



B A L K A N
C I V I L
S O C I E T Y
D E V E L O P M E N T
N E T W O R K

Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN) is a network of 11 civil society and ecumenical organizations from 7 countries and territories in the Balkan region (Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro and Kosovo).

BCSDN members are:

- Albania: Albanian Civil Society Foundation, Diaconia Agapes;
- Bulgaria: Women's Alliance for Development, Pokrov Foundation;
- Croatia: Non - Profit's Info and Training Center, Education for Organizations in Civil Sector;
- Macedonia: Macedonian Center for International Cooperation;
- Romania: Opportunity Associates Romania, AIDRom;
- SCG (including Kosovo): Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization, We Are With You.





Vision

Balkan Civil Society Development Network is committed to sustainable peace and stability, prosperity, harmony of societies in the Balkan region. It is comprised of and devoted to the following values:

- respect of the universal human rights and of the rights of all citizens;
- men and women of all nationalities, religions and cultures;
- development of a pluralistic and participative democracy;
- socio-economic development and cultural prosperity;
- social cohesion, integration and harmony;
- care for the environment and for sustainable development;
- social justice and equality;
- respect for differences and non-violence.

Mission

Balkan Civil Society Development Network's mission is to strengthen civil society through developing indigenous civil society concepts, practices and empowering civil society actors.

Goals and objectives

- 1.** To increase communication with civil society actors in the region as a basis for bi/multilateral cooperation;
- 2.** To increase mobilization of resources and support;
- 3.** To increase knowledge and skills as a base for higher quality of their work;
- 4.** To increase promotion of intercultural exchange and culture of resource-sharing as a base for efficient/effective work among civil society actors.

Activities

In the period 2003-2004, BCSDN activities were directed at strengthening individual/staff and organizational capacities and skills of member organizations through tailor-made packages of trainings, exchange and consultancies. As a result of these, a joint pool of trainers and courses has been established and capacities of all members have been strengthened through exchange of best practices and information. While maintaining focus on individual/staff and organizational strengthening, BCSDN activities in the period 2004-2006 are to focus on thematic cooperation through 3 common priority themes (EU funding, lobbying and advocacy; training and consultancy standards and ethics, resource mobilization) and specific themes (women and anti-trafficking; corporate social responsibility and anti-corruption; decentralization; diaconal practices). This cooperation is to entail trainings, exchanges/exposures, workshops and publications and working groups as task forces on specific issues with the aim to strengthen capacities and skills as well as cooperation, exchange of information and platform of action on these areas. Additionally, activities are to be performed, which will promote intercultural and resource-sharing such as civil society dictionary, case study exchange, regional visits.



Structure

Balkan Civil Society Development Network consists of member organizations, which are equal in their rights and duties as members of the network. Principle of cooperation, partnership, tolerance, dialogue and respect for others are the main working principles in the network. This consists of the Steering Group, Core Group, Working Groups and Secretariat.

The Steering Group is composed of directors or senior representatives of member organizations and meets on annual meetings (each spring) to discuss the management and strategy of the work. Principle of rotating Chairperson is applied to each meeting.

The Core Group consists of contact persons from member organizations and meets on annual meetings (each autumn) to coordinate concrete activities.

Working Groups are thematic mechanisms for cooperation on specific issues and themes. Each member organization can initiate, lead and join any Working Group.

The Secretariat, which is currently situated in Macedonian Center for International Cooperation in Skopje, Macedonia, manages the daily functioning and coordination of the network.





Background

Balkan Civil Society Development Network was initiated in 2001 as Capacity Building Hub Programme, a part of a larger initiative called the WCC South-East Europe Ecumenical Partnership. By bringing together churches, ecumenical and civil society organizations, this initiative aimed at promoting their co-ordination and co-operation. The Capacity-Building Hub Programme focused on strengthening individual/staff and organizational capacities and skills of involved organizations.

The initial pilot programme ran from 2001 to 2003, in which 5 country visits and accompanying reports, 3 partnership meetings, 5 trainings, 7 exchange and consultancy visits were held and web training-directory and addressbook were published. Thus, Balkan Civil Society Development Network was launched in December 2003 as a result of successful cooperation in strengthened capacities of these organizations.

Balkan Civil Society Development Network

Secretariat

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