people 2 people

"Open Government Partnership: Dialogue with Civil Society Organisations on the National Action Plan 2016-2018"

Skopje, 23-24 March 2016

Report

Content:

Introduction

The conference "Open Government Partnership – Dialogue with Civil Society Organisations on the National Action Plan 2016-2018" was organised by the TACSO project (Technical Assistance to Civil Society Organisations) and Ministry of Information Society and Administration under the People to People component.

In 2011, the Macedonian Government joined the global initiative for Open Government Partnership (OGP), an international platform for Governments and civil society organisations (CSOs) committed to making their governments more open, accountable and responsible to citizens. In line with the obligations for all the countries that joined the initiative, the Macedonian Government adopted its first action plan in 2012, and in 2014 it adopted the second action plan for 2014-2016. Since the beginning of this year, the Ministry of Information Society and Administration (MISA) started with the preparation of the next OGP action plan for 2016-2018 and it plans to consult and involve all relevant stakeholders in its preparation.

The conference objective was to promote the OGP initiative and to inform CSOs on the progress achieved in the country, to create space for dialogue among the CSOs and the Government institutions about the experiences and challenges in the implementation of the second action plan and about the design of the next action plan for the period 2016-2018. The conference also facilitated sharing of relevant information from the region and the sharing of good regional practices.

97 representatives of state institutions and CSOs working in the areas relevant for OGP, as well as representatives of universities and foreign embassies participated in the conference.

First day

Conference opening

The conference was opened by **Ms. Gordana Gapik Dimitrovska**, Head of Unit for Regulatory Impact Assessment Process within the Ministry of Information Society and Administration. She welcomed all present and introduced the speakers in the first session.

Ms. Marta Arsovska-Tomovska, Minister of Information Society and Administration announced the activities to design the third National Action Plan for Open Government Partnership for 2016-2018, and she stated that all relevant stakeholders will be consulted in the process as had been done in the previous cycle. She added that many activities have been undertaken to build partnership relations with citizens and companies in policy creation, as well as in designing the national legislation, strategies and initiatives. Ms. Arsovska-Tomovska emphasized that besides the implementation of the strategic documents, interactive web-sites have been launched to facilitate the process, to increase the transparency and the possibility for creating forums for exchange of opinions and views. Furthermore, a legislation has been enacted which guarantees the access to information; open data are introduced and priority mechanisms are ensured in line with the needs of citizens and companies. According to the Minister the highest priority of the OGP national agenda is achieving certain standards for open data.

H.E. Aivo Orav, EU Ambassador, in his opening speech emphasized the importance of the Open Government Partnership towards improving the institutions' transparency and their cooperation with citizens. Further on, he pointed at that it is particularly vital for such commitment to continue with the new third action plan.

Ms. Suncica Sazdovska, TACSO resident advisor, welcomed the participants on behalf of the TACSO team and briefly presented the TACSO project. She stated that in order to facilitate and promote dialogue with other stakeholders, in particularly with institutions on the national and local level, in the past period the TACSO project organised many conferences, workshops and forums where CSOs and institutions tried to build mutual understanding and joint views on several issues. Further on, she emphasized that the Local Advisory Group facilitates debate on an equal basis for all included stakeholders on issues of strategic importance for the civil society development. She pointed out the regional dimension of the project, which facilitates sharing of experience in the region.

In this respect, the People to People component of the TACSO project supported the OGP regional summit, held in Tirana, Albania in September 2015. TACSO financed the participation of 10 Macedonian representatives of CSOs and government institutions involved in the working groups and the implementation of the action plan. At the end, Ms. Sazdovska stated that the TACSO project will continue to support such endeavours for dialogue and cooperation and announced another important regional conference to take place in Skopje at the end of April where CSOs and Governments from Western Balkans and Turkey will discuss the progress achieved in the region concerning the set targets for civil society development, defined by EU in the strategic document "Guidelines for EU support to civil society in enlargement countries, 2014-2020".

Progress in the implementation of the National Action Plan 2014-2016

Ms. Emina Nuredinoska, head of the Unit for Civil Society and Democracy in the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC) gave a brief introduction on the panel objectives and presented the working groups' coordinators. Further on, they provided responses and opinions on the achievements per priorities.

Ms. Gordana Gapik Dimitrovska, coordinator of the working group on participatory policy creation from MISA, spoke about the priority measures in the second action plan from the aspect of consultation with citizens in policy creation and about the satisfaction with the civil society involvement. She stated that there is a need for further communication and cooperation and besides great technical upgrading of the Single National Electronic Register of Regulations (ENER) there should be substantial improvement, even reforms in the whole system of consultations with the public in the law drafting process.

Ms. Nadica Jasifovski, coordinator of the working group on open data from MISA, gave a short overview of the achievements in the second priority area. Additionally, she responded to the question about the country situation in terms of open data as a global trend and one of the OGP priorities and made a distinction between open data and free access to information which can be often mixed.

Mr. Oliver Serafimovski, deputy coordinator of the working group on freedom of information, Commission for Protection of the Right to Free Access to Public Information, spoke about the achievements in the third priority area. He emphasised that there is a need for civil society support in raising public awareness about the right to free access to public information.

Mr. Vladimir Georgiev, deputy coordinator of the working group on combating corruption and promoting good governance principles, State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, covered the achievements in the fourth priority area. Further on, he responded to the question on whether the Law on Whistle-blowers' Protection is comprehensive and of sufficient guarantee in the efforts to contribute to combatting corruption, given that the legal regulation of the whistle-blowers' protection is one of the key measures in the action plan. Mr. Georgiev also

addressed the new strategic approach and the measures foreseen in the action plan, with the adoption of the new Programme for prevention of corruption and conflict of interest for 2016-2019.

Ms. Ljubica Jovceska, coordinator of the working group on efficient management of public resources (fiscal transparency) from Ministry of Finance provided overview of the achievements in the fifth priority area. Additionally, she spoke about the implementation and the positive changes from the OGP measures concerning citizens' interest in public spending and payments by the Government as well as whether open budget is sufficient for accountability and transparency of public spending. The further discussion was along the line whether there is sufficient education of the public to read and monitor the public spending and whether there is a will for more advanced solutions to this end, such as weekly overviews of public spending per budget lines, per institutions and per beneficiaries. Finally, Ms. Jovceska outlined the key achievements in the area of public procurement, i.e. the increased transparency in the public procurement process.

Ms. Eli Cakar, coordinator of the working group on openness at local level, Ministry of Local Self-Government, spoke about the achievements in the sixth priority area and about the local level of governance which is a separate OGP priority. She also responded to the questions concerning the progress achieved concerning the strengthening of the capacities of local administration for public communication which is the focus of the action plan, as well as which legal solutions could be implemented to promote public involvement at local level. She emphasized that the positive experiences on national level (for instance ENER, codex of good practices of consultation etc.) could be useful if they are adapted at local level.

In the second round of questions, the working groups' coordinators presented their views on the challenges and the future direction, whether entirely new measures will be designed and whether the cooperation with the civil society sector can be improved.

Independent reporting mechanism,
Independent progress report 2014-2015

Ms. Neda Korunovska, representative of the independent reporting mechanism presented the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) as one of the key means by which all stakeholders can monitor the OGP progress and impact in participating countries. This mechanism plays a key role in ensuring continuous credibility and legitimacy of OGP. Ms. Korunovska described the OGP structure and the managing structure of the mechanism as well as the three key issues that the mechanism focuses on: Is drafting, implementation and monitoring of the action plans done through open and collaborative process? Are action plans relevant, verifiable and is responsibility clearly allocated? Are ambitious plans implemented?

The IRM produces reports on the progress of the action plan implementation together with a final report for the full cycle of the action plan. There are various data collection methods that are subject of research in these reports, i.e.: desk research; interviews with officials, CSOs, experts, beneficiaries; focus groups; survey; testing and observations. The OGP measures are assessed in terms of their specificity, relevance, ambition and completion. She explained that there are so called "star measures" that have the greatest potential to have impact and to make change. As a conclusion, Ms. Korunovska stated that the main focus in the action plan is transparency and participatory policy creation, whereas in terms of completion of the 51 set measures, they are somewhere halfway. She finished her presentation emphasizing that there are 6 potential measures for which it is possible to become "stars" and she gave the following recommendations for the future: the focus should be on the essential problems, with transformative but real measures; inclusive consultative process, with methods that will ensure prioritization; adequate resources and budget should be ensured and allocated; focus on priority areas (budget, data, mechanisms for participation, freedom of expression, media and public gathering) and involvement of the Assembly.

Good practices from the National Action Plan 2014-2016

Ms. Marija Sazdevski-Vangelovski, project associate at Macedonian Center for International Cooperation presented the effects from the published results within the project "Government Mirror – monitoring of the public participation in the law making process" implemented by MCIC in 2012 with EU support and since 2013 with USAID support i.e. within the USAID programme for anticorruption. This project covers monitoring of the electronic system ENER (Single national electronic register of regulations), which also contains the proposals to laws by the ministries in the preparatory phase. The project applied methodology for assessing openness of the government institutions taken over from CNVOS Slovenia (partner in the first year of the project implementation). The Government Mirror has its web-site (www.ogledalonavladata.mk) where all weekly (94), monthly (22), quarterly (6) and annual (2) reports are published. Ms. Sazdevski-Vangelovski stated that Government Mirror is recognized and accepted by MISA as a monitoring tool for improving ENER and it is also included as measure in the OGP action plan for 2014-2016. Furthermore, since July 2014 the results from the monitoring of ENER are published on the ENER site under "for ENER cooperation".

The main effects from the publishing of the results and the overall project work are: automatisation of the status change process; introduction of time keeper for the consultation period which also shows the number of remaining days for commenting; with the new decision all documents related to a law are placed in one folder, whereas now, there is a possibility also to put the consolidated text of the law; automatisation of the 5-day minimum period from announcing the start of drafting process for proposal to a law until the publication of the draft-law; automatisation of the 10-day minimum period for commenting to a draft law; automatic publishing of comments after the expiry of the set deadline for review by the responsible person.

Mr. Filip Manevski from Ministry of Information Society and Administration presented the web-portal: www.otvorenipodatoci.gov.mk. He stated that open data are data created by the public sector bodies and institutions in the course of their daily work. These data are published in order to facilitate their use by legal and physical entities for the creation of new information, content, applications or services. The purpose of the open data is to encourage: innovations and creation of new information, content and application by data combining and crossing; designing new services, job creation and social inclusion; increased accountability and transparency of the public sector; improving the quality of the public sector data; economic development and development of the competitiveness, and development of the information society in the country. Mr. Manevski explained the difference between open data and data that are not open, as well as the difference between Law on free access to public information and Law on use of public sector data in terms of end users. Besides other content, the web-site has a barometer which shows the number of data sets (links, files, and database) by type and institution.

Mr. Aleksandar Danailov from the Public Procurement Bureau in his presentation "With increased cooperation towards increased transparency of the contracting authorities – Recommendation for publishing of public procurement plans, announcements and reports for signed and implemented contracts" spoke about the measures from the OGP action plan 2014-2016, related to public procurements. In the implementation of the activities foreseen in the action plan, the Public Procurement Bureau cooperates with the Center for Civil Communications and with representatives of the working group for implementation of the action plan for transparency of the contracting authorities. Their cooperation resulted in a set of recommendations concerning the measures of the Action plan. As a final result, Mr. Danailov emphasized the decision to publish, i.e. ensure access on the websites of all contracting authorities, stated in Article 4 of the Law on Public Procurement of certain data from the implementation of the procedure for awarding public procurement contracts, which enters into force from 01.01.2016.

Mr. Fisnik Shabani from the Forums Coordination Unit presented the programme of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation "Community Forums" as a model for citizens' participation at the local level. Key programme objectives are: promotion of the participatory development of the communities and the good local

governance through structural instrument for citizens' participation; active participation of citizens in decision making in their society; administration to develop participatory, accountable government that can be trusted; creation of partnerships at the local level and development of project ideas, skills and knowledge. Mr. Shabani spoke about the forum process, forums' structure and their key aspects. Finally, he focused on the results and the achievements emphasizing that 57 municipalities were involved in more than 105 forums, whereas 59 municipalities incorporated the forum in their statute. More than 155 projects have been developed and over 150 formal and informal coalitions have been established with the programme implementation.

Regional initiatives and experiences

Ms. Gabriela Dimovska from the Center for Economic Analysis presented the "Open Budget Index" (OBI) as the only independent, comparative and wide-ranging mechanism for measuring transparency and accountability by civil society experts, based on documented evidence and objective criteria and not on perception. This index assesses the extent to which legislative and supreme auditing institutions provide effective supervision of the national budget. Efficient, effective and accountable budget systems are based on three pillars: budget transparency, citizens' inclusion in the budget process and strengthened formal supervisory institutions. Only 4 out of 102 countries strongly comply with the three pillars and have incorporated them in their fiscal and accountable system. The monitoring process includes filling in comprehensive questionnaire containing 104 questions by independent civil society expert in budgeting, cross-checking the questionnaire data with other IBP data, checking the data from independent, anonymous experts, submitting draft report to the relevant institutions and publishing the report from the implemented monitoring. Further on, Ms. Dimovska presented the research findings, which also showed our country position in comparison to the other countries in the region in terms of public access to budget documents, public participation in budget policy, evaluation of the legislation, evaluation of the supervision by the State audit etc. At the end, she gave recommendations for the country regarding improvement of transparency, citizens' involvement and supervision.

Mr. Aleksandar Nikolov from Association ZENIT shared several examples of innovative use of open data by CSOs and state bodies. The platform open.data.al is one of the good examples from the region for citizens' use of open data. This electronic platform promotes transparency by collecting data from state bodies on socio-economic

indicators, processing and publishing the data based on the latest information technologies. Various themes are covered such as: education, agriculture, justice, ecology, economy, electricity, employment, public expenditures etc. Through this platform citizens have opportunity to learn how their money is being spent (structure of the budgetary expenditures and portion of their salary that is allocated for budgetary expenditures), furthermore citizens can monitor the exploitation of forests, the number of employees in the budgetary sector, they can monitor the number of voters on the list, as well as to monitor the treasury transactions and the public procurements at the local level. They can also monitor the social trends, i.e. they can find data about non-profit organisations and convictions for corruption. Another similar platform is opendatakosovo.org, which contains data and resources for doing research, development of web and mobile applications, design of visualizations and promotion of good governance through transparency and accountability of the public institutions based on open data. Through this platform, citizens can monitor and supervise the assets of MPs and the public procurements, create policies following the women participation on the labour market etc. At the end, Mr. Nikolov gave examples from the region about accountability of state bodies, such as published data on the effectiveness of public educational institutions or published data on the operation of the police and the courts.

Second day

Recommendations for designing the next action plan for 2016 – 2018

Ms. Gordana Gapik Dimitrovska, MISA, in her introduction, emphasized the key recommendations from the independent reporting mechanism which should be taken into consideration when designing the next action plan. She explained the process of designing and the consultations regarding the new action plan. Afterwards she explained about the working groups, which will be divided per OGP priority area.

Ms. Kendresa Sulejmani from Center for Research and Policy Creation (CRPM) presented the activities that CRPM has implemented regarding the process of co-creation of the new OGP action plan for 2016-2018. She informed that so far survey has been conducted for pre-assessment of the interests and needs of the OGP working groups; three thematic meetings (1.Transparency and accountability; 2. Freedom of information and open data; 3. Effective public services); and public consultative meeting. According to the pre-assessment survey results 30% of CSOs are familiar with the OGP initiative, whereas 35% are partially familiar with this initiative. The survey shows that more than 60% of CSOs were not involved in the process of preparation and implementation of the OGP action plan 2014-2016, whereas almost 70% would like to be involved in institutional-civic coalition for designing the action plan 2016-2018. Further on, Ms. Sulejmani presented the results from the three workshops, comparing them with the results from the workshops held in 2014. At the end, she emphasized that CSOs can further contribute to OGP by participating in the implementation of the commitments from the plan or in the monitoring of the action plan implementation in line with the set timetable, or being involved in the research process for independent reporting, giving more comments to the independent report and being in constant dialogue with the Government to improve the process and the achievements.

Work in 6 working groups and presentation of the group work

Group 1: Participatory policy making

Key unimplemented measures for 2014-2015 according to this group are: monitoring of ENER, greater focus on the results' impact and sharing them with all institutions, preparation of a report by the Government on the accepted proposals as well as annual report on the consultations. Additionally, according to this group measure no. 5 should be amended, the measures no. 5, 6 and 7 should be joined into one and E-Petition should be introduced on the E-Democracy portal.

Proposals and measures for the new action plan: External monitoring of ENER and increasing impact (MISA and MCIC); Annual report on consultations for proposals to laws (MISA and GS); Data collection mechanism concerning the data from policy implementation monitoring by CSOs (MISA, E-Democracy, Macedonian network of evaluators within Management Consulting Association MCA 2000); Introduction of a mechanism for E-Petition/initiative on the E-Democracy portal; Establishment of an advisory body for promotion of cooperation and dialogue (GS); Improved implementation of the Codex of good practices for civil society participation in the policy creation process (GS); Implementation of the Strategy 2012-2017 (GS); Participatory development of the new strategy 2018-2022 (GS); Increased citizens' participation in monitoring and assessment of policy implementation (Indicator Report on consultations, MISA); Increasing the period between publishing announcement for a law drafting process and the publishing of the draft law from 5 to 15 days (MISA, GS), Increasing the consultation period for draft laws from 10 to

20 days (MISA, GS); Publishing information about proposals to laws defined at Government session (GS). Additional proposals that resulted from this group work are: Publishing a register of CSOs from the Central Register and publishing conclusions from Government sessions.

Group 2: Open data

Key unimplemented measures for 2014-2015 according to this group are: Measure 1. Open data of the public sector bodies and institutions according to their technical feature, which they create in exercise of their powers that will be made available for use; and Measure 3. Establishing a Central catalogue of public sector data published for use based on a catalogue of data from the public sector bodies and institutions www.otvorenipodatoci.gov.mk.

Proposals and measures for the new action plan: Creating standards for open data (metadata, financial and geospatial data); Defining licences for open data and placing them on the open data portal (MISA); Facilitating better participation and accountability on the open data portal (feedback towards citizens) and establishing an archive of published data sets (MISA, state institutions, Free software); developing a catalogue of data sets from municipalities and preparing guidelines for publishing open data for municipalities (Change Management Centre, Association of the Units of Local Self-Government, MISA, MLSG); campaign for promoting open data among citizens (MISA, Reaktor, Free software); Opening the data from key institutions (Public procurement bureau, State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, State Statistical Office, Assembly, State Appeals Commission for Public Procurement, MISA)

Group 3: Free access to information

Key unimplemented measures for 2014-2015 according to this group are: Proactive transparency (regular updating of the list of information, accessibility to all information on the web-sites) and campaign for raising awareness about the right to access to information (trainings, memorandum for cooperation with NGOs).

Proposals and measures for the new action plan: Proactive publishing of information (1. development of an informant; 2. index for monitoring proactiveness; 3. publishing of already requested/provided information; recommendation for proactiveness from Commission for Protection of the Right to Free Access to Public Information (CPRFAPI) by involving CPRFAPI, NGOs, 270 information holders that have websites, Government); measures to reduce administrative silence (1. Training with targeted institutions based on set weaknesses in the law implementation; 2. Decreasing the period to 15 working days or 20 days; 3. Defining accountability for the responsible entities; 4. Promoting electronic requesting of information by involving CPFAPI, Ministry of Justice, courts, MISA) and campaign for raising awareness (working group for defining the campaign; focus on the benefit for the institutions and mapping the target groups; promoting electronic requesting of information by involving ESE, other CSOs, CPRFAPI, media (internet and traditional).

Group 4: Combatting corruption and promoting the good governance principles

Proposals and measures for the new action plan: Monitoring the implementation of the Law on whistle-blowers' protection (State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC) – with annual report – GO with adjustment and presentation); register of experts in public procurement as an open data (Council on public procurements); On-line monitoring program for the Government program for prevention and repression of corruption (SCPC and all the others that provide inputs); Traffic lights for monitoring the progress in implementing systems of integrity (SCPC and units of local self-government); campaigns for raising awareness about whistle-blowers (CSOs and public institutions); Open data on property deeds (SCPC); Mechanisms for monitoring the progress in combating corruption (TI-M).

Group 5: Effective management of public resources

Key unimplemented measures for 2014-2015 according to this group are: Measure 1. Open budget (citizens' budget-status: ongoing for 2015 and 2016), publishing and narrative explanation of the implementation of health programmes. Measure 2. Public procurement – publishing standardized information about public procurements on the web-sites of the contracting authorities (status: defined list of data for the procurements that need to be published; Centre for Civil Communications: out of 15 observed ministries only 1 ministry has published the annual plan and data for one procurement). Measure 3. Foreign aid and foreign investment – Publishing data on foreign investments and foreign aid, which will provide higher transparency (status: the database of foreign aid does not contain data on the full foreign aid; however data is published on domestic aid given to foreign investors).

Proposals and measures for the new action plan: Publishing the citizens' budget in the first quarter after its adoption (MoF); Publishing information about budget and program implementation of health budgets, with special focus on budgetary and financial implementation of preventive programs of Ministry of Health (MoH); Publishing semi-annual report about Budget execution on the web-site of MoF one month after its adoption by the Government, as well as on the web-sites of the units of local self-government (MoF); changes and amendments to the manual for treasury operation by deleting point 23 of part IV in order to enable access to data from treasury accounts (MoF); changes to the manual for manner of treasury operation of the Health Insurance Fund (HIF) by deleting point 22 of part IV in order to enable access to data from treasury accounts (HIF);Publishing quarterly financial plans by MoF; Publishing data on due but unpaid liabilities of the state by MoF (in line with quarterly reviews that they receive – MoF); Institutionalisation and piloting the methodology for social auditing as an integral part of the operation of the internal auditing sector in Ministry of Health (MoH); Publishing data on unsecured borrowing of the public sector as a tabular view on a quarterly basis (MoF); Publishing reports from the internal auditing on the web-sites of the public sector bodies (state bodies, independent regulatory bodies, ULSG and institutions under their jurisdiction);

Promoting participatory budgeting practices; Introducing publicly accessible register of state property (movable and immovable – Department for property affairs within MoF); Introducing publicly accessible register of concession contracts (MoE); Creating legal obligation for public procurements' data that need to be published by the contracting authorities in accordance with the recommendation given during the implementation of the previous action plan (MoF); Publishing data on state aid per beneficiary, per region and per basis for granting the state aid (Commission for Protection of Competition, Directorate for Technological Industrial Development Zones, ministers' cabinets for promoting foreign investment, Agency for Foreign Investment and Promotion of Exports); the Secretariat for European Affairs (SEA) should publish all data on foreign assistance to the Republic of Macedonia; Publishing and quarterly up-dating of the database of the planned and granted state and foreign financial assistance to rural development and agriculture (Agency for financial assistance to agriculture and rural development); Introducing gender responsive budgeting as obligatory at central and local level by amending the Law on budgets (MoF); Introducing open public procurement contracts and developing application that will make contract information public (MoF, PPB); Changes to the Law on public procurement and adding provision for mandatory publishing of the tender documentation and giving a period within which interested companies will have opportunity to comment on the tender documentation higher than 130.000 EUR (MoF); Changes to the Law on public procurement in order to introduce gradation for the breach of the Law (MoF); Including CSOs' representatives in the sectoral working groups for IPA 3 (SEA, GS).

Group 6: Openness on local level

Key unimplemented measures for 2014-2015 according to this group are: Developing capacities at local level for proactive communication with citizens and establishment of electronic platform (dashboard) with indicators for the budget and delivery of local services.

Proposals and measures for the new action plan: Defining issues that must be consulted and developing unified procedures for all municipalities; More power of the local/urban communities in providing citizens' participation as the key stakeholders in the decision making process by changing the Law on local self-government and/or statutes; Institutionalisation of the community forums at local level as a way of greater participation in creating local policies; Introducing standards and procedures for communication and consultation between ULSG and citizens with procedures and ways of their implementation (electronical and in person); Protocols/standards for transparency and open data at local level; Protocols for budget transparency and public procurements (citizens' budget); Easier access to services by publishing the procedures and the contacts of the responsible institutions and individuals; Use of languages and depiction of diversity in the operation of the municipality and publishing data and information in accordance with the structure of the municipality and the strategies for intercultural understanding; Improved services for citizens through on-line applications; creating a model of social contracts in the area of social protection as a mechanism for delivery of social services by CSOs at local level; Strengthening the functionality of Commission for Equal Opportunities on gender integration in the policy creation processes of the local self-government and improving their accountability; Strengthening the functionality of Commission for inter-community relations, involvement of CSOs and citizens in their establishment and their budgeting; Strengthening the functionality of the Councils of consumers by involving CSOs and specifying its role in the statute of the municipality.

Information dissemination and media coverage

The conference triggered significant media interest and presence of several representatives of electronic and print media. Thus, there was media coverage of the conference on the national TVs: MTV, Sitel, 24 vesti, TV Nova and Alfa

TV, Radio Slobodna Makedonija, as well as 20 articles on the web-portals (MIA, Mak Faks, Daily MK, Lider, Vistina, IdiVidi, Denar etc.)

Recommendations for the future

The process of drafting the third OGP action plan for 2016-2018 should continue to be carried out in a participatory way. In the process so far and especially with the 6 working groups during the conference, a whole range of proposals for measures were generated. In the next steps these measures need to be prioritized and a focus should be defined according to the recommendations and the criteria of the independent reporting mechanism.

CSOs, especially those that are interested and participated in the conference, should be regularly informed about the progress made regarding the drafting of the action plan, as well as further implementation. CSOs' involvement in the designing of the OGP action plan is a good practice which should be promoted among ministries and other state institutions and it can be used as a model in designing other strategies and policies.

Annexes

Annex 1: Agenda

Day 1: Wednesday, 23 March 2016

09:30 – 10:00   Arrival and registration of participants

10:00 - 10:30   **Opening of the Conference**

                          Ms. Marta Arsovska Tomovska, *Minister of Information Society and Administration*

                          H.E. Mr. Aivo Orav , *Head of the EU Delegation in Skopje*

                          Ms. Suncica Sazdovska, *TACSO Resident Advisor*

                          Ms. Gordana Gapik-Dimitrovska, *Head of Unit for Regulatory Impact Assessment Process, Ministry of Information Society and Administration*

10:30 – 11:00   Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30   **Progress in the implementation of the National Action Plan 2014-2016**

                          Ms. Gordana Gapik-Dimitrovska, *Coordinator of the Working Group on Participatory Policymaking, Ministry of Information Society and Administration*

                          Ms. Nadica Josifovski, *Coordinator of the Working Group on Open data, Ministry of Information Society and Administration*

                          Mr. Oliver Serafimovski, *Deputy Coordinator of the Working Group on Freedom of information, Commission for Protection of the Right to Free Access to Public Information*

                          Mr. Vladimir Georgiev, *Deputy Coordinator of the Working Group on Combating Corruption and Promoting the Good Governance Principles, State Commission for Prevention of Corruption*

                          Ms. Ljubica Jovceska, *Coordinator of the Working Group on Efficient Management of Public Resources (fiscal transparency), Ministry of Finance*

                          Ms. Eli Chakar, *Coordinator of the Working Group on Openness at Local Level, Ministry of Local Self-Government*

                          Panel discussion

                          Moderator: Ms. Emina Nuredinoska*, TACSO Resource Center by MCIC*

12:30-13:30   **Lunch**

| 13:30 -15:00 | **Independent reporting mechanism, Independent progress report 2014 - 2015** |

Ms. Neda Korunovska, representative of the Independent reporting mechanism

Good practices of the National Action Plan 2014-2016

- *Government mirror – monitoring of the public participation in the laws preparation – effects from the published results, Marija Sazdevski, MCIC*

- *Presentation of www.otvorenipodatoci.gov.mk, Filip Manevski, MISA*

- *With increased cooperation between the Public Procurement Office and the Centre for Civic Communication towards increased transparency of the contracting authorities – Recommendation for publishing of Public procurement plans, announcements and reports for signed and implemented contracts, Aleksandar Danailov, Public Procurement Office*

- *Forums - model for citizen participation at local level, Fisnik Sabani, Forums coordination unit*

Presentation and discussion, moderator Ms. Suncica Sazdovska, TACSO

| 15:00 – 15:30 | Coffee break |

| 15:30 - 16:30 | **Regional initiatives and experiences** |

- *Fiscal transparency, Ms. Gabriela Dimovska, Center for Economic Analysis*
- *Transparency and accountability – innovative use of open data from civil society sector and state bodies, Mr. Aleksandar Nikolov, ZENIT*

Presentation and discussion, moderator Ms. Suncica Sazdovska, *TACSO*

Day 2: Thursday, 24 March 2016

09:30 – 10:30   **Recommendations for designing the next action plan for 2016-2018**

Ms. Gordana Gapik-Dimitrovska, Ministry of Information Society and Administration

Ms. Qendresa Sulejmani, Center for Research and Policy Making

10:30 – 11:00   Coffee break

11:00 - 12:30   **Group work by priorities:**

- *Participatory policymaking, facilitator Marija Sazdevski, MCIC*
- *Open data, facilitator Filip Manevski, MISA*
- *Free access to information, facilitator Nada Naumovska, FOSM*
- *Combatting corruption and promoting the good governance principles, facilitator Misha Popovic, IDSCS*
- *Effective management of public resources, facilitator Aleksandar Nikolov, ZENIT*
- *Openness at local level, facilitator Neda Maleska CCM*

12:30 – 13:00   Coffee break

13:00 -14:00   **Recommendations for designing the next action plan 2016 – 2018**

Presentation of the group work

Summing-up the conclusions, closing of the conference and evaluation

14:00-15:00   **Cocktail**

Annex 2: List of participants

Name and surname	Organisation/Institution	City
Jonas Abrahamsson	Swedish Embassy	Skopje
Jagoda Aleksova	Doverba Kumanovo	Kumanovo
Ivan Andreski	Centre for regional development and transparent government	Krushevo
Darko Antik	Association for emancipation, solidarity and equality of women - ESE	Skopje
Valentina Atanasovska	TACSO	Skopje
Zoran Bogdanovski	SOS Children's village Macedonia	Skopje
Dzala Bojkoska	Association for equal opportunities, SEMPER	Bitola
Vladimir Bubevski	Faculty of Law	Skopje
Filip Cavdarevski	Government of the Republic of Macedonia - General Secretariat	Skopje
Eli Chakar	Ministry of Local Self-Government	Skopje
Jasmina Chaushoska	Macedonian Center for International Cooperation	Skopje
Svetlana Cvetkovska	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	Skopje
Cvetanka D.	Secretariat for European Affairs	Skopje
Jordan Damcevski	US Embassy	Skopje
Aleksandar Danailov	Public Procurement Bureau	Skopje
Vlatko Danilov	Management Consulting Association MCA - 2000	Skopje
Slagana Dimitrov	Ministry of Information Society and Administration	Skopje
Blagica Dimitrovska	Association for promotion and development of inclusive society INKLUZIVA	Kumanovo

Name and surname	Organisation/Institution	City
Katerina Dimitrovska	Citizens' association MOST	Skopje
Milosh Dimitrovski	Association Izvor	Kratovo
Dona Dimov Markovska	Transparency International Macedonia	Skopje
Lidija Dimova	Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia	Skopje
Marija Dimova	Macedonian science association Bitola	Bitola
Gabriela Dimovska	Centre for Economic Analysis	Skopje
Elena Dimovska	Ministry of Justice	Skopje
Valentina Disoska	Association of Business Women	Skopje
Vaska Drashkovik	SOS Children's village Macedonia	Skopje
Arsim Fidani	Ministry of Local Self-Government	Skopje
German Filkov	Centre for Civil Communications	Skopje
Gordana Gapik Dimitrovska	Ministry of Information Society and Administration	Skopje
Vladimir Georgiev	State commission for prevention of corruption	Skopje
Violeta Gjorgjievska	Internet Hotline Provider Macedonia	Skopje
Dimce Grozdanoski	Ministry of Education	Skopje
Tanja Hafner Ademi	BCSDN	Skopje
Luzim Haziri	Association for Democratic Initiative	Gostivar
Adem Idrizi	Association for providing services to disabled Hendimak	Tetovo
Hasan Idrizi	Anglunipe	Tetovo
Sneska Ilik	Reaktor - Research in Action	Skopje

Name and surname	Organisation/Institution	City
Bari Iseni	Ministry of Finance	Skopje
Irena Ivanova	EU Delegation	Skopje
Gorgi Joshevski	Civic Association Bitola	Bitola
Nadica Josifovski	Ministry of Information Society and Administration	Skopje
Eva Jovanovska	Parliamentarian institute of the Assembly of Macedonia	Skopje
Ljubica Jovceska	Ministry of Finance	Skopje
Jelena Kadrik	Human Rights Institute	Skopje
Slavica Karova	Secretariat for European Affairs	Skopje
Aleksandar Kedijoski	Association GS1 standards Macedonia	Skopje
Joana Koceva	Women's organisation Vizija Kavadarci	Kavadarci
Makedonka Koceva	Vinozito	Radovish
Maja Konevska	State commission for prevention of corruption	Skopje
Neda Korunovska	Reaktor - Research in Action	Skopje
Maja Kostova	InvestMacedonia	Skopje
Simona Kruntovska	Government of the Republic of Macedonia - General Secretariat	Skopje
Aleksandra Lozanovska	GAUS Institute - Foundation for new technologies, innovations and transfer of knowledge	Bitola
Neda Maleska	Change management centre	Skopje
Milena Maneva	Civic initiative of women - Sveti Nikole	Sveti Nikole
Filip Manevski	Ministry of Information Society and Administration	Skopje
Natasha Metodijeva	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	Skopje

Name and surname	Organisation/Institution	City
Dragica Miloshevska	Women action	Skopje
Marijana Miteva	Women action, Radovish	Radovish
Biljana Mladenovska	PROFICIO - multi-ethnic tolerance through economic prosperity	Skopje
Nada Naumovska	Foundation Open Society Macedonia	Skopje
Suzana Nikodijevik-Filipovska	General Secretariat of the Government of Macedonia	Skopje
Aleksandar Nikolov	ZENIT Skopje	Skopje
Emina Nuredinoska	Macedonian Center for International Cooperation	Skopje
Tomislav Ortakovski	Polio Plus - movement against disability	Skopje
Snezana Paparova	Consumers' organisation Stip	Shtip
Kristina Pavlovska	Ministry of Finance	Skopje
Slagan Penev	FORUM CSID	Skopje
Juliana Petanovska	Ministry of Finance	Skopje
Jovan Petreski	General Secretariat of the Government of Macedonia	Skopje
Baze Petrushev	Free software Macedonia	Skopje
Carlo Piccoli	Italian Embassy	Skopje
Misha Popovik	Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" Skopje	Skopje
Marijana Popovska	Directorate for personal data protection	Skopje
Filip Popovski	Citizens' association MOST	Skopje
Mishko Risteski	Health Insurance Fund of Macedonia	Prilep
Biljana Ristevska	Public Procurement Bureau	Skopje

Name and surname	Organisation/Institution	City
Marija Sazdevski	Macedonian Center for International Cooperation	Skopje
Suncica Sazdovska	TACSO	Skopje
Oliver Serafimovski	Commission for Protection of the Right to Free Access to Public Information	Skopje
Fisnik Shabani	Forums coordination unit	Skopje
Marina Shaf-Radeska	Ministry of Information Society and Administration	Skopje
Katerina Shojik	National Roma Centrum	Kumanovo
Suzana Simonovska	Faculty of Philosophy	Skopje
Irena Stevcevska	British Embassy	Skopje
Aleksandra Stojanovska	Commission on public information	Skopje
Mirjana Stojanovska	Ministry of Finance	Skopje
Kendresa Sulejmani	Center for research and policy creation	Skopje
Martin Todevski	Change management centre	Skopje
Savka Todorovska	National Council for Gender Equality	Skopje
Jasmina Trajceva	Women's organisation of Sveti Nikole	Sveti Nikole
Cveta Trajkovska	Commission for Protection of the Right to Free Access to Public Information	Skopje
Emilija Tudzaroska-Georgievska	British Embassy	Skopje
Iljir Umeri	Ministry of finance, CFCD	Skopje
Vesna Vasileva	General Secretariat of the Government of Macedonia	Skopje
Petro Volvoi	Bulgarian Embassy	Skopje
Aleksandra Zogleva	Secretariat for European Affairs	Skopje

Name and surname	Organisation/Institution	City
Diana Zupanoska	Macedonian Centre for European Training	Skopje

Annex 3: Presentations

people**2**people

TACSO Regional Office
Potoklinica 16
71 000 SARAJEVO,
Bosnia and Herzegovina
E-mail: info@tacso.org

TACSO Office Albania
Kotoni Business Centre, Rr.
"Donika Kastrioti",
Ndertesa 3, H.2, Ap. 6
Tirana
E-mail: info.al@tacso.org

TACSO Office Bosnia and Herzegovina
Danijela Ozme 1
71 000 Sarajevo
E-mail: info.ba@tacso.org

TACSO Office Kosovo*
Str. Fazli Grajqevci 55
10000, Pristina
E-mail: info.ko@tacso.org

Macedonian TACSO Office
PO Box 55
1060 Skopje
Visiting address: st.
"Nikola Parapunov" 41A
E-mail: info.mk@tacso.org

TACSO Office Montenegro
Dalmatinksa 78
81000 Podgorica
E-mail: info.me@tacso.org

TACSO Office Serbia
Kneza Miloša 4
11 000 Beograd
E-mail: info.rs@tacso.org

TACSO Office Turkey
Tunus Caddesi 85/8
06680 Kavaklıdere
Ankara
E-mail: info.tr@tacso.org

www.tacso.org

TACS •:•
Technical Assistance for
Civil Society Organisations

SIPU
INTERNATIONAL
SWEDISH INSTITUTE FOR
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

This project is funded
by the European Union.