

Technical Assistance to the Civil Society Organisations 2 (TACSO 2) from the IPA Beneficiaries
EuropeAid/133642/C/SER/Multi

**Open Call for Participants
TACSO People 2 People**

**Participation in the Regional Conference:
Open Government, Engaged Citizens – A Learn and Show Initiative to Make Open
Government Partnership Work**

**Tirana, Albania
11-12 September, 2015**

Background information

The general objectives of TACSO are to strengthen the overall capacities and accountability of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) within the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) beneficiaries and to guarantee the quality of services of CSOs and a sustainable role of the CSOs in the democratic process. The main purposes of the project are to:

- Increase and improve the capacity and actions of CSOs;
- Improve the democratic role of CSOs.

The People to People (P2P) component intends to offer CSOs from the beneficiary countries the possibility to interact and network with their national, regional and European-level counterparts and to create new partnerships as well as to visit European Union (EU) institutions, in order to familiarise themselves with EU structures, policy making process, programmes, policies and best practices.

TACSO P2P is supporting the event “**Open Government, Engaged Citizens**”, organized by the FPA “Advocacy For Open Government: Civil society agenda-setting and monitoring of country action plans (EuropeAid/132438/C/ACT/Multi)”. The event comes at an important time for the countries of the Western Balkans and Turkey. Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro joined the OGP in December 2012, whilst Serbia joined in April 2013. All four signatory countries are currently preparing and/or implementing their National Action Plans 2014-2016. In June 2014, Kosovo made a commitment to join the OGP, and in September 2014 Bosnia and Herzegovina became the latest signatory country of the OGP. Turkey is a signatory and awaiting implementation of the National Action Plan.

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is an international platform for domestic reformers committed to making their governments more open, accountable and responsive to citizens. Since its launch in 2011, OGP has grown from 8 countries to 65 participating countries. What is unique to OGP is that it brings together engagement and action from governments and civil society alike. Governments have shown a willingness to adopt the OGP principles and deliver on OGP commitments on openness, inclusiveness and accountability towards their citizens. On the other hand, there is an undeniable role for civil society, acting as a powerful engine fueling the process and in some cases as the driving force pushing their governments to take responsibility for open government.

Objectives and focus

The event “Open Government, Engaged Citizens” will present an excellent opportunity for the Open Government movement in the Western Balkans and Turkey and beyond. The main objective will be to

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launch a Forum where participants will reflect on effective initiatives to further open government and on challenges and obstacles to open government, and how to overcome them. Participants will return home inspired and equipped to pursue an even more ambitious OGP agenda. Furthermore, the event will aim to foster inclusive, accountable and transparent governance and policymaking through enhanced civil society expertise and strengthened dialogue between civil society and governments within the framework of the OGP. Participants will share experiences from their respective countries of how openness can improve public services, drive economic growth, reduce poverty and corruption, and restore public faith in government. Finally, the event will place Regional Cooperation centre-stage as a key priority. The regional approach will serve to highlight good practices and successful initiatives, address the challenges faced, and establish regional support and peer-exchange mechanisms.

The agenda of the event can be found [here](#).

Who can apply?

Representatives of CSOs (associations, foundations, cooperatives, unions) with at least 3 years experience:

- working on issues of transparency, open government, anti-corruption
- working on good governance and citizen's engagement
- conducting research and/or advocacy in the above-mentioned areas (examples of such research/advocacy efforts should be mentioned in application form)

The CSO must be based in one of the IPA countries (please see list below under TACSOS contacts for eligible countries) and should have:

- vision and mission related to OGP (transparency, anti-corruption, open government, good governance etc)
- experience working in the fields relevant to the conference

The CSO representative must have a good command of English to the extent that they can actively participate in the conference.

Application procedure

Interested applicants are requested to complete the [Application Form](#) and send it to the e-mail address of the TACSOS office in their country (see list below) by **18 June 2015** with the subject heading: **People to People: Open Government**. The selection process should be completed by **30 June 2015**. Five participants will be selected per country. Please note that only selected applicants will be contacted.

For selected participants, TACSOS will cover the travel costs (including costs of visas, if applicable), accommodation, meals and refreshments. Further information can be obtained from the TACSOS Web site (www.tacso.org).

If you have any additional questions please contact natalija.gojkovic@tacso.org.

TACSO contacts:

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