

## INVITATION

### **Regional Workshop: “NPO engagement in Anti-Money Laundry / Combating Financing of Terrorism (AML / CFT) processes – lessons from the Western Balkan Region and Turkey”**

(online)

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**Time: 10:00 – 12:00**

We are pleased to invite you to the regional Workshop “**NPO engagement in Anti Money Laundry / Countering Financial Terrorism (AML / CFT) processes – lessons from the Western Balkan Region and Turkey**”.

The 2019 Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, found that since 2001, 140 governments have adopted counter-terrorism measures. Some of the measures that have negatively influenced CSOs are:

- National legal provisions restrict key rights to civil society: freedom of expression and opinion, freedom of association, freedom of assembly, and participation right.
- Limitations of civil society access to financial services, refusal to open or arbitrary closure of bank accounts, inordinate delays or termination of transactions, and onerous administrative requirements.
- Accusations of civil society as “threats to national security” or “enemies of the State.”

Recently, NPOs in WB countries and Turkey are facing the same restrictions coming as part of the legal measures indorsed by governments, in response to MONEYVAL recommendations. As MONEYVAL is requesting governments to conduct risk assessments for the NPO sector as an effective way to identify and to address potential risks of abuse, governments have taken different approaches to that regard and are at different stages in conducting the risk assessment.

To address these issues and the efforts of CSOs in countering restrictions in the name of AML / CFT, we invite all interested CSOs from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Turkey to participate and to share their experiences in the regional workshop.

This activity is organized by Partners Albania for Change and Development, in cooperation with European Center for Non-for-Profit Law (ECNL) and Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN), funded by the GIZ Global Project “Combating Illicit Financial Flows”.

To participate in the activity, pre-register at the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkdOytrztH9LxrWZMeqAQ3mu1x0WwNRbc>

The activity is organized in English language.

Once you register, you will receive a confirmation email with information to attend the online event.

## Agenda

9:45 – 10:00

- Registration of participants (Log in)

### **SESSION I 10:00 – 10:30**

#### **General overview of international regulations on AML/FT issues and their impact to NPOs**

Ms. Juliana Hoxha, Director, Partners Albania for Change and Development

- Opening Speech – Introduction to the topic 10 mins

Ms. Marina Kovachich, Regional Coordinator, Western Balkans, GP IFF, GIZ

- Information about the Global program “Fight against illicit financial flow” and the assistance in the WB countries” – 10 mins

Ms. Vanja Skoric, Director of program, European Center for NonProfit Law (ECNL)

- Regional and Global perspective and trends – 10 mins

### **SESSION II 10:30 – 11:15**

#### **Experiences and initiatives of NPOs in the region**

Mr. Viktor Mirchevski, Program Associate, Konekt association

- Collaboration of the government and NPO sector in preparing the Risk Assessment in North Macedonia, lessons learned – 10 mins

Av. Ardjana Shehi, Legal expert, Partners Albania for Change and Development

- Analysis of the legal and regulatory framework on AML/CFT and their impact on NPOs in Albania, key findings and recommendations – 10 mins

Bojana Selaković, Program Director, Civic Initiatives

- The case of “The list” in Serbia, recommendations and engagement – 10 mins

Dardan Kryeziu, Project Director, CIVICOS

- Multi-stakeholder dialogue of NPOs, banking sector and the State – making financial flows secure and available, lessons learned – 10 mins

Rana Kotan, Secretary General, TUSEV

- Application of the FATF Recommendations and its implication on civil society in Turkey – 10 mins

### **SESSION III 11:20 – 12:00**

#### **Open discussion with participants**

- Questions and discussions on the practices presented to increase NPO engagement on AML / CFT issues– 30 mins
- Closing of the workshop – 5 mins