

Country Information

Serbia



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Involvement in Development Cooperation/ Development Education projects

Sector Civil Society Organisation (SEKO)
The Federation of NGOs in Serbia (FENS)

Working groups of the platform

SEKO platform for CS, media and culture | FENS

Successes of last year

- **SEKO:** To establish a consultation mechanism with CSOs which would enable their participation in programming and monitoring of EU funds and other international development assistance, the Serbian European Integration Office (SEIO) published the call Programme of cooperation with CSOs, in particular programming and monitoring of the Instrument of Pre-accession assistance. The main actor of the programme is the Sector Civil Society Organisation (SEKO). There are eight SEKOS in the areas of:

rule of law; public administration reform; civil society, media and cultural rights; competitiveness; human resources development; agriculture and rural development; transport; environment and energy

- In 2011 the draft document: "Civil Society Facility 2011-2013" was discussed
- More than 170 CSOs had the opportunity to participate in the consultation process
- **FENS:** founded in 2003 recognizing the need of CSOs to have a stronger, joint voice. Through advocacy efforts CSOs all over Serbia, achieved the new Law on Associations, the formation of a government office for relations with civil society, some financial/tax improvements and introducing the code of ethics for Serbian CSOs. A process of restructuring FENS towards a network was initiated.

Main challenges

Capacity building of CSOs for active participation in public policies and establishing partner relations with State authorities and local self-government bodies | **Inform CSOs** on advantages of functional coalitions and platforms in order to establish a transparent mechanism between members | Work on **inclusion** of hardly accessible and marginalized groups, so that they would not be excluded from this process.

Strategic aim

SEKO: It is envisaged that SEKO will develop and use different communication mechanisms which will gather interested CSOs to engage jointly in issues related to development assistance planning, in particular IPA programming and monitoring in a specific sector.
FENS: reform to become an independent CSO umbrella body that will represent the largest voice of CSOs in Serbia. Aims: partnerships with EU networks, establishment of national funds for co-financing, development of a strategy for an enabling environment for CSOs in Serbia

Main events planned for 2012

SEKO: Continuation of consultation process | IPA programming | EU Progress Report for Serbia
FENS: Organization of the working group for restructuring FENS | Regular meetings of working group