of audit reports were adopted;
- The Government of Brcko District adopted the Guidelines for preparing a draft of Instructions for developing a Budget for Citizens in District of Brcko; this was the start of the process of preparing a mandatory document -- Budget for Citizens;
- Proposal for modifications to the Law on Budgets in FBiH to introduce the budget for citizens was introduced to parliamentary procedure. The Committee for Economic and Fiscal Policy of the House of Representatives of FBiH Parliament will request that the Parliament vote on the proposal of the Law, regardless of the Governments position.⁷²
- The CPI organized the closing event of its activities within the CSSP program, during which the administrative bodies, the winners of the recent survey on openness of budget cycle were awarded certificates of recognition.
- Public information campaign "Looking for a Budget for Citizens" involved seven street actions and 11,600 distributed leaflets with information pointing to the need to have Budgets for Citizens.

⁷² That the Budget for Citizens should not be introduced as an obligatory practice

Monitoring

Monitoring parliament and government sessions

During the five-year period (2013-2018), the CCI monitored the work of all cantonal, entity and state executive and legislative government. As a result of that process, the CCI produced 468 reports on monitoring the government performance and shared the contents with the public via press conferences and press releases. The CCI documented 4,147 press reports, which is the result that cannot be compared to any other NGO activity in the country. A set of positive changes occurred in how certain government representatives approached their work and relations with citizens, and a slow but significant development of a system (a state) is taking place where citizens would monitor the work of their government so that it works in the public interest.

Over 700,000 citizens were informed about the findings of the monitoring reports and the work of the government institutions in BiH. The monitoring reports are recognized in the media as reliable sources of information, and the media outlets exploit the information not only as relevant footage of press conferences but also to create some other stories. The information about the work of government addressed the work results of who were elected to represent BiH citizens (both the executive and the legislative institutions, as well as individual government representatives). The data presented to the public speaks of general productivity, efficiency, transparency and accountability, and respect for the Constitution and laws, trends compared to the previous period and how that all reflected on the quality of the lives of citizens in BiH.

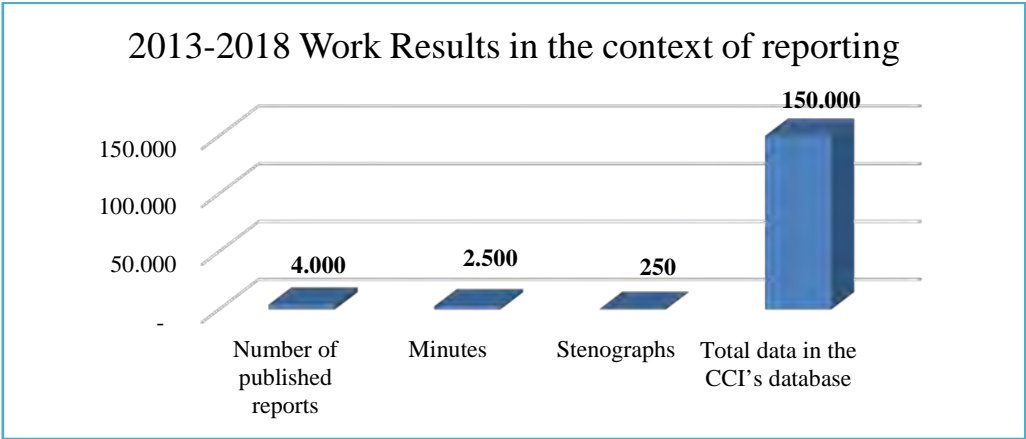
The CCI identified several key citizens' problems in different areas and developed a database with a set of various initiatives and recommendations that could steer the work of the government according to citizens' demands. The CCI filed several hundreds of initiatives and recommendations and held almost that many meetings with government representatives.

Around 100 initiatives were accepted. For example, all 26 government institutions operate according to the annual Work plans. This was one initiative that the CCI advocated for a long time. Work plans are strategic documents setting forth the goals and directions of government during a year so that citizens and the public in general have information about what the government intends to do, to monitor that work and to measure the results and identify the persons in charge. After this, another significant step forward was made – the preparations of a Work plan need to include and consult a broader public.

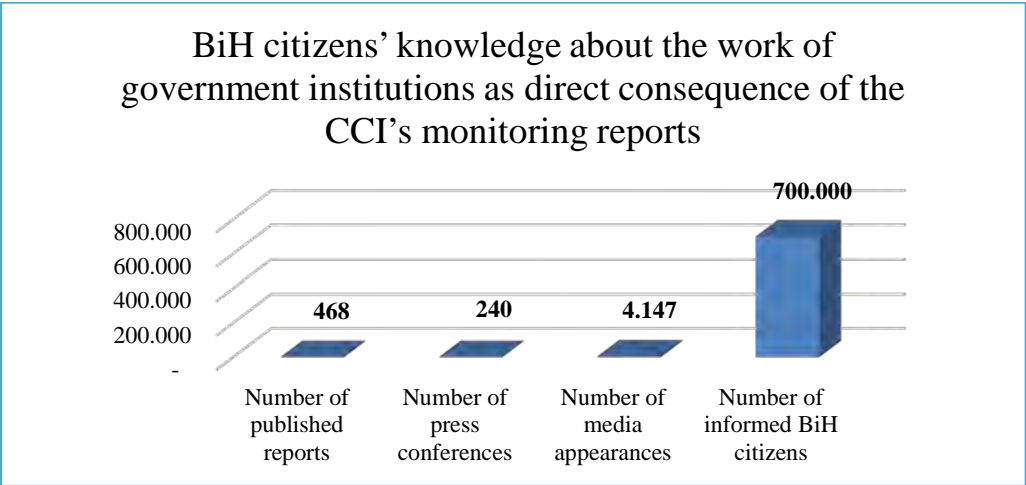
In addition to insisting on this important document, the CCI insisted on adherence to procedures and deadlines for budget adoption. The CCI made significant progress in that aspect. Lack of accountability on the part of government representatives along with shortcomings in the Constitution and Electoral Law leaving out adequate sanctions for such a conduct, were the main reasons why the financing of cantons was executed on temporary basis, which is ultimately restrictive and harmful for the community. Another example was that in some cases the budget was not adopted within the timeframe specified in the laws (by March 31) and the financing had to be suspended temporarily. Almost 2/3 of the cantonal budgets in the past 12 years were adopted with delays.

The CCI's persistence and numerous initiatives and meetings delivered strong results. The situation improved significantly over the last three years and adherence to legal obligations in this context went from being the exception to being the rule in the cantonal institutions.

The CCI established a system for monitoring the government performance. From September 2013 to September 2018, the CCI monitored the performance of individuals and institutions of both the executive and the legislative government in BiH (10 cantons, two entities and the state level). This monitoring process was established through one of the CCI's previous projects. During this five-year period, the CCI processed and analyzed almost 2500 minutes, more than 4,000 official gazettes, over 500 stenographs. The CCI collected more than 150, 000 different information on government work and stored them in a unified database.



During the life of the CSSP project, the CCI reported on the results of government at all levels in BiH. The CCI presented 468 reports on monitoring government performance and more than 700,000 citizens were informed about the government results via press conferences and press releases that were subsequently ran on programs of the leading media outlets in BiH, InicijativaTV and social networks. The media in BiH recognize the monitoring as reliable sources of information and the data in the reports is further exploited and used to create additional stories. The CCI made total 4,147 press reports during the observed period.



Top findings of the monitoring reports

The CCI continued to prepare the findings and recommendations as well as initiatives for government in BiH. The goal was to increase transparency, accountability and efficiency in the work of BiH executive and legislative government. These findings and recommendations effected more than 100 institutional changes. In order to avoid listing the recommendations individually, below are the recommendations welcomed by both the media and the citizens.

The most significant findings and recommendations of the monitoring reports in the past period concern enforcement of constitutionality and legality and the unacceptable violations by government institutions. There is a list of verdicts of the constitutional courts that have waited for years and even decades to be implemented by various government institutions. The Centers for Civic Initiatives pointed out publicly to the need to establish a mechanism of individual responsibility in this context.

In the context of creating possibilities to improve the quality of life of BiH citizens, the CCI's reports emphasized the importance of government's focus on citizens' key problems and reforms, i.e. the adoption of measures that may systematically bring improvements in certain areas. The CCI called on respect of the principles of "legal state" and the rule of law.

Moreover, the CCI's monitoring reports emphasize that government should focus on key problems of BiH citizens, reforms and Euro-Atlantic road. In that context, increasing the employment (in real sector), combating corruption, creating a better legislative framework for foreign investment and stimulation of economic growth are key priorities. However, one should not forget water supply, heating, air pollution, transportation, safety, the situation in the education and healthcare sectors, etc.

Migration of young people and the working-age population is another extremely important issue that the CCI pointed out in the monitoring reports. The CC also asked the decision makers to tackle seriously this burning issue.

One of the most important topics that the CCI addressed during the CSSP project was "the white bread issue". The relevance of this topic did not cease even after the recent General elections. For years, the CCI insisted to terminate this privilege of members of the executive and legislative government and the results were quite visible: three cantons terminated this privilege in 2014⁴: Sarajevo Canton, Tuzla Canton and Una Sana Canton terminated professionalization of MP mandates and demonstrated social sensitivity in line with the CCI's recommendations. There were also modifications to the Law on Salaries and Remunerations in the institutions of BiH that took effect in March 2016, when the amendments were adopted by the House of People. The white bread privilege was terminated. The media prioritized the information about the white bread question making it the main topic in their central news programs, radio programs, portal and in the print media. The public strongly supported the CCI on this matter.

In addition to the story on salaries, the monitoring reports actualized some other issues as well. The issue on violations of the Law on Gender Equality of BiH were mentioned repeatedly in the CCI's reports, however, this issue was actualized additionally via a special press release on International

Women's Day, when the CCI used the opportunity to draw the attention of the public to the insufficient number of women in government institutions and to point out that not a single government in BiH adhered to the Law on Gender Equality of BiH. To remind, the Law stipulates that representation of underrepresented gender shall not be below 40%. Moreover, the CCI pointed to non-compliance with the Constitution and laws, i.e. failure to implement the verdicts of BiH Constitutional courts by almost all governments institutions.

Another highlight is a response to the case of the Finance Minister of Bosnia-Podrinje Canton Government Nudzejm Dzihanic on February 20, 2017, who, after being charged with a degree fraud, pleaded guilty and settled with the Office of Prosecutor of Bosnia Podrinje Canton, and after being sentenced to suspended three months in prison, he remained in the position of Finance Minister and the story broke out again.

The CCI insisted on adoption of the most important documents in a timely fashion and in line with Rules of Procedure at the level of cantons, entity and state as well as their timely disclosure on the web sites. This type of activity contributed to a more transparent work and increased responsibility of elected representatives.

In early November 2017, the Cantonal Development Committee reviewed the Law on development planning and management in the FBiH. On two occasions, the CCI sent out the initiatives with many universal and specific recommendations regarding the programming of the work (strategies, mandate plan, annual work plan). One universal recommendation was to introduce a three-year programming obligation. The Law for the first time specified everything concerning the development programming including the three-year programming obligation.

Transparency was increased through the CCI's recommendations. Cantonal webpages publish parliamentary questions, programs and budgets of the institutions. Standards were higher at the state and entity level, where there is also some progress. For example, all sessions of the National Assembly of RS are broadcast by RTRS TV and via direct links on the webpage. The Assembly also publishes all information about the sessions in real time.

The Work plan of Herzegovina Neretva Canton Government for 2016 for the first time meets a set of criteria on which the CCI insisted in its monitoring reports. For example, the Work plan was adopted timely in line with Rules of Procedure; there is a specific timeline between adoption of a draft and proposal of the law which must not exceed three months; the programmed activities of all ministries are presented in a uniform manner and the narrative is for the first time followed by a chart of anticipated normative acts, with quarterly deadlines.

Transparency of Sarajevo Canton Assembly has been improved significantly. The website allows access to minutes of the sessions while the download option is finally functional for the complete agendas. Also, MP attendance system has been established.

In line with the CCI's recommendations, the website of the Una-Sana Cantonal Assembly posts all parliamentary questions. The Work plan for the current year is also published, which was not the case in previous years. The Work plan for 2016 was also adopted in a timely manner.

Bosnia-Podrinje Canton made its website link to the section with Cantonal Official Gazettes more visible, and the website also regularly publishes the reports on the implemented public hearings – as recommended in the CCI's analysis on public hearings.

The Code of Conduct of MPs was approved in the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary of BiH in October 2015 (and its soon adoption by the House of People is expected soon). It was one of the CCI's long-term recommendations.

While monitoring the National Assembly of Republika Srpska, the CCI advocated for adoption of the Code of Conduct of MPs and to amend the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly. The National Assembly's press release after the CCI's report stated that the President of the National Assembly sent the Decision on amendments to the Rules of Procedure to all chairs of parliamentary caucuses along with the Code of Conduct. The Code was adopted in mid-September 2017.

A special item includes the most important messages in the CCI's mandate reports for 2014-2018 period that solicited enviable interest in the public:

Instead of preventing social conflicts and eliminating their causes, this four-year mandate, as it nears its end, witnessed permanent efforts to generate and deepen the conflicts for which the Government, in the nature of its position and power that is concentrated in its hands, bears the key responsibility. As it also bears the key responsibility for the failure to implement reforms and improve the quality of citizens' lives, for the devastating demographic projections and the frightening migration of the young and working age population.

Ahead of these elections, the parties that (also) made the backbone of the government during the past period, show that they do not know how and do not have the intention to change either their vocabulary, rhetoric or politics. By relying on corrupt parts of the society, the mass entrenched in public institutions and companies, they neglected the needs of the so called “ordinary” citizens of the country, and instead of working hard to find solutions to the real and existential problems, the political parties continue to engage in politicking, nationalistic and chauvinist excesses only to generate more conflicts. They are focused exclusively on remaining in power, regardless of the consequences for the citizens or the country.

Amending the Election Law of BiH should have two directions – to satisfy the verdict of the European Court for Human Rights (which has been entirely neglected) and to create mechanisms to eliminate blockades of the system to ensure normal functioning of the political life, in line with the standards of developed democratic societies. And this implies primarily introduction of snap elections. It is simply not acceptable for the institutions of the state to be captives of conflicts between political parties and for citizens to be hostages and victims of all that, without any possibility to resolve the situation in a normal, democratic and legal way.

The importance of the CCI's reports is that information contained in the mandate reports was used by representatives of the media, international community, political parties and other NGOs and citizens. During every year of the term, the CCI sent the reports out to more than 400 e-mail addresses. The focus of these activities was to open floor for a fact-based discussion among the media, CSOs and other actors with government representatives. The impact is very much dependent

on the decision makers' willingness to improve their work, while the CCI's reports in continuity contained sets of recommendations to improve efficiency, accountability and transparency of government in BiH.

Some examples of this impact include:

National Assembly of Republika Srpska

During the adoption of 2018 Work plan of the National Assembly of Republika Srpska, the SNSD MP Vanja Bajić cited the CCI and the unacceptable practice and methodology according to which the Work plan is prepared, adopted and realized. In his discussion, he mentions that the CCI is correct to advocate that the Work plan should be adopted before the end of the year for the subsequent year. PDP MP Miroslav Brčkalo, Adam Šukalo, independent MP, SDS MP Nedeljko Glamočak and Milanko Mihajlica from SRS RS stressed that the CCI's monitoring reveal the shallowness in the work of the NARS and that it was very much needed to change the approach to responsibility for the poor results of the NARS.

Parliament of FBiH

The House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament for the first time allowed civil society organizations to be involved in preparing the Parliament's Work plan. A Working group, headed by Vesna Svancer the deputy chair of the House of Representatives, was formed. The CCI received an official invitation to engage in preparation of 2018 Work plan.

This has not been the practice of the Parliament, even though the CCI advocated that all government levels should include a broader public in the preparing of this important document.

For the first time, the House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament (26th regular session – December 19, 2017) held “Parliamentary Hour -- MPs ask – Ministers or Government members Answer”. This part of the session was attended by the Prime Minister and 13 (of 16) ministers. MPs asked the questions – one question from every caucus in three rounds. The CCI advocated for introducing this practice based on the model of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH.

The Assembly of Una-Sana Canton

During this reporting period, the Assembly adopted the Information about the execution of the Work plan for last year and discussed its 2018 Work plan. For the first time and as proposed by the ASDA MP Rasim Pajić the Assembly agreed that 2018 Work plan should not be created “retroactively” as it stood in the text of the Plan, but rather, the activities in the Work plan for 2018 should be listed from March until the end of the mandate. Two things were completed: the refined version of the Work plan will not have “retroactive” planning and at the same time, this composition of the Assembly will not leave in inheritance to some new MPs the measures that they themselves did not set as goals or plans.

This is another result that the CCI emphasized and sought while addressing the public and in its periodic monitoring reports – the Work plans of the institutions should be set within realistic and logical framework.

The Assembly of Sarajevo Canton

As proposed by opposition, the Assembly annulled the Decision to rename the Primary School Dobrosevići into the Primary School Mustafa Busuladžić, a controversial and antisemite individual Mustafa Busuladžić.

Over a year ago, the Assembly of Sarajevo Canton adopted a Proposal of the Decision to rename the Primary School Dobroševići into Mustafa Busuladžić Primary School. Meanwhile, the CCI condemned this decision on several occasions demanding its annulment.

Moreover, the Assembly adopted the Draft strategy for young people, on which the CCI has been insisting in the past two years.

The Assembly of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton

During the 31st session, the Assembly of Herzegovina Neretva Canton discussed the proposal of the Work plan for 2018 and integrated five of the CCI's proposals. Additional five proposals are among the goals and tasks listed in the Work plan. Following the public call, the CCI engaged in the preparation of the document by submitting 12 proposals, 10 of which were integrated into the Work plan.

The Assembly of Zenica-Doboj Canton

Early into the year, the originally proposed text of the Law on Salaries and Remunerations in Zenica-Doboj Canton included some solutions that the Centers for Civic Initiatives have criticized for years, for example „introducing a white bread, professionalization of MPs, allowance for separation from family for MPs whose residence is at least 70 km away from the seat of the canton,.... During the vote on this Law, the CCI reacted through a Press release, addressing the media, MPs, the minister and the public. This raised the issue of the contentious articles of the law to a public level and due to public pressure, the session during which it was planned to adopt the law, was interrupted because of the inability of MPs to agree on the law. After that, when the session resumed, a dramatic change took place, and the final text of the adopted Law did not include the contentious provisions.

During the discussion, some MPs mentioned the CCI efforts to prevent introduction of new benefits in this canton. Ibrahim Plančić, president of the SDA Caucus, prior to voting on the amendments to the law said: “The Centers for Civic Initiatives submitted a letter with their position and concrete proposals. We had meetings in respect of that and the public in Zenica-Doboj Canton does not accept any new benefits and, with that in mind, we (SDA) approached this matter and proposed amendments to abolish certain benefits included in the proposal. MP Amra Jupic, independent MP (former SBB), also praised the CCI's long-term efforts on monitoring government performance in BiH.

Qualitative analyses

With a goal of removing problems in functioning of the institutions that have been observed during the monitoring, and which have significant negative impact on the results achieved by these institutions, the CCI prepared qualitative analyses.

During this reporting period, the CCI prepared nine (9) qualitative analyses aimed at improving the work of government institutions which received more than 400 recommendations of which 100 were accepted.

The analyses are as follows:

- Participation of the public in the process of programming of the work of government institutions in BiH
- Public Sector Auditing - untapped potential
- IPA funds in BiH – (un)used opportunities and possibilities
- System of State Aid in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Laws and Practices
- Effects of Laws - the unknown territory in BiH
- Floods in BiH – natural disaster and/or institutional inefficiency
- Public Hearings in BiH – From the Form to the Essence
- Programming as a mechanism for increasing government accountability, efficiency and effectiveness
- Transparency of BiH governments and parliaments: official web pages of government institutions as an efficient tool for providing information

The analyses were presented at press conferences as well as roundtable meetings that brought together all relevant subjects to open a discussion and approach to decision makers who are able to influence the adoption of the recommendations contained in the documents. The following roundtable meetings were organized:

The CCI organized a roundtable discussion in January 2015 in Sarajevo to present the analysis Public Discussions – From the Form to the Essence. The analysis presents the institutional and legal frameworks, as well as the existing practices regarding the use of public discussion mechanisms in the process of preparation of regulations and public policies in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The objective of the roundtable discussion was to recognize, through an open dialogue between the participants, the best recommendations that would harmonize existing public discussion process, make it simpler and more useful, thus strengthening citizens' participation in preparation of the regulations.



The roundtable event brought together 41 persons, including representatives of the executive and legislative authorities in BiH, non-governmental organizations in BiH, academic community, international institutions in BiH and the media. Recommendations of the analysis and the participants' discussion are the starting point for launching an initiative towards the authorities with regard to development of institutional and legal preconditions to improve mechanism of public discussions.

The CCI organized a roundtable discussion “Floods in BiH – Natural Disasters and/or institutional inefficiency”, in February 2015 in Sarajevo. The experience with existing water management and protection and rescue system practices in BiH were shared through an open dialogue. The objective was to improve the situation in these areas in terms of better coordination and harmonization in order to simplify the management system, thus making it more useful and efficient for everyone. The conclusions and recommendations that the CCI made in the published analysis “Floods in BiH – Natural Disaster and/or institutional inefficiency” were used as the input information for this discussion. This event brought together 60 representatives of the government institutions from the cantonal to the State level (ministries, agencies, and administrations), representatives of local community, international institutions, non-government sector, as well as representatives of academic community. More than 15 representatives of media outlets followed the roundtable discussion. In the forthcoming period the CCI will continue to advocate solving of numerous problems, which were accentuated during this roundtable discussion, and which were mostly researched in the analysis.

The objective is to increase coordination between competent institutions regarding prevention and more efficient water management, but also regarding protection of people and property in the event of natural disaster.



The Roundtable discussion “Effects of Laws - the unknown territory in BiH”, bringing together over 50 participants took place in December 2015 in Sarajevo. The main recommendation is that it is necessary to improve the efficiency of legislative procedure and at the same time ensure better efficiency of the passed laws. Also, it was pointed to nondemocratic practices where most of the laws are passed under expedited procedure and without involvement of experts, which is contrary to EU values.

A few days following the event, MP in the RS Parliament Zdravko Krsmanovic initiated the conclusion regarding the adoption of the Law on the Effects of Current Legislations. Based on his initiative, Committee for Legislative Affairs of the National Assembly of the Republika Srpska adopted the conclusion to introduce this law in the Assembly's Work plan for 2016. However, position parties (majority) rejected this proposal justifying their actions with current lack of capacities to enforce and monitor this legislation.

In early March 2016, the CCI presented its Analysis “System of State Aid in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Laws and Practices”. The event brought together more than 30 participants. The discussion confirmed the findings of the analysis, with an emphasis on the need to intensify the current reforms, because they will enable BiH to function equally as future EU member. Many participants, government representatives admitted that little was known about this topic, and this analysis would be beneficial. Expert Davor Vuletic praised the CCI for having chosen this topic, especially the segment explaining the EU rules on transparency and competition in BiH and EU market. The main conclusion of the roundtable pointed to the need to continue with the adjustments of the legislative framework and strengthening of the BiH State Aid Council's capacities.





In late October 2016, the CCI presented the Analysis “Public Sector Auditing - untapped potential” and brought together all relevant and key actors in the chain of command, from the beginning to the end of the auditing process. Public auditors, representatives of parliamentary finance committees, executive government, entity and cantonal prosecutors as well as district prosecutors from RS, representatives of municipalities and CSOs and the media attended the event. In general terms, the CCI’s findings finally opened many contentious questions that lead to the poor implementation of the recommendations of BiH Public Auditors, and all key actors in the chain of command agreed that the analysis laid a solid foundation for further work and activities on this matter.

Town hall meetings/forums

During the project the CCI organized 38 town hall meetings across BiH at which the elected representatives of legislature at the cantonal, entity and national level presented their activities and work results and talked with the citizens about current issues in the constituencies in which they were elected at the last elections in order to solve jointly these life’s important questions.



By organizing these events the CCI allowed more than 3,000 citizens to communicate directly with more than 200 elected officials in the legislatures. During the public debates the elected officials answered several dozen citizens’ questions, and listened about priority problems in the local communities, but also presented the actions that were so far undertaken. In this way the citizens had the opportunity to learn from the ones they elected at the last elections everything they wanted to know, but so far never had the chance to learn.

However, this was also a great opportunity to have the citizens putting forward problems that they think should be urgently solve, so the citizens in Herzegovina Neretva Canton draw the attention of the Assembly’s members to the problems in the education, safety, and the problem of essential list of medicines that doesn’t contain necessary medicines, but also to the fact that there is no Law on protection of families with children in Herzegovina Neretva Canton. Attention of the members of the RS National Assembly was drawn to the poor state of the healthcare, while the priority in Una-Sana Canton was the problem of politicized employment in the public sector, and in Tuzla canton the priority was politicization of high education. Attention of the members of the BiH PA was drawn to the necessity of adopting some very important national strategies, such as the Agriculture Development Strategy and Rural Development Strategy since tens of millions of Euros from EU IPA Funds are being lost due to failure to adopt these strategies

The majority of town hall forums with the elected representatives were recorded and the video footage was broadcast on BHT1 every Sunday at 12:45 hour from May 19, 2017 to August 13, 2017. The video footages of the public debates were uploaded to InicijativaTV and are available on the link <http://inicijativa.tv/category/gradani-govore/>. It has to be noted that the public debate on “Public safety in Sarajevo Canton”, broadcast on May 21, 2017, was the most watched show of that type on BHRT with 4.65% share (56.655).



All the footages of public debates that were broadcast on BHT1 had a sign language interpreter, hired by the CCI. Therefore, all reports that were prepared based on the footages of public debates were broadcast as part of the show Govor tišine (Speech of Silence) on BHT1 which is a specialized show for the persons with hearing impairment and speech difficulties.

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Several specific promises made by MPs include:

- After many unsuccessful attempts the officials at the public debate in Odžak gave a long-avoided promise that the members of the parliamentary assembly would initiate and in the Assembly of Posavina Canton support holding of a thematic sessions of the Assembly to discuss agriculture, which is very important for the citizens of Posavina Canton.
- After a public debate in Lukavac at which the members of the House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament participated and discussed with the citizens one of the biggest problem for the citizens of this area, air pollution, the members committed to drafting joint conclusions to include all proposals agreed at the public debate and to putting them forward, as an initiative, to the FBiH Parliament for consideration regardless of the fact they come from different political parties and coalitions.
- A sentence that was most frequently heard at these events can be taken as a general conclusion from all public debates. It is necessary to have representatives in the legislatures, who are coming from the same constituency, come together and start a joint action, so they can do something useful for the citizens from the area from which they come and in which they also live, i.e. to put citizens' interest before the interests of political parties. They were elected by the citizens and not by the political parties and they should answer to the citizens and work in their interest. Therefore, the citizens expect the representatives to launch more joint activities in the forthcoming period.

INICIJATIVA TV

Inicijativa TV broadcast and produced contents to educate and inform the BiH public about the problems of BiH society and its citizens, and to promote and bolster understanding of the work of civil society organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The goal is to effect improvement of media policies, transparency and access to information of public importance, introduction of good practices in the public administration and accountability of political actors for the implementation of reforms.

The focus was on monitoring the government performance in BiH. Inicijativa TV team covered all CCI's press conferences concerning this topic - in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Tuzla, Mostar, Zenica, Bihać, Travnik, Široki Bijeg, Goražde, Livno, Orašje. Also, the focus was on two series of 12 episodes each covering the issues tackled by the CSSP's grantees. Creativo Center created, produced and promoted TV documentary shows tracking the achievement of the goals set by the CSSP's CSOs. They are specific documentaries developed in collaboration with partner organizations to show progress on advocacy campaigns in the 12 targeted sectors – the 12 priorities. Short advocacy videos were also made to help promote the campaigns, especially at times when the initiatives were reviewed by the decision makers in order to exert additional pressure.

The “12 neophodnih” (the 12 Priorities)

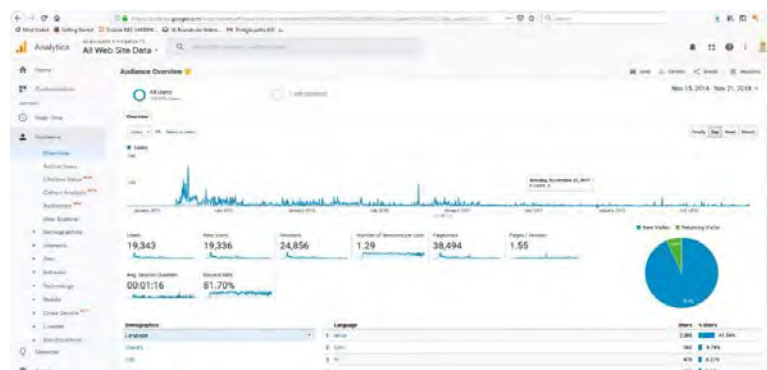
24 TV shows focus on the activities of the CSSP's CSOs. Every show covers one sector tackled by the CSSP program, the key problems and activities implemented by CSO and the CSSP's sector partners. The arrangement was made with BHT to air the shows every Sunday, at 3:30 pm. In addition to BHT, the shows were aired on Inicijativa TV.

Moreover, in 2018 Inicijativa TV created 12 (10-12 minute) advocacy videos for 12 sector partners to provide a retrospective of their activities and campaigns and their work on developing the sector networks from 2014 to June 2018.

During 2018, a film was produced covering all CSSP's CSOs and their efforts, along with their key results and achievements over the five-year implementation period.

Early into the project, Inicijativa TV aired a film during a kick-off event in 2014 presenting all sectors and CSOs that participated in the CSSP program.

Inicijativa.TV statistics



The screenshot shows the Google Analytics 'Default Channel Grouping' report. The table below summarizes the data presented in the main table.

Channel	Visits	New Visits	Sessions	Bounce Rate	Pages/Session	Avg. Session Duration	Goal Conversion Rate	Goal Completions	Goal Value
All	19,348	10,493	24,856	81.70%	1.55	00:01:16	0.00%	0	\$0.00
1. Direct	8,005	4,100	9,300	88.92%	1.00	00:00:00	0.00%	0	\$0.00
2. Search	3,391	1,642	4,800	82.24%	1.50	00:01:19	0.00%	0	\$0.00
3. Degree Search	4,856	2,000	4,220	71.41%	1.70	00:01:17	0.00%	0	\$0.00
4. Referral	3,340	1,690	8,275	85.91%	1.31	00:00:39	0.00%	0	\$0.00
5. Social	5,340	2,050	7,060	82.15%	1.50	00:01:47	0.00%	0	\$0.00

Virtual Parliament web page

All information on monitoring performance of governments in BiH is stored in the electronic database. Electronic processing of the information allows for a high-quality and faster preparation of the quarterly reports. The database was constantly upgraded during the reporting period in line with the monitoring requirements. The information is available to the public through the E-monitoring portal <http://vlastibih.com/2014/#>

In addition to the e-monitoring portal, the data is presented via the Virtual parliament site <http://www.virtuelniparlament.ba/> This informational tool and communication service on one hand contains impartial information collected through monitoring and on the other hand it allows for communication between citizens and their elected representatives.

The www.virtuelniparlament.ba site allows for all parliamentarians in BiH to use their virtual offices and demonstrate willingness and interest to communicate directly with citizens. On the other hand, BiH citizens have the opportunity to gain insight in the work of MPs and to engage directly in the decision-making in BiH and to insist on specific results, diligence and responsiveness from MPs.

The Virtual Parliament was not only a place where one could find information about the work of MPs and Parliaments; it was rather a place where all those who were interested had the ability to communicate directly with their elected representatives by posing questions, using chat options, electronic mail, or by launching initiatives and thematic discussions.

The data collected through monitoring and presented via the e-monitoring and virtual parliament sites were exploited regularly by the media, academic community and analysts.

Other components:

Elections – Coalition for fair and free elections – Pod Lupom



USAID's CSSP project supported the non-partisan citizen election observation in BiH in two election cycles – local elections in BiH in 2016 and General elections in 2018. Election observation was carried out by the Pod Lupom Coalition that is made up of the CCI and five (5) partner organizations⁷³.

The Coalition for free and fair elections – Pod lupom was formed in May 2014 with the goal to implement the project of citizen, nonpartisan observation of 2014 General elections. Its primary activity is to observe elections. In addition, the Coalition conducts research and produces international comparative analysis, monitors sessions of the Central Election Commission of BiH, organizes roundtable meeting and conferences bringing together representatives of executive and legislative authorities, election administration officials, international and academic community, as well as representatives of the media and civil society. The Coalition implements education and training for first-time voters in order to motivate and encourage them to take active part in the election process.

Activities implemented in 2016

Local elections took place in October 2016 in 142 local communities in BiH The Coalition for free and fair elections, Pod Lupom, conducted a long-term non-partisan election observation including observing the work of city and municipal election commissions, adherence to activities and deadlines set by the Election Calendar, recording and reporting irregularities in the pre-election period, and observing the election campaign and encouraging citizens to apply to serve as election day observers. A total of 2,000 reports of long-term observers were processed and the resulting findings presented to the public via two preliminary reports on observation of pre-election period. During the pre-election period, more than 7,000 citizens applied for Election Day observation on behalf of Coalition Pod Lupom

The Pod lupom Training for Election Day Observers trained over 4,000 citizens about the duties and work principles of Election Day observers. The Coalition observed election rallies of political subjects and developed an online system for election monitoring and SMS reporting and the statistical observation sampling of the polling station was for the first time conducted in Coalition's own capacity for the purpose of observing Election Day.

⁷³ Center for Civic Cooperation „CGS" Livno, Democracy-Organizing-Progress DON Prijedor, Forum of Tuzla Citizens. Incubator of social incubation projects Munja Sarajevo and Institute for Youth and Community Development Pereptum mobile Banja Luka

The Coalition produced analytical reports on aspects of election legislation in 40 OSCE countries. Moreover, the Coalition monitored the work of the Inter-Agency Working Group for Changes of the Election Legislation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and presented its findings to the public.

Observing the 2016 Local Elections in BiH

The general assessment of the 2016 Local Elections by the Coalition “Pod lupom” is that these elections were conducted in line with the BiH Election Law and implementing regulations, mainly in a democratic and fair atmosphere, except in Stolac municipality where the Election Law was severely violated and the electoral process violently interrupted.

The 2016 Local Elections were held in a political setting that posed a challenge to democratic, fair and free elections in the country. The following events had marked the election year: conflicts between parliamentary political subjects at different levels of authority and between candidates in certain local communities, polarization of political spectrum in the Republika Srpska (RS) entity to two blocks, RS National Day referendum, low work intensity of majority of government institutions and elected representatives’ commitment to the election campaign, failure to conduct elections in the City of Mostar, a great number of electoral irregularities reported before the Election Day, and an election campaign that was characterized by sharp and/or inappropriate rhetoric especially in ethnically non-homogeneous settings. It is also very important to highlight amendments to the electoral legislation that were passed just before the elections were announced, and in the context of political circumstances one also has to highlight submission and acceptance of the BiH’s application for EU membership.

Election administration prepared and organized the elections mainly in line with the Election Law and implementing regulations. However, the BiH CEC’s concrete reaction to observed problems, shortcomings and irregularities in the electoral process was missing in a large number of cases, especially when it comes to imposing sanctions on the offenders. The BiH CEC also rarely acts *ex-officio*, and adequate sanctions for more severe violations of the electoral process are also missing, especially when it comes to claims about trading of positions on the polling station committees. The Coalition had informed the BiH Central Election Commission about the latter on September 7, 2016. Majority of local election commissions made adequate arrangements for the conduct of elections. In relation to the 2014 General Elections the work of local election commissions was organizationally improved by enactment of *the Instruction on method of work and reporting of the election commission of a basic constituency in BiH* thereby increasing accountability and transparency in the work of these election bodies. The Coalition believes, as it did after the 2014 General Elections, that the polling station committees are still one of the biggest problems in the electoral process, and that thorough changes and concrete improvements have to be made concerning the procedures of appointment and training of the polling station committees’ members. Actual cases of trading of positions on the polling station committees by political subjects were registered, and it represents a harsh violation of the Election Law. A large number of irregularities registered on the Election Day are, in Coalition’s opinion, result of insufficient training and unpreparedness of the polling station committees to carry out properly the electoral process.

The election campaign, as in the previous election cycles, began even before the official launch on September 2. For these elections, the campaign revealed that a large number of political subjects were fixated on the manipulation of voters' electoral will. The latter manifested through pressures being exerted on the voters, as well as through buying and distribution of different gifts to the voters. The trend of running the election campaign to induce feelings of fear among the voters, usually associated with ethno-national divisions in the BiH society continued.

In principle, it can be said that most of the media generally complied with the standards of fair, objective and balanced reporting. The data on decline of hate speech is encouraging, although there are still examples of some other forms of inappropriate speech in the public space. The most troubling are most certainly the cases of advocacy reporting by some media i.e. the tendency of reporting (more) positively about some political subjects in relation to the others. In general, we can say that the media did meet the informative role, but both the educational (education of political public, especially about the local topics) and orientational functions were slightly less used.

At the majority of polling stations and in the local election commissions in BiH the Election Day was conducted in accordance with the Election Law and the implementing regulations, and mainly in a democratic and fair atmosphere, with the exception of the elections in the municipality of Stolac. Observers and mobile teams of the Coalition "Pod lupom" recorded and reported approximately 300 situations in the field that the Coalition found to be serious violations of the electoral rules and regulations for which it requested action to be taken both by the polling station committees and the local election commissions. The largest number of reported irregularities related to open solicitation at the polling stations. A large number of reported irregularities related to discrepancies in the accuracy test that compares number of received ballot papers before the opening of the polling station in relation to the sum of the number of unused, damaged and used ballot papers after opening of the ballot box.

The Coalition published the Final report on non-partisan, civic monitoring of 2016 Local elections in BiH in December. The report is available at the following [link](#).

Analytical reports and research

In March 2016, the Coalition assembled a workgroup consisting of junior researchers to analyze the process and terms concerning registration of political subjects, their financing and financing of elections campaigns in the regulations of the analyzed states. As a result, the workgroup produced three analytical reports during 2016:

- Analysis of financial reports of political subjects;
- Analysis of the complaint process in the election process;
- Analysis of election expenditures in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Coalition submitted the analytical reports to the Inter-Agency Working Group for Changes of the Election Legislation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. All reports as well as the Overview of the Election Legislation and Segments of Election Process in 40 OSCE member states can be downloaded [here](#).

Monitoring and advocacy

The Coalition regularly monitors the work of the Inter-Agency Working Group for Changes of the Election Legislation of Bosnia and Herzegovina as an associated member. The report on the work of the Working Group was presented to the public in April when two amendments were introduced in parliamentary procedure to introduce nonpartisan function of a president of the polling committee and publicly disclose names of all members of the polling station committees in order to prevent trading of seats on polling station committees. The amendments did not get support in the Parliament. However, the Coalition and the Central Election Commission of BiH agreed that eight recommendations would be implemented through implementing regulation, while the Coalition will continue to advocate for improvements of the election legislation in BiH.



The Coalition Pod Lupom, BORAM Agency and BH Journalists Association monitored the media reporting in the election process during August-November 2016.

'I vote for the first time'

The Coalition's activity I vote for the first time involved education of young voters, BiH citizens who just turned or are to turn 18 years of age and become eligible to vote.



Voting is vital for development of democracy in BiH and youth make up around 21 % of voters. In the period from March until October, 651 interactive workshops were organized for senior high school students and college freshmen throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina titled "I vote for the first time!" 28 peer educators educated 14,444 young people in 155 different education institutions. A quiz with the same title was organized in September 2016, and all age groups had the opportunity to test their knowledge about the elections, which was done for the first time in the country, but also in the region. A total of 2,542 persons participated in the quiz, while the quiz application was launched/played 32,644 times.

Second round of workshops took place ahead of the 2016 General Elections in BiH. The main goal was to educate and contribute toward improving the quality of the election process in BiH in line with international standards and good practices, by encouraging active participation of citizens in observing elections and advocating for the improvements of the election legislation.

Activities implemented in 2018

In April 2018, USAID approved the inclusion of the Pod Lupom activities into the CSSP project. The June-December 2018 Work plan was approved by USAID.

63 long-term observers in the field monitored the entire election period – from announcing the elections until the confirmation of the election results. Long-term observers monitored the work of the sessions of local election commissions, the activities anticipated in the Election Calendar and

adherence to deadlines, identification and registration of election irregularities and monitoring of the media reporting and preparation of Election Day Observers.

Training for long-term observers took place on July 17-19 in Sarajevo when LTOs were presented with the principles of long-term election observation, the tools and methodology that they need to apply in their work. The training was used as the opportunity to hold a press conference and call on citizens to apply for non-partisan election observation by calling the toll-free number 080 05 05 05 or by visiting the Coalition's web page.



Training for trainers of the Pod lupom Coalition took place during the period August 28-30 in Sarajevo when LTOs were educated to train short-term observers for election-day observation. The goal of the training was to present key messages and know-how on training short-term observers and to present the expected role of the observers on Election Day. After the training, LTOs began to train short-term observers in their municipalities – the plan was to hold at least 150 training sessions and to train around 4,500 observers by Election Day. The training focused on interpretation of key articles of the Election Law, electoral procedures at the polling station, reporting on critical situations, SMS reporting, the Code of Conduct for Observers and Election Day simulation.

The observers reported on their activities on a weekly basis, and during this period they sent 1,430 reports on key findings regarding their observations. The observers reported about the activities of the election commission as well as irregularities that they observed in municipalities for which they were responsible.

Based on the data, the Coalition organized four press conferences in regional offices-- August 9 in Mostar, August 16 in Banja Luka, August 23 in Tuzla and September 20 in Bijeljina.



In addition to the mentioned regional press conferences, the Coalition presented on September 6, 2018 in Sarajevo the First Preliminary Report on the long-term election observation and observation of 2018 General Elections in BiH on election campaign. The period covered by the report is July 23 to September 2, 2018. The main message of this media event was that “the increasing violations of

the Election Law of BiH face no sanctions”⁷⁴. During the six-week reporting period, the Coalition's observers registered 364 cases of prohibited campaigning by 32 political subjects.

In order to monitor the pre-election activities the Coalition engaged 42 observers to monitor election rallies of political subjects. It was anticipated that they would visit and report from 450 pre-election rallies during September 6 – October 5 2018.

During the pre-election period (July- October 2018) a record high number of electoral irregularities has been recorded since the Coalition started election observation activities (in 2014). One gets the impression that political parties in this country do as they wish and that the law does not apply to them, like it applies to ordinary citizens. The Coalition observers registered hundreds of cases of illegitimate pressure on voters, vote buying, threats of workplace firing or offers of new employment in exchange for a vote, misuse of public resources for the purpose of the campaign, voters' registers not being up to date in some municipalities, illicit trades of places within the polling station committees, prohibited paid political advertising prior to the start of the campaign (three times more than during the 2016 Local elections), and other types of irregularities

Besides, the Coalition received many calls from citizens regarding various irregularities and election fraud. Considering that there were many more election irregularities, it is safe to conclude that the pre-election period in BiH was rather chaotic.

The general assessment of the 2018 General Elections Election Day (October 7, 2018) in BiH by the Coalition “Pod lupom” is that the elections were carried out mostly in line with the Election Law of BiH and the CEC's implementing regulations at the majority of the polling stations observed throughout the country. However, there was a significant number of certain incidental situations and irregularities on Election Day, which points to the necessity of improving the quality of the election process in BiH.

There were 446 critical situations, the term which implies violations of procedures and election rules, technical errors in the work of election administration at all levels or incidents at the polling stations. In cooperation with election authorities, 267 critical situations (60% of registered cases) were solved successfully during Election Day (and night).

The highest number of the registered cases concerns the ban on observation of elections (88), voting irregularities (76), violence or threatened observers' safety (17), suspicion of the so-called Bulgarian train (16) and other types of irregularities.

Citizens reported 215 irregularities on Election Day. They mostly refer to bribery of voters, vote buying and violation of election silence.

⁷⁴ <http://podlupom.org/v2/bs/clanak/saopstenje-krsenja-izbornog-zakona-bih-sve-brojnija-a-sankcije-izostaju/334>

Flood prevention - the network BRANA

23 non-government organizations came together in the Network “BRANA” that represented the first initiative of the civil society dedicated to the radical transparency in spending of the funds intended for the recovery of the flood affected areas, but also to building overall transparency and accountability in the work of the public institutions in BiH, private sector and the donors. It offered a positive example of how to spend the funds intended for similar purposes. BRANA's role has been recognized by some politicians who themselves proposed this model to be introduced for monitoring the spending of public funds. The activities that BRANA realized were the pioneering efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, since there was not a systematic or unique approach to collecting and analyzing the data on the funds donated for reconstruction of the flood affected areas.

BRANA is also recognized after this work in the field, i.e. verification in the field in order to answer whether and how the funds were spent. Data was published on a regular basis via the web platform www.brana.ba so as to be available to the public at any time and the platform even today represents a unique source of information about the expenditure of the funds intended for reconstruction of the areas affected by flooding in 2014.

Based on the data on donations collected from international and domestic donors, in total amount of over 400 million KM, BRANA created a database and made it available to the public via an interactive map and web portal www.brana.ba. This database provides multiple search options and criteria such as search by donor, type of assistance, municipality – location, and value of donations. At the same time, all donations were verified by field visits and each donation is backed up by specific photographs and statements from beneficiaries.

The network's members made sure that all relevant information collected during the monitoring process were received and reviewed by decision makers – from local to higher government levels in BiH, but also by international and bilateral donors.

Forming the BRANA network

The CCI has in the period April-May together with the partner organizations (Public Interest Advocacy Center – CPI, the Centre for media development and analyses and INFOHOUSE) established the network of local organizations entitled “Braná” (Eng. Dam) to monitor and analyze the flood recovery process in 78 local communities affected by flood, to collect data on the funds intended for the reconstruction, the spending of these funds and to disseminate the information to the public on regular basis during March 2015 – March 2016 period. In addition to the four partner organizations (the CCI, INFOHOUSE, the CPI and CRMA), 19⁷⁵ additional local organizations joined the BRANA network, such as the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in RS, ToPeer, Association for the protection of rights of financial guarantors in BiH, Independent Development Bureau, Forum of Zenica Citizens, Youth Communication Center, ABC Bihac, DON Prijedor,

⁷⁵The Union for a Sustainable Return and Integration in BiH joined BRANA.

Center for Youth Education, Center for Local and Regional Development CELOR, Justicia Srebrenik, Center for Development of Civil Society, Forum of Tuzla Citizens, Center for Development and Support, Priroda Bratunac, KULT – Institute for Youth Development, Center for Information and Legal Assistance CIPP, the Union for Sustainable Return and Integration in BiH.

Building the capacities of BRANA's NGOs

During this period, BRANA members attended four trainings organized in line with CSOs' needs so as to improve their knowledge and know-how in the following fields: Public relations and effective communication, Building and maintaining a database, Setting up a Twitter account, Techniques and the principle monitoring approaches. In addition, the members were provided advisory assistance during implementation of their activities and the opportunity for additional consultations.

Data collection and verification in the field

By the end of March 2016, the BRANA network collected data on donations in amount of 404,303,102,39 KM from donor organizations and BIH institutions (higher and lower government levels and funds). Data about the donations in amount of 199,318,952,05 KM was collected from the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, of which 180,457,863,83 KM came from lower-level government institutions, while 18,861,088,22 KM came from the budgets of lower government levels. The funds from the higher government levels are partially public because some of them also include donor funds. Donor organizations provided information about donated amount of 204,984,150,34 KM.

BRANA collected data from the FBiH Government and the FBiH Fund for support to areas affected by the floods on the territory of the BiH Federation, Una-Sana canton, Sarajevo canton, Zenica-Doboj canton, Tuzla canton and Central Bosnia canton. Information was also received from USAID, the UNDP, UNICEF, CERF, Caritas, TIKA, Embassy of Japan, Red Cross of the BiH Federation, Open Society Fund, Hastor Foundation, BH Telecom, and Embassies of Belgium, Austria, Great Britain, Holland, Greece, Japan, Italy, Czech Republic, Croatia and Slovakia. Additional data were collected from the local level – municipalities and towns.⁷⁶

The network “BRANA” operated in 78 municipalities/cities in BiH, and had 68 representatives in the field who visited 1,555 locations.

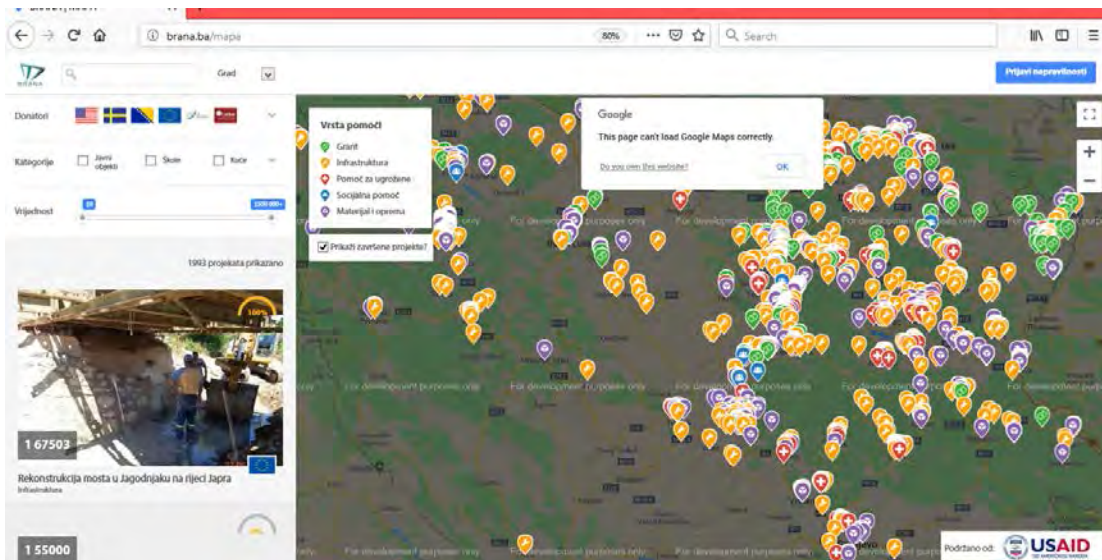
Internet platform www.brana.ba

All collected and verified data are available at the Internet platform www.brana.ba that has a special website, interactive map and an online forum. This Internet platform contains up-to-date information about flood recovery projects, the degree of their implementation, photo and video material, pictures from the media, and a space for online communication between individuals, organizations and

⁷⁶ A more detailed overview is available at www.brana.ba

decision-makers as well as an interactive map showing the recovery projects and their status in target municipalities.

More than 2,000 geographic locations of donated funds, facilities that are reconstructed with donor funds and other relevant information can currently be found on the interactive map. An appropriate content is assigned to every location, together with the information that the local coordinators have collected: photos and statements of the beneficiaries.



Interactive map from the www.brana.ba platform

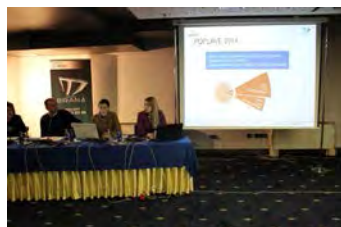
Reports on the spending of flood relief funds in BiH in 2014

BRANA as well as the online platform www.brana.ba and the data received from the field were presented to the public for the first time on July 15, 2015 in the BiH Parliament's building. More than 50 participants, representatives of USAID, UNDP, embassies and international organizations in BiH, as well as representatives of Network BRANA and high-ranking US officials who were in Sarajevo on that day attended the event. A total of 16 media outlets attended the event. The keynote speakers, besides the representatives of the Network BRANA, were Director of the USAID Mission, David Barth and Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to BiH, Melvin Asin.



Photos from the “kick off conference” Sarajevo, BiH Parliament, July 15, 2015

BRANA organized a roundtable on February 5, 2016 in Sarajevo (Hotel Europa) to present to government institutions and donor community the “Report 1 on the spending of flood relief funds in 2014⁷⁷”. The event brought together more than 60 participants from different institutions, organizations, and embassies: USAID, the embassies of Italy, Slovakia, Norway, Croatia, Japan, Slovenia, OSCE, Caritas, CRS, Red Cross, IOM, Federal Fund for Assistance, the Posavina Canton Government, Ministry of Agriculture of Posavina Canton, BH Telecom, and many NGOs, members of the BRANA network



Roundtable presentations “Reports on the spending of flood relief funds in BiH in 2014”

Discussion followed after the presentation of the Report when all participants had the opportunity to share their experiences, to comment on the reports and to become more familiar with the recommendations that aim to improve financial reporting and the overall flood recovery process. It was concluded that the Network performed an extremely important task in terms of monitoring the spending of funds/donations in the aftermath of floods and that it would be necessary to continue in the same direction.

After the roundtable discussion on February 10, 2016, in Sarajevo, the network held a press conference to present the report to a broader audience.



BRANA's Report 2 was presented at the conference in Sarajevo on March 30, 2016. BRANA also presented a consolidated report on media coverage of the floods in 2014⁷⁸ followed by a Consolidated report of media coverage on the 2014 and 2015 floods in BiH.⁷⁹

Working in collaboration with the BiH government and the donor community, 23 CSOs, conducted field checks, collected and analyzed data about more than 404 million KM spent on reconstruction throughout the country, and then reported to the public about the results.

BRANA collected and analyzed data on more than 404 million KM of the funds spent on reconstruction, which is an important step forward toward transparency of the spending process.

⁷⁷ http://brana.ba/documents/Izvjestaj_Mreza_BRANA.pdf

⁷⁸ http://brana.ba/documents/FINAL_IZVJESTAJA_BRANA.pdf

⁷⁹ http://brana.ba/documents/BRANA_MEDIJI.pdf

Hot line

The so-called “Hotline” a toll free telephone number **080 05 05 06** was available to citizens 24/7. Citizens were able to call the number and report any misuse/abuse of funds or any other resources intended for flood recovery, or to report positive examples of activities that were implemented in their local communities.

Since it was established the line registered 299 calls from citizens from 32 municipalities affected by floods. In six cases, the calls were about positive examples, thanking donors for assistance. In 293 cases, the calls involved observed irregularities or dissatisfaction of citizens with the recovery process.

Of total 299 calls, as many as 197 calls addressed citizens' failure to receive assistance. Citizens mainly talked about lack of information on how to receive assistance, public calls and eligibility criteria. Some of them who failed to receive assistance stated that they applied but never heard back about the status of their applications and because of that they missed the deadline to file a complaint.

Public hearings

The network's members made sure that the fundamental information collected through monitoring of the reconstruction process is received and reviewed by the decision makers at the local and higher government levels, as well as by various international and bilateral donors.

In that respect, BRANA organized 55 public hearings and informational events in 27⁸⁰ municipalities to improve dialogue between local governments and citizens about the flood recovery as well as to improve the effectiveness of the process. Approximately 2000 citizens attended the hearings that brought together administration representatives, donors and citizens affected by last year's floods, NGOs and media.



Public hearing in Domaljevac

⁸⁰Public hearings were organized in the following municipalities: Kakanj, Zavidovici, Tešanj, Teslić, Maglaj, Gračanica, Petrovo, Ključ, Gradačac, Travnik, Tuzla, Ugljevik, Bosanski Petrovac, Živinice, Šamac, Banjaluka, Laktaši, Domaljevac, Sanski Most, Teočak, Gradiška, Donji Žabar, Prijedor, Petrovo, Zvornik, Banovići, Vogošća.

The general conclusion is that citizens/beneficiaries lacked information and that communication among all relevant subjects needed to be improved. Public hearings were perceived as beneficial tools of communication contributing to a better cooperation and the well-being of all citizens.

Local municipal representatives pledged to share information about new donations and projects and to provide assistance in resolving eventual problems concerning housing units.

Investigative stories

CRMA, the BRANA member, wrote investigative stories and investigated alleged misuse of donations and problems faced by the citizens in the affected areas. Four investigative stories were published during the life of BRANA.

The story #1 covered the position and treatment of children with special needs during natural disaster, floods. Story # 2 highlighted BRANA's work with an emphasis on the possibility to monitor the spending of flood relief funds. The stories 3 and 4 covered the alleged misuse in the distribution of tractors, donation from China. All stories were published on the Žurnal.ba and are available from the following links:

<http://www.zurnal.info/novost/19641/djeca-sa-posebnim-potrebama-zastitite-nas-cak-ako-je-u-pitanju-i-lazna-uzbuna>
<http://www.zurnal.info/novost/19659/-kako-su-potrosena-sredstva-za-sanaciju-poplava-niko-ne-zna-gdje-i-kako-je-podijeljeno-90-miliona-maraka>
<http://zurnal.ba/novost/19324/kako-je-podijeljena-pomoc-za-poplavljene-1-traktore-dobili-bliski-rodaci-politicara-i-zatvor-na-kuli>
<http://zurnal.ba/novost/19391/kako-je-podijeljena-pomoc-za-poplavljene-2-traktore-poklanjala-braca-motorne-pile-uzimao-lazni-marko>

Achieved results and impact

- Improved monitoring of reconstruction in the affected areas;
- Established and regularly updated database that contains information on reconstruction projects in the affected areas ;
- An interactive map with an overview of project interventions that are entered into database to date;
- Public dialogue between citizens and government representatives through public hearings in more than 50 municipalities;
- Strengthened CSOs image as public interest advocate;
- Three reports on the spending of flood relief funds in BiH are publicly presented.

APPENDICES FOR THE FINAL REPORT CIVIL SOCIETY SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT – CSSP

The appendices for the Civil Society Sustainability Project are delivered on an external disk and contains:

- **FINAL REPORT CIVIL SOCIETY SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT IN B&H**
- **FINAL M&E REPORT**
- **FINAL MEDIA REPORT**
- **OTHER APPENDICES**
 - **FOLDER- CSSP VIDEO AND PHOTO MATERIAL** - video material produced during the project implementation, (serial "12 Necessary", public forums, video material from press conferences on monitoring reports and photo material from events organized on the CSSP project)
 - **FOLDER-MONITORING REPORTS** - published Analyzes as well as Annual monitoring reports on the work of governments and parliaments at state, entity and cantonal level⁸¹
 - **FOLDER- NETWORK BRANA** - Reports published on project
 - **FOLDER- SECTORAL PARTNERS NGO/ ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN AND NETWORK**-Reports, brochures, flyers, promotional materials etc produced and published by sector partners during the CSSP project (Component 1.- Networks and Component 3. - Campaign)
 - **FOLDER- SUSTAINABILITY**- Analysis, Code of Ethics, OCA reports etc produced under Component II - Sustainability.

⁸¹ Other reports (quarterly and semi-annual) can be found on the CCI website www.cci.ba

MEDIA APPEARANCES

October 1, 2013 – December 31, 2018

Over the course of five years, the CCI and grant organizations achieved exceptionally good results in terms of publicity and visibility in the media in BiH. The CSSP program documented more than 11 000 reports, which is the result that has not been achieved by any similar project in BiH. The CSOs' efforts contributed toward actualizing certain problems in the media, which, again, has not been done by any other similar project in the country. On average, the CSSP's activities made six (6) press reports daily.

It should be noted that the activity of CSOs was clearly profiled on the basis of the 12 CSSP's sectors and that the CSOs acted exactly in line with their respective areas, which helped the media understand better the issue areas and the problems and get a broader picture of the situation. The CCI's internet TV – InicijativaTV-- and the video production, which among other things produced a series called "12 top priorities" also contributed to the media having a greater understanding of the issue areas and the efforts of civil society organizations in BiH.

It is not only the number of press reports that increased over time. It was also civil society organizations' approach to the media that became more planned and focused. CSOs learned how to actualize certain topics and make them priorities in the media in BiH. In parallel with developing internal capacities, CSOs learned how to utilize the media as an effective ally of their campaigns, how to exert additional pressure on decision makers to modify certain public policies. For example, the campaign "I am the Museum" attracted an enormous media attention. Every day for two months, the campaign appeared in 3-5 articles in the print media, on web portals, as information in news agencies and as TV stories. The message of the campaign reached around 150 000 citizens every day, changing the public image of the National Museum and raising the overall awareness among the public and decision makers in BiH of the need to resolve the legal and financial status of this cultural institution.

Another example is the "We are not alone" event on the campaign "(No) Discrimination against new mothers in the FBiH". This event also drew a serious media attention. It took place on March 8, 2016 in seven (7) BiH towns (Bihać, Livno, Mostar, Tuzla, Zenica, Sarajevo and Orašje). Over 80 press reports were documented in the leading national and all local media outlets. The message reached a great number of BiH citizens.

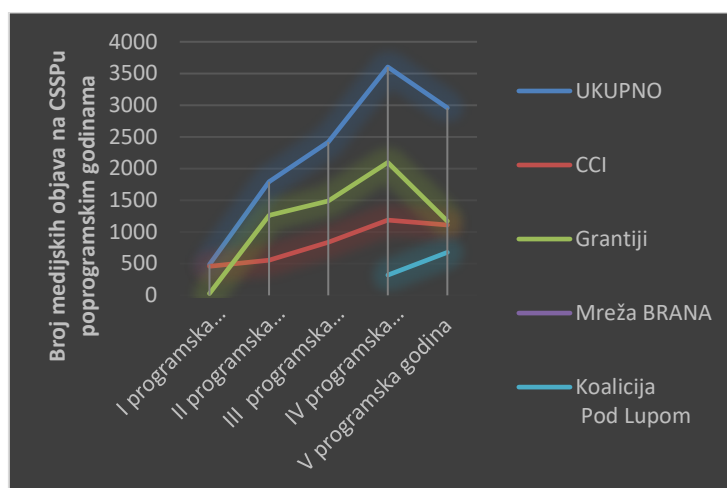
The progress of the CSSP's grantees in the context of media coverage, in general terms, is enormous. The CSSP project helped certain CSOs in their efforts to profile themselves in their respective issue areas, and from some modest communication with the media and modest publicity results (around 20 reports per quarter, per organization), the CSOs achieved some impressive results of more than 100 press reports per quarter (per organization). Their self-confidence and cooperation with the media outlets are notable as well as it is their initiative to carry out their planned steps in that context, such as introducing diverse and innovative PR tools (web advertising, creation of engaging web banners, advocacy videos, radio shows, professional texts in newspapers etc., innovative approach to organizing public events, for example, a press conference at the Post Office to announce a new postal stamp, street actions as mini organic food fairs, the Social Entrepreneurship Fair "Lets Cooperate, Business is Business", the Business Forum "Less burdens on economy to create new new jobs" attended by the Chairman of the Presidency of BiH Mladen Ivanic, etc.).

In addition, some organizations were the media's first choice for conversations about the issues that they covered. Building good relations with the media delivered significant results as the media started covering and addressing the topics treated by the CSSP's campaigns, citing various reports and information coming from the CSOs.

The grantees applied their know-how to other activities, and this was specified in communication strategies that each CSO created and for the first time set a clear direction and a long-term strategy of development in this segment.

The share of grantees' coverage in the total coverage of the CSSP project, which increased from 6% (year I) to 60% in the final years of the project speaks in favor of this statement.⁸² It is indicative that the total coverage of the CSSP project increased year after year, with most of the credit for that going to the grantees and their activities.

The best illustration of the impact of the grantee's increased coverage on the total coverage is the chart below.



Note: There is a slight decline in the coverage in the final program year because the grantees completed their campaigns and activities by the end of June 2018, and the overall dynamics of both the project and the media activities diminished as the end of the project was approaching. In the final fifth quarter, CSOs did not have any activities. For them, the project ended on June 30, 2018.

The CCI's work on monitoring government performance in BiH kept the media attention, as the number of press reports amounted to around 200 per quarter and the leading media in BiH broadcast stories and information about the CCI's press conferences during prime times of their central news programs. The monitoring reports are recognized by the media in BiH as a reliable source of information about the work of all government institutions in the country, and as such, they were used by the media to help them develop stories and newspaper articles. Moreover, the media received some information exclusively and for the first time through the CCI's reports, which they noted on several occasions. This was the case with information about incomes and other privileges of politicians and disharmony between all the money they were receiving and the results they were delivering.

⁸²Not including the press reports of the network BRANA and the Coalition Pod lupom, which were excluded from the calculation of the final number of press reports in order to track the progress of the CSSP's grantees.

In addition to being a reliable source of information and providing citizens with insights about government representatives, the CCI's monitoring reports played an important role in contributing to the accountability of government representatives. Information that speaks in favor of this statement is that journalists hosting TV shows with senior BiH officials structured their questions around the findings of the CCI's reports. Also, they read parts of the reports and asked for comments, i.e. calling politicians to account. Furthermore, MPs used the data from the monitoring reports either during their media appearances or while addressing their colleagues during parliamentary sessions. Sometimes, this turned into a real competition, because MPs often referred to the CCI's reports while citing publicly the results of their own work.

THE RESULTS OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

The CSSP program made total 11 258 press reports during the 2013-2018 period. Press coverage related to the CSSP's grantees includes 6, 047 press items, while 4, 147 press items related to the CCI's activities. The Coalition Pod Lupom and the network BRANA follow with 998 and 86 press items respectively. Pod lupom and BRANA either occasionally acted through the CSSP project or were involved in the project at some point.

Overview of media coverage by organization and program year	Program year I	Program year II (14/15)	Program year III (15/16)	Program year IV (16/17)	Program year V (17/18)	TOTAL
TOTAL	487	1 793	2 330 (2 416)	3 283 (3 603)	2281 (2 959)	10 174 (11 258) ⁸³
CCI	458	553	839	1 187	1 110	4 147
Grantees	29	1260	1491	2 096	1 171	6 047
BRANA	-----	-----	86 (I quarter 2016)	-----	-----	86
Pod lupom	-----	-----	-----	320 IV quarter 2016	678 IV quarter 2018	998
Quarterly average of press stories per year	121,7	448,2	582 (604)	820 (900)	570 (739)	

⁸³ Figures in parenthesis are the actual results, including the press coverage of BRANA and Pod lupom, which occasionally either acted through the CSSP project or were involved in the project at some point, due to which they were singled out accordingly.

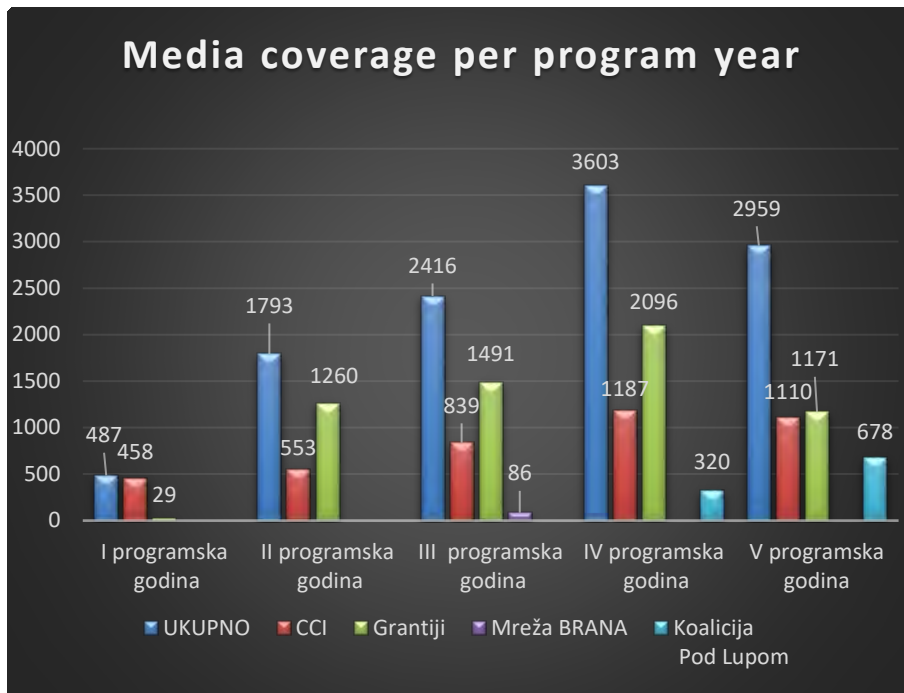
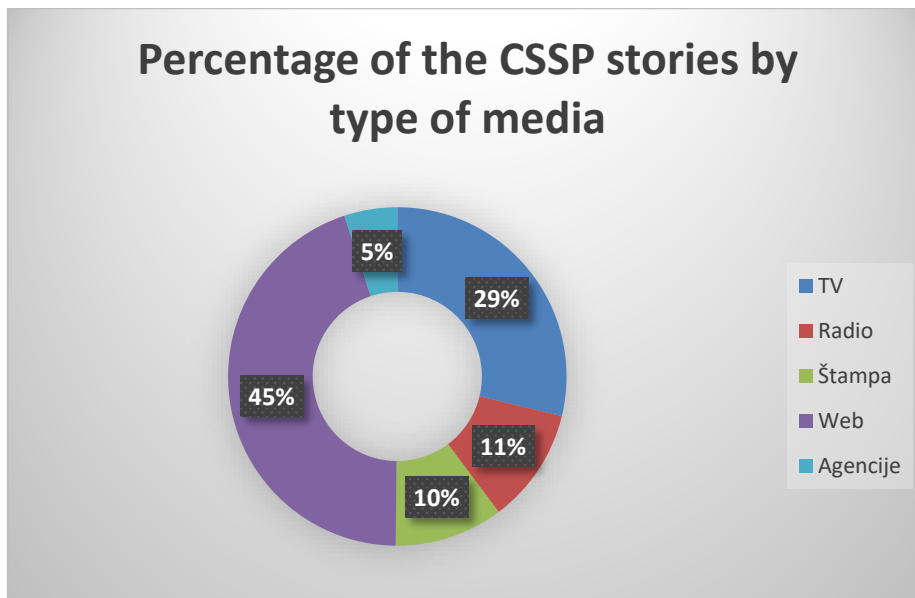


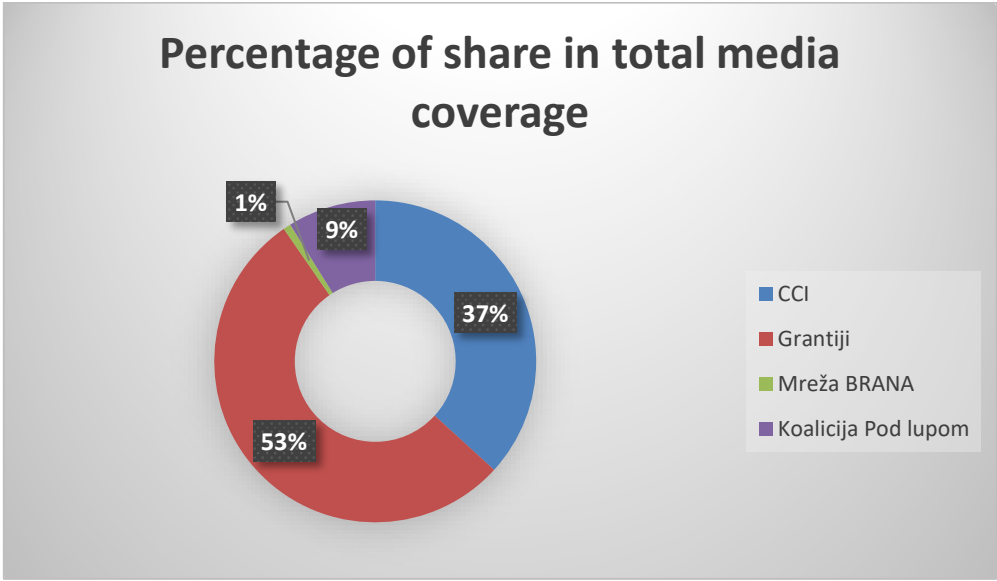
Chart 2. Comparative overview of press reports of the CSSP per program year

PERCENTAGE OF COVERAGE BY TYPE OF MEDIA

Nearly half of media coverage of the CSSP activities are news on online portals (as many as 45% or 5 042); TV stories follow with 29% or 3, 238. Radio reports make up 11% or 1 240, while 10% or 1 168 are stories in the print media. 5% or 570 stories are press agency news.



More than half (53% or 6 047) of all documented media coverage relates to the activities of the CSSP's grantees. The number of stories about the CCI is 4, 147 or 37%, which is slightly more than one third of all documented coverage. 998 stories or 9% address the efforts of the Coalition Pod Lupom, while the stories on BRANA, which operated under the CSSP for one year, make up 1% (86) of the total coverage.



EVENTS

Over the years, public events increased parallel with media coverage. There were 50 public events in Year 1, more than 70 in Year 2, 115 in Year 3, the record high of 236 public events in Year 4, and 139 stories in the final year of the project. The reason of this decline in the final year of the CSSP program is completion of the campaigns.

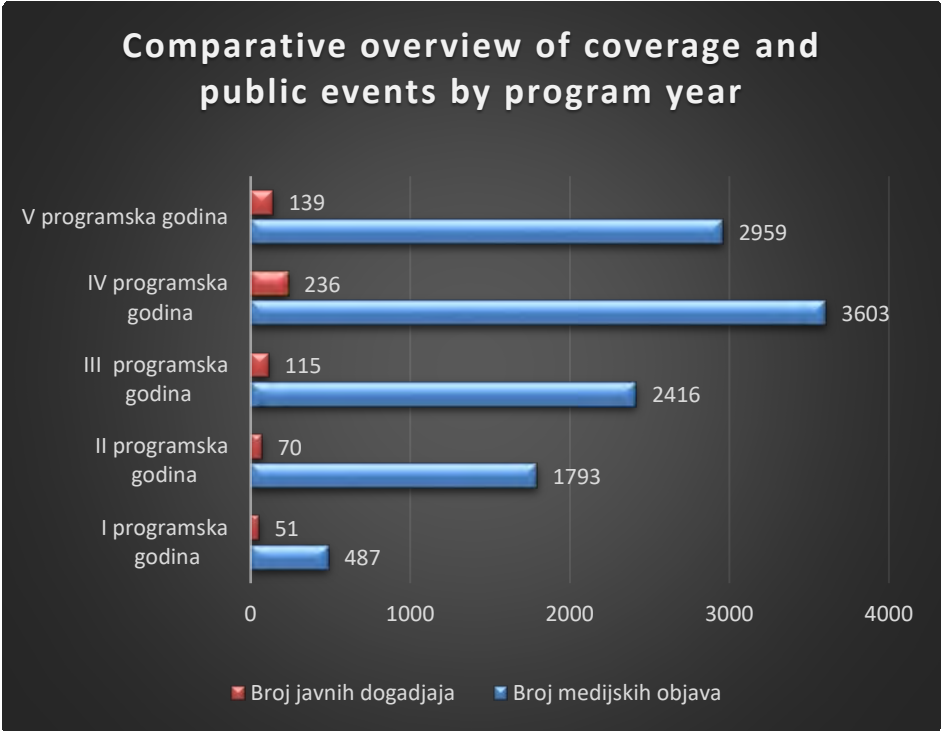
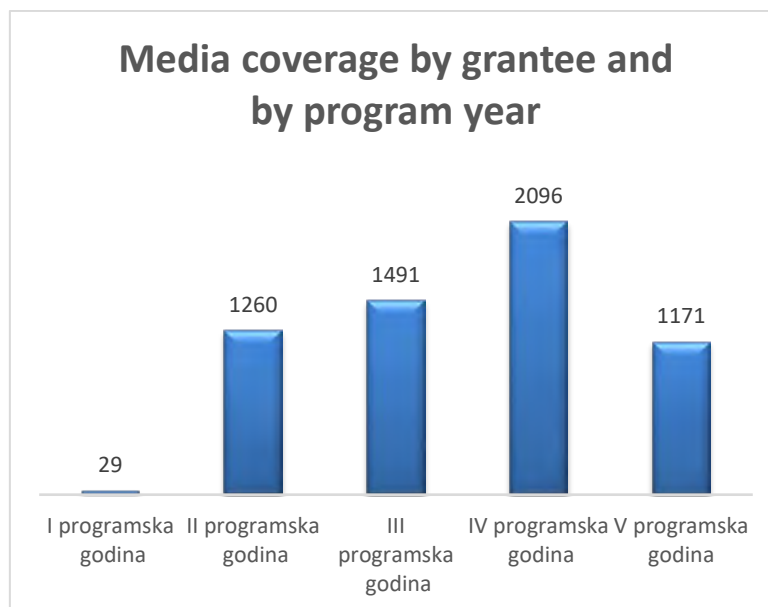


Chart 3. A comparative overview of media coverage and public events

THE GRANTEES

If we look at coverage per program year, it is evident that there is a continuous progress (and it was maintained even in the final year, although it was somewhat smaller because the grantees were active only during three quarters of the year).



This is not a sudden increase of the media coverage. It is an expected result of new PR tools such as online advertising, new engaging web banners, advocacy videos, radio shows, professional stories in newspapers, etc., which the grantees introduced into their outreach efforts. This increase of publicity can also be attributed to the fact that the campaigns intensified over the time and that CSOs introduced a more innovative approach to organization of public events such as for example the press conference at the Post Office to announce a new postal stamp, street actions as mini organic food fairs, the Social Entrepreneurship Fair “Lets Cooperate, Business is Business“, which received considerable coverage. Another example is the Business Forum “Less burdens on economy toward creating new jobs”, which was attended by the Chairman of the Presidency of BiH Mladen Ivanić. Moreover, the CSOs utilized some engaging web banners and radio shows, professional texts in the daily newspapers, etc.

Many public events were used to build good relations with the media and some CSOs organized breakfast/lunch meetings with the press. Representatives of the media outlets recognized CSOs as relevant interlocutors and participants in conversations about a number of priority topics within the sectors covered by the CSSP project, as representatives of the CSSP’s CSOs were increasingly invited to take part in various TV shows⁸⁴.

⁸⁴ Women to Women [Http://www.bhrt.ba/bht1-emisije/tema-dana-bht1/tema-dana-24-11-2016/](http://www.bhrt.ba/bht1-emisije/tema-dana-bht1/tema-dana-24-11-2016/)

TI BiH <http://www.federalna.ba/bhs/vijest/184331/o-korupciji-u-bih>

ARD <http://www.atvbl.com/poljoprivrednicima-obecano-80-miliona-km/>

Al Jazeera Balkan Context “Young people and how to own an apartment“

“https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVvdbub_C9M

TV1, Capital https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a62uM_tzPck&feature=youtu.be

PINK BiH Zabranjeni Forum „Why is that policies in BiH dislike local and foreign investors?!“

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-blBXpHHng>

Elita HD Coffee at 5 – Needs and achievements in the vegetable sector <https://youtu.be/My9xcjsE4Fc>

Furthermore, the media started writing texts about the topics addressed by CSOs' campaigns, for example the Energy Efficiency Law <http://balkans.aljazeera.net/vijesti/bih-ostaje-bez-milijardi-aura-zbog-politicke-trgovine>.

Several documented texts on certain topics and problems used different information from CSOs' publications or interviews with representatives of the respective CSOs. For example:

- “13 scenarios of a medical treatment in BiH: the costs of medical services vary by cantons and entities and are higher by as many as 1 000 BAM”
<http://www.6yka.com/novost/124991/13-scenarija-lijecenja-u-bih-od-kantona-do-kantona-pa-preko-entiteta-usluge-skuplje-i-po-1.000-km>
- “Why are young people not taught to become entrepreneurs?”
<http://www.oslobodjenje.ba/za-one-koji-znaju-citati/kolumne/zasto-se-mlade-ne-uci-da-budu-preduzetnici/198707>

Besides appearances and press statements, CSOs also created engaging online contents for their campaigns, such as four (4) videos/jingles in which persons “on the margins” tell their stories and voice the problems that persons with disabilities face in order to draw the attention of the public to the fact that persons with disabilities are also a productive part of the society and should not be ignored because of their disability.

Video 1 link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8H4e-lstASQ>

Video 2 link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipJgFam1dT0>

Video 3 link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3M9SN3M6XWw>

Video 4 link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VORw-qEv50>

In the Anti-corruption sector, the TI BiH and CIN used a video story to point to the need to adopt a proposal of the Law on Conflict of Interest in the institutions of BiH. The story prepared by CIN addresses the case of conflict of interest involving the publicly funded NGO that has been headed by Dragan Čović since 2014, the Croatian National Assembly. Such a situation is prohibited by the Law on Conflict of Interest in the institutions of BiH. After this case was brought before the respective Committee, the Committee did not have a quorum because two members of the Croat Democratic Union BiH did not show up for the session to discuss the possible conflict of interest involving their party chief.

Based on this example, a video story was created featuring the TI's views and positions regarding many of the shortcomings in the Law allowing for politicization of the Committee (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbVSHvGr8PU>, <https://www.cin.ba/nema-kvoruma-za-covicev-predmet/>)

BHT1, Feb 8, 2018 live on Central News Program, Womennet's (Cure Foundation) Vildana Dzekman discusses maternity benefits.

* TV1, Womennet's Jadranka Milicevic, Vildana Dzekman and MP Jasna Durakovic appear in «Ja biram goste» (I choose a guest) <http://tv1.ba/produkcija/ja-biram-goste/video-ja-biram-goste-prava-porodilja-u-bih-4-3-2018/>

FTV - TV show on culture N. Jovanovic: <http://www.federalna.ba/bhs/vijest/226554/sedmica-16012018>

Al Jazeera Balkans Context: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3z7TfY29t7I>

The TI BiH also published its reactions and reached out to the media in order to use this example to point once more to the need for new Law on the Conflict of Interest (<https://ti-bih.org/slucaj-dragan-covic-pokazao-sve-manjkavosti-zakona-o-sukobu-interesa/>)

In addition to reaction via Press release, there was also a Joint Press Releases, for example, the Press Release signed by 20 NGOs in reaction to the existence of “Two schools under one roof” calling on government representatives to end segregation in education, including the phenomenon of carrying out two education programs in one school⁸⁵.

The CSSP CSOs also used a slightly different approach while exerting pressure on decision makers, such as sending 257 postcards to representatives of the FBiH Government and ministries and sharing citizens' messages about the problem of discrimination against new mothers in the Federation of BiH. The postcards used the new stamps created under the campaign “Silence Is Not Golden” pointing to the problem of discrimination and violence and sexual violence against women and children in the FBiH.

The same campaign issued a Press release ahead of a vote on the RS Criminal Code to exert additional pressure on decision makers in RS and to remind them of the campaign's achievements and their own promises. The Press Release resulted in about 30 press stories.

CCI

The CCI documented 4,147 press stories, which make up 37% of the total coverage of the CSSP project. The largest share of the coverage was related to CCI's press conferences/annual government performance monitoring reports – almost 90%. In addition to press conferences, the CCI periodically organized roundtable meetings to present the Qualitative reports to improve government performance. Townhall meetings were also organized to enable direct communication between citizens and their elected representatives. All events generated media attention and contributed to the overall coverage of the project.

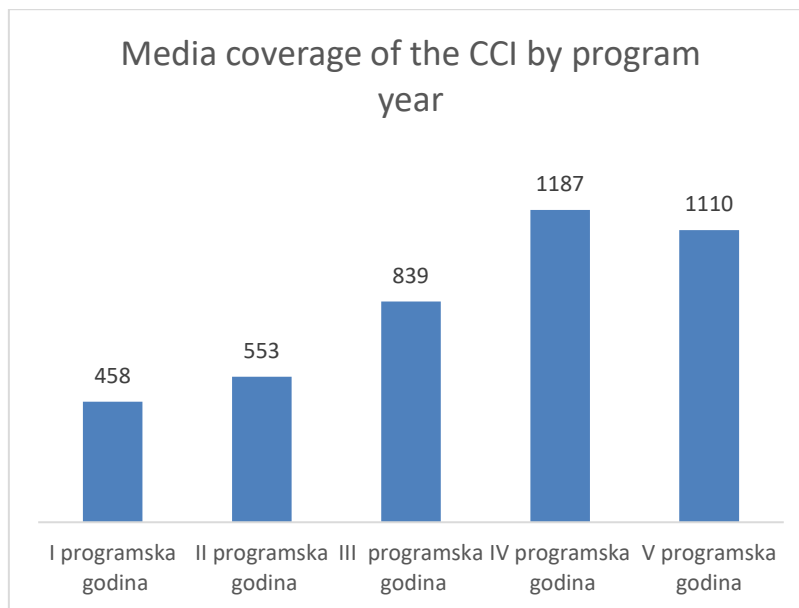
⁸⁵ Several links to the stories:

<http://www.fena.ba/article/946220/organizacije-civilnog-drustva-traze-ukidanje-segregacije-u-obrazovanju>

<http://www.avaz.ba/clanak/294473/organizacije-civilnog-drustva-pozvale-vlasti-na-ukidanje-segregacije-u-skolama>

<https://www.radiosarajevo.ba/vijesti/bosna-i-hercegovina/vlasti-u-bih-pozvane-da-prekinu-s-praksom-segregacije-djece/263661>

<http://www.bljesak.info/rubrika/sci-tech/clanak/udruge-protiv-podjele-u-skolama-podjele-ne-nude-nikakvu-sansu/199612>



Particularly interesting and significant in the context of media attention are the press conferences for the annual government performance monitoring reports and the mandate reports. For example, the press conference for 2016 annual monitoring report of the Government and Parliament of the Federation of BiH was the most visited event in terms of the number of media outlets attending the event. This was the first time that the CCI's press conference was livestreamed on TV N1. After the press conference, more than 30 press reports were documented, including the PBS (BHT1 and FTV) and most read daily newspapers and portals in the country (Dnevni Avaz, Nezavisne novine, Klix.ba).

It is also interesting that the media wrote intensively about the findings of the monitoring reports⁸⁶ even 10 days after the press conference. Some of the highlights are the stories on the Decision of the Administrative Committee of the House of People of the FBiH Parliament to equalize the amount of compensation for separate living, rent for official purposes, costs of accommodation and transportation between the Houses – i.e. the compensation was increased from 600 to 800 BAM to all delegates in the House of People of the FBiH Parliament.

After these stories, the topic had a central place in almost all media contents. The comments of the newspapers stated that the CCI started all publicity by publishing the information during the press conference. The CCI's representative who monitors the work of the FBiH Parliament made several statements on this issue, for example, February 8, 2017, Al Jazeera Balkans <http://balkans.aljazeera.net/video/delegatima-u-parlamentu-fbih-vece-naknade-za-odvojeni-zivot> February 10, 2017, FTV Central News Program 2 <http://www.federalna.ba/bhs/vijest/193272/dnevnik-2-10022017> from 09:28 to 10:15 ; February 10, 2017, BHT1 Central News Program 2 2 <http://www.bhrt.ba/sr/bht1-emisije-cir/dnevnik2-cir/%d0%b4%d0%bd%d0%b5%d0%b2%d0%bd%d0%b8%d0%ba-2-10-02-2017/> from 04:05 to 07:15;

⁸⁶Several links to the stories:<http://www.fena.ba/article/919160/bradara-naknada-za-odvojeni-zivot-izjednacena-u-oba-doma-parlamenta-fbih>
<http://www.bhrt.ba/vijesti/bih/naknada-za-odvojeni-zivot-u-oba-doma-parlamenta-fbih-izjednacena-na-800-km/>
<http://bljesak.info/rubrika/vijesti/clanak/bradara-naknada-za-odvojeni-zivot-izjednacena-u-oba-doma-parlamenta-fbih/186300>

Also, much of the media content was created and further disseminated by the media based on the information shared during the CCI's press conference. For example, February 12, 2017, a story by N1 "How to survive on an income of 4,000 BAM?"

<http://ba.n1info.com/a137323/Vijesti/Vijesti/Kako-prezivjeti-uz-primanja-od-4.000-KM.html>

From discussing the compensation of the FBiH MPs, the topic moved on to discuss the incomes, benefits and privileges of government members at other levels too. Several stories addressed incomes of MPs in the entity and state parliaments, for example the story by Al Jazeera made a comparison with the countries in the region (Serbia and Croatia). Once again, it was The information from the CCI that was used to help develop the story.

<http://balkans.aljazeera.net/vijesti/najbolje-placeni-posao-u-regiji-biti-parlamentarac-u-bih>

The story also expanded to include the cantons in the FBiH, for example, the CCI's statement in Tuzla Canton where the media used the information from the monitoring reports for Tuzla Canton.

<http://www.federalna.ba/bhs/vijest/193254/video-neogranicena-parlamentarna-pauza-u-skupstini-tk-a>

The media outlets in BiH recognize the monitoring reports as a reliable source of information and use the information presented by the CCI to develop contents and stories for their future programs. For example, while taking part in TV N1⁸⁷ show, the chairman of Zenica-Doboj Canton Assembly brought the CCI's 2014-2018 mandate report; there is also a series of texts that came as result of the CCI's reports and information concerning the work of Western Herzegovina⁸⁸ or a story on RTV USK⁸⁹ about how efficient MPs were during the mandates. The media frequently invited CCI's consultants to provide more information, for example the interview in Oslobodjenje addressing the monitoring report for the Government and Parliament of the FBiH.⁹⁰

In addition to the media using the CCI's information to develop news and stories, it is evident that MPs started to use them more frequently as well. It became a competition, because MPs often cited the CCI's reports while presenting their results publicly.⁹¹

After the CCI's press conference/presentation of the nine-month report on the performance of the Council of Ministers of BiH and Parliamentary Assembly of BiH (the first nine months of 2017) the first question asked of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of BiH Denis Zvizdic while appearing on TV1 Central news program⁹² addressed the findings of the CCI's monitoring reports.

⁸⁷<http://ba.n1info.com/a287390/Video/Info/Duvnjak-Vidjeti-gdje-smo-i-sta-smo-uradili.html>

⁸⁸ <https://www.jabuka.tv/darko-kvesic-za-jabuka-tv-kako-pricati-o-neravnopravnosti-kad-je-najgore-gdje-vladaju-hrvati/>

<https://www.jabuka.tv/zvonko-juriscic-za-jabuka-tv-sramota-je-da-su-place-u-zzh-iste-kao-i-prije-10-godina/>

⁸⁹ <http://www.rtvusk.ba/vijest/pred-istek-mandata-skupstine-usk-koliko-su-zastupnici-bili-efikasni/24547>

⁹⁰ <https://www.oslobodjenje.ba/vijesti/bih/parlamentarci-trebaju-raditi-i-van-klupa-za-svoj-ne-rad-placani-su-dobro-395166>

⁹¹ <https://www.nasastranka.ba/istrazivanje-cci-a-gratz-uputio-najvise-zakona-u-federalnom-parlamentu/>

<http://informat.ba/intervju/izvjestaj-o-monitoringu-rada-parlamenta-fbih-za-2016-godinu-prikazuje>

<https://www.nasastranka.ba/istrazivanje-cci-edin-forto-iz-nase-stranke-najaktivniji-zastupnik-u-skupstini-ks/>

⁹² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJALqsPOqZo>

The Chairman's comment was also used in RTV BN's report on the CCI's press conference in Central news program 3, stating that the Chairman Zvizdic agreed with a part of the CCI's report.⁹³

However, it is not rare to see that senior officials comment the findings of the CCI's monitoring reports. For example, when the President of the RS National Assembly, Nedeljko Cubrilovic appeared in one of the most watched TV shows in RS (Puls on RTVBN), nearly 1/3 of the show was dedicated to the CCI's reports on monitoring performance of the RS Government and National Assembly. The journalist read different sections of the reports and asked for comments, i.e. she called the President of the National Assembly to account. For example, the reason behind a small number laws adopted last year, whether forming the parliamentary majority in a rather contentious manner blocked government work, why there are no special sessions on topics that are of interests to citizens (the collapse of the banking system, serious problems in the healthcare sector, the alarming emigration of young people, etc.), stating that the data came from the CCI's reports.

The TV show is available at: <http://www.rtvbn.com/arhiva/emisija/3505>

The CCI issued a Press Release and an Open letter on two occasions to react to the adoption of the Law on Salaries and Remunerations in the institutions of government of Zenica-Doboj Canton and potential increase of privileges of politicians in this canton. The CCI's reaction drew substantial media attention, which had an impact on the exclusion of the contentious provisions from the final text of the Law⁹⁴.

Another press release that caught significant media attention was the CCI's press release on International Women's Day to draw the attention of the public to the insufficient representation of women in the institutions of government and to point out that not a single government in BiH respected the Law on Gender Equality of BiH, which specifies clearly that the representation of the underrepresented gender should not be below 40%⁹⁵.

The media outlets often took statements from the CCI's members monitoring the government work at all levels. At times, a TV show featured two statements from the CCI's members covering different government institution. For example, an FTV show featured two statements about the situations that had occurred during the sessions of Zenica-Doboj Canton Assembly and Una-Sana Canton Assembly. The statements were taken by the CCI's members who directly monitored the work of parliaments in BiH.

⁹³ <http://www.rtvbn.com/arhiva/emisija/3187> from 08:35

⁹⁴ <http://www.bhrt.ba/vijesti/bih/cci-prijedlog-zakona-o-platama-u-zdk-u-suprotnosti-sa-interesima-gradana/>
<http://www.federalna.ba/bhs/vijest/226566/povodom-odrzavanja-54-sjednice-skupstine-ovog-kantona>
<http://avaz.ba/vijesti/bih/341321/pismo-cci-ja-javnosti-i-zastupnicima-skupstine-zdk-razmotriti-i-pitanje-predlozenih-otpremnina-za-izabrane-i-imenovane-duznosnike>

⁹⁵ <http://www.federalna.ba/bhs/vijest/231358/neprihvatljivo-stanje>
<http://www.bhrt.ba/vijesti/bih/cci-ni-jedna-vlada-u-bih-ne-postuje-zakon-o-ravnopravnosti-polova/>
<http://avaz.ba/vijesti/bih/358787/cci-vlade-na-svim-nivoima-ne-postuju-zakon-o-ravnopravnosti-spolova-u-bih>

FTV, May 8, 2017 <http://www.federalna.ba/bhs/vijest/202300/federacija-danas-08052017>

From 06:11 to 06:37 – a comment about opposition MPs leaving the session of Zenica-Doboj Canton Assembly;

From 09:11 to 09:44 - the 32nd session of Una-Sana Canton Assembly was postponed; parliamentary majority is questionable;

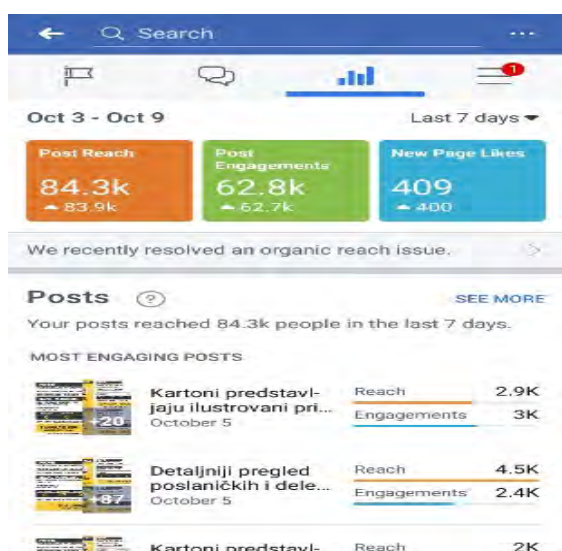
Several longer statements about the work of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH and the Council of Ministers of BiH were also documented:

<http://www.bhrt.ba/bhr1-emisije/danas/danas-07-06-2017/>- BHRadio1- radio show “DANAS” (TODAY) from 1:11 to 11:21

The CCI's official webpage was updated on a regular basis. In over 95% of cases, the reports were uploaded on the webpage soon after their release, allowing the citizens to learn about the findings of the monitoring efforts. All press conferences were announced on the webpage in a timely manner all reports were available immediately after the press conferences. The summaries of the monitoring reports were sent regularly to 400 email addresses, including the embassies in BiH, international and local organizations.

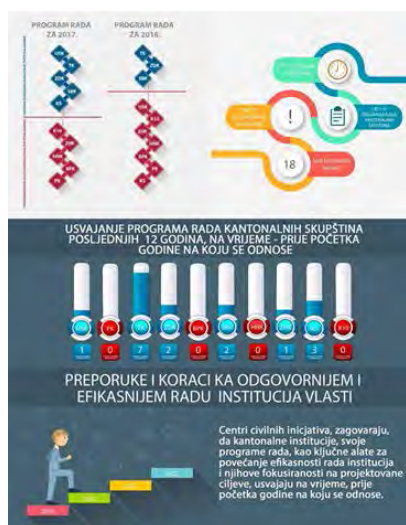


Special contents for social networks were created in parallel with the press conferences – info charts – to illustrate the work of BiH government institutions.



It is important to mention the reach of online contents featuring the data from the 2014-2018 mandate reports presented at the press conferences. Besides press releases and posts on Facebook, it was parliamentary performance cards that garnered enormous attention. They simply illustrated individual activity of all MPs in the country. A separate album of parliamentary performance cards was created for every government level⁹⁶. The cards registered more than 70, 000 views (this number is even greater if we take into account the large number of shares via personal FB profiles) and many comments from citizens, mostly from the citizens dissatisfied with the activity of their elected representatives during the four-year term. There were also many comments and compliments to the CCI for choosing this way to present this important information. The largest number of views of the

content was registered on October 6, 2018, one day before the 2018 General Elections in BiH – more than 45,000, while the number of reactions on October 5 was only 720.



INICIJATIVA.TV

Inicijativa TV broadcast and produced content to educate and inform BiH public about the problems of BiH society and its citizens, and to promote and bolster understanding of the work of civil society organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The goal is to contribute to improvement of media policies, transparency and access to information of public importance, introduction of good practices into public administration and accountability of political actors for implementation of reforms.

TV shows on the CCI's monitoring efforts were in the focus of attention. Inicijativa.TV team covered all press conferences for the monitoring reports - Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Tuzla, Mostar, Zenica, Bihać, Travnik, Široki Bijeg, Goražde, Livno, and Orašje. Two series of 12 episodes were also produced focusing on the topics addressed by CSOs during the CSSP's life. The Creativo Center produced and promoted TV documentary shows (12 Top Priorities) to track the realization of the goals of CSSP's key partner CSOs. It is about specific documentaries created in collaboration with the CSSP's partner organizations to show the progress on advocacy campaigns implemented in the 12 sector areas. Short advocacy videos and stories were also produced to support and promote the implementation of the campaigns and to exert additional pressure especially during the time when CSOs' initiatives were discussed and reviewed by decision makers.

The “12 Top Priorities“

24 shows were produced with a focus on the activities and efforts of nongovernment organizations gathered together on the CSSP project. The shows covered the sectors addressed by the CSSP program and the key problems and activities implemented by the CSOs – sector partners. Arrangement was made with BHT1 to air the show every Sunday at 3:30 p.m.. The shows were also aired on InicijativaTV.

Additionally, 12 video stories (10-12 minutes) for 12 sector partners were created to provide retrospective summaries of their activities and campaigns as well as their efforts on developing sector networks from the early beginning of the project in 2014 until June 2018.

During 2018, the CSSP project made a film about the activities of all CSSP CSOs. It presented CSOs' key results and achievements over the five years of the project's implementation.

Also, early into the project, a film was made for the kick-off event in 2014 featuring all sectors and organizations involved in the CSSP program.

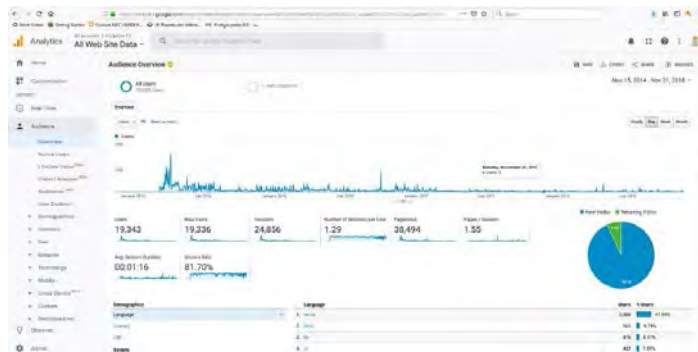
Townhall meetings aired on BHT1

38 townhall meetings took place as part of the Monitoring component. 14 townhall meetings were filmed and videos were aired on BHT1 from May 19, 2017 to August 13, 2017, every Sunday at 12:45. The townhall meetings footage was also uploaded on Inicijativa.TV.

All videos and clips of the townhall meetings aired on BHT1 were also translated into sign language. As the result of that, the footage and videos from the townhall meetings were included in the BHT show “Govor tišine” (ENG: Speech of Silence), which is a specialized show for persons with hearing/speech impairment..

30 stories/videos were filmed and published – 18 advocacy videos and 12 video stories (retrospective summaries) completed in late 2018. 24 shows as part of the 12 Top Priorities series and 24 announcements for the 12 Top Priorities series.

Inicijativa.TV statistics



Channel Grouping	Users	Sessions	Page Views	Pages/Session	Avg. Session Duration	Bounce Rate	Goal Completions	Goal Value
Direct	19,348	24,856	81.70%	1.55	00:01:16	0.00%	0	\$0.00
Search	189	189	82.0%	1.60	00:01:16	0.00%	0	\$0.00
Display	439	433	78.4%	1.76	00:01:17	0.00%	0	\$0.00
Referral	542	437	80.6%	1.91	00:01:26	0.00%	0	\$0.00
Social	120	733	82.9%	1.90	00:01:07	0.00%	0	\$0.00

Final M&E Report

September 2013 – September 2018

I INTRODUCTION

During 5 years of CSSP's implementation, all indicators for measuring progress (previously defined within the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan – M&EP) have been monitored and analyzed (through collecting, classifying and analyzing data) on annual basis and provided as an input for CSSP management in order to adjust project decision making process so to adequately respond on identified issues.

Key sources of target data needed for assessing M&E indicators included:

- Reports from contracted external independent B&H research agencies which conducted annual researches (for each of 5 projects years) to capture and analyze data from target groups, – in accordance with the M&E plan and the approved research methodology,
- Internal reports from grantees and CCI/CSPC with systematized data related with outputs achieved in realization of their activities (on quarterly and annual basis) - related to M&E indicators.

II SUMMARY OF CSSP EVALUATION FINDINGS

Based on identified progress for each of observed M&E indicator, it's possible to conclude that CSSP after its 5 years of implementation has achieved a **great success in improving perspectives of civic society sustainability** by demonstrating:

- progress in strengthening CSOs' legitimacy* through increasing cooperation with key partners (primarily with business sector and citizens) which resulted in mutually agreed sectoral priorities to be advocated and improved positive perception about CSO by citizens and SMEs,
- diversification of funding bases* of CSOs in BiH context is possible; CSSP grantees and CCI/CSPC practically reduced their dependence on foreign donors for approx. 800.000 USD – ensured 20% of their core annual budgets from local sources and
- greater policy advocacy power/impact* is to build on greater legitimacy/involvement of non-CSOs advocators in campaigns.

A side from mentioned outcomes and benefits for engaged CSOs and their partners, CSSP contributed ever more to the development of civic society with creating/providing good practice for improvement CSOs' legitimacy, financial viability and advocacy power which can be replicated and/or scaled up among other CSOs in BiH and the Western Balkans region as well.

More specifically, the following findings per key relevant indicators can be underlined in this regards:

- CSSP significantly contributed to maintaining citizens participation in decision making processes in BiH at 37,5% of the population (meaning approx. 1,250,000 citizens); 700 public events within CSSP provided opportunity for direct participation of 100.000 citizens in different decision making process in BiH – thus significantly supporting mentioned percent of populations' participation on that level during 5 years,
- CSSP achieved its goal in strengthening citizens' perception on CSO and increased value of this indicator for 5% against baseline value; in reality that means CSSP, with its actions,

impacted citizens' understanding about usefulness of CSO work so to express positively about CSOs,

- Not just citizens – CSSP also improved perception of businesses about CSOs, so for approx. 15% more SMEs (comparing with baseline value) expressed positively about CSOs at the end of CSSP,
- Wide and proactive cooperation with authorities on all levels in BiH contributed that positive perception of executive and legislative authorities about CSOs remain mostly the same during the 5 years of CSSP implementation – despite 3 election cycles and extremely negative campaigns about CSOs conducted by some political parties and media houses,
- In 12 sectors of CSSP, total of 686 non-CSO actors has been visibly engaged in advocating for sectoral reforms – that's double than originally planned and represent significant indicator of participatory chosen priorities and improved legitimacy of CSO work,
- 50% more than planned advocacy campaigns have been realized during CSSP, thus generating a massive media attention (not paid media coverage) – 10226 media reports on CSSP content comparing with 7000 media reports originally planned,
- 21 CSO engaged in CSSP diversified their funding bases and reduced dependence on international donors for approx. 20% (equal to 790,000 USD in total) in financing their core organizational budgets,
- Improved reputation of CSSP grantees and CCI/CSPC among non-CSSP CSOs – 76,3% of BiH CSOs perceived CSSP CSOs as positive (24% more than baseline value at the beginning of CSSP and almost 20% more than end target value of this indicator),
- Total of 58 policy proposals created and submitted to relevant authorities while 27 of those policy proposals have been officially adopted till end of CSSP,
- CSSP contributed significantly in strengthening transparency of BH authorities' work – 260 monitoring reports have been created and published, causing 6153 media report (including ALL major private and public media houses in BiH) and
- Impacted authorities' readiness to improve gender equality in their performance – total of 26 executive authorities responded positively on CSSP's proposed policy recommendations related with gender equality.

III OVERVIEW OF TARGET VS. ACTUAL VALUES OF CSSP M&E INDICATORS

Indicator 1: '% of citizens participating in decision making process'

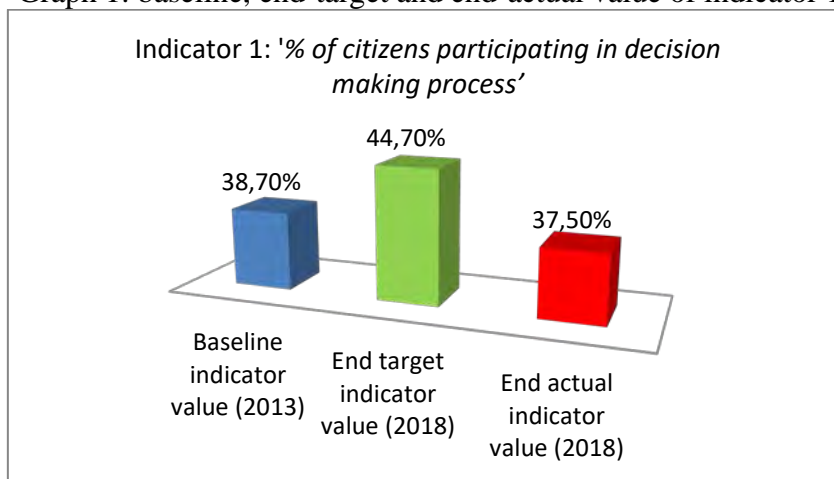
Definition: Citizens' participation means citizens' practice in using legal mechanisms for participation, which will be measured through annual survey among the credible sample – quantitative survey. Participation mechanisms include only those which CSSP directly works on. Citizens participation is presented as an arithmetic average of the percentage of surveyed respondents which answered 6 survey questions on:

(1) agreement that citizens, and not only elected representatives, should participate in the decision-making process; (2) participation through public discussions; (3) participation through citizens' initiatives; (4) having been invited by a non-government organization to participate; (5) signing a petition or in any other way participating in a public campaign; (6) consulting representatives of authorities about a problem or a proposal. The method of data collection is through a quantitative survey using a questionnaire that is administered face-to-face. This indicator will be measured annually and will include a credible sample.

Data Collection Method: Quantitative survey using a questionnaire, administered via face-to-face contact.

In order to have statistically representative sample, 1300 citizens have been selected in 14 BH municipalities/cities (approx. 10% of total number of BH municipalities/cities). Answers are presented in a percentage of interviewed citizens who reported using any of the legally defined mechanisms for participation (civic initiatives, public discussions, petition etc.).

Graph 1: baseline, end-target and end-actual value of indicator 1



Also, concerning achieved values of the indicator at the end of the project, sex dis-aggregation is as follows:

Indicator values at the end of the CSSP	Sex dis-aggregated %
37,5%	men: 39% women: 36.1%

When analysing above presented project results, that fact that needs to be kept in mind is that, total target group on which CSSP target to achieve behaviour change (as outcome) represent entirely population of BiH – or to be more precise total of voters in BiH which is 3.371.900 (source Central election Committee of BiH).

Also, failure of political actors to introduce and/or speed up societal reforms in BiH during past 5 years impacted significant citizens’ drain (particularly on young population). In such conditions it was very hard to motivate them for the action and engagement in decision making for public good.

Despite everything mentioned, CSSP managed to ensure direct participation of little over 100.000 citizens which directly engaged in 700 events organized (petitions, public debates, meetings with elected officials, round tables, conference etc.) within campaigns of all 21 CSO (grantees and CCI/CSPC) for improving public policies. If we add additional CSSP’s efforts conducted in Election and monitoring of providing floods reconstruction help, than achieved result of 1.251.000 citizens of BiH (37,5% of the voters on BiH) which reported about their participation in decision making processes in their communities represents an impressive achievement.

Obviously, ability of CSSP to directly engage in decision making processes approx. 10% of total citizens/voters in BiH (indirectly impacted even more citizens by thousands of media contents, sharing info on actual process and ways to engage, GOTV election campaigns etc.) generate most of citizens participation’s dynamic in BiH (thousands of other local CSO and dozens of international

organizations covered together impacted rest of citizens), without which reported level of citizens participation in BiH will be significantly smaller than reported 37,5.

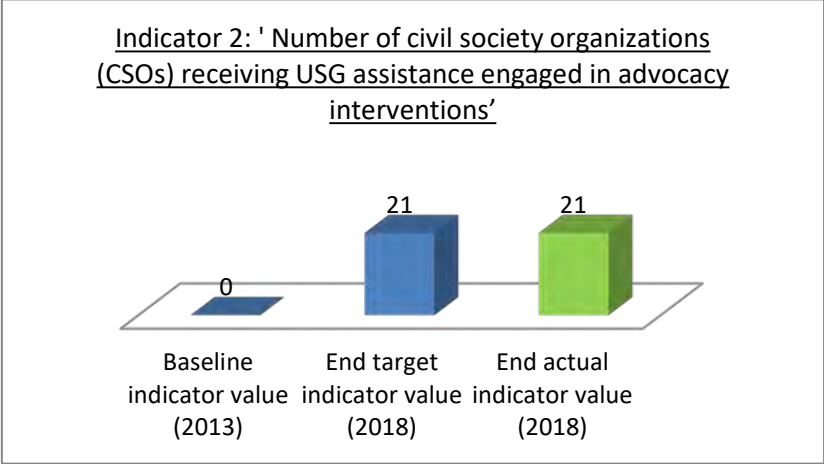
Indicator 2: ' Number of civil society organizations (CSOs) receiving USG assistance engaged in advocacy interventions'

Definition: CSOs are defined as non-profit organizations from various sectors (in line with grant manual of CSSP) selected for CSSP for support through public competitive processes.

Advocacy interventions defined as all actions and events funded by and organized within CSSP, but which are a series of strategic, interconnected, integrated activities designed to achieve a goal. It may include a wide range of activities, such as, lobbying, public interest litigation, letter writing campaigns, civil disobedience, etc. Advocacy interventions tend to: (1) Be strategic (a deliberate, planned action, not random); (2) Involve a set of actions that are sustained in order to build and direct pressure; (3) Be designed to persuade; (4) Be targeted; (5) Involve alliance building.

Data Collection Method: Count of CSOs in project records.

Graph 2: baseline, end-target and end-actual value of indicator 2



At the beginning of CSSP, number of CSOs receiving USG assistance were zero (0) while indicatively was planned to identify (through public call) at least one CSOs receiving USG assistance per target sector. Ultimately, selected grantees in seven sectors (out of 12 sectors in total) applied with their own partners, so this achieved number of CSOs receiving USG assistance become target end value to be maintained throughout the CSSP. The end value of the indicator, in November 2018, proved that this indicator was achieved 100% of its target end value.

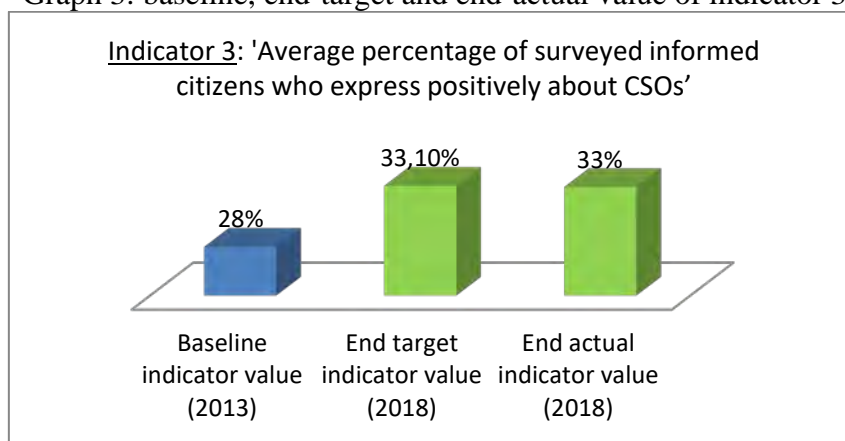
Indicator 3: 'Average percentage of surveyed informed citizens who express positively about CSOs'

Definition: The average percentage is based on answers from BH citizens on questions related with (1) having heard of an NGO or being familiar with the term; (2) being able to recall minimum three

NGOs; (3) being able to recall at least one coalition of NGOs; (4) being able to recall at least 5 members of NGOs; (5) having been engaged in an NGO in some way; (6) having felt positive effects of NGOs' activities; (7) perception about the cooperation between citizens and NGOs; (8) being ready to engage in advocacy with NGOs; (9) finding NGOs useful; (10) perception of NGO's influence at any level of decision-making - obtained through quantitative survey.

Data Collection Method: Quantitative survey using questionnaire, administered via phone contact. In order to have statistically representative sample, randomly will be selected BH 1200 citizens whose answers will be processed within the SPSS program and analysis prepared by external company.

Graph 3: baseline, end-target and end-actual value of indicator 3



During CSSP implementation indicator no 3 fulfilled its target value as planned.

Also, concerning achieved values of the indicator at the end of the project, sex dis-aggregation is as follows:

Indicator values at the end of the CSSP	Sex dis-aggregated %
33%	men: 33,4% women: 32,5%

Indicator 4: 'Average percentage of surveyed and informed business, parliamentary, and government representatives who express positively about CSOs'

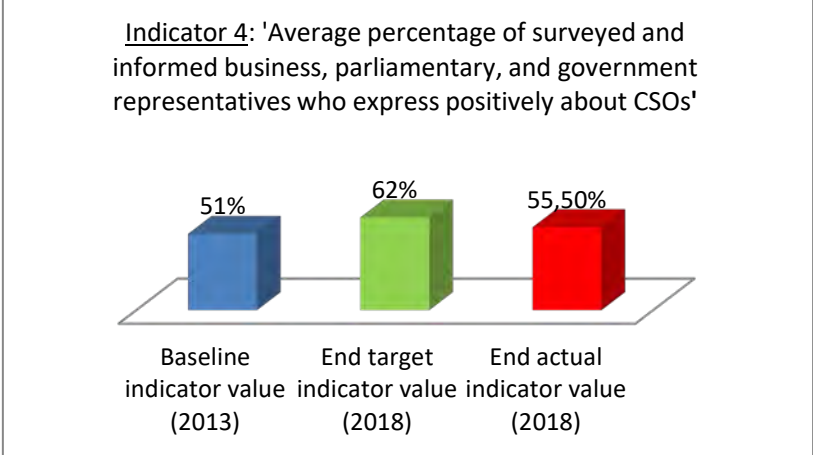
Definition(s): Business leaders include private sector but also representatives of public companies (such as utility companies – garbage management etc.). Targeted parliamentarians and government representatives include local, cantonal, entity and state level of government in BH.

This perception indicator is based on three surveys with the same questions covering the following dimensions of perception about CSOs: (1) being aware of an NGO or with the term; (2) being able to recall at least three NGOs; (3) being able to recall at least one coalition of NGOs; (4) being able to recall at least five members of an NGO; (5) having earlier contacts with an NGO; (6) having benefits from some NGO activities; (7) perception of their cooperation with NGOs; (8) being ready

to advocate together with NGOs; (9) perception of NGO usefulness for their work or the society in general; (10) perception of NGO influence over decision-making. Business representatives are selected randomly, the entire population of legislative representatives (613) are approached, and a random sample of executive representatives are addressed to answer the questions.

Data Collection Method: Quantitative survey using a questionnaire, administered via regular post or e-mail. Statistically representative sample of business representatives will be randomly selected from the register of business companies (based on criteria of size, focus of work, public/private etc.). Governments’ representatives have been selected in two groups (executive and legislation) and among those groups statistically representative sample is randomly selected. Answers have been processed by external company (data collection and analysis).

Graph 4: baseline, end-target and end-actual value of indicator 4



Logic behind CSSP intervention in this areas was to improve cooperation with those three target groups and by achieving better understanding/exchange to positively impact perception of those three groups about CSOs.

This approach worked well in cooperation with business sector, due to clear interest which companies recognized in cooperation with CSOs. CSSP engaged 104 companies as members of grantees’ sectoral networks which actively participate in advocating for relevant sectoral reforms (i.e 41.000 companies signed different petitions within CSSP campaigns). Consequently, value of business perception index about CSOs raised the most among those three groups (for approx. 15% during the 5 years of CSSP).

On other side, great efforts invested by CSSP in building closer cooperation with legislative and executive authorities (54 representatives of legislative and executive authorities participated in working groups initiated by CSSP for drafting different policies – i.e. legislation on Conflict of Interest, Criminal Act, Maternity Law etc.) didn’t change significantly their negative attitude towards the CSOs. Most of political parties (and consequently authorities) consider CSOs as a threat for their political and personal interest (based on different ways of power abuse) so cooperation with CSSP was more on formal basis rather on shared values and public good. Consequently, level of authorities’ perception index about CSOs remain pretty much the same during the project.

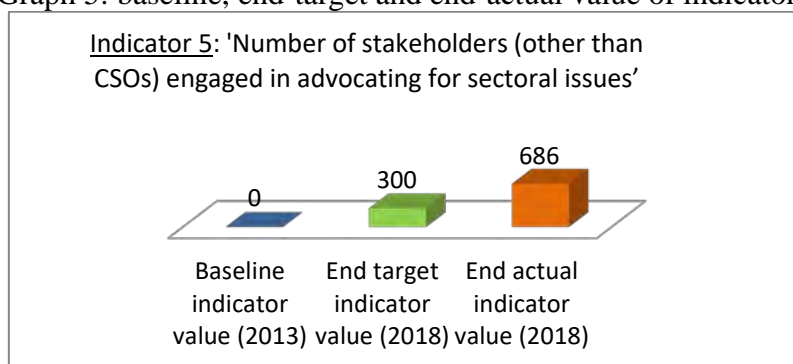
Everything described resulted with achieved progress of 4.5% comparing with baseline indicator value, which represents approx. 50% of the target.

Indicator 5: 'Number of stakeholders (other than CSOs) engaged in advocating for sectoral issues'

Definition: Stakeholders primarily means representatives from organizations (i.e. business sector, media, universities, informal groups etc.) but also individuals (i.e. journalists, intellectuals etc.) while CSSP will ensure there is no double counting of individuals and their respective organizations (if such potential appears during CSSP). Advocacy activities include but not limited to public meeting, discussions, media events, meetings with officials, writing columns, social networks actions. Sectoral issues are related with sectors of operations of partner CSO.

Data Collection Method: review and analysis of grantees reports

Graph 5: baseline, end-target and end-actual value of indicator 5



During CSSP a great efforts have been invested in in expanding membership in all sectoral networks, so from initial 300 members in all 12 sectoral networks memebrship increased to 1031 till end of CSSO duration. This directly influenced the rapid increase in the percentage of this indicator.

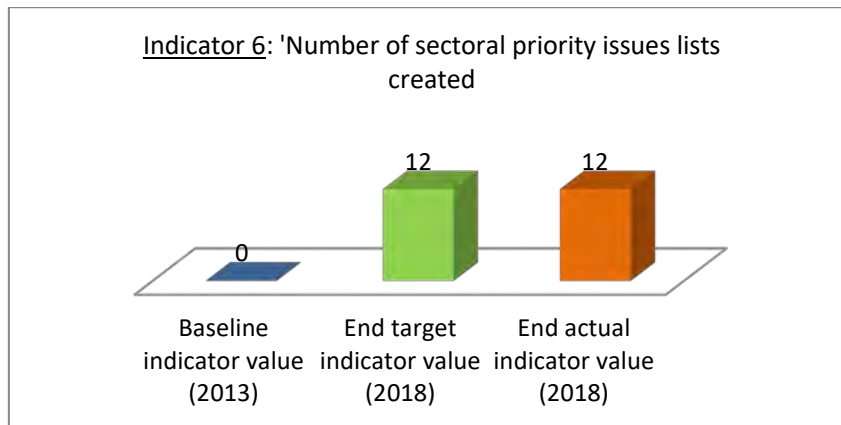
Only 5 from 12 networks (COMA, Academician, LedNet, EFEKT Network and Women Women Women's Network) increased their membership by 100% and gave great roles in building advocacy power by engaging their members meetings with decision-makers, street actions and other events.

Indicator 6: 'Number of sectoral priority issues lists created'

Definition: Each of the sectors within CSSP created and presented its priority issues list to be advocated by the stakeholder networks. Lists included issues related with public policies from respective sectors and will be jointly created by CSOs and their stakeholders networks.

Data Collection Method: review and analysis of grantees reports

Graph 6: baseline, end-target and end-actual value of indicator 6



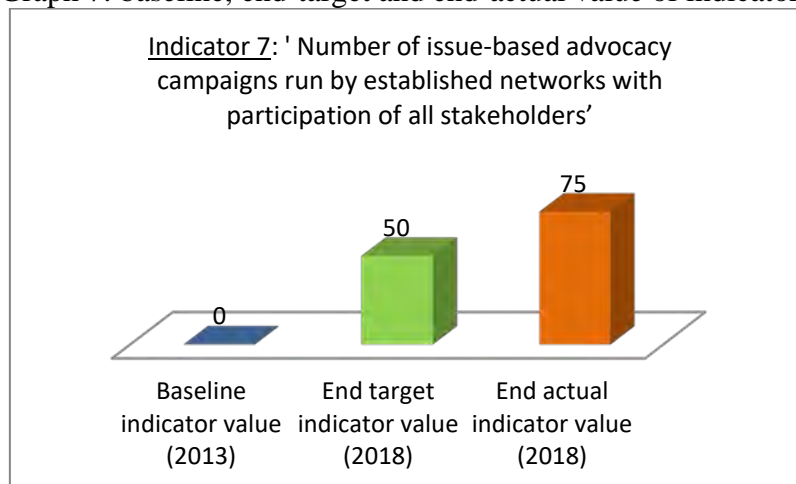
During CSSP implementation indicator no 6 fulfilled its target value as planned.

Indicator 7: ' Number of issue-based advocacy campaigns run by established networks with participation of all stakeholders'

Definition: Issue-based campaigns include all strategically designed actions in public (media events, round tables, discussions, meetings with decision makers, creation of policy papers etc.) initiated and run by each CSO and its stakeholder networks. Existence of these actions in society will prove functionality of stakeholders' networks

Data Collection Method: review and analysis of grantees reports

Graph 7: baseline, end-target and end-actual value of indicator 7



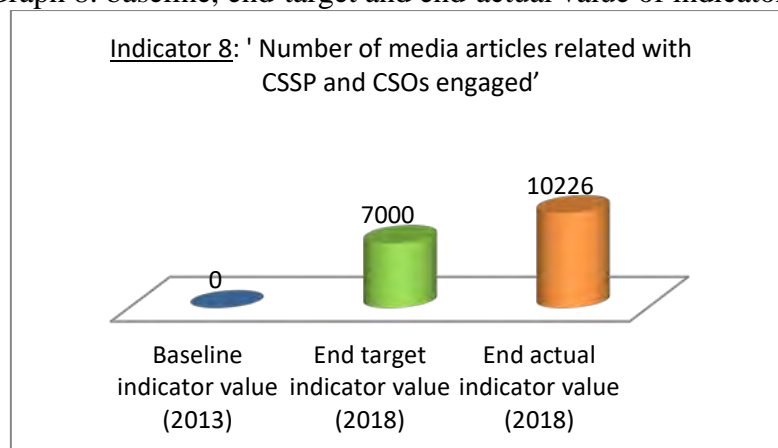
At the beginning of CSSP it was projected that each sector (12 of them) within the CSSP will run approx. 4 advocacy campaigns with their stakeholders. However, due to growing activism in sectoral networks and general CSSP intention to achieve more, each sectoral network run approx. 6 campaigns, which resulted in identified 50% increase.

Indicator 8: ' Number of media articles related with CSSP and CSOs engaged'.

Definition: Media articles include traditional (electronic – public and private TV, radio, daily press and weekly magazines) but also new media (internet – web portals, fb, twitter, you tube, internet TV), which will report about activities/outputs/outcomes related with CSSP and grantees individually.

Data Collection Method: review and analysis of grantees reports

Graph 8: baseline, end-target and end-actual value of indicator 8:



Most of the advocacy campaigns were interesting topics for the media (maternity, criminal law, conflict of interest, parafiscal leaves, company law, rural development strategies, reports on governance performance, election monitoring etc.) so electronic, printed and internet media houses heavily reported about CSSP campaigns.

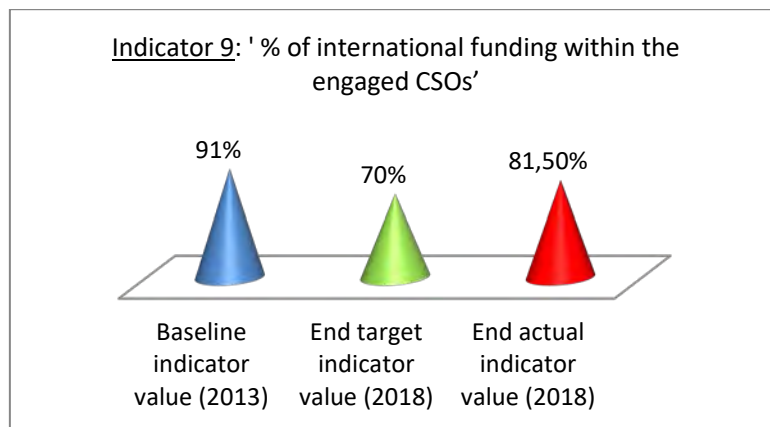
From described reasons, the number of media reports within the CSSP duration raised for approx. 50% comparing with target value.

Indicator 9: ' % of international funding within the engaged CSOs'

Definition: International funding means all grant, contract and other ways of support which grantee CSOs are receiving from private and public foreign foundations, agencies, institutions, for financing their (CSOs') core organizational budgets (which can ensure realization of minimum of key organizational activities – each grantee defined amount of their core budget which will remain the same till end of the CSSP). The level of foreign funding is predominant in structure of funding of BH CSOs so present a threat for CSO's sustainability.

Data Collection Method: review and analysis of grantees financial reports

Graph 9: baseline, end-target and end-actual value of indicator 9



CSSP achieved target project value for approx. 45% which represent approx. 790.000 \$ ensured by the CSSP grantees from non-foreign grant sources, which again present significant steps in decreasing CSOs' dependence on foreign donors.

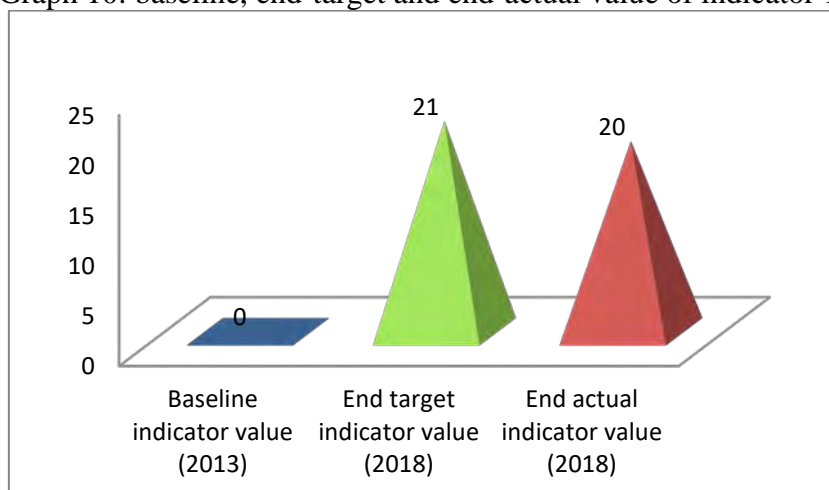
Having in mind that most of grantees' activities were related with advocacy for different reforms within the CSSP, this result is even more significant for BiH context.

Indicator 10: ' Number of created sustainability and communication strategies of all selected CSOs

Definition: Sustainability strategies of CSOs include financial viability plans (improved financial strategies by diversifying funds, raising a specified percentage of funding through fees and membership dues, initiating public-private partnerships etc.) and are developed in close cooperation between CSOs and their stakeholders networks. Communication strategies will present a comprehensive approach by CSOs in improving their communication with target and broader public in BH.

Data Collection Method: review and analysis of grantees reports

Graph 10: baseline, end-target and end-actual value of indicator 10



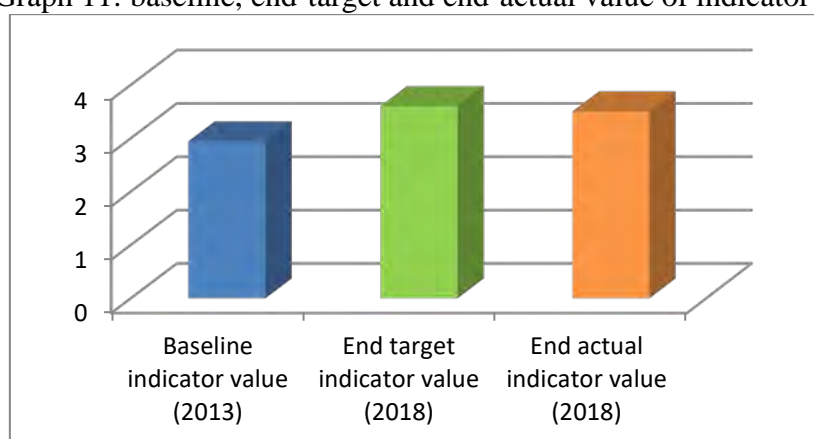
Out of 21 CSSP actor (19 grantees + CCI/CSPC) only one didn't create its strategy since this grantee participate in different USAID project in parrallel (in which created the same document) so USAID AOR allowed this grantee not to create the same document and avoid duplication the work.

Indicator 11: ' Local organizational capacity assessment score'

Definition: Local Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) assesses 10 main organizational capacity areas: (1) Strategic management; (2) Relations towards members and target groups; (3) Project management; (4) Propagation capacities and monitoring of public policy implementation; (5) Service delivery and care for beneficiaries; (6) Cooperation, partnership and networking; (7) Management and structure; (8) Human resources; (9) Finances and administration; (10) Media and public relations. There are a total of 49 indicators assessed within these 10 dimensions.

Data Collection Method: Quantitative, consensus-based survey using a questionnaire, administered via a workshop. Selected expert reports on survey and data collected

Graph 11: baseline, end-target and end-actual value of indicator 11



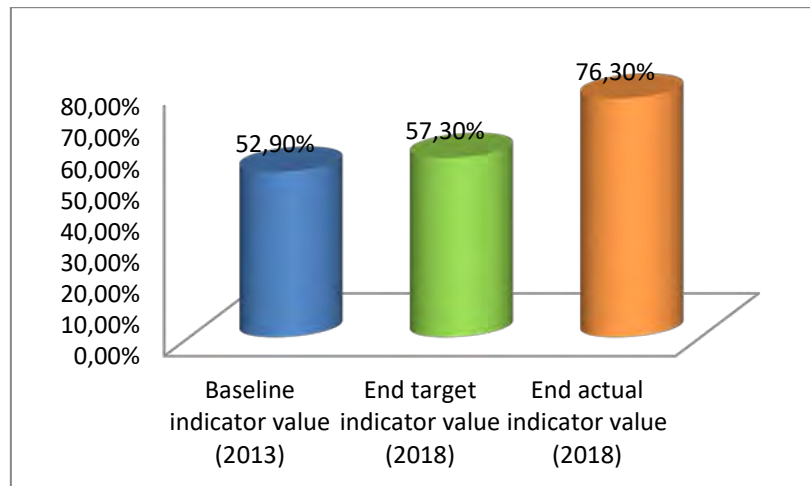
During CSSP implementation indicator no 11 fulfilled 99,8% of the life of activity's cumulative target.

Indicator 12: ' % non-CSSP CSOs that perceived CSSP grantees as positive'

Definition: The index reflects perception of other CSOs about the CSSP grantees. Surveyed CSOs are asked to assess on scale 1-5 (1 the lowest and 5 the highest) their perception about the CSSP grantees' support to other CSOs. There are two key components to the index:
(1) % of surveyed CSO representatives which rate the CSSP grantees' contribution to strengthening civil society 4 and above (on the scale of 1-5), and
(2) Percentage of surveyed CSO representatives answering "yes" to the question "Do CSSP grantees contribute to representation of the higher number of CSOs, especially the ones focused to the concrete problems, and which are not necessarily related to the main political courses?"

Data Collection Method: Selected agency reports on data collected through a quantitative survey using a questionnaire, administered via e-mail.

Graph 12: baseline, end-target and end-actual value of indicator 12



First three years of CSSP implementation this indicator decreased for approx. 18% while in last two project years recovered and raised significantly – achieving target indicators’ value but also raising for additional approx. 20%.

Since the focus of grantees’ advocacy campaigns was the higher in project years 4 and 5 (i.e. number of media articles in projects years 4 and 5 in total is bigger for 868 comparing with all together project years 1, 2 and 3), strong engagement of non-CSSP CSOs in those campaigns and significant visibility in public impacted identified raise of CSO perception on CSSP grantees.

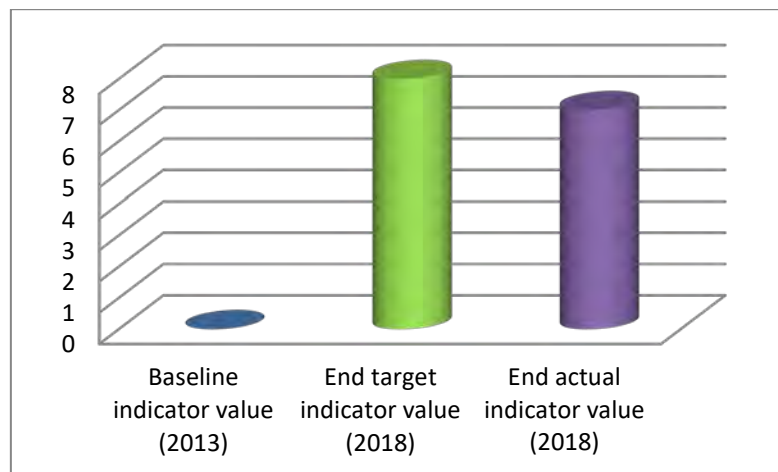
Indicator 13: ' Number of policy proposals created and processes initiated for allowing local individual and corporate philanthropy'

Definition: Policy proposals include any of the following policy document (papers, briefs and proposals) in relation with improving financial perspectives of CSOs - in juristic form publicly presented, advocated and/or officially initiated (ideally passed by decision makers in BH) in relation with individual and corporate philanthropy.

Matrix on Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development is an assessment tool and defines indicators of success in developing an enabling environment for CSOs. The matrix includes standards in areas of: (1) basic legislation on freedom of association and fiscal legislation; (2) Government policy for CSO sector development and institutional framework for cooperation with CSOs; (3) CSO participation in decision making (all institutions and all phases); (4) Financial resources (incl. philanthropy, CSR etc.) & public financing (grants); (5) CSO involvement in provision of public services (social services); (6) Human resources, employment & volunteering and (7) Trust, incl. overall “spirit” of cooperation.

Data Collection Method: CSPC reports on data collected and findings of Matrix and CCI report regularly on project progress.

Graph 13: baseline, end-target and end-actual value of indicator 13



During CSSP implementation indicator no 13 fulfilled 87% of its cumulative target.

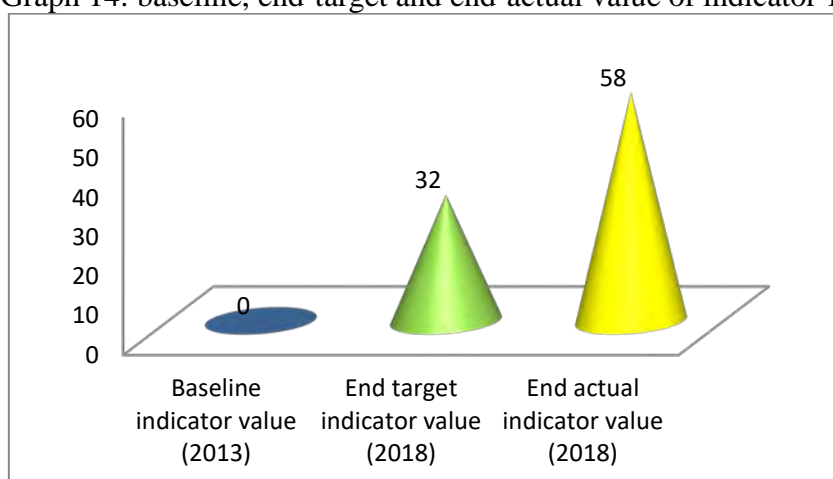
Indicator 14: ' Number of policy proposals submitted to executive governments and parliaments with citizens input'

Definition: Policy proposals refer to civic society input to any of government’s intervention (related with needs of CSO’s stakeholders) in which CSOs and/or public (interested groups, business, public in general) have participated in any way (provided feedback in planning and/or policy formulation phase). Policy proposals are documents which include recommendations for adoption and/or change of any law, regulation, policy or similar directive that is formally submitted to executive governments and parliaments.

Citizen input means that the public, citizens and/or civil society organizations have proposed language used in, provided comments incorporated into, or monitored the implementation of the policy.

Data Collection Method: review and analysis of grantees reports

Graph 14: baseline, end-target and end-actual value of indicator 14



Within the scope of CSSP, in addition to cantonal/Brcko/entities/BiH levels CSSP grantees also initiated policy proposals for local (municipal) authorities too (total of 25 proposals have been

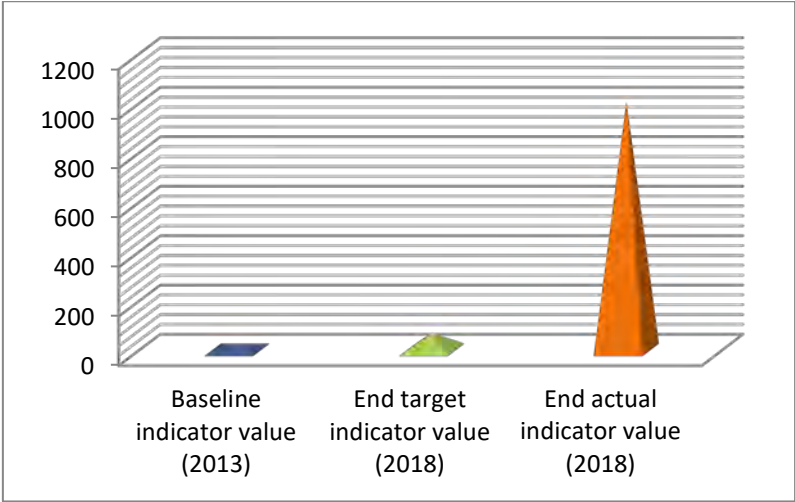
submitted to municipalities based on their competences - i.e. fiscal barriers for business, energy efficiency etc.) and this project direction caused increase of actual policy proposals on 58 since the beginning of implementation of the CSSP. Out of 58 mentioned 27 policies have been officially adopted and 31 are still pending in official procedure.

Indicator 15: ' Number of network members (organizations and individuals) participating in advocacy initiatives'

Definition: Network members primarily include stakeholders of selected CSOs within the CSSP (business, informal groups, media etc.) which should be more visible partners of CSOs in advocating reforms in BH in respective sectors. Advocacy initiatives include all strategically designed events (public discussions, presentations, round tables, meetings with officials, media events etc.) dedicated to improvement of legislation and/or practice of governments in areas of interest of different stakeholders.

Data Collection Method: review and analysis of grantees report

Graph 15: baseline, end-target and end-actual value of indicator 15



Earlier elaborated within the indicator, sectoral networks (COMA, Academician, LedNet, EFEKT Network, Women to Women, Kult etc.) realized a huge number of events in many BiH cities (petitions, public debates, distribution of brochures etc.) with participation of members of their networks, which significantly increased number (from initial 6 to the approx. 84 per network) of networks' members (individuals and organizations) participating in advocacy initiatives.

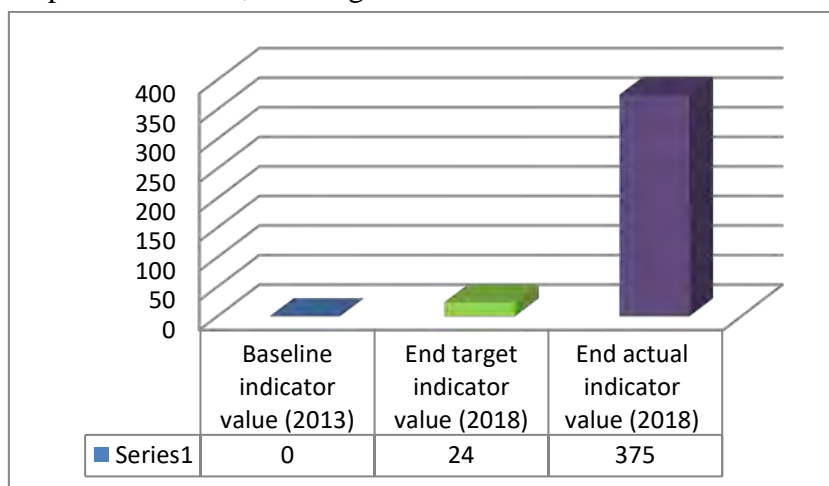
Indicator 16: ' Number of cases of cooperation between CSOs and think-thanks, media etc.'

Definition: Strategic partnerships formed among think-tanks, advocacy groups, watchdog and grassroots organizations and the media to engage in public policy advocacy or participate in government monitoring and oversight activities. Cooperation case includes, but is not limited, to mutual information exchange, building advocacy actions on existing think-tank analysis, joint

advocacy efforts (planning and implementing) – particularly supported by media (free of charge and based on shared values).

Data Collection Method: review and analysis of grantees reports

Graph 16: baseline, end-target and end-actual value of indicator 16



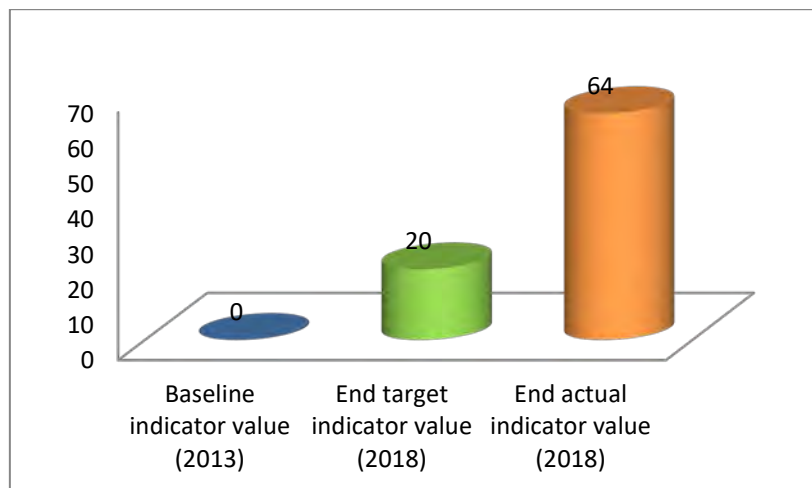
Coordination and cooperation of grantees with other actors within their respective sectors (media, think-tanks, grass-roots groups, etc.) till end of 2018 reached total of 375, which is significantly more than targeted. The main reason for such difference is engagement of many and different media actors (primarily internet media) which contributed to widening info and improving advocacy power within the implemented advocacy campaigns.

Indicator 17: ' Number of CSOs which visibly participate in policy processes'

Definition: CSOs mentioned are grantees of CSSP. Visibly participation in policy processes (creation of new laws and bylaws, budgeting, defining annual work plans of public bodies etc.) includes different means of CSOs participation in formation, adoption and/or implementation of policy stages in a sense that CSOs' participation is covered by media and/or reporting by government bodies (through their web sites and other ways of communication - public statements, written articles, joint TV shows etc.) which will make them publicly recognizable.

Data Collection Method: review and analysis of grantees reports

Graph 17: baseline, end-target and end-actual value of indicator 17



During implementation of CSSP, sectoral leaders and their partners (both grantees of CSSP) engaged also in their advocacy processes for legislation improvement other members from their respective sector networks so target value of this indicator (primarily based on expected engagement of CSSP grantees only) increased to approx. 5,5 actors per sector visibly engaged in policy processes.

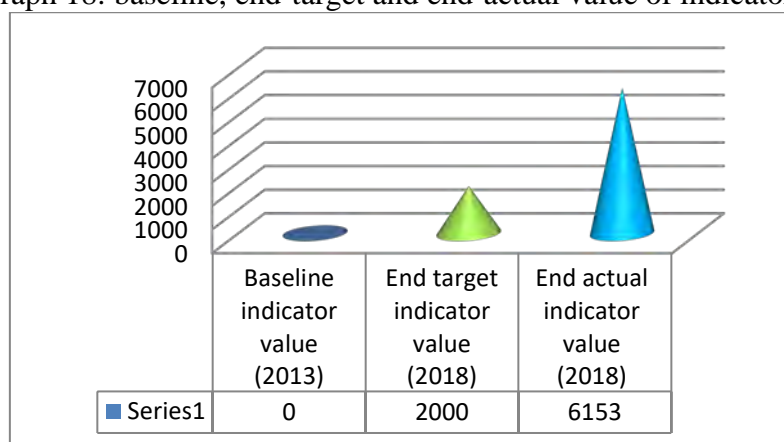
Even this represents significant difference comparing with end-target value, still increase is a positive development impacted by CSSP which improved overall civic visibility as advocates for policy improvements in BiH.

Indicator 18: ' Number of media articles about the monitoring reports during the project'

Definition: Media articles include electronic, printed and internet media houses which can be assessed by their ratings, daily circulation and number of visits, likes etc.). Monitoring reports are analytical reports created by CSSP grantees in their different respective sectors which present governments' performance against primarily EU reforms, demands but also other sectoral priorities too.

Data Collection Method: Review and analysis of grantees' reports

Graph 18: baseline, end-target and end-actual value of indicator 18



Proactive approach used within the CSSP in communication with media/journalists resulted in great media interest for published monitoring reports by CCI and some of the grantees, which

generated total of 6153 media articles/reports – 3 times more than target, which represent a great achievement of CSSP since all this media attention was totally free of charge.

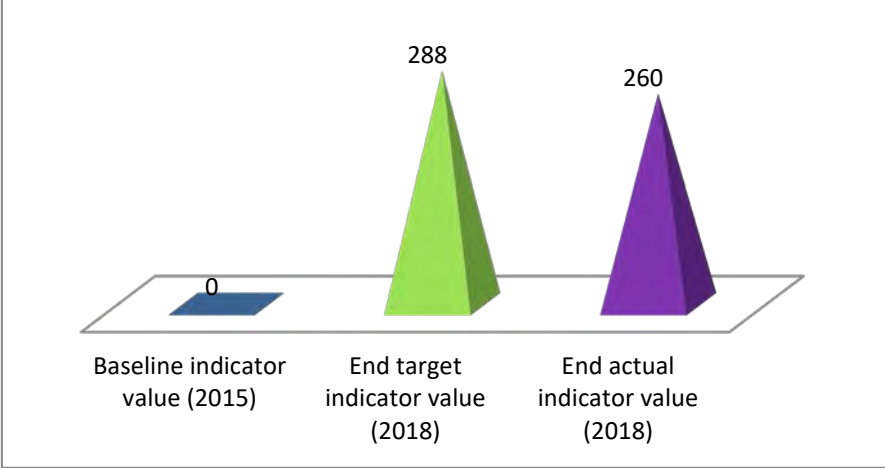
Indicator 19: ' Number of mechanisms for external oversight of public resource use supported by USG assistance

Definition: CSSP defines the external oversight mechanism as monitoring of the government performance and preparing a report on it for the public. CSSP will report Government performance reports prepared by Center for Civic Initiatives (CCI) within CSSP Activity under this indicator. The reports are prepared for executive and legislative government for each governance level separately (i.e. 13 levels of government, for each of them 2 reports, one for the legislative government and one for executive) on a quarterly basis. In some cases one report may cover more than one government (i.e. two or more cantons). The reports are based on a standardized CCI methodology which covers 9 sections and 41 indicators.

Data Collection Method: 1) For the legislative governments, CSSP monitoring experts attend the parliamentary sessions and collect data as prescribed by the methodology (i.e. key indicators). The data on the indicators is being recorded using the so-called AGI software, and inputs are entered as sessions take place. All experts have the software installed on their laptops.

2) For the executive governments CSSP cannot attend sessions, but bases its inputs on the sessions' Minutes retrieved on request' and Official Gazette published. CSSP explained that in this regard they are often faced with issues on accessing the sessions' Minutes timely, and in such cases they use alternative means to assess the work of executive government (such as indirectly measuring what has been submitted to the Parliaments as per annual work-plans and parliamentary session agendas).

Graph 19: baseline, end-target and end-actual value of indicator 19



This indicator has been developed in 2017 so target value has been established only for the project period from 2016 till end of the CSSP.

Deviation between end actual value and end target value has been caused by changed CCI approach during 2017 (with previous approval by USAID AOR) when last cycles of quarterly monitoring reports for 13 governments/parliaments have been replaced with organizing 38 public debates in same number of municipalities all over BiH in order to provide BH citizens with the opportunity to meet its elected official (members of parliaments) in person and ask questions on any topic/issue

relevant to authorities represented. During those 38 debates a little more than 200 MPs faced with over 3000 citizens.

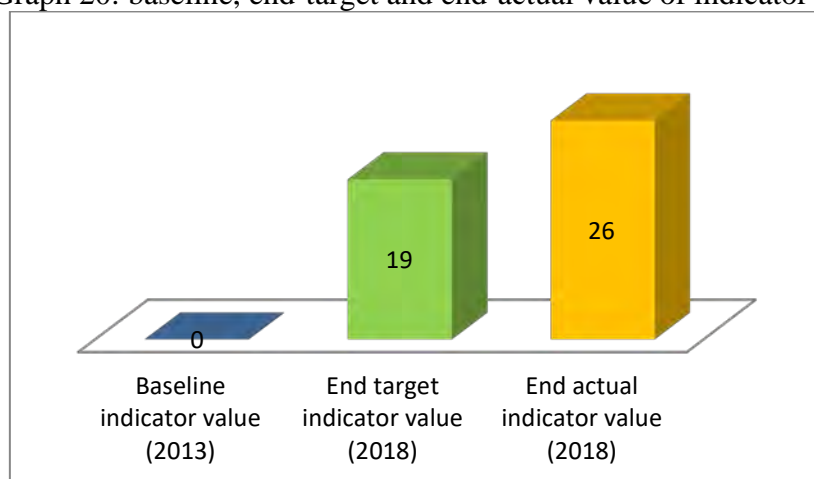
Most of public debates have been recorded and some of them aired on public broadcasters in BiH. Among those broadcast, public debate in Sarajevo Canton on ‘Public safety’ topic, aired on May 5th, 2017 has the biggest share of such shows on BHTV (share, 4,65%).

Indicator 20: ‘ Number of governments responses /actions on CSSP policy recommendations pertaining to women’s participation, gender balanced language etc.’

Definition: During the CSSP, grantees, among other activities, assessed governments’ performance in different sectors and created monitoring reports accompanied by adequate recommendations for policy and/or practice improvement. Part of these recommendations have been related to cross-cutting topics (increased women participation in decision making). The governments’ responses (meaning any type of reaction including improving practice, changing bylaws, public statement, adjusting annual work plans etc.) on gender recommendations have been tracked and assessed.

Data Collection Method: review and analysis of grantees reports

Graph 20: baseline, end-target and end-actual value of indicator 20



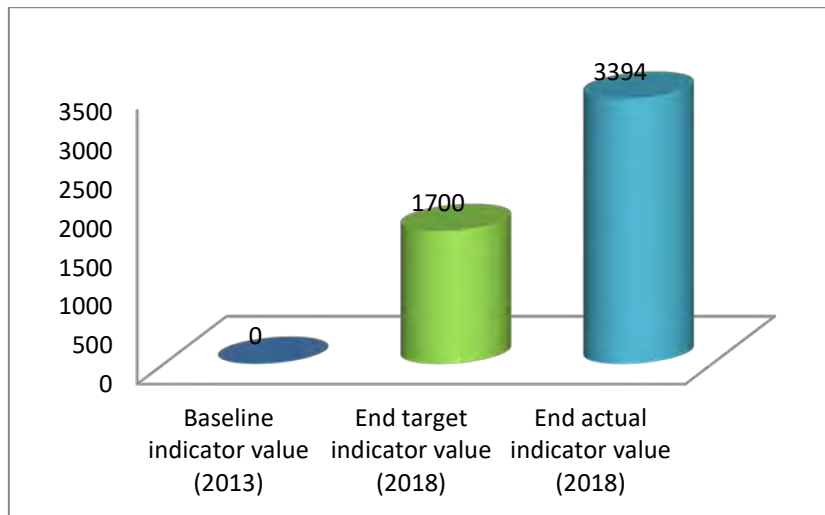
During CSSP implementation indicator no 20 fulfilled its cumulative target and even increase responsiveness of BiH authorities on proposed policy recommendations pertaining to women’s participation, gender balanced language.

Indicator 21: ‘ Number of CSSP outputs which underline the need and promote gender equity – including reports, analysis, and recommendations’

Definition: CSSP outputs include reports, analysis, recommendations, media statements, actions, web and social media content etc. Gender equality was either requested (through specific recommendations) and/or demonstrated by using gender sensitive language and wording.

Data Collection Method: review and analysis of grantees reports

Graph 21: baseline, end-target and end-actual value of indicator 21



Total of 3394 reports/analysis/recommendations/press releases/written posts, etc. were created and published, which used gender-balanced language during the CSSP implementation. This represents an increase compared with the end-target value of this indicator for 2 times – which represents (a) a great sensitiveness of CSSP grantees towards gender equity and (b) a significant contribution towards the public promotion of gender equity. In both cases, this increase of actual vs target value represents an additional and positive value of the CSSP.