



Open Government Partnership Coalition of Civil Society Organisations in Albania

On 28 March, 2014 in Tirana a Regional Conference was held on “Open Government Partnership: Challenges and Opportunities 2014-2016”. This conference comes as part of the consultative process the Ministry of Innovation and Public Administration, in the role of OGP National Coordinator in Albania is undertaking with the civil society organizations, in drafting the OGP Action Plan 2014-2016.

Participants in this conference were high level representatives of public administrations, civil society organizations, the Diplomatic Corp in Albania, experts, civil society organizations from the western Balkan countries. The Conference was addressed by the USA Ambassador to Albania H.E. Alexander A. Arvizu, One UN Resident Coordinator H.E. Zineb Touimi-Benjelloun, Francois Begeot, Senior Representative of EU Delegation to Albania.

The main result of the conference is a package of recommendations and suggestions from the Civil Society, on the commitments the government should undertake in the Action Plan 2014 – 2015, as follows:

RECOMENDATIONS

- 1- Monitoring of information offices, improving delivery of information as well as service provided to citizens.
- 2- Use of technology to train pedagogical staff in primary and high school education to work with children with special needs.
- 3- Establishment of electronic complaints system as well as control mechanism dedicated to social services and standards provided in compulsory education system (kindergartens).
- 4- Government portals and institutional web-pages should have the link: “services” and a list of licensed subjects to offer services.
- 5- Drafting and online publication of a database of corruption cases / sanctions in the administration (at all levels), as well as judicial decisions, decisions of Supreme State

Audit, and High Inspectorate of Declaration and Audit of Assets and Conflict of Interests.

- 6- The sources of financing of political subjects must be made transparent.
- 7- Make transparent the financing and spending of public institutions on their official web-pages.
- 8- To continue the commitment on transparency of companies that work on extractive industries in Albania.
- 9- A commitment should be undertaken relating to the use / exploitation of natural resources (rivers). The contracts should be made transparent
- 10- Unfulfilled commitments of 2012-2013 Action Plan should be taken into consideration in the up-coming action plan.
- 11- The public should be informed about forms and levels of criminality in local level. A closer interaction between the policy and community to prevent crime and increase the level of security should be promoted.
- 12- Make public and transparent the history (success stories, efficiency, corruptive cases) of families and individuals who profit financial assistance from the government, in coordination with civil society organizations working on this issue.
- 13- A database for polluted areas (air, water, acoustic and vibration pollution) should be made public and the citizens should be informed for pollution consequences.
- 14- A report (monthly) on the activity of Customs, making the difference between businesses activities and citizen's activities should be drafted and should be made public.
- 15- The involvement of local institutions in the drafting and implementation of Action Plan. Local institutions should undertake commitments to promote transparent and all inclusive governance.
- 16- The international companies operating in Albania and the Corporate Social Responsibility they are committed to the community where they operate should be made public. Coordination with local institutions and corporations to fulfill a part of the community needs is necessary.
- 17- The consultative process should include multi-stakeholders audience, notably NGOs representing marginalized and minority communities, including those operating in remote part of the country.
- 18- In order to be able to meet a very short deadline, that is 7 May 2014, the Ministry of Public Administration and Innovation should as soon as possible, provide public consultation timeline, detailing the dynamic of the development of the Action Plan and the consultations to be undertaken in its regards. The timeline should be presented to civil society stakeholders at the inception meeting, that should also serve

to present key findings of the IRM report. The template of the Action Plan should also be presented to CSO stakeholders.

- 19- Consultations should draw on multiple channels of communication, including in-person meetings, online consultations, briefings, community consultations organized by CSOs operating within these communities. CSOs should also seek to find allies among commerce entities as well (as in case of Serbia) as they have legitimate interest to benefit from greater efficiency and accountability for Government's actions. Citizens task forces or similar formations gathering citizens, may also be used, where possible (as in case of BIH). CSOs may gather and summarize the feedback from different stakeholders and present it to the Government during the course of the consultative process.
- 20- The Action Plan should encompass clearly defined success indicators as well as sources of financing of each of the measures involved. It would be also commendable to add to the template the means of verification for each indicators. For example, if the indicator is developed report to add the link whereat it has been published.
- 21- Public institutions should find ways to make public their decision, aiming to reach the interested parties, who do not have access to internet.
- 22- Establish an –online booking to receive identity documents (birth certificates) next to local offices
- 23- Publishing online of titles of the texts to be used by schools
- 24- Digitalizing the library and the book archive on the basis of titles / issues / authors