

Fourth Local Advisory Group meeting Minutes

Date: 13th April 2010

Time: 14:30-16:00

Venue: EU Delegation – Skopje

Present:

LAG members: Zoran Milkov, Irena Ivanova, Lulzim Haziri, Metodija Sazdov, Petre Mrkev, Vladimir Misev, Guner Nebiu,

Chair person: Ahmet Jasharovski

Representatives from TACSO national office present at the meeting: Suncica Sazdovska, Mirjana Pehcevska Pop-Iliev

Absent:

LAG members: Fani Karanfilova Panovska, Eli Zakar, Zoran Ilieski

List of documents distributed at the meeting:

1. National training programme

Agenda and discussion

1. Brief presentation and introduction of the new LAG members
2. National Training Programme
Presentation and discussion
3. Conclusions and next steps

1. Mr. Ahmet Jasharovski – chairperson at the meeting welcomed everyone and presented the meeting's Agenda. Further on, he invited all members to present themselves due to the new LAG members.

Mr. Sazdov informed the LAG members about the annual meeting of all CSOs in environment and invited the TACSO representatives to come to Struga on 16-18 April to present the TACSO project. There would be many CSOs, thus, it would be appropriate for the TACSO project to present the possibilities that it offered such as the national training programme and other activities.

2. Ms. Suncica Sazdovska presented the National Training Programme. She listed the training topics, the target groups, the level of training as well as the time period for which these trainings were planned. Based on the regional programme the TACSO project

developed national programme which besides the topics of the regional trainings incorporated specific topics on the national level. The Training programme would be implemented from June 2010 until May 2011 and it was expected for 466 participants to be covered.

Mr. Vladimir Misev raised the issue regarding ranking the organisations as developed or underdeveloped. Ms. Sazdovska stated that those rankings were general, but once the open calls for those trainings would be announced more specific criteria for each training would be defined. Further on, she reminded the others that the curriculums for the trainings had not been developed yet, therefore, all suggestions or recommendations about the trainings were welcomed, but in particular for the country specific trainings.

Ms. Ivanova asked whether the participants at the regional trainings were responsible for transferring the acquired knowledge on national level. Ms. Sazdovska responded that the participants were obliged, after the training models and the practical assignments, to deliver trainings on national level aiming at transferring the knowledge to other national CSOs in line with the selection criteria that they should have experience in delivering trainings.

Ms. Ivanova also asked about the approach in determining the cities where the trainings would take place. The aim was for the trainings to be delivered in more cities in Macedonia. Special criteria for selection of cities were not made except to fulfil the aim of covering as many cities as possible. Ms. Pehcevska Pop-Iliev added that special attention was paid for the three-day trainings to be outside of Skopje so that participants could be more focused on the trainings. However, some of the trainings required access to internet or TV stations, thus, some trainings were foreseen to take place in Skopje since these technical facilities were available in Skopje.

Having in mind that most frequently CSCs from other towns had the lowest participation level in trainings, Mr. Lulzim Haziri proposed to organize particular trainings for underdeveloped places or smaller ethnic communities aiming at activating them.

Ms. Nebui added that small CSOs rarely come to specific databases for CSOs working in the area of ethnic communities, more specifically women from the Albanian ethnic affiliation.

Mr. Sazdov raised issue about announcing the trainings and informing as many CSOs as possible about the trainings.

Ms. Sazdovska replied that the current approach of distributing invitations and open calls via the LAG members and the TACSO Web site proved to be useful, thus, the same approach would be used in the future. However, in case someone had additional list of CSOs, it would be very useful to share it with the TACSO project team. In addition, the open calls could be translated also in Albanian so that they could be easily accessible for the Albanian organisations.

Ms. Ivanova proposed that it would be good to organize as many trainings as possible outside of Skopje, for instance in Gostivar, where there was an active civil society sector, and the LAG members could assist in the dissemination of the open calls and in the organisation of the trainings, but also the municipalities could be involved.

Mr. Petre Mrkev raised the question about the manner in which CSOs would apply for the selection process. It would be very good for CSOs to know in advance which trainings were planned for the whole year and to which trainings they could apply. Further on, once the trainings were announced, it would be good to have all the information about all the trainings announced as well so that they could decide which trainings are more needed for them. In addition to that, he considered that the rules for applying should be very clear. For instance, to how many trainings one single organisation or participant was eligible to apply.

Ms. Sazdovska explained that it was good that LAG provided proposals for rules and that should be part of the Minutes, in particular the procedure for the open call and how many times same participants could take part in trainings.

Ms. Pehcevska Pop-Iliev also added that in order to inform the CSOs about the National Training Programme, on 14 April 2010, the TACSO project organised an Informative Event

where among the presentations of the other donor organisations, the TACSO project would present the whole National Training Programme.

Ms. Ivanova added that with respect to the CSO Management training which was on advanced level there should be considered to organise training for local and underdeveloped CSOs where the local governments could also take part.

Conclusions

Adequate approach should be created so that small CSOs would be motivated to apply and to be involved in the trainings.

In case there was a need for additional one-day trainings and in order to decrease the training costs the possibilities provided by the EU InfoCentre should be used.

It was concluded that in the PR trainings it would be good to involve media (younger journalists) for more direct cooperation between CSOs and media, for more specific examples from journalists and to inform them about the CSOs' activities.

It was concluded that the whole training programme should be available to CSOs so that they would be familiar with the training possibilities and they could easily decide for which training to apply. It would be better if the whole programme was organised per topics for better overview.

The LAG members outside of Skopje should find manner to promote the programme to the local media and to the local self-government for ensuring broader information for CSOs.

The LAG meetings in other cities, besides Skopje, should also be used for meetings with the local media and for promoting the training programme, taking into account that it was a very ambitious training programme for CSOs.

The approach, the selection of participants, and whether the same participants could take part in several trainings would be discussed in more details at the LAG workshop. The TACSO project will develop proposal for the discussion.

3. Mr. Zoran Ilievski and Mr. Lulzim Haziri were elected for chair persons for the upcoming two-day workshop.

The tentative date for the upcoming LAG workshop was 10-11 June 2010 in Ohrid but it should be additionally confirmed.

Minutes taken by
Mirjana Pehcevska Pop-Iliev