



CENTRI CIVILNIH INICIJATIVA
ЦЕНТРИ ЦИВИЛНИХ ИНИЦИЈАТИВА

THE CENTERS FOR CIVIC INITIATIVES
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OUR MISSION...

--To empower citizens to fulfill their interests and improve their influence in decision - making--

Since its early beginnings in 1998, CCI has made tremendous efforts to contribute to raising awareness among individuals and groups of citizens to establish more effective cooperation with their elected representatives. CCI works to improve government accountability and launches different campaigns to introduce new or change the existing legislations and policies to better meet citizens' demands and become aligned with democratic principles and the EU standards. CCI supports the efforts of other civil society organizations through grants, transfer of know-how and joint coalition work.

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ACCRONYMS

BiH - Bosnia and Herzegovina

FBiH - The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

RS - The Republika Srpska

LW -Local wards

1. Executive summary

CCI continued to monitor the government performance in BiH in 2013 and inform the public about the performance results at the cantonal, entity and state level. Over the course of 2013, CCI publicized almost 100 reports on government performance, based on the information from more than 700 sessions of both executive and legislative government. The monitoring efforts covered the work of 136 ministries and 220 committees and other parliamentary bodies, as well as performance of more than 760 public officials.

As part of its advocacy efforts and fighting corruption in the healthcare and education sector, CCI completed its campaigns for the adoption of a Corruption Prevention Regulation. A total of 48 healthcare institutions across the country adopted the Regulation. Also, on CCI's initiative, the Ministry of Health of the Republika Srpska (RS) introduced an obligation for the healthcare facilities under which they should report on the implementation of the Regulation and Strategy for prevention of corruption in the RS. Since taking effect, there were specific cases of processing corruption in three healthcare facilities in the country: Zenica, Brcko and Tuzla.

In order to continue anti-corruption in the area healthcare and strengthen the watchdog and monitoring role of civil society and raise anticorruption awareness, CCI launched another campaign for the adoption of Integrity plans. The target institutions included health ministries and health insurance funds in the RS, FBiH and three cantons, Herzegovina-Neretva, Tuzla and Canton of Sarajevo. The Working group of the project wrote up a draft Integrity plan (in line with the point 2.14 of the Anticorruption strategy action plan in BiH) and submitted to the target institutions.

In the education sector, CCI and its partner Transparency International BiH (TI BiH) completed teacher education on ethics and fight against corruption. The activities involved more than 1800 teachers from more than 400 elementary and high schools across the country. In addition to theoretical concepts of ethics, corruption, bribe and other issues, the lectures also included some contemporary teaching methods.

Based on CCI's positive experiences and acceptance of direct communication as a preferred form of communication between elected representatives and citizens, CCI organized more than 70 public events such as public meetings, forums of accountability, budget discussions, gathering more than 2.500 citizens and 120 government representatives. This way, both citizens and government representatives were given the opportunity to discuss some of the top priority issues and the ways to resolve them.

More than 150 representatives of 30 civil society organizations participated in capacity building training program, which was tailored to the needs and requirements identified by the organizations themselves. Also, CCI awarded four new grants in 2013 and closed the Public call for project proposals under the CAPP II project. Over the course of this five-year project, CCI awarded total of 80 grants in the total amount of 5.441.309.03 US \$.

In order to achieve more responsible public spending and to increase participation and influence of citizens, civil society and business sector on budgeting at the local and higher government levels, CCI successfully completed the campaign for the adoption of the new Budget Law in the

FBiH. The Bill including the amendments proposed by civil society organizations was adopted in December 2013. CCI also launched a specially designed web portal **www.budzetnarodu.ba (budget to the people)** providing detailed narrative, video and graphic overview of the budgeting process in BiH, qualitative analyses of budget drafts, tips/reasons/tools for engaging citizens, civil society organizations and business sector in budgeting at different levels in BiH.

Also, on initiative of CCI and with support of many civil society organizations, the Parliament of the Federation of BiH adopted the Law on Games of Fortune in November 2013. It secures a permanent source of funding, especially to the organizations representing the interests of socially vulnerable groups.

In collaboration with its partner Youth Communication Center from Banja Luka and with maximum involvement of other stakeholders such as ministries, public employment service, parliamentarian committees and experts, CCI publicized the analysis of employment policies in BiH, with a list of recommendations for reforms in this area. This was the launch of advocacy campaign aimed at improving the role of Public Employment Service and public employment policies and measures.

With respect to CCI's efforts to improve local government performance, CCI and its partner NGO DON from Prijedor with support of more than 50 NGOs from all over BiH identified some initial solutions to improve the work of Local wards, as the key mechanisms for civic participation in local decision-making. The Parliament of the Republika Srpska approved the Law on Local Self-government, granting the Local Wards an obligatory status. In the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the House of Representatives approved the draft of the amendments to the Law on the Principles of Local Self-government; however it was rejected by the House of People, due to poor presence of the MPs in favor of the Law (only 43 out of 59 MPs were present during the vote). Also, leadership of 7 municipalities changed and amended their Statutes and created a number of possibilities for a more substantial role of Local wards in their communities.

In January 2013, CCI conducted another study on civic participation in decision-making in BiH. The analysis revealed that 2012 is another year during which BiH missed the opportunity to improve civic participation and utilize it as a stable foundation for making substantial social progress. The government still holds decision-making in their own hands, mainly applying archaic approaches to collaboration with citizens, who, on the other hand, mostly observe what has been happening with a level of disapproval toward primarily consultative role that they have had (which also is not available to everyone).

CCI and its partner CSPC (the Civil Society Promotion Center) will implement the Civil Society Sustainability Project in BiH over the next five years. It will advocate for more enabling legal and fiscal environment for civil society, on issues such as individual and corporate philanthropy, social entrepreneurship, CSO self-regulation mechanisms, and relations between CSOs and government. CCI and CPCD announced a public call to assist selected 10-12 CSOs to: 1) partner with a wide array of stakeholders from business, government, media sectors; 2) strengthen their internal capacities and organizational structures to ensure sustainability and financial viability; and 3) increase engagement in policy development and government monitoring and oversight of key structural, political, social and economic reforms essential for EU integration for NGOs. The

program will help civil society more effectively influence and oversee development and implementation of government policy.

CCI registered approximately 1250 media appearances in 2013, maintaining a growing publicity of its efforts and activities.

2. THE CIVIC ADVOCACY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT II I - CAPP II

In August 2013, CCI completed the five-year project designed by CCI to respond to the need for improved CSO capacities in the area of coalition advocacy, particularly in terms of initiating structural reforms in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project also responded to the need to build partnership with government to implement systemic solutions for the priority citizens' problems¹. It created a permanent and accessible source of objective information about the government accountability, efficiency and effectiveness.

In the final year of the project, CCI continued to monitor the performance of 26 government institutions in the country. CCI publicized the annual reports for 2012, the reports for the first three months in 2013 and the six-month reports. In 2013, CCI publicized close to 100 reports and presented the main findings through 50 press conferences across the country. By August 2013, CCI collected and analyzed information from more than 700 government sessions, while directly attending 200 sessions. The monitoring efforts involved 136 ministries and 220 committees and other parliamentary bodies, scrutinizing and assessing the performance of 760 public officials (MPs and ministers).



Press conference in Sarajevo, October 28, 2013

All of CCI's statements regarding the government performance reflected serious concerns about the government's lack of focus on the key existential problems.

Despite the fact that CCI has worked hard to establish partnership with government representatives and promote both constructive dialogue and criticism, unhappy about the information about poor individual performance, high salaries and benefits, the Collegium of the House of Representatives of the BiH Parliament banned CCI's representative from attending the session on April 18, 2013. The explanation behind such a move was CCI's failure to submit the information about its financial operations.



www.klix.ba

¹ Problems identified and analyzed in the document "Civic Platform for Elections 2006" include corruption, unemployment, improving position of young people, slow EU integrations...

The move sparked serious reactions and debates at the session of the House of Representatives. The decision to ban CCI from attending the session hit the headlines of all central news programs in the country for days. CCI also issued its press release stating that "running away from responsibility for the situation in the country, the mis-performing government creates scandals and makes up problems where there aren't any, getting in conflict with the one of the most persistent critic of its poor performance."

US Ambassador in BiH also reacted to the Parliaments' decision. He gave support to CCI and invited the MPs to reconsider their decision. In addition to posting his comments on his blog, the Ambassador also gave a statement to FENA news agency (April 18, 2013), followed by a press release issued by the Embassy, condemning the Parliament's move and supporting CCI's efforts.

Swedish ambassador in BiH also reacted, saying that his embassy, as well as other embassies in BiH, were concerned about the decision of the institution that should be an example of setting democracy.



The US Ambassador's response

The OSCE Permanent Council discussed the issue during the 950th session of the Council in Vienna on May 2, 2013, whose representatives invited the Collegium to reconsider and revoke their decision. Many local and international NGOs in the country condemned the decision and gave their support to CCI (Women to Women, Center for New Initiatives, Polis, ACCOUNT, Info House, TI BIH, Vaša prava, Front, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Zašto ne, Forum of Citizens of Tuzla). Eventually, the Collegium decided to allow CCI's representative to attend the sessions in the space provided for journalists.



An important segment of CAPP II was improving and facilitating communication between citizens and government representatives.

Citizens rarely have the opportunity to directly communicate with their elected representatives. On cantonal level, legislative government representatives are poorly informed about citizens' problems and there is a serious lack of communication between them. Citizens rarely have the opportunity to meet with them, and even if they do, it is done through party branches. On the entity level, citizens and MPs meet mostly during election campaign, unless citizens are active members of some party, but even then, he or she has the opportunity to communicate only with MPs belonging to the same party.

In order to facilitate communication between elected representatives and citizens, CCI organized 28 public meetings in 2013. These events gathered more than 1500 citizens and 80 MPs.

Several public meetings were organized purely as events gathering citizens and government members, allowing MPs to present their performance results and engage in discussion with citizens about different problems citizens have been facing. CCI distributed over 600 copies of reports on monitoring government performance in BiH.



Public meeting in Drvar, October 2013

Another set of public meetings involved thematic sessions on employment, healthcare, education, corruption, youth issues, country's development opportunities, agriculture, etc.

This form of communication was perceived as something new and positive for both MPs and citizens/interest groups. Many calls from citizens indicate support to this form of communication. Citizens called CCI's offices leaving their contact information and expressing willingness to be engaged in the future events.

All public meetings were filmed by CCI's TV crew and the video materials were used to make 30-minute TV shows aired by BHT, free of charge.

In 2013, CCI also completed advocacy for the adoption of anticorruption strategic documents in the areas of healthcare and education, and monitoring of the implementation of the documents. The Corruption Prevention Regulation was adopted by 48 healthcare facilities. Also, as proposed by CCI, the RS Health ministry introduced an obligation for healthcare facilities under which they should report on the implementation of the Regulation and Strategy for prevention of corruption in the RS. Besides its role in preventing corruption, the Regulation delivered some specific results in a number of healthcare facilities. General Hospital Brčko, Health Service Tuzla and Cantonal Hospital Zenica processed and suspended medical staff based on the charges filed by citizens in accordance with the anti-corruption measures listed in the Regulation. In Zenica, the Anticorruption team processed a nurse on charges of taking bribe. In Brčko, based on the corruption charges, the Hospital processed a medical doctor (gynecologist), while in Tuzla, the hospital launched disciplinary procedure against a Doctor of Medicine.

CCI and its partner Helsinki Committee for Human Right in the RS (HORS) also implemented the campaign for the adoption of additional anti-corruption measures at the General hospital „Sveti vračevi“ in Bijeljina. The goal was to improve transparency and efficiency of medical services. The Working group included the representatives of the Hospital, the Prosecutor's office in Bijeljina, the Center for Public Order Bijeljina, CCI and HORS. The Working Group identified several specific measures that would contribute to reducing corruption, primarily through proper administration of available waiting lists and access via web page and notification boards.

In the education sector, CCI and its partner TI BiH completed education cycle on corruption and ethics in education. The last education event took place in Travnik on February 14, 2013, gathering teachers and school workers from the Central Bosnia Canton. As results of CCI's

efforts, school teachers involved in the project will continue to organize lectures on ethics and anti-corruption through social science classes.

As a reminder, CCI, TI BiH and the representatives of respective entity and cantonal education ministries and pedagogy institutes organized 18 large sessions on ethics and anti-corruption in all significant educational centers in the country. More than 1800 teachers and pedagogues from more than 400 primary and secondary schools attended the lectures, which, besides theoretical concepts of ethics, corruption, bribery, and other related notions, included some contemporary practical methods of student education.

In the area of civil society capacity building, CCI organized 7 trainings and one study trip to Slovakia. The training modules reflected the needs and demands of civil society organizations. They also reflected the demands submitted through evaluation forms. The training included project management (monitoring and evolution, designing and implementing EU projects, management challenges, time management), public advocacy and taxation issues in NGO sector.



Training on taxation issues in NGO sector, April 2013

Training on advocacy and management of EU projects was delivered using in-house capacities, while the other trainings involved hiring expert agencies. The selection of expert agencies and consultants was based on several parameters such as recommendations and history of the organization, financial framework, specificities of the program, etc.

The goal of the study trip to Slovakia was to offer the grantees and CCI staff members an opportunity to gain new knowledge and skills that may be needed in their future work (watch-dog, public advocacy, legislative campaigns, anti-corruption, public policies, good management); to share information and experiences with similar NGOs in Slovakia and to learn about funding opportunities during the pre and post-accession to EU. Six representatives of CCI's grantees and three staff members traveled to Slovakia where they attended 11 meetings --10 with different NGOs and one meeting at the NGO Council of the Slovakian government.

In sum, about 150 representatives of more than 30 CSOs from BiH took part in the capacity building program under the CAPP II program.

In the area of financial support to CSOs in BiH, CCI awarded four new grants in 2013 and closed the Request for Applications under the CAPP II program. During the five-year period of time, CCI awarded **80** grants in total amount of **5,41,309,03** USD in the following fields: **Anti-corruption** (17 projects - 1,017,073,70 USD); **Constitutional reform** (7 projects 504,434,00 USD); **Public spending** (9 projects - 673,503,21 USD); **Reducing unemployment** (10 projects 850,221,45 USD); **Youth** (4 projects 359,550,00 USD); **General elections 2010** (16 projects **968,518,19 USD**); **Local elections 2012** (11 projects **315,364,32** USD); **Other reforms** (5 projects 449,884,16 USD); **web portal Žurnal** 302,760,00 USD.

3. BUDGET

In late 2012, CCI launched a two-year project aiming to achieve more responsible public spending and to increase civic participation and influence in the budgeting process in BiH. One of the main problems is that the budgeting process takes place without citizens' presence. Drafts of budgets in municipalities are mostly general and inaccessible to citizens, civil society organizations and business sector, so that they are not able to provide constructive comments. On the other hand, awareness of the importance of budget is rather low among the public, and there is also lack of information about the budgeting process - a number of citizens who have knowledge about the budget cycle and steps in creating the budget is rather small.



The study of enforcement of the existing budget legislations (City of Mostar, City of Banja Luka, municipality of Tuzla, Canton of Sarajevo, state level and entity level), identified the causes of the problems in this area, such as lack of possibilities for citizens to access and understand budget proposals adopted in their municipalities, differences in the contents of the budget, delays and lack of time to engage in a constructive public dialogue etc. The analyses done in line with the COFOG methodology, served as tool to formulate the proposals for the improvement of the policies in the area of budget legislations. In late 2012, CCI submitted the initiative for the adoption of new Law on Budget of FBiH. In the first quarter of 2013, the FBiH Finance ministry created a pre-draft of the Law, and even at this stage it had some improvements in terms of more transparent budget cycle, more responsibility and fiscal discipline. On CCI's initiative, right before parliament vote on the Draft Law, the Finance ministry organized a Public meeting and presented the legislation.



Discussion on draft Law, Sarajevo, June 2013

More than 40 participants (parliamentary bodies, political parties, NGOs and international organizations) discussed the text of the draft law and provided recommendations for its improvement during public debate. In late June 2013, the Draft Law was approved by the FBiH Parliament (both Houses). During the public debate, CCI submitted a set of amendments introducing new instruments of transparency, participation and responsibility of the budget policy and processes.

The Proposal of the Law with the amendments was endorsed by the Government in September and it was officially adopted in the Parliament of the FBiH in December 2013. Similar activities were launched in the RS and at the state and local level. In cooperation with complimentary projects (Local government and Citizens II) and other organizations (Fiscal monitor, CPI), CCI organized four roundtable meetings in September (Doboj, Livno, Zenica and Foca) to inform local administrations about macro-policies in the area of public finances and the importance of transparent and participatory budgeting process.



The project also designed and launched a specialized web portal www.budzetnarodu.ba (**budget to the people**), providing detailed narrative, video and graphic view of the budgeting process in BiH, analyses of budget drafts and tips/reasons/tool for citizens, CSOs, businesses to engage in the budgeting process in BiH at different levels. The promotional campaign of the web portal and CCI's efforts in the area of public finance was launched in June 2013.

Sarajevo, June 2013, The promotional event took place in the National Gallery of BiH in Sarajevo, which is currently closed for public. This was a symbolic message regarding public spending. In order to engage CSOs and media and build their capacities in this field, CCI organized two trainings on public finances, covering a range of issues such as the importance of budget, budgeting process, legal framework, methodologies, type of budget revenues, budget policies and practices.

Both trainings included two-day programs, with a series of practical exercises involving budget analysis according to COFOG classification.

In order to actualize public participation (citizens, CSOs, business sector) in budgeting as a topic of primary social importance, CCI launched a documentary project. Its public promotion is expected in 2014.

4. GAMES OF FORTUNE

Gaming is an area that lacked regulation, which left room for tax evasions and different types of embezzlement. In order to continue its long-term efforts, CCI's focus in 2013 was on normative reforms in the area in the FBiH. The goal was to secure systemic solutions and funding for some social needs, groups and organizations, and a permanent source of funding for projects, programs and organizations of a wider social benefit. CCI conducted the analysis of the situation and practices early in the project. It also examined the positions of the key stakeholders. CCI established permanent and constructive collaboration with organizations providing social and humanitarian services, primarily with organizations of persons with disabilities.

In late 2012, the project formed a Working group engaging the members of Finance ministry, organizations of persons with disability, gaming providers, Lottery BiH, Taxation authority and CCI. The goal was to prepare the text of the new Law on Games of Fortune in the FBiH and launch an advocacy campaign.



Roundtable in Sarajevo, July 2013

In early 2013, the Working group prepared the Pre-draft Law and submitted an official initiative to the Government and Parliament of the FBiH requesting them to program the adoption of the new law in their Work program for 2013. The work programs of the executive and legislative government of the FBiH contained the adoption of the new law. Despite the fact that the Pre-draft Law was submitted to the FBiH Government in April 2013, due to political crisis in this entity, the Government was not in sessions for two months and the Law was considered as late as mid June 2013.

In order to promote the efforts and exert pressure on government officials, CCI organized street actions in Sarajevo and Mostar in June and July 2013, several days prior to the vote on the draft Law in the House of Representatives. The Draft Law was approved in the House of Representatives on July 24, 2013 and entered a 60-day public consultation.



Street actions in Sarajevo, June 2013

During this time, CCI organized a central conference gathering all relevant stakeholders to discuss the draft law.

The Draft Law was adopted by the House of People on September 12, 2013, and entered another two-month public consultation.

During public consultation, CCI convened meetings with stakeholders in order to harmonize different opinions, proposals and amendments and create a Proposal of the law. It is expected that the government would endorse the Proposal in late December, and its approval in the Parliament should take place in the first quarter of 2014. Regardless of the fact that the project was formally completed on November 30, 2013, CCI will continue its advocacy efforts until the law is adopted and in effect.

5. IMPROVING PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE EFFICIENCY: FOR MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND LABOR RIGHTS IN BIH

The current employment system is inefficient and cannot respond to contemporary labor market requirements. As a consequence, Bosnia and Herzegovina constantly registers a growing number of the



unemployed, which in July 2013 exceeded 550.000². Another serious problem is existence of a so called "grey" labor market and scarce appropriations for active employment policies in relation to passive policies, which, in fact, are type of social aid. State employment service that dominates employment intermediation market and that has been spending enormous amounts of funds for this purpose, registers poor results in reducing unemployment. Legal framework regulating labor and employment sector, including compensations for the unemployed, is only partially reformed and insufficiently harmonized with international standards, EU requirements, and real labor market requirements.³ Employment, as one of the key problems, is top priority on citizens' list, and as such is defined in the document Civic platform, and is also found in BiH Development strategy. The campaign's aim is to change the existing legislations regulating the work of Public



Employment Service - policy analysis, formulation of legislation amendments and policy proposals through participation of stakeholders.

The activities aimed to improve responsibility and efficiency of Public Employment Service - to establish monitoring of the implementation of work plans and to public reports with recommendations for the improvement of the current situation.

In collaboration with the project partner -Youth Communication Center (OKC) from Banja Luka, and with maximum involvement of the key stakeholders such as ministries, public employment service, parliamentarian committees and experts, CCI publicized

the analysis of employment policies in BiH, with a list of recommendations for reforms in this area. This was the launch of advocacy campaign aimed at improving the role of Public Employment Service and public employment policies and measures.

The analysis "Efficiency of employment policies in BiH: recommendations and chances" was presented during the conference organized by CCI on October 28, 2013. The event gathered more than 50 representatives of respective ministries and parliamentary committees, managers of public employment service units, including the BiH Labor and Employment Agency, entity and cantonal agencies, associations of employers, labor unions, health insurance funds, EU, embassies in BiH, international organizations, NGOs, media etc.

The analysis was also additionally promoted during two public hearings in the National Assembly of the Republika Srpska and Brčko District, where the participants (mostly government officials) had the opportunity to provide their comments and contribute to conclusions and policy recommendations.

In 2013, CCI also monitored the work of all 14 public employment agencies and published two reports. In order to inform the public and ensure information in the area of employment in BiH, CCI launched a web site www.posaonarodu.ba, with all relevant information in the area of labor and employment, thematic analyses, reports on monitoring, job ads, grants for employers and other information beneficial to the unemployed and



² Data from BiH Agency for Statistics; www.bhas.ba

³ CCI; Analysis of employment policies in BiH, 2013; www.cci.ba

employed individuals. The site registered more than 6,000 visits during six months. CCI also organized street actions in Mostar and Banja Luka and distributed more than 6,000 flyers and 100 posters to local employment agencies. At the end of the year, CCI sent out policy initiatives to over 100 different addresses of government institutions, parliamentary committees, ministries in order to have them include the adoption of new employment measures in their Work programs for 2014. This was at the same time the official launch of CCI's advocacy campaign.

6. FIGHTING CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC HEALTHCARE

Corruption in BiH has taken on the features of systemic corruption. It is undisputable that over the years government in BiH only formally fought corruption, however, legislations or mechanisms, which in fact do not contain any limitation to fight corruption more effectively, have not been adequately enforced. Several local CSOs⁴ and even government institutions have confirmed high level of corruption in BiH, and public opinion surveys show that public healthcare is one of the most corrupt sectors in the country. According to EU assessments, BiH has made limited progress in combating corruption, which is still widely spread in public sector and public-private partnership. The legal framework is regulated to a great degree, but sanctions should be aligned across the country. Corruption still affects all segments of life, economic development and rule of law. The latest EU report clearly points that there are delays in the implementation of BiH anti-corruption strategy and the 2009-2014 action plan.

The main goal of CCI's efforts in 2013 was to contribute to reducing corruption through improving preventive activity and adoption of anti-corruption measures, strengthening watchdogs and the monitoring role of civil society, and raising anti-corruption awareness through a public campaign. The target institutions were health ministries and health insurance funds in the RS and FBiH and Herzegovina Neretva Canton, Tuzla Canton and Canton of Sarajevo.

The first step was to conduct a situation analysis with regards to the anti-corruption measures. It screened the existing anti-corruption measures in targeted institutions, alignment with the Anticorruption strategy of BiH and Action plan, and it provided a set of recommendations. The general assessment is that the targeted institutions only formally fought corruption; however most of them were not familiar with the obligatory measures and dynamics of the measures listed in the Action plan.

CCI also conducted a public opinion survey, which indicated that very small number of citizens believed that corruption in public healthcare was reduced; most of them believed that it was at the same level as last year or that it even increased.

Approximately 50% of respondents believed that the top measure that should be undertaken in fighting corruption was to introduce stricter sanctions for healthcare workers and control and oversight measures in all healthcare facilities.

⁴ Besides CCI, TI BiH, Center for Humane Politics, Tender, etc.

In 2013, CCI organized the first meeting with the Anti-Corruption Agency BiH and agreed to develop a draft memo of cooperation. The working group gathered the individuals from the target healthcare facilities, Anti-corruption Agency BiH, CCI and three other NGOs. It created a draft Integrity plan in line with the point 2.14 of the Action plan for the implementation of the anticorruption strategy in BiH. The draft Integrity plans were submitted to the targeted institutions, and so far there are some positive indicators of their adoption by several institutions.



Working group meeting, Sarajevo, October 24 2013

In late 2013, CCI worked on monitoring reports to address the progress made in preventing corruption in the healthcare sector, based on the correspondence and anti-corruption documents adopted by the healthcare institutions.

6. LOCAL ADMINISTRATION AND CITIZENS II - LUG II

Quality of life is a key concept that has lately become more significant in the field of social science. Because of its comprehensive nature, quality of life takes into account both objective conditions in which people live and subjective assessment of individuals regarding available material resources and prospects of their society. The goals set by CCI involved the efforts to improve the work of local authorities, especially of the executive government, in order to improve quality of citizens' life in 14⁵ target municipalities in BiH, through the implementation of different mechanisms for civic participation, monitoring and informing of citizens about the



Forum of Accountability in Bijeljina, March 2013

indicators of quality of life at the local level and problem solving campaigns across communities. In 2013, CCI organized forums of responsibility (in March and in July) in nine out of 14 municipalities, drawing around 800 citizens.

At these events citizens asked almost 400 questions. In Bijeljina, Forum of Accountability has become a standard form of communication between local authorities and citizens, as defined in the new City Statute.

CCI also conducted a survey to examine quality of life in 14 target municipalities. The reports were presented at the press conference in Banja Luka on June 7, 2013. The promotion of the reports continued through local media outlets. At street stands across BiH, CCI opened a book of priorities for citizens to write down their priorities the local authorities should tackle in order to

⁵ Bihac, Banjaluka, Livno, Travnik, Zenica, Dobo, Bijeljina, Tuzla, Pale, Novo Sarajevo, Foca, Trebinje, Mostar and Siroki Brijeg

improve quality of life at the local level. About 500 proposals were collected in 13 municipalities in BiH.

In early September, CCI organized four roundtable meetings "Strengthening the role of local wards (LW) in budgeting process", drawing LW representatives, NGOs and local authorities. Prior to roundtable meetings taking place, CCI conducted a survey among local wards (June, July), when there was an apparent need for additional consultations in early stage of the budget development, when there are higher chances for LW's proposals to be considered and built into the budget. After the roundtables, CCI submitted official initiatives to the municipalities in early October 2013.

The roundtable participants received the Initiative for the adoption of the Decision on implementation of consultation meetings with local wards in early stage of budgeting process. Two municipalities, Travnik and Bihac, have adopted the Initiative and launched their activities necessary to adopt the Decision.

In late October 2013, CCI also launched a local campaign in Bijeljina advocating for a construction of public fountain and public toilet. Bijeljina is the only local community in the region with more than 100,000 people that does not have any public fountains or public toilets. The campaign drew significant media attention and support of citizens and political parties. In late December, the City Assembly adopted the initiative.

One of CCI's activities was to define the level of fulfillment of 2012 local election pledges. The report covered 13 municipalities/cities and it was presented at the press conference on December 19, 2013 in Doboje. The study showed that most candidates and political parties did not have election platforms. Out of 156 pledges registered during election campaign, 39 or 25% were completely fulfilled, 65 or 42% partially fulfilled, whereas 52 or 33% were not fulfilled at all.

Ahead of the budget adoption period (November/December), CCI organized budget focus groups in 13 local communities. Discussion regarding the allocation of funds tackled several issues such as financing of LW councils, scholarship policies, improvements of quality of student life etc. Following the focus groups, CCI submitted proposals for budget drafts. Municipality of Tuzla adopted the budget and increased it by 10,000 KM intended for student scholarships.

7. NEW LOCAL WARDS FOR NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN BIH

According to CCI's survey results, almost all respondents in the Federation and the Republika Srpska believed that the current model of local wards mechanism was not functional and should be changed. This view comes mostly from citizens' belief that they have been seriously manipulated. In other words, citizens have been pushed aside wherever and whenever decisions were being made; and at the same time, politicians are claiming their legitimacy and referring to these very citizens. The marginalization of citizens has been happening at the lowest level of political organization of society - at the level of local wards.

On the other hand, most citizens recall when not so long ago these local wards were part of the

constitutional system and an important transmission point in the chain of political decision-making. Therefore, it is justified that citizens ask whether or not local wards should be modernized and put into effect, rather than discarded as anachronistic. In fact, when Local wards were eliminated, they were not replaced by any new form for mass civic participation in decision-making, so the current democracy in BiH, without any doubt, can be called "democracy without citizens".



www.novamz.ba

In order to communicate and present the proposal publicly, the project team organized 31 meetings with leadership of the municipalities, 66 meetings with local community representatives and 60 meetings with NGOs.

Prior to submitting the official initiative for legislative changes in the entities' legislations, CCI organized a wide public discussion with interest groups, municipal officials, ministries, local communities, NGOs, and with assistance from expert, finalized the Initiative that was afterwards submitted to the ministries in charge.

The RS Parliament passed the Law on Local Self-government, granting Local wards an obligatory status. Also, selection of local leaders changed and citizens now have the opportunity to elect the leadership through secret vote process. However, the legislative procedure is not completed yet due to a complaint filed by a political party, and the Decision by the Constitutional Court of the RS is still pending.

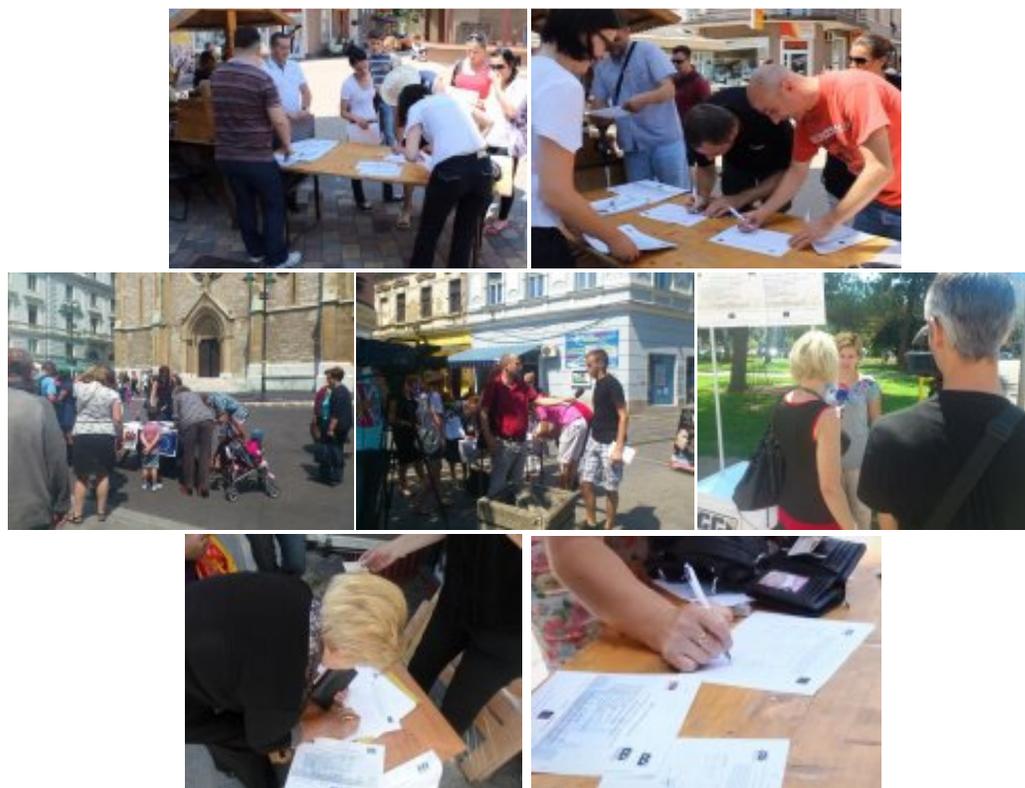
The House of Representatives of the FBiH Parliament approved the draft amendment to the Law on the Principles of Local Self-government; however, it did not pass in the House of People due to poor presence of MPs in support of the Law (only 43 out of 53 MPs were present during the vote). Currently, CCI has been exploring the options regarding its further steps to bring the Law back in procedure.

At the local level, CCI met with 20 councilors in ten municipalities. They were asked to support the changes and to amend their municipal statutes in order to improve civic participation in decision-making. The leadership of seven municipalities in BiH amended their statutes, creating more opportunities for Local wards to assume a bigger role, revitalizing local ward mechanism and providing citizens with an opportunity to achieve stronger influence on the decision-making process.

CCI and its partner DON organized street stands in 15 towns across the country to inform the public about the efforts in this field. In the Federation, CCI also organized petition signing in

CCI and its partner DON from Prijedor, with support of 50 NGOs from BiH identified several initial solutions for systemic improvement of the work of Local ward, as a key mechanism for civic participation in local decision-making. The solutions involved changes and amendments to some articles in the entities' legislations to introduce more transparency and democracy in the work of Local wards, which, on the other hand would somewhat improve public information system and participation of citizens in decision-making.

support of the changes to the Law on the Principles of Local Self-Government, as well as online petition signing.



Petition signing in Bihać, Sarajevo, Tuzla, Livno, Bosanski Petrovac, May/June 2013.

The project also created a unique data base with contacts all of municipalities in BiH (mayors' contact information, etc), and links to their web sites. The data base is also published via CCI's web page and several other web sites in order to facilitate citizens' access to elected representatives at the local level.

7. RECONCILIATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES/PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT IN FOUR MUNICIPALITIES OF THE BIRAC REGION 2011-2013

CCI continued to provide support to strengthening citizens' real influence on decision-making in four municipalities.

In 2013, the focus of CCI efforts was on monitoring the implementation of the participation mechanisms and collaboration with municipal officials in order to improve the implementation process. The focus was also on the budgeting process. For example, in collaboration with the finance departments of the municipalities, CCI monitored the administration and results of Public hearings, and other activities leading up to the budget approval.

CCI also established a continual monitoring of the implementation of the Decision and publicized the Report containing the main findings and recommendations for mayors and heads of municipal parliaments.

More detailed presentations of the monitoring results were given to the authorities of the respective municipalities. The Report on monitoring policy implementation was created with NGO partners, Prijatelji Srebrenice and 'Priroda.

Through its involvement, CCI also provided support to the responsible municipal departments in order to implement new local policies in Milići and Vlasenica in the segment of public hearings and local government transparency. The policies such as Decision on public hearings, survey and grant awarding criteria are implemented in the respective municipalities.

The example of this is that priorities selected for financing in 2013 are much more reflective of the needs identified by Local wards.

Also, the municipality of Vlasenica introduced another mechanism in 2013, enabling citizens to post their questions online and find out more about the work of the municipality (http://www.opstina-vlasenica.org/?page_id=23).

Forums of Accountability also had positive reflections both among citizens and heads of local administrations.

In order to secure the opportunity for increased regional cooperation among the four municipalities and their access to EU funds, the project established a joint team for writing project proposals. The team realized a mini project - free internet in Bratunac, Milici, Vlasenica and Foreign Language Center in Srebrenica.



8. CITIZENS PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING IN 2012

CCI has examined civic participation in decision-making processes in BiH on annual level since 2005. By looking at perception and experience of citizens and public officials according to the criteria such as legal regulation and government practice in including citizens, CCI provides an assessment of the country's annual progress in this segment.

The approach used in the 2012 analysis used two main directions:

- analysis of the legal framework regulating civic participation
- citizens' experiences in decision-making at local level

The data analysis showed that there were no improvements in terms of participation of citizens in decision-making in 2012. Although with limited progress made in 2012, the legal framework

IZVJEŠTAJ

O STANJU UČESĆA GRADANA U PROCESIMA ODLUČIVANJA U BIH

U 2012. godini u oblasti učesća građana u procesima odlučivanja u BiH nije došlo do značajnih promjena. I dalje ostaju glavni prepreke u procesu odlučivanja: faktor da učesće građana ali ga ni ne podržavaju - organizovano ne imperativom mjerenja. U takvim okolnostima, prisustvo građana u odlučivanju je svjedstvo na određeni način i motivisanost pojedince ili vlasti. U BiH nije u 2012. godini dostignuto značajnijih pomaka naprijed.

Građani u BiH i dalje nisu partneri svojim lokalnim predstavnicima u kreiranju javnih politika, a mnogi građanski problemi i dalje nisu kroz terne djelovanja lokalnih vlasti.

still represents only a non-limiting factor, yet it neither encourages nor discourages civic participation - especially not with imperative measures.

Overall, 2012 is another missed opportunity to improve civic participation in BiH and utilize it as a stable foundation for social progress. Government still holds decision making in their own hands, applying mostly archaic approaches to cooperation with citizens, who, on the other hand mostly observe what has been happening, disapproving their primarily consultative role (which is also not available to everyone).

Presence of citizens in decision making is brought down to a good will and motivation of government representatives, and there was no significant step forward in this aspect in 2012. Citizens and their elected representatives are not partners in terms of policy making, and their real problems are still not among top government priorities.

Citizens are growingly willing to engage - the percentage of them grew to 67% in 2012. However, government did not respond adequately. Only 40% of the respondents saw government invitations to take part in decision-making on some issue in 2012 (budgeting, etc), and less than 33% used Local ward and/or public meeting as a mechanism for participation.

All of the above eats away an already low level of citizens content with the work of their elected representatives. In 2012, the level of public content dropped below 40% for the first time, which is the lowest level registered since 2005.

Also, public confidence in government work dropped again in 2012, down to 22,4%. The growth that was registered in 2011 was obviously carried by inertia of the 2010 general elections - energy created through ad-hoc pre-election investments and promises/initiatives of newly elected government officials, who failed to deliver expected results one year later.

9. THE CIVIL SOCIETY SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT 2013 - 2018

In September 2013, CCI launched the implementation of a five-year project (the Civil Society Sustainability Project - CSSP) in partnership with the Civil Society Promotion Center (CSPC). The project is funded by USAID and the British Embassy in Sarajevo. The main goal is to strengthen and maintain civil society capacities in BiH in order to influence the adoption and implementation of public policies of interest for the real citizens' problems in BiH.

During the five-year performance period (2013-2018), the project will provide a new energy and vision for achieving a full influence of civil society on improving living conditions of BiH citizens and sustainable development of civil society in the country.

CSSP will apply the highest standards and positive experiences in the fields of networking with stakeholders and creating partnerships. The CSSP will establish partnerships with business community, media, other CSOs and government to effectively respond to the key problems in the BiH society. The focus of these functional partnerships will be on the jointly identified goals and vision, the jointly identified problems and advocacy agenda in each of the 12 areas/sectors: Anticorruption; Employment and labor markets; Economic development policies; Education; Healthcare; Human rights of marginalized groups; Women's rights; Agriculture and rural

development; Environment protection and energy efficiency; Culture; Public financial governance; Justice system.

This project will continue to monitor the work of elected officials and regularly inform the public on government efficiency. It will also advocate for more enabling legal and fiscal environment for civil society, on issues such as individual and corporate philanthropy, social entrepreneurship, CSO self-regulation mechanisms, and relations between CSOs and government.



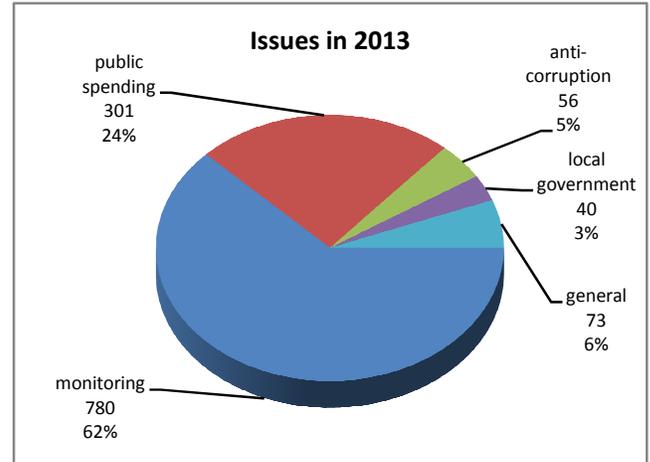
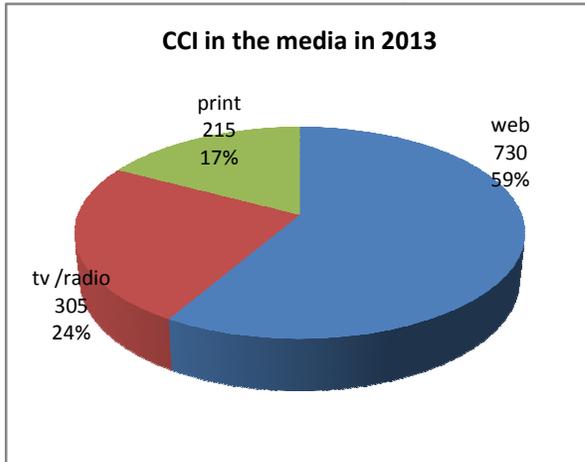
From September through December 2013, CCI worked on developing annual work plan for 2014 and documentation such as Grant manual, Application form and Instructions for applicants. CCI and CSPC announced a Public call on December 24, 2013 inviting interested NGOs to submit their applications and become partners of the project in the 12 selected areas. The Public call was published in six daily newspapers (Dnevni avaz, Oslobođenje, Nezavisne novine, Glas Srpske, Dnevni list and

Presentation of Request for Applications, December 27, 2013, Tuzla

Večernji list), and it would remain open until January 31, 2014. In efforts to additionally promote the RAF and provide more information to interested CSOs, the project organized two presentations -- in Tuzla on December 27 and in Banja Luka on December 30 -- which gathered 126 representatives of 83 CSOs. The number of participants increased by 63% compared to the two public presentations organized to present the RAF under the CAPP II project in 2009.

10. CCI IN THE MEDIA IN 2013

During 2013, CCI registered approximately 1250 media appearances. The largest number of media reports and publicity received addressed government performance monitoring reports (780). Media interest in government performance manifests also through a number of media outlets present at press conferences -- 10 on average.



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