



**EU Western Balkans and Turkey Civil Society Forum 2022
Launch of the EU Guidelines for Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement
Region 2021-2027**

**Wednesday and Thursday 8 – 9 June 2022
Hotel Aleksandar Palace Skopje, North Macedonia**

AGENDA

7 June, Tuesday	
	Arrival of participants
8 June, Wednesday	
08:30 – 09:30	Registration of participants and welcome coffee
09:30 – 10:15	<p><u>Welcome and opening speeches</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Michela Matuella, Acting Director, Western Balkans, DG NEAR – <i>online</i> Mr Bojan Marichikj, Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration – video message <p>Moderator: Mr Richard Allen – EU TACSO Team Leader</p> <p>https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85846688139?pwd=dE1Yd1FFcVVmN3UvS1NlejF3OXZlZz09#success</p>
10:15 – 11:15	<p><u>Plenary session: A new reality. Challenges and opportunities for Civil Society in the Western Balkans and Turkey</u></p> <p>The session will help the participants obtain a shared understanding of the context in which civil society in the Enlargement region operates today. After two years of COVID-19, new challenges have arisen because of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine. CSOs are operating in an increasingly complex environment, marked by economic, social and political challenges, a high degree of polarisation in society, and ambitious change processes, including the green and digital transitions. CSOs are among the first players to see and be affected by the changes. It is therefore important that we hear the voice of the CSOs. The session will be organised as a series of interventions by CSO networks from the region on how they see the current context and what it means for their work, followed by comments from other stakeholders.</p> <p>Interventions from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Danilo Curcic, A11 Initiative Ms Simonida Kacarska, Think for Europe Network Ms Ivana Vojinovic, Centre for Climate Change, Natural Resources and Energy <p>https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85846688139?pwd=dE1Yd1FFcVVmN3UvS1NlejF3OXZlZz09#success</p>
11:15 - 11:45	Break

11:45 – 13:00	<p>Responses to the presentations from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Holger Schröder, Head of Unit, Western Balkans Regional Programmes, Economic Investment Plan, DG NEAR - <i>online</i> • Ms Elitsa Mincheva, Coordinator for the Western Balkans and Turkey, DG JUST Inter-institutional and International Coordination - <i>online</i> • Ms Kalinka Gaber, State Advisor, General Secretariat of the Government of North Macedonia • Ms Isabela Mihalache ERGO Network - <i>online</i> • Mr Toni Vidan, European Environmental Bureau • Ms Sanja Bojanic, UNDP <p>Moderator: Ms Liselotte Isaksson, Head of Section – Civil Society, Social Inclusion and Human Capital Development, DG NEAR D5 (Western Balkans Regional Programmes, Economic Investment Plan)</p> <p>https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85846688139?pwd=dE1Yd1FFcVVMN3UvS1NlejF3OXZlZz09#success</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Plenary session: Launch of the 2021-2027 EU Guidelines for Support to Civil Society in the Enlargement Region (EUCSG)</p> <p>The session is dedicated to getting acquainted with the revised Guidelines. A brief presentation will highlight the key elements, and explain the continuity and differences between the revised and the original version. The methodology applied in the process of creation will be presented, with specific emphasis on how the indicators are formulated within the document. Thereafter, a series of comments from representatives of key stakeholders will follow – focusing on the aspects of the Guidelines that they consider most important. The subsequent breakout sessions will foster a more specific discussion on the operationalisation of the EUCSG 2021 - 2027 in the future period across the three key sections of the guidelines.</p> <p>Video message from Michela Matuella, Acting Director, Western Balkans, DG NEAR – <i>online</i></p> <p>Brief Presentation of the Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Richard Allen, EU TACSO 3 Team Leader • Ms Snjezana Bokulic, Expert in international law - <i>online</i> • Ms Emina Nuredinoska, EU TACSO 3 P2P Manager <p>Comments focusing on what are the key benefits and uses for the guidelines, from the perspective of each intervening stakeholder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Taulant Hoxha, Kosovar Civil Society Foundation/Balkan Civil Society Development Network • Ms Suzana Nikodijevic-Filipovska, Unit for Cooperation with non-governmental organisations, General Secretariate of the Government, North Macedonia <p>Questions and Answers</p>

	<p>Moderator: Ms Liselotte Isaksson, Head of Section – Civil Society, Social Inclusion and Human Capital Development, DG NEAR D5 (Western Balkans Regional Programmes, Economic Investment Plan)</p> <p>https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85846688139?pwd=dE1Yd1FFcVVMN3UvS1NlejF3OXZlZz09#success</p>
15:30 – 15:45	Break
15:45 – 16:45	<p><u>Breakout sessions: Operationalisation of the EUCSG 2021 – 2027</u> Each breakout session will explore the future use of the EUCGS 2021 – 2027, in light of the ‘new reality’ facing CSOs. Crosscutting questions will include the following: How do we see the future implementation of the EUCGS 2021 – 2027? What do we think the major CSO role in this process should be? Are there any expected trends? What are examples of good practice in the application of the EUCGS?</p> <p><u>Breakout session 1: The future of the enabling environment for civil society</u> How do the guidelines help in enlarging, protecting and monitoring civic space? Which are the current and future external factors that may have a (positive or negative) impact on the civic space? Which role can CSOs and other stakeholders play in dealing with these factors?</p> <p>Moderator: Ms Ana Mariguesa, EU Delegation, Podgorica</p> <p>https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85846688139?pwd=dE1Yd1FFcVVMN3UvS1NlejF3OXZlZz09#success</p> <p><u>Breakout session 2: Cooperation between civil society and the public authorities</u> How do governments use the Guidelines for their respective strategies for cooperation with civil society? What are the benefits and challenges for public authorities in the region on working with civil society? How to maximise the benefits? What CSOs may do for strengthening the partnership and structural cooperation with public institutions?</p> <p>Moderator: Ms Irena Ivanova, EU Delegation, Skopje</p> <p>https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84634803992?pwd=ci9uVmlKR3F3MERFbUYyekN2RHlidz09#success</p> <p><u>Breakout session 3: The capacities of civil society</u> How can CSOs use the guidelines in advancing their own organisational development, effectiveness and resilience?</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Dario Di Benedetto, EU Office, Pristina</p> <p>https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82788665978?pwd=cFE0R0xVcE1QQVdmaHBnTVJWcFEwUT09</p>
16:45 – 17:30	<p>Reporting from the breakout sessions and wrap up of the Day 1</p> <p>Moderator: Mr Richard Allen – TACSO Team Leader</p> <p>https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85846688139?pwd=dE1Yd1FFcVVMN3UvS1NlejF3OXZlZz09#success</p>

17:30 – 19:30	Recess period
19:30 – 21:00	Dinner/Reception
9 June, Thursday	
08:30 – 09:30	Registration of participants and welcome coffee
09:30 – 11:00	<p><u>CSOs engagement in relation to four thematic areas (four parallel sessions)</u> Green Agenda for the Western Balkans; CSOs promoting Rule of Law; CSOs and Antidiscrimination, Human Rights, Community Resilience and Poverty; Cooperation between CSOs and Media</p>
	<p><u>Parallel Session 1. Green Agenda for the Western Balkans</u></p> <p>The session will provide information on progress in the implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, tackling priorities on climate neutrality and resilience, circular economy, fighting pollution of air, water and soil, sustainability of food systems and rural areas, and protecting biodiversity. Specific attention will be dedicated to the role of CSOs in the Green agenda, and how to strengthen regional dialogue with civil society to ensure appropriate scope and representation.</p> <p>This session will explore the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, latest developments • Connecting Stakeholders in the Western Balkans; existing structures (Platforms, established networks, lessons learned) • Upcoming Initiative EU4 Green <u>Recovery</u> – Introduction and explanation of foreseen involvement and active participation of stakeholders • Toward the next NGO Forum on Green Agenda: Experiences, lessons learned and way forward <p>Contributors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Haris Abaspahic, Senior Expert on Green Agenda, Regional Cooperation Council • Ms Jelena Milos, Policy Coordinator Environment, Climate Change, DG NEAR D5 (Western Balkans Regional Programmes, Economic Investment Plan) - <i>online</i> • Ms Nevena Smilevska, Just Transition Coordinator for the Western Balkans, Eko-Svest/CEE Bankwatch • Ms Dragana Milesunic, Southeast Europe Programme Director The Nature Conservancy (TNC) - <i>online</i> • Mr Toni Vidan, European Environmental Bureau <p>Moderator: Ms Birgit Schacht, Environment Agency Austria</p> <p>https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86544886974?pwd=dmpqcnJob1poR2hGSjRqNCtCS0JtZz09#success</p>

	<p><u>Parallel Session 2. CSOs role in promoting Rule of Law</u></p> <p>CSOs are essential players in promoting Rule of Law. Many of their day-to-day activities contribute in this area, whether specifically targeting Rule of Law as a theme, or whether part of work in areas such as environment or gender equality. This session will explore how CSOs can engage even more meaningfully in this important area, and what type of support they may require to do so. One key question is how their work can be made representative of broader stakeholders in society.</p> <p>Contributors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Marc Jorna, NEAR D1, Western Balkans Policy & Regional Strategy - <i>online</i> • Mr Aleksandar Krzalovski, South East European Leadership for Development and Integrity - SELDI • Mr Dusan Sabic, Balkan Tender Watch - <i>online</i> • Mr Branko Birac, The Western Balkans Enabling Project for Civil Society Monitoring of Public Administration Reform - WEBER <p>Moderator: Mr Richard Allen, EU TACSO 3 Team Leader</p> <p>https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86910580541?pwd=VzV0c0Z0R2MraDRPa1pLakVWNHdadz09#success</p>
	<p><u>Parallel Session 3. Human Rights, Anti-discrimination, Community Resilience and Fight against poverty</u></p> <p>The session will focus on current trends and best practices in CSOs’ efforts in promoting and protecting human rights, anti-discrimination and poverty reduction in the region. Specific attention will be dedicated to the effects of recent developments (including the COVID-19 pandemic aftermath and impacts of the Russian military aggression against Ukraine) on the most vulnerable/marginalised groups of society, including Roma, other minorities, migrants/refugees, LGBTIQ persons and persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Contributors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Tania Ivanova, Regional Coalition seeking to mainstream gender mainstreaming in the EU Accession process, EQUAPRO • Mr Danijel Kalezic, Queer Montenegro • Mr Adriatik Hasantari, Roma Active Albania • Mr Samir Omerefendic, UNDP/RELOAD • Mr Nafi Saracini, EU Delegation, Skopje <p>Moderator: Ms Ozge Konuralp, EU TACSO 3</p> <p>https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89694806206?pwd=Zms2YUZ2VTBsMjNzSXBaMWhiRmZxUT09</p>
	<p><u>Parallel Session 4. Cooperation between CSOs and media</u></p> <p>This session will stimulate discussion on some of the key issues in regards to CSOs and media cooperation including: How are CSOs using the media to connect and build constituencies? How are media outlets using CSOs to generate stories and increase relevance to their communities? How are CSOs and media outlets working together to increase the accountability of local and national level governments? What is civil society’s role in promoting evidence-based policies, truth and countering disinformation?</p>



	<p>Contributors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms Marija Ristic, Balkan Investigative Reporting Network - <i>online</i>• Ms Ivana Jelaca, Media Diversity Institute Western Balkans - <i>online</i>• Ms Adeline Hulin, UNESCO - <i>online</i>• Mr Ozan Acar, Journalists' association – Turkey• Mr Vuk Maras, Media Association of South-East Europe• Mr Tihomir Loza, South East European Network for Professionalisation of Media - <i>online</i> <p>Moderator: Ms Aferdita Pustina, EU TACSO 3</p> <p>https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83723397441?pwd=QXZ4ODRpdXhLUGR6dVRhbzRTY0NHZz09</p>
11:00 – 11:30	Break and press point
11:30 – 13:00	<p>Reporting back from the thematic sessions</p> <p>Moderator: Ms Liselotte Isaksson, DG NEAR</p> <p>Presentation of the Key Forum Messages, Conclusions and Recommendations, and Closing of the Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Metodija Dimovski, Secretary General of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia• Mr Steffen Hudolin, Head of Cooperation in the Delegation of European Union to North Macedonia <p>https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86544886974?pwd=dmpqcnJob1poR2hGSiRqNCtCS0JtZz09#success</p>
13:00 – 15:00	Lunch and departure of participants