

Civil Society in Anti-Corruption: Countering CSO Capture



Challenges of CSO's Fight Against Corruption

Difficulty in raising funds and ensuring long-term sustainability. CSOs are strongly donor dependent.

01

Russian invasion of Ukraine strongly affected CSOs financial viability since donors are revising their budgets, reducing funds for the projects or reallocating them for other purposes.

03

CSOs in the Western Balkans are often seen as watchdogs, in opposition to the government and strongly engaged in monitoring its institutions. CSOs are sometimes perceived as anti-governmental rather than non-governmental. This puts CSOs in an awkward position and can also undermine their apolitical role.

05

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the financial instabilities of media, but also of CSO's. Gatherings and public consultation processes were restricted during the pandemic, which affected the work of CSO's, especially those who provide services.

07

Public funding is still not a viable source for CSOs in Western Balkans and has further decreased due to the coronavirus crisis.

02

Dismissive attitude of governments and public institutions toward CSOs.

04

Media landscape in Western Balkans remains a matter of concern. Media freedom is still far below satisfactory level, and it seems that this matter hardly goes forward over the years.

06

Trust in CSOs remains on a level that is not satisfactory, and they keep being underrepresented in the media, because the lack of media pluralism.

08

Benefits of CSOs' Fight Against Corruption

The basic interest of civil society organizations in engaging with anti-corruption activities mainly relates to the fulfilment of their statutory mission and their positioning in favor of the public interest and good governance.

01

Most CSOs that are working in the field of anti-corruption are based in the major cities and they are more focused on national level with proposing legislation changes, offering expertise and performing oversight over public institutions.

02

The outbreak of the Corona virus epidemic in the Western Balkans happened in March 2020, shifting the focus of the civil sector towards more closely monitoring the activities of the government, especially when it comes to the healthcare.

03

Despite the lack of support from governments, CSOs in the Western Balkans have proven that they can be relevant and irreplaceable partners to their respective states by providing necessary services to the most vulnerable and voicing the concerns of those in need.

04



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