



NOTES FROM CONSULTATIONS ON IPA 3

During February, Country coordinator worked on ensuring that the EU TACSO 3 interventions related to IPA 3 meet the needs of civil society and media organisations in Montenegro through sending targeted information on IPA 3 consultation process to CSO networks, platforms and contact persons for NGOs in the relevant ministries (Ministry of Public Administration - Directorate for cooperation with NGOs, Ministry of foreign affairs etc) and DEU and EU Info centre.

The main goal was to increase interest of stakeholders to take part in this process, initiate discussions and channel their voice. This process included several meetings in person and consultations via online communication (email, phone, Skype). CSOs and networks, coalitions that took part are: NGO Mreza 9 members of coalition of 27 NGOs from North (Izet Huseinović), ADP – Zid administrators of Open platform (Igor Milosevic), IRIS network Montenegro - Coordination office SOS Podgorica (Martina Vucelic), OKC Herceg Novi – regional YBHWBT network members (Natasa Dentic), NGO Preporod (Jovan Bulajic), NGO Uzor.

According to Montenegrin CSOs and individuals that were involved in IP3 consultations, thematic priorities that need to be better reflected in the current IPA 3 proposal recognized by the respondents are: gender, support to CSOs social service providers aiming at improving the quality of social services (especially services for victims of gender-based violence since this would be in line with international good practice especially with Istanbul Convention requirements, that has a focus on specialized services provided by women groups and CSOs), housing – especially for vulnerable groups, e.g. economically disadvantaged, youth, young couples, single parents etc.

Representative of IRIS network in Montenegro stated that IPA III needs to plan mechanisms and allocate funds for ensuring good policy framework implementation and creating greater level of accountability and transparency in work of public institutions in charged for contracting social service providers, especially having in mind new practice of establishing and financing GONGOs in this area, without explicit knowledge needed for provision of specific social services. Also, that financial support to civil society during the process of establishing quality of work standards and licensing of existing social services and adopting other procedures that are connected to improving the quality of social services in line with **A voluntary European quality framework for social services**¹.

Measures in the area of promotion of the health and provision of health services are also recognized as necessarily.

NGO Preporod putted focus on the need of support for the development of social services and health services for PAS users, especially community based and CSO services for this group. Besides this specific target group, it is required to improve the framework and ensuring the sustainability of programs to support their families. They also declared big need for investment in addressing the problems caused by the lack of social reintegration and rehabilitation interventions for people with addiction problems, and programs with people at risk.

¹ A voluntary European quality framework for social services (The Social Protection Committee), available at: <https://bit.ly/2wYGA98>

Organizations were largely satisfied with priorities included in Window 3 and based on their feedback there are still several issues that need to be taken under consideration with more attention. One of them is supporting measures aiming at improvement of the air quality, and support for the use of less polluting alternative means of transport (e.g. bicycles). The other one is focusing on developing of solar powered society, and further investment in clean energy.

NGO Mreza 9 members of coalition of 27 NGOs from North expressed their needs related to more possibilities for advanced capacity building programs related to management of IPA projects (writing, implementation, evaluation).

During discussion with ADP – Zid and OKC Herceg Novi – regional YBHWBT network members, the right to housing was mentioned as one of the burning issues, especially for economically disadvantage groups, young people, young couples, single parents.

In general, there is a strong response from CSOs that having in mind limited knowledge on PRAG and low level of integrity of public servants, but even more, having in mind negative campaign against civil society, not only in Montenegro but in WB in general, especially open negative criticism towards human rights based and advocacy oriented CSOs, the civil society facility programme should not go through governments, as considering the actual situation in the region.