

The role of the social and civil society dialogue in Macedonia

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Civil society dialogue in Macedonia – previous period

- ❖ Ad-hoc cooperation – in the previous period the cooperation was not institutionalized and was realized depending on the personal understanding and knowledge of the director of an institution
- ❖ Positive case studies of dialogue and cooperation have been registered: preparation of laws and national strategies on certain issues
- ❖ The cooperation of the local self-government and civil society organizations is on higher level than the cooperation on national level

Civil society dialogue in Macedonia – previous period

Overview of CPM members initiatives covering public policy
issues 2002-2005

Description	Total initiatives	Succes sful	Partially succes sful	Unsucce ssful	On- going
Laws, changes and additions, amendments	33	10	2	6	15
Motions to the Constitutional Court	2	0	0	2	0
National strategies, programs, etc	24	6	4	3	11
Total	59	16	6	11	26

Civil society dialogue in Macedonia

- the process of institutionalization

- ❖ (The Economic-Social Council established in 1996, however, with limited participation and without a civil society organization)
- ❖ In 2004 the Civil Society Unit in the Government was formed (located in the Secretary General of the Government)
- ❖ In 2007 the Strategy for Cooperation of the Government with the civil society sector was adopted

Strategy for Cooperation of the Government with the Civil Society Sector

- ❖ It was a comprehensive process based on the comparative analysis and inclusion of all stakeholders in the process of creation of the strategic document
- ❖ 6 consultative meetings were held (2 on national and 4 on regional level), in order to integrate the opinions of the civil society organizations

Strategic goals

1. Participation of the civil society sector in the process of policy creation
2. Inclusion of the civil society sector in the process of EU integration
3. Creation of more favorable conditions for functioning of the civil society sector
4. Upgrading and improvement of the legal framework for improvement of the civil society sector
5. Constant development of the civil society sector
- 6./7. Establishment of inter-institutional and cross-sectoral cooperation

Participation of the civil society sector in the policy creation

- ❖ The Government is aiming to develop a system of fundamental principles for inclusion of citizens and their organizations in the process of creation, implementation, monitoring of public policies, as well as to ensure that the needs and priorities of the citizens are reflected in these policies
- ❖ The civil society organizations will participate in the process of decision making and preparation of legislative, by means of participation in public discussions and submitting opinions, as well as by inclusion in the cross-sectoral working groups and governmental advisory bodies (such as, advisory bodies to the Government – Legal and Economic Council, etc.)

Participation of the civil society sector in the policy creation

- ❖ In the Register for Work of the Government the principles and mechanisms are listed which will enable information and active participation of CSOs in adoption of policies, laws and other decisions, as well as active participation in working groups formed in order to prepare these decisions on level of Government and bodies of the state institutions;
- ❖ The draft laws are available to the public through the internet pages of the ministries and other bodies of the state institutions;
- ❖ Measures are defined which will provide participation of representatives of the civil society sector in the work of the advisory bodies to the Government as well as other bodies

Participation of the civil society sector in the policy creation

- ❖ The Government will enable cooperation with and participation of the CSOs in the process of drafting of the Budget of Republic of Macedonia
- ❖ Informing the CSOs in a timely and transparent fashion on the fundamental directions of budget policy and realization of the budget items
- ❖ Creation of a coalition with the civil society sector in order to fight corruption

Participation of the civil society sector in the process of EU integration

- ❖ Establishment of a mechanism for consultation of the CSOs in the process of development of national development plans, operational programmes and other strategic documents
- ❖ Establishment of a mechanism for active participation of CSOs in the process of consultation on the priorities in programming of the pre-accession fund mechanisms – IPA
- ❖ Adoption of Framework Legislation for implementation of the IPA instrument by the Government, after its adoption by the European Commission
- ❖ Preparation of national development plans, operational programmes and other strategic documents

Conclusions

- ❖ In the previous period we witnessed ad-hoc civil society dialogue, with some success on national and local level
- ❖ Adoption of the Strategy is a key framework for institutionalization of the civil society dialogue
- ❖ Inclusion of the CSOs in advisory and working bodies of the Government, which refers to the issue of extending the numbers of members of the Economic-Social Council