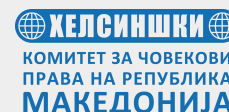


SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT NETWORK 23 +

Project funded by the EU - IPA II Civil Society Facility and Media Programme 2014



Project lead:

European Policy Institute (EPI) – Skopje

Project partner:

Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in the Republic of Macedonia

Associates:

Centre for Policy Modernisation Foundation – Sofia
GONG – Croatia
European Policy Centre – Belgrade
Institute Alternativa – Podgorica

Specific objective:

The specific objective is to contribute towards embedding of rule of law principles, mirrored through Chapter 23, in the Republic of Macedonia through a structured input of the Network 23+.

Objectives:

- 1) Strengthening the capacity of CSOs for evidence-based policy making, advocacy and networking in the areas covered by Chapter 23 on national and local level;
- 2) Structured evidence-based advocacy, including shadow reporting, for participatory decision-making and CSOs influence in the areas covered by Chapter 23, and
- 3) Engaging citizens in reform processes in Chapter 23

Target group:

Network 23 members and national and local civil society organizations under the re-granting scheme of the project Network 23 + – all CSO's active in the Chapter 23.

Final beneficiaries:

The project builds on already established partnerships with government institutions, including the Secretariat for European Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and the National Assembly (Committee for European Affairs). Network 23 + will target a wider spectrum of interested stakeholders, including the judicial institutions represented through the Supreme Court, the Public Prosecutor, as well as independent bodies acting in this area – the Judicial Council, the Council of Public Prosecutors, Ombudsperson, etc. Cooperation will be increased with professional associations, including Association of Judges, Association of Court Administration and the Association of Public Prosecutors.

Estimated results:

- R1: Increased CSOs capacity for evidence-based policy research, monitoring, evaluation, advocacy and networking in areas under Chapter 23;
R2: Contribution to improved participatory decision-making through providing shadow reporting and policy options of Network 23;
R3: Increased engagement of citizens, through CSOs activities, in the reform processes in the area of judiciary and fundamental rights;

Main activities:

A. First cluster (Engage):

The cluster ENGAGE includes activities related to the set-up of the project mechanisms, as well as the upgrade of the resource centre for Chapter 23 (www.merc.org.mk). In order to expand the Network and its influence over national decision-makers, the project also includes a re-granting scheme with thematic orientation and capacity building of civil society organizations. Partner organizations will tailor-made four workshops to address the needs of existing and new members of Network 23.

B. Second cluster (Deliver):

The cluster DELIVER includes activities related to drafting and publication of policy products – monitoring briefs on recent developments in judiciary and fundamental rights, annual shadow reports and policy briefs from the reports in the areas covered by Chapter 23. These products will include sets of policy options, to be discussed at the planned thematic expert workshops between CSOs national authorities and EU services. Consequently, through this cluster of activities, the Network 23 will provide a contribution to participatory decision making.

C. Third cluster (Impact):

This cluster includes communication and advocacy activities, targeted at two levels – at specific stakeholders, and at engaging citizens at large. In this context, a poll on citizens' perception and interviews with key stakeholders and participants are planned. Advocacy activities include cooperation with national institutions, policy dialogues and conference that are expected to have wider impact on selected stakeholders, as well as presentation of the main findings of the shadow reports in Brussels and initiation of consultations both with EU Delegation and DG NEAR. Special focus will be put on activities for targeting media, including social media.

Implementation period:

01.01.2016 – 31.12.2017

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Project Network 23 + is funded by the European Union