



ActionSEE



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Good governance is key to rule of law and while issues of corruption, transparency, rule of law and good governance are always in the spotlight, there remains a lack of understanding and systemic problems that hardly receive sufficient coverage. The project aims to raise awareness of such challenges by facilitating cooperation among civil society organizations (CSOs) and consolidated strategic efforts for representation.

The “Accountability, Technology and Institutional Openness Network in South East Europe - ACTION SEE” project is implemented by Foundation for Internet and Society Metamorphosis (North Macedonia), Westminster Foundation for Democracy (UK), Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability - CRTA (Serbia), Citizens Association Why not? (Bosnia & Herzegovina), Center for Democratic Transition (Montenegro), Open Data Kosovo (Kosovo) and Lëvizja Mjaft! (Albania).

ACTION SEE provides a platform for dialogue between significant stakeholders and a concrete tool to measure the degree to which state institutions uphold principles and standards of open governance (Openness Index).

The project aims to increase the inclusion of CSOs and media organizations in decision making processes and the creation of public opinion and policies, as well as to raise the capacity of civic societies to address sensitive issues.





The project aims to:

- Promote a dynamic civic society which effectively mobilizes citizens for active participation in issues related to the rule of law and good governance, and affects policies and decision making processes at a national and regional level.
- Strengthen mechanisms for dialogue between civic organizations and government institutions, and influence good governance and public administration reforms.
- Stimulate civic and media organization networking at local and EU level, allowing the exchange of know-how, skills and connections, as well as increase the influence of their representation efforts.



More information about the project can be found on the following links:

- ACTION SEE project website:
<https://actionsee.org/>
- Openness Index:
<https://opennessindex.actionsee.org/>
- ACTION SEE Resource Center:
<https://resource.actionsee.org/>
- ACTION SEE Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/ACTIONSEENetwork/>



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS in North Macedonia and the region



- The creation and improvement of the **Openness Index** as a composite indicator that measures the degree to which institutions in the Western Balkan countries are open to citizens, in the areas of **transparency, accountability, integrity and awareness**. In each of the countries the openness of the institutions was measured within the legislative authorities (parliaments), executive authorities (governments, ministries, executive agencies), judicial authorities (courts, prosecutors, judges and prosecutors) and local self-governments.
- On the basis of the Openness Index data, in total **72 Policy papers, 18 National and 3 Regional Roadmaps** were created and translated into 6 languages, that served further for promoting institutional transparency and good governance.
- Based on the recommendations laid out in the Comprehensive plan for good governance of the institutions in the state from 2018, the Government of North Macedonia identified the need for a new **Strategy for Government Transparency** in order to systematically address the issue with the notable differences





between the different levels of the executive power (the government, ministries, and state administration bodies). The Foundation for Internet and Society Metamorphosis, the Foundation Open Society – Macedonia and the Minister without Portfolio in charge of Portfolio in the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia in charge of Communications, Accountability, and Transparency Robert Popovski signed a **Memorandum for Cooperation** that will provide support for the creation and implementation of the Strategy.

- **The Declaration of Openness, Accountability and Transparency of Local Self-Government** was an initiative started by Foundation for Internet and Society Metamorphosis in December, 2017. It started by delivering a letter of interest to all mayors for signing the Declaration, which covers principles of openness, accountability and transparency. The initiative resulted as a need from the 2016 Openness Index measurements, carried out in compliance with special work methodology and indicators, which showed that the local self-government in North Macedonia has the lowest rank in the region. In total 32 municipalities in North Macedonia signed the Declaration.

- A total of **3 Grant Scheme cycles** were implemented as part of which **35 grants were awarded to local CSOs and media organisations located in the six Western Balkan countries**. Each of the grantees implemented their unique projects focused on addressing the urgent local and national issues in the upcoming period in order to advance good governance and the rule of law.
- **Assessment of media coverage of good governance and public administration reforms were done in all 6 countries** to provide an overview of the manner of media reporting on good governance, transparency, and accountability and the type of undertaken civil initiatives, i.e., covered project topics. The analysis also detected the type of changes caused by the media reporting on those topics at the level of policies, legislative amendments or public debates organization with the aim to spur amendments in terms of legislation or change certain conditions through civic activism.
- Our **social media community consists of more than 3500 followers** on Facebook and Twitter, among which are decision-makers, public administration officials, journalists,



etc. In one case, the Prime Minister of North Macedonia even shared our content (data visualization) on his Facebook page, commenting the Index results. Our social media community is still growing steadily.

- Foundation for Internet and Society Metamorphosis produced several **interactive visualizations in 3 languages** (Macedonian, Albanian and English), which were viewed by more than 100.000 people only in October of 2018 alone.
- We established a **good cooperation with a number of institutions** with whom we have organized meetings, trainings and created separate guides on how to improve their level of openness.
- We contributed to **raising awareness about the importance of openness of the state administration**, by organising regional, national and international conferences, multilateral meetings, advocacy events, online campaigns, knowledge exchange workshops, etc.



ABOUT THE PARTNERS

The ACTION SEE project was created on the basis of the experiences of the members of the ACTION SEE network gained in the implementation of projects at a national, regional and international level with the aim of strengthening civic organizations for a more efficient and more significant inclusion in the policy creation processes.

The ACTION SEE network is composed of CSOs that jointly work on promoting and ensuring government accountability and transparency in the region of South-East Europe, raising the potential for civic activism and civic participation, promoting and protecting human rights and freedoms on the internet and building capacities and interest within civil society organizations and individuals in the region in using technology in democracy promotion work. More information about the network: <https://actionsee.org/>

Partner organisations

- Foundation for Internet and Society Metamorphosis (North Macedonia): www.metamorphosis.org.mk
- Citizens Association Why not? (Bosnia & Herzegovina): www.zastone.ba
- Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability (Serbia): www.crtars.org
- Center for Democratic Transition (Montenegro): www.cdtmn.org
- Levizja MJAFT! (Albania): www.mjaft.org
- Westminster Foundation for Democracy (UK): www.wfd.org
- Open Data Kosovo (Kosovo): www.opendatakosovo.org

