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TACSO Strategic LAG Workshop



Strategic LAG Workshop in Babe

The TACSO Serbia Local Advisory Group (LAG), which includes representatives of the most relevant Serbian CSOs, CSO networks, government institutions and international donor organisations, has held a two day workshop from 10 to 11 June in Babe with the purpose of forming a strategy for the future steps of the TACSO project. The participants worked on defining the role of TACSO in the process of strengthening the capacities of civil society in Serbia, more sustainable inclusion of the civil sector in the democratic process, as well as formulating recommendations and suggestions that the European Commission should be taking into consideration in order to be able to better support the civil society in Serbia.

The main conclusion of the Workshop was that the TACSO office should develop a dual role, on the one hand providing support to small and medium-sized civil society organisations in capacity building and development, and on the other hand taking over the position of an official communication channel between the civil sector in Serbia and the EC, so that these two parties could more effectively exchange opinions and achieve better mutual understanding.

The result of this Workshop is a strategic document containing all the conclusions and recommendations that arose from the discussions held during the event. The text of the entire document can be downloaded at the TACSO website—www.tacso.org

Capacity Development Trainings completed



CSO Capacity Development training in Sombor

In the first six months of this year the TACSO office in Serbia has held ten one-day training events in various cities across Serbia, introducing representatives of CSOs to the new Law on Associations and the CSO re-registration requirements it carries. The trainings were attended by 223 representatives from 180 various organisations coming from all parts of Serbia. The objectives of the training were to provide participants with more information relating to the so-called re-registration process, i.e. the required changes to founding documentation that will need to be

made by each organisation in order to be entered into the new Registry of CSOs in accordance with the provisions of the new Law.

The training has also provided a networking opportunity for the participating organisations, and further technical assistance from the TACSO office was offered to all participants. The new Law creates a much more ordered and regulated framework for the future work of CSOs, and it is important to help CSOs understand and use the benefits brought by this legislation.

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Special points of interest:

- TACSO Strategic LAG Meeting held in Babe
- Ten one-day training events in CSO Development completed
- TACSO Training Programme plan soon to be open for applicants

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The Round Tables concluded that the best way to enhance the understanding between Media and CSOs is to urge them to directly cooperate projects and activities of mutual interest.

Registration in the PADOR Database is not only necessary for CSOs who plan to apply for EU funding, but can also be a method for seeking partners for future projects.

Round Tables on Media and CSOs completed

The three Round Tables organised by the EU TACSO Project during the first half of 2010 on the subject „The Civil Sector and Media – Challenges and Opportunities“ have been successfully completed.

The events were organised and held in cooperation with Civic Initiatives and the Centre for the Development of the Non-Profit Sector of Vojvodina, and the participants included a total of over 70 participants, of which 27 representatives of relevant National and Local Media, 36 representatives of large CSOs, 2 PR experts, and 2 representatives of institutions that are in their daily activities involved with this topic – the Secretariat for Information of Vojvodina and the Secretariat for Youth and Sports

The main conclusion of the round tables was that although the media and CSOs should be partners through the very nature of their work, misunderstandings and misconceptions from both sides make communication between these two sectors difficult. Some of the steps suggested in order to improve working relations between CSOs and the Media included further education for both

sides in order to help them better understand each other and define mutual goals, as well as support to CSOs and the media in finding viable joint projects and activities that will not only bring them closer together, but will be directly beneficial to each side.

In order to directly apply the recommendations given at the Round Tables, the TACSO project will be holding five one-day training courses during the autumn on the subject of CSO Public Relations and Media Networking, where the representatives from local CSOs and Media will have the chance to work together and define avenues for better and more efficient cooperation. The courses will be held in Kragujevac, Nis, Subotica, Novi Sad and Uzice.



TACSO Regional Cooperation - BiH Pador Workshop Visit

As part of the continuing effort of TACSO National Offices to enhance regional cooperation and share resources and experience, the TACSO Serbia team visited a PADOR Database Workshop organised in Bihać, BiH on 30 June by the TACSO BiH team.

The workshop consisted of guiding the participating representatives of local CSOs through the entire process of PADOR Registration, culminating in the receipt of the Registration Number which is to be used when applying for EU Projects in the future. This workshop is part of a series of similar workshops organised locally with the idea of facilitating the process of application for EU funding for smaller

organisations with lower technical and administrative capacities.

The workshop included practical pointers for participants, including clear explanations of what benefits are gained by CSOs through registering in PADOR, how the PADOR database can be used as a tool for searching for project partners, and what steps should follow after the registration in order to actually apply for EU funding.

Similar workshops will be held in Serbia before the end of the year, and participants will be selected by an open call that will be published on the TACSO website and advertised through the TACSO Serbia mailing list.



TACSO National Training Plan

A three-day training course for CSOs on the topic 'Project Proposal Writing for EU Funds' was held from 22nd to 24th June in Subotica by the TACSO Serbia office.

The course was prepared for participants from 23 civil society organisations from all regions of Serbia who have been active in the last three years but have not yet had success in applying for EU funding. The fact that over 130 participant applications were received for this training proved that the subject is one of great interest and relevance for civil society in Serbia today.

This course was the first in a series of national-level courses that will be organised and delivered by the TACSO Serbia office during the autumn and winter of 2010, and the spring of 2011. The courses will be held in various cities around the country in an attempt to reach as many diverse civil society organisations as possible, and they will cover a wide-ranging number of topics, including the subjects of the previously held Regional-level training courses (EU Fundraising, CSO Management, Civil Participation, and Advocacy and Lobbying), but also subjects such as registration in the EU PADOR CSO

Database, CSO Public Relations and Media Networking, CSOs as Service Providers, and CSO Project Cycle Management.

The calls for participants in these courses will be published on the TACSO Website, as well as through the TACSO Mailing List. All interested organisations will be invited to send in applications for their topics of interest, and a selection of candidates will be made in accordance with conditions that will be laid out in the call for proposals. All the training courses will be fully financed by TACSO and will present no expense to the participants.



TACSO Partnership Forum

The EU TACSO project has formed a Networking and Partnership Forum on its website, www.tacso.org. The purpose of this forum is to allow organisations from TACSO Beneficiary countries to network together by posting project ideas and connecting with organisations from neighboring countries for possible partnerships.

TACSO is also planning to approach a

number of major EU CSO Networks and invite them to use the new TACSO Partnership Forum in order to find project partners in IPA countries.

The Forum is still young, but we are hoping it will become a place where organisations can exchange ideas and form new partnerships, thus building on their experience and improving regional civil society cooperation.

Announcement—IPA Partnership Call for Proposals

The European Commission is seeking proposals for partnership projects under the second call for proposals within the EXCHANGE 3 programme. CSOs can be partners in these projects, and the full Guidelines for Applicants are available for consultation on the following website: <http://skgo3.test.tehnicom.com/en>

A call for proposals of partnership projects in the Regional Socio-Economic Development Program 2 (RSDEP 2) is open, and CSOs can be both partners and applicants. More information on this website: <http://www.rsdep2serbia.eu/>

TACSO National
Training
Programme—18
different training
courses to be held
throughout Serbia
on 8 different
topics relevant to
the Civil Sector





Project Consortium Partners

SIPU International
www.sipuinternational.se

Civil Society Promotion Center
www.civilnodrustvo.ba

Human Resource Development
Foundation
www.ikgv.org

Foundation in Support of Local
Democracy
www.frdl.org.pl

Partners Foundation for Local
Development
www.fpd.ro

TACSO Project at a Glance

SIPU International, in cooperation with consortium members, is leading a two-year European Union funded project at a value of 6.7 million EUR. The project, *Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organisations*, is working with eight beneficiary countries all of which are either EU candidate countries or potential EU candidate countries. A specific purpose of the project is to strengthen the overall capacities and accountability of CSOs in order to guarantee quality of service of CSOs and a sustainable role of CSOs in the democratic process. Project outputs include the creation of Technical Assistance (T/A) Help Desks, the formation of local advisory groups, the identification of priority needs of the civil society in each country and region from which training programs will be designed and delivered, the organization of kick-off events as well as partnership and information events and the development of a Web site.

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