

## MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE LOCAL ADVISORY GROUP (LAG)

### «Civil Society Organisations Capacity Building in IPA Countries» (TACSO – Technical Assistance to Civil Society Organisations)

**Date:** 26. March 2010.

**Time:** 11:00 – 14:00

**Venue:** TACSO Office Montenegro

#### Participants:

1. Aleksandar Perović, Ozon, Nikšić
2. Ljupka Kovačević, Anima, Kotor
3. Paola Petričević, Center for Civic Education, Podgorica
4. Aleksandra Gligorović, Association for democratic prosperity ZID
5. Danka Latković, Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs, Head
6. Jadranka Milić, EU Delegation in Montenegro, Task manager

#### TACSO Team

1. Goran Đurović, Resident Advisor (RA)
2. Stevo Muk, Project Officer
3. Jasmina Vojnović, Administrative and Finances Assistant

#### Chairperson:

1. Ljupka Kovačević, Anima, Kotor

#### List of documents distributed at the meeting:

1. Agenda (in Montenegrin)
2. National Training Plan 2010 -draft version ( in Montenegrin and English)

## Discussion:

Chairperson Ms Kovacevic.

The meeting started with a short introduction and members presented their expectations from the LAG meeting. Absence of LAG members was notified (Mr Medenica, Ms Elezovic and Mr Bertolini). LAG member (Mr Medenica) submitted comments and suggestions in writing.

At the very beginning, two general remarks were made. In regard to National Training Plan for 2010, Ms Kovacevic suggested to include participatory democracy and to have an approach that is more oriented towards mobility rather than sustainability. Ms Milic suggested that LAG members directly receive all information on regional trainings.

Goran Djurovic, TACSO, RA presented TACSO activities in the period between LAG meetings, ongoing activities and activities planned for the upcoming period. He further explained TACSO's role in regard to regional trainings (information dissemination, receiving applications, developing evaluation grid on candidates, sending information on five best candidates while regional office selects the two best candidates and invites them to take part in the training, afterward TACSO MNE informs those candidates that were not selected). Mr Djurovic, in regard to the suggestion to have participatory democracy as topic within the National Training Plan, explained that a one-day training will be organised on the topic "Participation in the decision making process" in period after September 2010 while LAG members are invited to provide suggestions on potential organisational type and participants, as well as training focus and subtopics. Djurovic explained that the National Web site which is the responsibility of TACSO Regional office has not been developed. National TACSO Office has developed materials for the Web site. E-learning tool is available for regional training participants and will be available for national training participants as a follow up. Help desk starts with services planned. RA presented idea of having regional meeting where LAG members will also take part. Main idea of the meeting will be to discuss the strategic role of LAG in future donor coordination and regional planning IPA funding schemes at the regional level.

At the regional Web site there will be subsection to allow for finding project partners. As it was suggested TACSO is not going to suggest partners upon requests but forward such requests to resource centers to provide information. Regional meeting in October will likely have either topic "CSO Quality system" or "Cooperation between local governments and CSOs".

### 3. TACSO Role in P2P

Mr Djurovic presented the idea that TACSO conduct a selection of participants for P2P, which is so far accepted only by TACSO Office Croatia. He explained concerns that the TACSO Office Montenegro has on such a potential TACSO role and requested LAG opinion on the issue. Ms Milic further explained the selection process for participation in P2P and the decision making process. Mr Perovic explained own experience with P2P and some related concerns.

Ms Gligorovic suggested to carefully follow and respect existing TACSO plans and not include additional and unexpected obligations and tasks.

Ms Kovacevic suggested that we could not close this issue with a negative opinion once for the whole project, and that we may open some possibility to engage TACSO in some period later.

Stevo Muk, TACSO project officer, presented some ideas to have more balanced role of TACSO, LAG and EU Delegation: TACSO to ensure widest possible distribution of information on P2P (present P2P Plan for 2010), TACSO and LAG to provide support to EU Delegation selection process, but limited to exchange of information and provision of additional information on applicant organisations, EU Delegation makes decision on selected candidates, TACSO Office to facilitate organisation of P2P participants public presentations for wider audience in order to multiply P2P impact.

Ms Milic explained that only one person per organisation might participate in P2P, while only 4 organisations from peer country may participate, where basic condition is fluent English.

#### **4. National Training Plan 2010**

Ms Latkovic raised the issue of validity of certificates training participants will receive after training completion. Ms Gligorovic expressed satisfaction with the fact that organisations should submit proof on their financial reporting, as well as CVs in EU format. Ms Kovacevic read written comments submitted by Mr Medenica who also questioned “visibility” criteria, suggested that better criteria is “having office premises” and instead of “number of employees” “have criteria “number of engaged people”.

Ms Petricevic also expressed negative attitude toward “visibility” criteria. Ms Milic asked for more criteria, further clarification of criteria and proposed instead of last financial year to put last several years as criteria. Ms Latkovic suggested criteria already existing in some legal and other documents like “NGOs having at least one public campaign in last year, or one action etc”. Ms Milic suggested that training programs hold focus on those CSOs which have not participated in similar training programs. Stevo Muk further explained proposed criteria for organisations applicants and individual qualifications required. Ms Milic suggested to lower financial criteria, while Ms Kovacevic suggested to create organisational categories according to annual budget. Mr Perovic suggested that 3 years might be high criteria for smaller CSOs.

TACSO RA and project officer provided further clarifications on proposed criteria and possible alternatives.

#### **Conclusions:**

##### **In regard to National Training Plan:**

- To allow LAG members to submit detailed suggestions to specific training agendas until Tuesday 28 March 2010.

##### **In regard to application criteria:**

- To delete criteria on organisational visibility
- To lower financial criteria for CSO Applicants
- To have three last financial years instead of last year as indicator of organisational capacity

- To define secondary education (instead of university degree or longer working experience) as minimum requirement for participation
- To define specific criteria for each training topic, where applicable.

**In regard to TACSO Role in P2P:**

- LAG consider TACSO should engage, within its capacities, in P2P promotion, information exchange on potential applicants, support to further transfer of information and knowledge gained in P2P ( Please note that EU Delegation representative did not participate in decision making on this issue)
- TACSO to distribute information on P2P 2010 plan

**In regard to Regional Meeting:**

- Ms Aleksandra Gligorovic, LAG Member, CSO will represent LAG Montenegro
- LAG will equip Ms Gligorovic with LAG opinions and suggestions, once there is more information on the regional meeting agenda

**In regard to future LAG meetings:**

- TACSO to regularly submit information on accomplished activities in period between two LAG Meetings
- Ensure information on regional trainings to EU Delegation in MNE
- LAG chairperson Ljupka Kovacevic will open next LAG meeting and invite LAG members to appoint new LAG chairperson, according to LAG agreement to have rotation on position of chairperson