



Conference Programme

Strengthening the triangle CSOs-National Governments-European Commission

Reinforcing the Europe-wide civil society and building partnerships

International conference
19-20 October 2009,
Venue: **IMPACT Centre, Zadar, Croatia**

Day 1

Round tables

- 15.00-16.30** **Visa liberalization with the EU:** Discussion on advocacy strategies for visa liberalization with Turkey, Eastern European and Western Balkan Countries
- 16.30-17.30** Coffee Break
- 17.30-20.00** **State of play of Civil Dialogue in the Western Balkans and Turkey:**
Dialogue with the national governments on the involvement of CSOs in the decision making process – country briefings on the implementation of the Ljubljana declaration and the Zadar Guidelines
- 20.00-20.30** **Civil Society Facility (CSF) Technical Assistance team presentation**

Day 2^{*}

- 09.30 – 10.00** **Registration and welcome coffee**
- 10.00 – 12.00** **Opening session**

Sustainable civil society – Any progress?

Welcome speeches: **Cvjetana Plavša-Matić**, Director, National Foundation for Civil Society Development / Head of IMPACT – European Centre for Cross-Sector Partnership

→ *Presentation of conclusions of the country briefings: next steps and challenges for the governments and the CSO community*

Tony Venables, Director, ECAS – European Citizen Action Service

→ *Taking a look back: From the Ljubljana Declaration to the CSOs "Political Challenge Chart"*

Key note speakers: **Yngve Engström (tbc)**, Head of Unit Regional programmes, DG Enlargement, European Commission
Igor Vidačak, Head of Office, Government of the Republic of Croatia, Office for Cooperation with NGOs, Croatia

* Please, make note that most of speakers didn't send us confirmation yet.



Discussion, Q&A

12.00– 13.30 Discussion Panel 1:

Impact of the financial crisis and the economic downturn on the civil society organisation(CSOs)

Issues for debate: How to tackle the paradox that the needs that CSOs address are increasing while financial security and their sustainability is becoming less certain? What has been the impact of the financial crisis on CSO funding? What are the new threats and opportunities in the new economic climate? What will be the long term effects on the work of CSOs. While the withdrawal of external donors from the region is ongoing, the local philanthropy is not bridging the gap; what are the ways out? What is the EC's strategy to mitigate the negative effects of the financial crisis on the civil society development in the region?

Chair: **Tihana Ancevic**, Head of Development Programmes, International Cooperation and Communication, National Foundation for Civil Society Development

Panel: **Senior Economist from the region**
Heather Grabbe (tbc), Director of OSI-Brussels, Director of EU Affairs for the Soros Foundations Network
Henk Visser, European Commission, DG Enlargement, Financial Instruments and Regional Programmes
J. Walter Veirs (tbc), Regional Director, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, United Kingdom

Discussion, Q&A

13.30 – 15.00 LUNCH BREAK

15.00 – 16.30 Discussion Panel 2:

Institutional answers to financial and structural challenges to CSO developments

Issues for debate: What is the role of counterparts in national administrations in charge of society development? Can compacts or framework agreements that exist in certain countries and regions in the EU provide a good model for organising relations with the governments in the Western Balkans and Turkey? What is the role of regional networks in knowledge sharing, capacity building and better coordination of CSOs in the region? How can a CSO representation office in Brussels help develop better working relations with EU Institutions, contribute to the shaping of programmes and policies of the EU and empower the CSOs from the region.

Chair: **Liz Scurfield (tbc)**, Coordinator, Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN)

Panel: **Lyubov Vasylichuk**, Researcher, ECAS - European Citizen Action Service
Jutta Gützkow (tbc), Head of Division of NGOs and Civil Society Directorate General of Democracy and Political Affairs, Council of Europe
Tanja Hafner Ademi, Executive Director, Balkan Civil Society Development Network, Macedonia
Kenan Hadzmusic, Head of Office, IMPACT European Centre for cross-sector partnership representation office in Brussels

Discussion, Q&A



16.00-16.30 **Coffee Break**

16.30 – 18.00 **Discussion Panel 3**

EC programmes focusing on CSO development

Issues for debate: What are the modalities of the Commission’s “Capacity-building of the Civil Society in the IPA countries” and how is it going to be run? Who are the different actors involved. What is the exact role of the Technical Assistance offices and how are they going to interact with local CSO representatives? Who are the “resident advisors” and what is their role? Do the donor programmes fully reflect the needs of CSOs both at local and regional levels? Is the EC’s Civil Society Facility going to have an impact on other programmes run by different donors?

Chair: **Pale Westergaart (tbc)**, Team Leader, Capacity-building of the Civil Society in the IPA countries

Panel: **Sophie Aujean**, European Commission, DG Enlargement, Civil Society Facility - P2P Programme, D4 - Institution Building Unit
Aida Daguda (tbc), Director, Civil Society Promotion Centre, Bosnia-Herzegovina
Country Resident advisors, Capacity-building of the Civil Society in the IPA countries

Discussion, Q&A

18.00 **Closing remarks**

18:15 **End of the conference – Reception for the participants**