

# REPORT

## "Participation possibilities of CSOs from the sectors of environment, energy, and transport in the programming and monitoring processes of IPA II funds in Bosnia and Herzegovina"

Sarajevo  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

18. - 19. December 2014.



## INTRODUCTION

The initial group of Civil Society Organisations (CSO), with the aim to establish BH SECO ETE mechanism in the process of EU integration, on December 18/19 2014, organised the workshop event called "Participation possibilities of CSOs from the sectors of environment, energy, and transport in the programming and monitoring processes of IPA II funds in Bosnia and Herzegovina", within the framework of TACSO BH project support to initiatives, networks, alliances, platforms, and coalitions of CSOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The workshop gathered more than 40 participants, representatives of CSOs from the entire territory of BiH (Federation of BiH (FBiH), Republic of Srpska, Brcko District) aiming to develop mechanisms of communication and cooperation in the process of IPA II programming and monitoring in the sectors of environment, energy and transport.

## BACKGROUND

In accordance with the IPA regulations, obligations of the beneficiary countries to provide and assure the participation of civil society during the consultation processes in the planning of EU assistance. From this task derives the necessity to build institutional mechanisms for the consultation process with civil society in BiH. This approach has to be based on sector principle. In the period from December 2012 to June 2013, TACSO BH provided the exchange of experiences on the civil society participation in the programming and monitoring of IPA II through sector mechanisms.

Following these activities, a group of civil society organisations (Aarhus Centre in BiH, Sarajevo, COOR Sarajevo, Eko Element Bugojno) initiated start-up activities with the aim of establishing the sector mechanism for the sectors of environment, transport and energy in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SECO ETE) and, with the support of TACSO project in Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 18/19 December 2014, organised the workshop called "Participation possibilities of CSOs from the sectors of environment, energy, and transport in the programming and monitoring processes of IPA II funds in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

## WORKSHOP GOALS:

- To inform CSOs, members of sector mechanism for the sectors of environment, energy and transport in BiH (SECO ETE BH) and other interested parties, about the possibilities of establishing a consultative mechanism SECO in BiH and their involvement in the process
- To exchange experiences with countries from the region that already use sector approach in planning, programming and monitoring of EU IPA funds
- To explore possibilities to include the energy, transport and environmental sectors in the Country Strategy Paper of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a beneficiary country of the IPA funds



## Participants data:

Total **40** participants

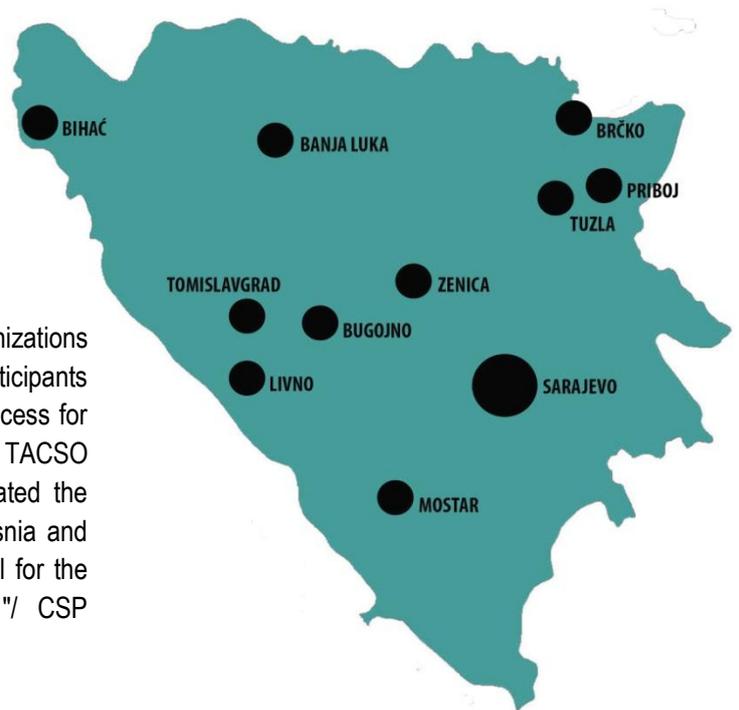
**31** CSO representative

**7** BiH Institutions representative

**2** TACSO BH representatives

The workshop was opened by representatives of the three organizations that initiated the establishment of SECO ETE BH reminding participants that the goal of the event is inclusion of CSOs in consultation process for the IPA programming. They presented the previous activities of TACSO BiH, which, in cooperation with the EU Delegation in BiH, initiated the establishment of SEctor COnsultative mechanism (SECO) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, for planning and programming of IPA II as a model for the contribution of CSOs to develop "Country Strategy Paper" / CSP (workshops 19-21.06. 2013).

After the introduction of all attendees, the workshop began.



DAY ONE | THURSDAY 18.12. 2014.

## 1 SESSION PROCESS OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING OF IPA II IN BiH, ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK, PARTICIPANTS, RESPONSIBILITIES MIDHAT DŽEMIĆ DIRECTORATE FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION (DEI) BiH

The session presented the legal and administrative framework for the coordination of planning / programming (international, domestic) of IPA II, participants in the process and their responsibilities and the issues of full participation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the IPA II programme. In the Country Strategy Paper, prepared by European Commission in consultation with Bosnia and Herzegovina, support has been provided in only two areas, Democracy and the rule of law and Competitiveness and growth. For further programming of IPA II it is necessary to prepare Sector planning documents for the period 2015. - 2017. and Action papers for annual IPA Country programs (at a later stage).

Production of the Sector planning papers for the second area, Competitiveness and growth, as well as for all other sectors not included in the Country Strategy Paper, have to be completed no later than August of 2015, in order to be used as a basis for preparation of Action papers for IPA 2016 and IPA 2017, continued until 2020. The moment for action in the sectors of environment, transport and energy is now, i.e. as soon as possible, in order to start producing Sector planning documents in these areas.

**DIPAK Office anticipates the consultations with civil society regarding the preparation of Sector planning documents for the sectors that are already part of the Country Strategy Paper for Bosnia and Herzegovina (February 2015)**

**In order to include sectors of environment, energy and transport in the Country Strategy Paper and receive assistance through the IPA II funds, strategic planning documents in these sectors for the entire country are needed.**

## 2 SESSION HOW TO MAKE PROGRESS FROM ENVIS PROJECT RESULTS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS IN THE ETE SECTORS ZARA HALILOVIĆ DIRECTORATE FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION (DEI) BiH

This presentation illustrated obligations and EU reports on the progress in the sector ETE, which point to necessary steps and measures, stressing that sector of environment represents a third of the Acquis Communautaire, technically the most difficult chapter. According to EC findings from Progress report for BiH, preparations in ETE sector are still in the initial stages, administrative capacities are weak, and there is no mechanism for a comprehensive harmonisation with EU legislation. The priority is to establish a harmonized legal framework, adequate administrative capacities and functional monitoring system together with the promotion of the horizontal and vertical inter-institutional coordination. In addition to the specific obligations arising from the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) in the field of the environment the relevant Article 70, refers to the obligation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to adjust its to the EU legislation and its application. From it follows the adoption of a national integration programme, followed by individual sectors and the adoption of BiH strategies for the approximation of legislation. Fulfilment of these obligations would create the conditions for positive changes in the existing Progress report findings. Bosnia and Herzegovina, through the results of the EnvIS project received the relevant working materials necessary for EU accession process in the sector of environment, which were created by the working groups, respecting principle of inter-communication within the sectors, with participation of the representatives of all relevant institutions. It is necessary to plan and implement the adoption of these working materials by the relevant authorities, as a precondition for support in the environmental sector through IPA II. In order to make progress in 2015, civil society could give its contribution through supporting for the adoption of strategic documents / policies and amending the Strategic Planning Document IPA II for BiH, and also through participation in preparation and analysis of sector planning documents, seen through the eyes of the civil society. If these sets of materials, strategies, policies, are adopted in 2015, Bosnia and Herzegovina could, through funds from IPA II for 2016, get support for the environment, as was presented by representatives of EC during the meeting about the starting process of IPA II programming, held in December 2014 in Sarajevo.

During the presentation, representative of Federal Ministry of Environment stated that resulting EnvIS documents are accepted in FBiH, and will be immediately proposed to the Government for approval. The representative of the Federal Ministry of Forestry stated that this Ministry also supports EnvIS documents, and even though a lot of work has already been done, it is necessary to improve communication and coordination at all levels.

**With the information that it is possible to bring back the environmental sector in IPA II, all four environmental policies were presented at the ENVIS presentation, therefore, it is necessary to urgently establish horizontal and vertical mechanisms of coordination and communication creating conditions for the adoption of the necessary strategic documents.**

## 3 SESSION SECO AND CIVIL SOCIETY EXPERIENCES FROM SERBIA NATAŠA ĐEREG CEKOR SUBOTICA

The representative of SECO Environment and Energy from Serbia presented the development, challenges and difficulties they have encountered in the establishment of SECO mechanism in Serbia. Models, instruments and tools of cooperation were presented, enabling efficient exchange of information in the process of planning the development funds, especially programming and monitoring of IPA implementation. Civil society in Serbia actively and on equal basis participates in all key processes, and remarks of a wide civil society forum have been coordinated and integrated in the final documents. Office for cooperation with the civil society implemented intensive training for civil society organisations providing the same level of knowledge to make them an equal partner to governmental institutions in the overall process.

More on SECO Serbia environment and energy on: <http://www.cdspreclaze.org.rs/default.asp?Category=8&Static=seko>.

**It has been accepted that this model is applicable in Bosnia and Herzegovina and that all future training and education, together with state officials, should include OCDs interested in active participation in the sector consultative mechanism.**

With facilitation from the initiating organisations, participants were organised in two working groups, based on their mission, expert capacities and geographical area. Following are key results of the workshop produced by the CSOs present at this event.

DAY TWO | FRIDAY 19.12. 2014.

## GROUP WORK PRESENTATION I

**GOAL** DEFINE THE CURRENT SITUATION, POSSIBILITIES AND MODELS OF COOPERATION OF OCDs AND STATE INSTITUTIONS IN BIH

### GROUP A

**WHICH ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE CAPACITIES IN THE ETE SECTOR?**

**Education of CSOs making them equal partner in the overall process**

- EU policies and standards
- Process of international funds management
- Various educational workshops organised by DEI

**Establishment of functional mechanisms and improvement of cooperation**

- Stronger civil society organisations are taking leading role
- Small organisations support the process depending on their capacity
- Ensure support from relevant institutions and actors (DEI, TACSO, Ministries)
- Cooperation with the government and adoption of all necessary documents

**Development of the strategy and action plan for the establishment of SECO ETE BiH**

- Create and act through the network of civil society organisations
- Address various donors to support the establishment of the network

**Efficient network of CSOs** in ETE sector with functional SECO ETE Secretariat that coordinates their activities

**KEY ACTORS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF EFFICIENT SECO ETE MECHANISM?**

- Civil society organisations
- DEI
- Respective ministries on state, entity and cantonal level
- BH Ministry of Justice, Sector for cooperation with nongovernmental organisations and development of civil society
- Association of municipalities and cities FBH, Association of local authorities of RS
- Local communities, local governments
- Academic community
- Public
- Media

**SECO ETE BH Network** in partnership with DEI and other stakeholders creates pressure on the respective ministries for the preparation and adoption of strategic documents

### GROUP B

**HOW CSOs IN ETE SECTOR CAN CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABILITY OF ENVIS AND OTHER PROJECTS?**

**Networking and identification of CSOs by sectors**

- Create database of civil society organisations by sectors
- Interconnect through mailing lists, social networks
- Create mechanism of database update

**Cooperation of civil society and state institutions**

- Establish sustainable contacts with DEI
- Define cooperation mechanism with DEI
- Possibility of work in line with DEI recommendations

**Capacity building within civil society sector**

- Create mechanism of experience exchange and partnership
- Partnership in project applications
- Create cooperation mechanism within ETE civil society organisations

**Strategic planning and action plan of civil society in the ETE sector**



## GROUP WORK PRESENTATION II

**GOAL** DEFINE ROLES AND ACTIVITIES OF CSOs (ACTIVE AND PASSIVE) WITHIN SECO ETE MECHANISM IN THE PROCESS OF PROGRAMMING AND MONITORING OF IPA FUNDS

### GROUP A

ESTABLISHMENT AND FORMALISATION OF SECO ETE BH - MEMBERSHIP, ROLES, COMMUNICATION

#### Membership SECO ETE BH

- On voluntary basis all civil society organisations are welcome
- Active and passive civil society organisations

#### SECO ETE BH bodies

- **Establishment of the coordination group** consisting of Aarhus Sarajevo, COOR Sarajevo, DIR Tuzla, Centar za PET Banja Luka, and COR Brčko District, with the task to establish SECO ETE BH Secretariat

#### Roles of present CSOs in informing and attracting other environmental organisations in SECO ETE BH mechanism

- **Eko Most and Naša baština** in the region of West Herzegovina
- **Eko Element** in the region of Central Bosnia
- **OC Vermont** for Brčko District
- **Eko Leonardo** in Eastern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Vesta, DIR, CMEK Kladanj** in Canton Tuzla
- **Centar za PET** region Banja Luka
- **COOR** region Sarajevo
- **DCNN** Western Bosnia and Herzegovina

#### Means of communication

- **Internal communication** will go through the existing mailing list operated by Aarhus Sarajevo
- **External communication** will go through already existing model of public announcements, letters, declarations, etc.

Send joint initiative towards decision makers

### GROUP B

ACTION PLAN AND RESOURCES FOR 2015, DEFINING PRIORITIES IN THE WORK AND RESPONSIBILITIES

**Official initiative creation** by Aarhus, COOR, Eko Element, including comments from other member organisations

**Monitoring** the implementation of the initiative

**Active involvement** of the workshop participants, according to their capacities

**Analysis and distribution of documents** to enable all interested organisations to join network

**Familiarisation with all the documents** and the contents of the sector planning document in order to inform other organisations how each of them can contribute in the production of sector planning document for the sectors of environment, transport and energy

**Initiative creation** representing all participants joined by other OCDs, and passing to relevant institutions in the first quarter of 2015

**Meeting organisation of SECO ETE BH** after analysing materials distributed to participants on CD

**Definition of educational and training programmes** for organisations on planning and programming IPA II enabling them to contribute to sector plans

**The goal is to encourage government institutions to place strategic documents on the agenda and make them enter into the process of consideration and adoption**

**Joint initiative of SECO ETE BH** toward decision makers to start the strategic documents adoption process followed by public announcement



## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the workshop evaluation papers and the active participation of all the organisations representatives, the results obtained on the establishment of ETE mechanism and plan of future activities, we are convinced that the workshop achieved its aim to launch the mechanism of inclusion of civil society organisations from all parts of BiH in the IPA II consultation process.

**This workshop presents the foundation for further work on the establishment of SECO ETE mechanism, in the initial phase through coordination group, resulting in the established SECO ETE BH.**

Workshop participants were heterogeneous in various aspects (CSO experience in the sector and areas of activity, position in the organization, gender, age and the level of education). The positive atmosphere during the entire course of the workshop contributed to the active participation in working groups and the results achieved, although the level of knowledge about the process of IPA II and consultative mechanism, was in line with the statement that there is the need for permanent education of CSOs. In cooperation with Direction for European Integration it is necessary to work on the education of CSOs about the process of planning, programming and monitoring of IPA II funds.

The organisers achieved the goal to cover the entire Bosnia and Herzegovina, having participating organisations from District Brcko, Republic of Srpska and Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The workshop stands as a foundation for further communication with other civil society organisations in order to establish dialogue with the governmental institutions in the process of planning and programming of IPA II funds. All participating CSOs are committed to exchange experience, material and information obtained at the initial workshop and invite other CSOs from its geographical area to join SECO ETE. Additionally, the participants themselves created geographical areas to cover with SECO ETE information and animate interested organisations to join this process. It was concluded that, upon return home, they will study the content of the sector plan document and inform Coordination group about the ways in which they can and wish to help and contribute to creation of sector planning document for the sectors of environment, transport and energy.

Coordination body was formed, with the task of establishing the SECO ETE BH Secretariat that will continue to coordinate and implement future activities, and develop educational programs.

A joint initiative SECO ETE BH was defined toward decision-makers in order to begin the process of adopting strategic documents in the sector of environment, transport and energy.

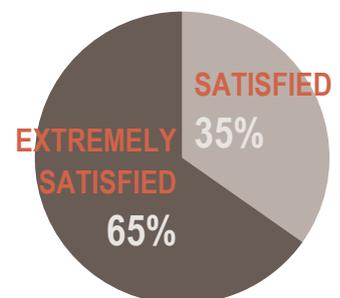
It was agreed that it is necessary to inform the general public about the launched activities through press releases and public announcements.

## EVALUATION

Participants evaluated the workshop as a solid foundation for initiating further activities in accordance with identified goals and tasks for each participant CSOs. The urgent establishment of the coordination body and the start of the education process were suggested. Of 23 participants that completed evaluation questionnaires all (100%) were satisfied with the results of the workshop (65% extremely satisfied, 35% satisfied).

Comments are:

- Constructive workshop that could produce significant results,
- The workshop produced very clear and precise goals and tasks for each organisation,
- I am grateful for the opportunity to actively participate in the development of my country
- The goal that was set for this seminar has been achieved
- New opportunities and possibilities
- Created foundation for initiating new activities.



The workshop has been media covered by FENA agency, web portal Klix.ba, web and FB pages of the participating organisations.

### Report prepared by:

Group of organisations initiators of SECO ETE BH (Aarhus centar u BiH Sarajevo - Sabina Jukan, COOR - Dragana Selmanagić, Eko Element - Boris Jokić)

**28.12.2014.**



Technical Assistance for  
Civil Society Organisations  
Bosnia and Herzegovina



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centar za okolišno  
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## Report Annexes:

- Agenda
- Participants list
- Evaluation report
- Presentations and materials