

UNFREEZING THE LOCKS OF BUDGET SPENDING IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA





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Opening word

Dear reader,

How to democratize societies, introduce transparency and responsibility of legislative and executive branches of government, ensure equality for all citizens regardless of their sex, age, nationality and specific needs is a global question for which there is no universal answer. Yet I take liberty to claim that it is very often the case that inequality stems from the fact that all social groups and individuals and communities with additional needs are not represented in the process of creating laws and policies which treat them. They are especially not represented in the processes, from municipal, through city and cantonal, and entity and state, in which budgets are allocated.

During the conference of International Budget Partnership in Amsterdam in April 2018, while listening to experiences from all over the world, I realised that there is a common problem faced by the civil society organizations, professional associations, think-tanks, and that is the lack of specific budget advocacy campaigns. Additionally, when I heard from our colleague Daniel Ditrich from the Ditch HIVOS about the example in Ukraine where patients with AIDS organized their ranks, analyzed the budgets, created proposals for the new budget spending and managed to push it through, in a country somewhat similar to Bosnia and Herzegovina in regards to the complexity of political situation, I was certain that our foundation need to start working in this direction. After ten years of following budgets, raising the citizens' awareness, advocating the introduction of Citizens' Budget as a mandatory document in the Budget Cycle, measuring the openness of budget processes, organizing public forums in municipalities all over the country, the time has come for the Foundation CPI to make a step forward and enter the arena of fight for human rights which should and have to be met by the public budgets.

The rights of children from minority communities, the rights of deaf and hard-of-hearing persons, the rights of persons with intellectual difficulties, the rights of persons whose life depends on the transplanted organ they are waiting for, the rights of citizens to mental health and fresh air, are too important to depend on the good will of the public officials and office holder or domestic and foreign donors. These rights have a firm foundation in the national legislature and international conventions ratified by Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It is time that they, as such, are incorporated in the annual budgets in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The fight has started.

Zoran Ivančić, President
Foundation CPI
The Budget Academy



To Whom Do the Budgets Belong?

Budgets belong to all citizens. This fact cannot be stressed enough, especially since the citizens are used to seeing the budgets spent as those who do not really own them want to spend them. Thus, the impoverished municipalities are buying expensive cars, prisons are buying proteins for the toughest criminals who lift weights, and new water plants are built for the elite neighborhoods. At the same time, the patients from the aforementioned municipalities are taken in clunker vans to receive dialysis using outdated machines, they die from malignant diseases while inhaling polluted air and they suffer from rationing of water of questionable quality.

That is our everyday life. And it has been going on ever since taxes started being collected in this area, which is since the Roman Empire. During the socialist period, money was invested in the development of economy which was social ownership, in the infrastructure and housing stock, health care and education systems, but even then no one asked for citizens' opinion. Exceptions to this were voluntary citizens' contribution – *samodoprinosi* – intended for financing communal needs where citizens participated in the decision-making process, and thematic Self-government Interest Communities in which the delegates from the constituency sat at the table while the decisions were being made on financing the health care, pension and disability systems, on financing the education system, on student standard, on culture and other services. Even the scarce experience and practice of citizen participation in the budget process were soon erased by neoliberal eraser; social ownership was turned into state ownership and then privatized.

In such post-transitional surrounding the citizens and those among them who are entrepreneurs and businesspeople are by far the greatest part of the budget through paying the VAT, income and profit tax, excises, fees, stamp duties, customs, fines, and the public officials are allocating this spending completely autonomously. Due to inertia, these budgets are mostly just copied from the previous year. For reasons of clientelism, the needs of the rich, powerful and influential are financed. For reasons of social insensitivity, the needs of socially vulnerable, marginalized groups of citizens, those with specific needs, are not financed. For reasons of maintaining the voting machinery, numerous veterans' pseudo-civic or para-state war veterans associations and war veteran individuals and their families are financed, without any social census. There is an abundant financing, and no one knows how much, for numerous religious organizations, events, pilgrimages, religious instructions, religious object renovation, and the like.

The citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina are not given a timely access to the budget data in an understandable way, and even the parliament representatives do not get the budget documents in time which would allow them to influence them. For these reasons, the ranking of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the international Open Budget Index is falling, a research conducted and published biannually.

International financial institutions do not burden themselves too much about such state of affairs and work unhindered with the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. All of them promote their advanced policies of transparency, although the money spent by the authorities is not subject to rules of transparency towards the citizens. We made sure of it through our research. Even in the segment of help following the disastrous floods in 2014, the money could have only been followed up to the implementation units led by the local institutions and that is where the true transparency stops.

In order to make the budget process democratic, or more precisely, to use the public money to enable the democratization of the society, civic participation in appending what they had earned, in order to ensure health, socialization and dignity of the citizens, the citizens, civil society and informal initiatives of citizens must be included in the complete budget process from planning to execution of the budgets, on the revenue and expenditure sides. Their articulated and argumentative voice, wishes and needs need to be accepted, and they need to find room for themselves in the budgets in line with the laws, policies and international conventions.

DYNAMICS OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS' INCLUSION IN THE PROCESS OF MEDIUM-TERM PLANNING AND BUDGET MAKING IN BIH



CITIZENS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Send their spending proposals to the competent ministries, for their possible inclusion in the new spending proposals of the ministry (Tables of Priority Budget Beneficiaries Overview) for ministry of finance.

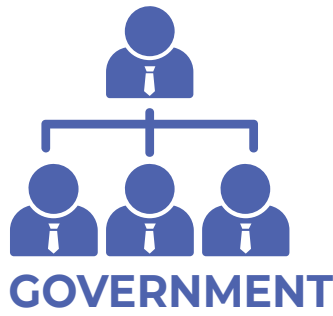
Civil society organizations publish their proposals.

Analyse spending priorities and fiscal strategies listed in MTBF (and compare them with the proposals of civil society organizations).

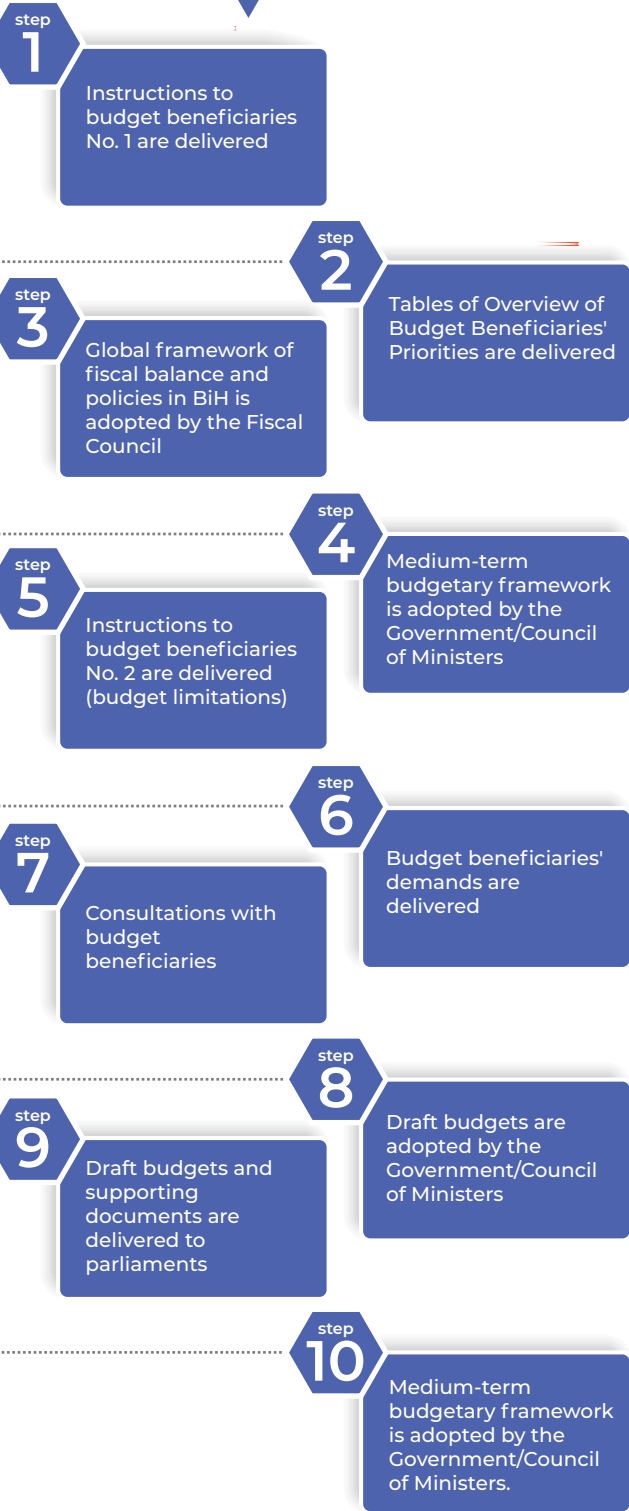
Civil society organizations publish their analyses.

Review and analyze budget proposals, engage in public debates on spending priorities and fiscal strategy.

Civil society organizations publish their analyses and commentaries.



GOVERNMENT



Donor Network of BiH

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Introduction:

Donor Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina was founded in 2001 and it is registered with the Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its headquarters is in Tuzla. The Donor Network works on promoting organ transplantation in the entire Bosnia and Herzegovina. Similar organizations in other countries are parts of ministries of health. There is no ministry of health at state level in BiH, and the responsibilities of such ministry would be organizing, managing, financing, promoting, helping with the creation of legal framework, and controlling the work of such organization. We wish to encourage activities aimed at better organization of transplantation in the entire BiH and increasing the number of transplantation every year. For these reasons, the Association of Dialysis and Transplanted Patients Federation of BiH is one of the active participants of the aforementioned process.

Our mission:

- 1.Raising awareness of the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the importance of organ donation;
- 2.Educating and informing citizens on organ transplantation;
- 3.Including as many citizens as possible in Donor Network of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- 4.Animating and including the key decision makers in the process of Bosnia and Herzegovina accession to the European donor network Eurotransplant;
- 5.Raising awareness of citizens – potential donors and those who are already donors – on the importance of informing their family members about this decision.

Our strategy:

1. Educating population, forums, lectures, assemblies
2. Media – systematic media appearances and shows on certain issues
3. Engaging celebrities as endorsers: sport players, writers, scientists, civil servants, opinion journalists
4. Encouraging and collaborating with the medical authorities for the efficient and united organization of transplantation in BiH, creating waiting lists and organizing so-called deceased-donor organ transplantation in the entire BiH
5. Working on forming the coordination body at the level of BIH Council of Minister which will work on organ transplantation in the entire BiH
6. Collaborating with similar organizations in Croatia, Austria, Slovenia and Germany.

What have we accomplished so far?

So far the Donor Network of BiH, as a non-governmental organization, has around ten thousand signed donor cards. Signing the donor card is still only an act of individual's good will. What needs to be mentioned is that in the last three years, eight organ donors had the signed donor cards and their families respected the will of their close family members who were brain dead, consenting to donating their organs for transplantation. This shows how important it is to raise awareness on organ donation among our citizens, since this was an unheard of some ten years ago.

Our proposal for budget spending – Familiarizing the citizens to the importance of organ and tissue donation and transplantation as the best way of treating patients *Joint proposal with the Association of Dialysis and Transplanted Patients Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

Donating (organ donation) and transplanting are taboos in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Our aim is to educate as many citizens as possible, regardless of their age, sex, education levels, etc. through hard work every day, in different ways.

01. Raising citizens' awareness of the need for organ donation to a high level.
02. Educating medical workers in targeted hospitals and other health institutions.
03. Increasing the number of organ transplantations in FBiH in order to save as many lives as possible.
04. Developing other branches of medicine through transplantation medicine.
05. Decreasing the number of patients treated with dialysis.
06. Making the waiting lists for kidney transplantation and transplantation of other organs shorter.
07. Spending public finance in more efficient and effective ways.

This proposal is considered to be of high priority since there were almost 2800 patients treated with dialysis, out of which almost 200 in the Federation of BiH, based on the Renal Register and Report for 2017. The number of patients with terminal failures of liver, heart, lungs and other organs is unknown, but we can assume that there are around 150 patients in FBiH who need the transplantation of one of the aforementioned organs, as it is their only chance for surviving.

On the other hand, one-third of around 2000 patients with chronic kidney disease who are treated with dialysis (that is, around 700 patients) could receive transplants. In the last 10 years, the number of patients receiving dialysis has increased by 100%. Centers for dialysis are overbooked, and fourth shift is being introduced for dialysis. Apart from dialysis being arduous and conducted every other day for 4-5 hours, it is a very expensive, the most expensive, way of treating patients and, after oncological patients, most public money is spent on treating patients treated with dialysis. When a patient is treated with dialysis, he is not the only one who suffers, his entire family is affected. Patients on dialysis are mostly incapable of working and independent functioning, and most of them have the need for someone else's care and help. Food restrictions are great. They are not even allowed to drink water according to their personal needs. They can only dream of traveling, since they have to receive hemodialysis every other day. On the other hand, the number of organ transplantation is stagnant and it is around 20 transplantations annually, which is eight transplantations fewer than in 2015 when 28 transplantations were done in FBiH which was a record number of transplantations in a single year, but it is still

a small number in comparison with the other countries in the region. Increasing the number of transplantations is an imperative as that type of treatment brings benefit not only to the patients, but also to the entire society.

After the transplantation, patients become capable of working, ensuring their livelihood and paying working contributions. The potential saving is BAM 20,000 for 1 year, which is BAM 200,000 for ten-year-period for a single patient.

The outputs of this proposal are: Increasing the number of transplantations, saving lives through the elimination of terminal disease, increasing life quality, enabling patients to seek employment again, large financial savings (transplantation as a treatment costs less than the alternative), developing other branches of medicine.

International Council of Voluntary Agencies – ICVA

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Introduction:

Since 1996, the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) in Bosnia and Herzegovina was one of the main organizations for supporting the non-governmental sector in the country. ICVA offers services rooted in the needs of non-governmental organizations and other civil society groups. ICVA is an only organization which connects the communities of non-governmental organizations in the state and internationally – thus making advocacy towards the state government and international organizations easier.

Recognizing the importance of local ownership, ICVA restructured the frameworks of its management and membership in 2001. ICVA (Initiative and Civic Action, as it is registered in BiH) is a locally-responsible organization, registered as a non-governmental organization at state level, with staff who are all BiH citizens and Advisory Council formed from the state community of non-governmental organizations and other key participants.

Our mission:

ICVA's mission/purpose is helping non-governmental organizations in improving the achievements of their roles, through help in:

- Cooperating, information sharing and offering mechanisms of joint action;
- Developing the capacities of non-governmental organizations to influence policies of importance for the non-governmental sector and non-governmental beneficiaries (with focus on human rights of the most vulnerable groups – women, people with disabilities, children);
- Taking joint actions of advocacy in the name of non-governmental organizations and sensitive groups in BiH, primarily towards the state government, international mechanisms of human rights protection and other important participants.

Our strategy:

ICVA has a long history in implementing capacity building programs for non-governmental organizations, taking coordinated actions of advocacy towards the state governments and international mechanisms of human rights protection. It currently cooperates with non-governmental organizations and organizations of people with disabilities, and it has achieved active cooperation with key participants in order to influence policies on human right issues.

What have we accomplished so far?

We have:

- Developed, submitted and advocated shadow reports of non-governmental organizations on the implementation of the European Social Charter, ICESCR, and CEDAW in coordinated action with non-governmental organizations focusing on particular vulnerable groups and their rights (women, children, and people with disabilities). The first CEDAW shadow report emphasized the position of women with disabilities;
- Developed recommendations to non-governmental organizations based on the standards of human rights for the enhanced framework of legislations in social/health protection and anti-discriminatory sector in BiH, we have advocated towards the government which has resulted (so far) in four new draft laws on social protection (law on people with disabilities, law on social protection and social minimum, law on the protection of families with children, and law on civilian victims of war);
- Conducted action oriented research on the state and presence of violence against Roma women in BiH, we have compiled reports on monitoring the institutional responses to violence, advocated towards the government and the public, increasing the responsibility of relevant subjects in order to advance mechanisms of protection and prevention;
- Built cooperation with important parliamentary committees in BiH on the institutional participation of non-governmental organizations in issues related to human rights, discrimination, social/health rights, rights of people with disabilities, women's rights (ICVA cooperates with at least four parliamentary committees working on important issues/legislative);
- Founded active networks of non-governmental organizations for the purpose of unanimous appeals to the government – the network is a recognized participant in addressing policies in the field of human rights and antidiscrimination;
- Conducted programs of capacity building for non-governmental organizations and their beneficiaries (women, people with disabilities, children, Roma) on how to demand rights for social/health protection and how to protect themselves from discrimination before institutions.

Our proposal for budget spending – Interpreting sessions, informative and educational programs into sign language

The proposal is considered to be of high priority since 10% of the Sarajevo Canton population is people with disabilities (PWD). Social inclusion of PWD in SC would be achieved through making the media content and services available and through enabling PWD to participate in social life and exercising their political, social and civic rights.

Priority must be put on removing barriers regarding the public media services in order to achieve the availability of information and other programs through mechanisms such as sign language, subtitles, and also to achieve availability of information in case of humanitarian crises (fires, floods, earthquakes, etc.).

The ultimate goal of this proposal would be better inclusion of PWD in decision making and activities related to exercising their rights in their neighborhoods, as well as increasing the responsibility of relevant institutions in implementing national and international legal acts.

Wings of Hope

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Introduction:

Wings of Hope began working in 1995 with the main focus on helping children. The young people were disproportionately affected by war, their childhoods were interrupted, and their access to education was severely limited, while the constant fear from death or injury resulted in mental strain. War also affected their lives by destroying their homes or by resulting in death of their parents. This meant that the psychological development of young people was disrupted by the absence of their families, and that many of them had to seek refuge in orphanages. Bjelave and Mjedenica were institutions which offered refuge to children and the primary project of Wings of Hope was rebuilding them.

The organization continued to grow by opening the Center for Psychological Help to Children, Youth and Adults in 2003. It focused on the importance of continuous education of psychologists, psychotherapists, social workers, pedagogues and psychiatrists in Wings of Hope and in the entire Bosnia and Herzegovina. This center enabled children, youth and adults to receive excellent therapeutic help, with a special focus on marginalized groups.

The fields of Wings of Hope's expertise are: Mental health, education, legal aid.

Our mission:

Advancement of social inclusion and empowerment of women, children, youth and other sensitive groups through promotion and protection of human rights, mental health and support in education.

Our strategy:

Wings of Hope is an organization devoted to beneficiaries and communities, and we have developed three centers: Center for Research and Therapy, Center for Education and Employment, and Center for Legal Aid. Our approach is multidisciplinary and multi-systemic. Our beneficiaries are all marginalized individuals falling through the cracks of BiH society. A team consisting of psychiatrists, psychotherapists, social workers, teachers, and lawyers works together on individual cases to empower individuals and to help them and their families stand on their two feet and become functioning members of society.

Our most significant donors are: Cfd, Feminist Peace Organization, EU Commission, Novo Sarajevo Municipality, World Vision, and numerous smaller donors.

What have we accomplished so far?

Our permanent projects are psychotherapy (CBT, Gestalt, and Family Systems therapy approach), support in formal education, education of professionals, legal aid and employment. In the last fourteen years, 20,000 beneficiaries received support with 80% success rate.

“Support in continued education for adults”; “Integration or Inclusion: redefinition of culture, politic and practice in schools of Canton Sarajevo”, “Cognitive behavioural treatment of violent behaviour” (CBT) is the Foundation’s program for elementary schools. (Continuing project); Needs, challenges and coping strategies of children with disabilities (CWDS) in BiH and their families [World Vision]; Global Practice Bosnia [Denver University]; Let’s empower her [Kvinna till Kvinna]; Balkan Monitoring Public Finance

Our proposal for budget spending – Improving mental health in BiH

Aims of this proposal are:

- Forming expert work group out of people with expertise and professional training for raising collective awareness and mental health importance;
- Implementing activities on understanding mental health and raising awareness about the importance of mental health as a part of general health, on promotion of good mental health and wellbeing, understanding issues surrounding mental health and mental disorders, fighting stigma and discrimination (round tables, conferences, putting up promotional posters in Centers for Mental Health, doctor’s offices, health clinics, etc.);
- Activities improving mental health through increasing protective factors and decreasing harmful factors (developing a handbook on the protection of mental health, making it available in doctor’s offices and health clinics);
- Efficient measures of promotion which result in better quality of life, better social functioning, fitting in society better, decrease in human suffering lower incidence and prevalence of mental disorders (promotion of psychosocial treatment as a course of treatment aimed at preventing excess use and misuse of medicine).

When we consider, on top of the global trends, the specific risk factors for deteriorating mental health of population in Federation of BiH, such as wartime trauma, and grave socioeconomic situation, then we have clear indicators that we are facing numerous challenges regarding the protection of mental health of the population in Federation of BiH. The reform of mental health protection in Bosnia and Herzegovina began in 1996 with the focus being put on care in the community, unlike the approach which was mostly based on traditional hospital treatment of people with mental disorders, and significant results have been achieved in this sense, but they are still insufficient. In this respect, the Ministry of Health of Federation of BiH has passed the Policy and Strategy for Protection and Improvement of Mental Health in FBiH (2012-2020), with the purpose of improving and protecting mental health in FBiH.

- Ensuring the establishment of system for promotion of the protection of mental health, prevention of mental disorders, early detection and action, psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery, and reducing stigma and discrimination.

Such system ensures a more efficient approach to mental health services in community to all citizens of Federation of BiH, as well as promotion of psychotherapeutic treatment.

Association of Dialysis and Transplanted Patients Federation of BiH

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Introduction:

Association of Dialysis and Transplanted Patients Federation of BiH (hereinafter: ADTP FBiH) is a non-governmental organization brought together by a common goal which is the better status of patients who are receiving dialysis, who had undergone organ transplantation, as well as those who are waiting for an internal organ transplantation (heart, lungs, liver, pancreas, kidney), and work on prevention of internal organ diseases, as well as physical and psychological rehabilitation of this group of patients.

ADTP FBiH was founded on March 9th, 2014 in Vitez, and the constituent members of this Association are seven cantonal organizations and the Association.

Our mission is helping members of ADTP FBiH in every sense, and especially in exercising their right to adequate treatment, as well as help in exercising their legal rights and solving other problems which this population of patients comes across.

And last, but not least, the Association works on promotion and raising awareness of citizens' about the importance of donating and transplanting organs as the best possible course of treatments.

Our mission:

Our Association has multiple aims. It is, foremost, ensuring equal treatment for all patients in FBiH who receive hemodialysis. Here we primarily refer to doctors, machines, accommodation capacities, medicine, raw materials and everything else which comes along with this course of treatment. It is clear that transplantations are the best possible course of treatment, and we have devoted special attention to promotion and discussion of organ donation in order to increase the number of transplantations in BiH. Namely, the currently there are around 20 transplantations annually, which is a very little in comparison with the region, Europe and the world.

Transplantation is a course of treatment in which we completely revive a patient, enabling him to go back to work, to contribute to the society, and to not be a burden to the state in the way in which he was when he was receiving dialysis.

We know and we are aware that there are more and better ways to achieve this, so we will never give up on using our actions to encourage the relevant parties to become more engaged in the field of transplantation medicine.

Our strategy:

ADTP FBiH, together with the Donor Network of BiH, is very active in the field of informing the public about organ donation and transplantation, and about promoting transplantation as the best course of treatment for patients with internal organ failure.

Citizens' awareness about this issue needs to be at a high level. In this sense, we organize public forums in different cities in BiH, in schools, at universities, for citizens.

Through street actions and actions organized in crowded malls, we also try to encourage the general population to think and speak about this issue.

In this way, we are also sending a message to institutions in FBiH and entire BiH, especially to those who are in some way connected with this issue, and those are primarily the Ministry of Health of Federation of BiH, BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, FBiH Government, as well as to clinical centers in BiH which should pay more attention to transplantation program.

What have we accomplished so far?

ADTP FBiH was founded in 2014, when there was only a very small number of transplantations in BiH - the average number of transplantations in a year was eight.

Following our comprehensive campaign, jointly with other organizations, and especially with the Donor Network of BiH, the number of transplantations rose to 28 in 2015, which was a great success since the number of transplantations tripled.

In the aforementioned actions, a large number of citizens signed the donor card. Our Association, after a long struggle, succeeded in its efforts to have the Parliament of Federation of BiH to adopt the Law Amending and Supplementing the Law on the Organ and Tissue Transplantation as a Course of Treatment, which should in the following period result in an increase of number of transplantations, i.e. in the number of saved lives.

At our initiative, certain types of medicine were added to the list of essential medicines and are now available to our members.

For the first time in the history of Bosnia and Herzegovina, members of our Association participated in European Transplant and Dialysis Sports Championships.

Our proposal for budget spending – Familiarizing the citizens to the importance of organ and tissue donation and transplantation as the best way of treating patients
Joint proposal with the Donor Network of BiH.

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Introduction:

EKOTIM is an organization which was founded in February 2002 by a group of university and high school students who felt the need to serve as a practical example and raise awareness of the need to protect the environment and nature. At first, the only things they had were their will and the wish to share the idea of the need for the environment protection and preservation to their friends and fellow citizens. Aware of the fact that everyone needs a healthy environment, through the realization of several projects, we have tried to show through a practical example that it is not hard to introduce thinking about environment in one's everyday life. One of the rare organizations which pays attention to the raising awareness of youth, university and high school students, as a foundation for the future generations.

During all the years of our work, through the realization of various projects, this organization grew into a strong volunteer organization capable of identifying different environmental problems and offering possible solutions.

After ten years of work, we have gained experience needed for implementing different projects and initiatives.

Our mission:

Our mission is healthy and acceptable environment for all citizens, while following the principle of sustainable development.

Our strategy:

As we have already stated, we have a strategic approach to raising awareness of youth, high school and university students in particular, thus setting a long-term model which will not become outdated.

What have we accomplished so far?

We have published: Brochure on Waste, Brochure on Paper Recycling, Population Genetic Study on Prentj Salamander, and Brochure on Air Pollution Caused by Traffic.

We have participated in projects such as: Everything You Throw in a River/Lake Today, You Will Drink from the Tap/Faucet Tomorrow, Joint Action for Making the Industry Greener, and Recycle Me – Better for Everyone.

On the National Bells Conference, held on October 20th, 2010 in Sarajevo, Ekotim Organi-

zation received the title of Honorable Environmental Ambassador.

This title is, on the one hand, a reward for the activities the members of the organization Ekotim implemented in the preceding period with the aim of promoting BELLS movement, but also a commitment to continue our work and activities regarding the environment protection. It is important to mention that the activities on the promotion of Bells movement would never have been realized without the selfless engagement of our volunteers.

Kali Sara

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Introduction:

Roma Information Center (RIC) was established in 2007 through the project Support to Roma National Minority in BiH in Effective Advocacy and Reporting. The project was funded by the U.S. State Department and World Vision Inc.

In April 2009, RIC was registered as a non-governmental organization and its full name is Kali Sara – Roma Information Center.

Our mission:

The mission of Kali Sara RIC is the representation of interests of Roma through cooperation with relevant institutions and organization, developing knowledge and skills in the field of human rights and European integrations, strengthening the capacities of youth and women, raising the awareness of BiH public on Roma issues through media, and contributing to the civil society.

Our strategy:

The primary aim of forming RIC is fight against discrimination against Roma through the creation of positive media image about Roma, presenting positive examples from the community, and preserving linguistic, cultural, and historical heritage of Roma population.

What have we accomplished so far?

The activities of the organization Kali Sara – RIC are advocating and lobbying for the solving the problems of Roma in BiH, researching and reporting on the realization of policies/strategies for solving the problems of Roma, monitoring and evaluating the realization of the Strategy for Addressing Roma Issues and Decade of Roma in BiH, organizing public campaigns, educating young Roma, organizing expert meetings, trainings, seminars, creating/designing and publishing promotional materials, publishing books and other publications, informing the public on the issues of Roma through the media, research, analyses and monitoring of the way electronic and print media report on Roma issues.

Our proposal for budget spending – More Funding for Cofinancing Preschool Education for Children from Socially Vulnerable Groups

This proposal of budget spending is proposed by the Kali Sara Organization, together with a coalition consisting of more than 50 experts and organizations gathered around

REYN BiH project. As the title states, the proposal deals with more funding for co financing preschool education for children from socially vulnerable groups, with the final aim of improving the conditions of early development.

The current funding for co financing kindergartens for children from socially vulnerable groups is insufficient. Preschool education in BiH is the weakest point of the education system, since it has the lowest attendance rate in the region, and the adoption of this proposal for budget spending would greatly improve inclusion of children in the system of preschool education in Sarajevo Canton. The specific aims of the proposal are: Determining the current state (rate) of enrolment in SC; Building the capacities of preschool education institutions; Empowering parents; Raising Awareness about the importance of preschool education.

Studies have shown that investing in preschool education is the most cost effective, and that making up for the past mistakes at the later stages of development is very expensive for the state. Additionally, working with mixed groups (34% of socially disadvantaged, 33% Roma children, 33% children paying for the service) ensures reducing discrimination.

In the end, the inclusion of children from socially vulnerable groups would, apart from the short-term benefits, contribute to a more healthy and educated society in the long-term, with less discrimination towards the aforementioned category.

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Introduction:

The Union of Organizations for Support of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, formally established in 2000, has 30 member organizations and a large number of partner organizations throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Our mission:

SUMERO as a union of civil society organizations promotes human rights, representation and self-representation of persons with intellectual disabilities, with the aim of their social inclusion through the development of quality service of support in the local community.

Our strategy:

SUMERO works on the creation of fundamental conditions for the establishment of mixed models of social services for persons with intellectual difficulties through the organization capacity building, training of fieldwork teams providing support to the local community, assessing abilities for independent living, implementing individual programs (training for basic functioning of an individual), setting up units for life in a community, lobbying to the relevant institutions for setting up a mixed model of social services.

What have we accomplished so far?

We have helped numerous persons with intellectual difficulties in the process of their deinstitutionalization, familiarized the public about the significance of such approach in comparison with institutionalization, and provided service users with an intermediate step towards autonomous and independent living. We participated in numerous projects through which we fought against stigmatization and marginalization of persons with intellectual difficulties.

Our proposal for budget spending – Implementing a Strategy for Deinstitutionalization in the Federation of BiH

Based on the budget spending of the Federation of BiH in the recent years and the analysis *Transformation of Social Protection Institutions in the FBiH* and *Establishing the Support Systems for Assisted Living in a Community in the FBiH*, done by Sumero, we can conclude that a sum of BAM 650,000 is realistic for the part of cost, but also as an example of positive practice which would be started by FBiH. We can also attach FBiH

Government regulation limiting new investments in institutions located in FBiH.

This proposal is considered to be of high priority in line with the state obligations considering international commitments, adopted laws and decisions regarding the process of transforming social protection institutions. Currently, there are over 2000 persons with disabilities in institutions in FBiH. The state, that is the entity of FBiH and the cantons allocate over BAM 20 million for these institutions. On average, two million BAM are allocated to these institutions. The existing resources would be redirected to local communities.

financing is insufficient and optional. It is necessary to create a systemic solution and to finance deinstitutionalization from the budget. Strategic documents foresee implementation of such processes which require costs and budgeting. This proposal seeks redistribution of resources and increasing transparency. Some of the results of this proposal in practice would be employing young professional staff who would work with the aforementioned population in the local communities, expansion and growth in other parts of the country, including Republika Srpska, through recreation of positive practices in BiH and the region.

Modules

Introductory Module

The introductory module served the purpose of participants learning about the Budget Academy Curriculum and to set the firm foundation for the successful completion of the training they were about to attend:

- 1.The participants were given all the relevant information regarding the curriculum, including the general aims and curriculum philosophy, as well as the practical details about the outcomes of the training they were about to attend.
- 2.The participants were asked to share information about their organizations (mission and vision of their organization, previous experience in making proposals and lobbying for alternative proposals for public policies for the benefit of their beneficiaries) and their needs and expectations from the training and the trainers in a manner which ensured suitable planning of the training.
- 3.The module also had the aim of providing the training participants and trainers with the opportunity to have contact with each other, to exchange information and to build personal relationship so that they could create constructive learning environment.

01. The first module – The Budget Process in BiH – Advocating through the Budget

One of the primary tasks of this workshop was contributing to the CSO having a better understanding of the budget process, as well as the factors influencing the creation, adoption and implementation of a budget, and to get an insight into the area of public finance in BiH, into the budgetary concepts, instruments and processes currently in use at all 14 government levels in BiH.

The workshop aim was to familiarize the civil society organizations with the aspects of budgeting at all levels of governments in BiH and the basic aspects of program budgeting, in order to be able to conduct a budget analysis and advocate new proposals of budget spending and saving.

Through practical exercises, the participants gained knowledge of when and how they can engage in the budget cycle and make new proposals of budget spending. The end goal of the module was greater inclusion of civil society into the process of budget making which would, consequently, lead to better and more transparent decisions by the government, and to the increase of the governmental responsibility for the results of budget spending.

02. The second module – Inclusion of CSO in the Budget Process in BiH – Creating Alternative Proposals of Budget Spending

This module of the Budget Academy focused on the creation of concrete proposals of budget spending for the Document of Budget Framework 2020-2022 of Federation of BiH and Sarajevo Canton, which would later be harmonized with the line ministries at these two levels of government.

The participants gathered all the needed information for the creation of alternative pro-

posal of budget spending, which related to the explanation of the problem the participants wanted to solve, strategies, plans, laws on which the proposal relies, defining concrete activities and necessary resources during each of the three years, and the expected results.

03. The third module – Harmonizing the Alternative Proposals of Budget Spending – Including CSO in the Budget Process

The third module of the Budget Academy was split in two parts. The first part dealt with the theme of Empowering the Civil Society Organizations in the Field of Sustainability, led by Haris Haverić from organization SUMERO. During the aforementioned presentation, the participants were presented with the examples of good practice regarding organization sustainability, and they had the chance, through practical exercises, to create advocacy maps and to practice approaching the government officials. The second day of the module dealt with the Harmonization of the Alternative Proposals of the Budget Spending – Including CSO in the Budget Process, during which the participants of the Academy had the chance to directly communicate with the government and ministry representatives who attended the meeting, and to present their proposals of budget spending.

04. The fourth module – Anti-discrimination Advocacy – The Fundamental Principles and Advocacy in BiH practice

The fourth module was led by the organization Rights for All. The participants had the chance to learn about the importance of anti-discrimination advocacy and the importance of running a media campaign with the same purpose. During the practical exercises, the participants had the chance to create power maps which they point towards a certain aim during the advocacy campaign.

The end goal of the module was understanding the issue of discrimination and fight against it, as well as the creation of advocacy campaign the participating organizations can immediately start using in achieving their goals. The module was also attended by the beneficiaries of the services provided by the organization SUMERO who presented their personal experiences of discrimination and the stigma they face as persons with intellectual disabilities, and in their personal life, education institutions, and in finding employment.

05. The fifth module – Online Support to Budget Advocacy – Optimizing Webpages and Using Social Networks

During the fifth module the participants had the chance to learn about optimizing webpages, using analytics for learning about the visits to their webpages and individual published items, as well as about the importance of maintaining and updating webpages. Additionally, the participants also attended lectures and practical classes on the use of social networks such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter in advocacy campaigns and advocacy in general. Due to the high level of participants' interest for this issue, a follow-up was organized during in the form of the seventh module of the Budget Academy.

06. The sixth module – Budget Advocacy Practices in the Netherlands

The sixth module dealt with presenting good practices at the international level, from the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The representatives of the organizations Budget Monitoring and Indische BuurtBalie, together with the representatives of the City of Amsterdam presented their experiences with advocacy in the local community and presented a successful model used in Amsterdam. Through the practical exercises and team work, the participants developed new approaches to advocacy and, led by the examples of the organizations of module leaders, they came up with conclusions about the importance of network for inclusion as a platform for group advocacy.

07. The seventh module – Creating Online Content, Using Digital Platforms, Creating Visual Identity, Promotion on Social Networks

The seventh module was held at the request of participants of the Academy who evaluated that they need more knowledge in this field. Apart from learning about online tools and the use of platforms, it also included practical work of the participants with the end goal of creating promotional and communication materials for the activities of the education participants.

The methodology of work was based on the combination of presentation and practice. Through the theory segment, the participants gained basic knowledge in the field of digital marketing, creating digital content and online tools, and during the practical segment, the participants had the chance to test and apply the knowledge they had gained through interactive exercises.

Special attention was given to generating optimized texts for web and search engines, preparing the materials for practice and building of visual online identity. The education focused on practical exercises, with numerous interactive work methods, through which the users learned to use free tools for the creation of optimized online content.

PPCO Workshops

Towards the end of the project, all the organizations, supported by the Budget Academy and CPI staff, held PPCO workshops aimed at detailed, strategic overview of pluses, potentials, concerns and overcoming those obstacles and concerns in the process of budget advocacy. All the organizations expressed their satisfaction with the applied method which enabled them to see something new about the themes they worked on for a number of years and they got new ideas for advocacy.

Individual consultations

On top of joint work during the modules, and considering the specific needs of individual organizations and their aims, a number of one-on-one consults was held in the organizations' offices, about the issues of advocacy in parliament, using digital tools in advocacy, writing proposals for new budget spending for levels other than those covered by the Budget Academy (the municipal and state levels).

Organizers' conclusions

We are convinced that there is a great need in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the region and

the world, for empowering and educating civil society organizations so that they would be able to have a more significant influence on the budgets in their municipalities, cities, regions, cantons or states. The states should recognize that it is in their long-term interest to have competent civil society partners at all stages of the budget cycle.

In order for the education projects to be completed successfully, our experience has shown that it was very important to choose the organizations who are leaders in the fields they are working in and who have the long-term goal of continuing improving the state of that field. It is important that the organizations have enough staff to follow the education program, since very small organizations cannot devote two person per two working days for education, due to work on the ongoing activities. These organizations already know how to follow and analyze laws, public policies and international conventions they refer to during their budget advocacy.

It is a very good practice to cooperate with lecturers from the public sector and to organize consultation sessions with the representatives of the executive and legislative branches since it is a rare opportunity for an open dialogue between the public and civil sectors, and this is where many obstacles and misunderstandings stem from.

Plenty of time needs to be devoted to carrying out the education since it is hard to coordinate the burdens of the leading persons in the organizations and to schedule times when all, or at least most of the participants, can attend a module.

The organizations which proactively communicate their aims online and offline, which have their member base, which are present on the streets and protests, which frequently and in an articulated manner come to informative programs have the highest chance of their budget advocacy being successful.



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In the early days of preparing the concept of the Budget Academy, we have received very important help and encouragement from our colleagues from the International Budget Partnership in Washington, led by Warren Krafchuck and Daniel Dietrich from the Dutch development agency HIVOS.

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