



SARAJEVO OPEN CENTRE

FINANCIAL AND NARRATIVE REPORT
SARAJEVO OPEN CENTRE
Period: May 2007 - May 2012

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Introduction

Sarajevo Open Centre (SOC) is independent, non-political and non-profit organization working in the field of human rights, education and culture. It assembles persons of various profiles and backgrounds – jurists, sociologists, translators, political scientists, artists and social scientists. SOC was established in 2007, registered as association of citizens on state level and has grown up to a respectable non-governmental organization in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Although we were founded in 2007, we have been working intensively since 2011, when we opened our first office and had our activists constantly working in the Sarajevo Open Centre.

For the upcoming period 2012-2014 we are going to focus on two intervention areas: *political participation* and *human rights*. We find these two intervention areas crucial in order to achieve our vision.

The interreligious education activities will be outsourced into an independent religious education centre and the cultural activities will decrease, except for the cultural activities related to the promotion of human rights.

Background

In the post-Dayton period, positive developments have been made in Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H) when it comes to establishing the state institutions and basic elements of the political system and the law framework. The European Union integration process and the EU conditionality principles have supported a positive change in the post-conflict situation. Individual human rights have been improved when it comes to issues of refugees, property rights, inter-ethnic conflicts etc. The legal and institutional framework for monitoring human rights is in place. However, B&H made little progress in improving the enforcement of international human rights legislation. The best example is the verdict of the European Court of Human Rights issued in 2009 in the case *Sejdic-Finci vs. B&H* that has not yet been implemented (even if it is a precondition for the EU candidate status) and that obliges B&H to eliminate the discriminatory elements in its constitution and electoral law. As this example shows there are still some inefficiencies on the political development of B&H and we identified them and foremost in two areas: human rights and political participation of citizens.

Nowadays in B&H society the LGBT community is one of the most invisible, weakest and marginalized societal groups. LGBT persons are exposed to discrimination, violence and hate speech. The anti-discrimination law in place covers sexual orientation and gender expression. However, so often in B&H, the implementation of this law remains weak. In addition, little progress has been made in harmonising other laws with the anti-discrimination law. Until today, very few complaints about discrimination have been officially registered; there is only one case that is related to LGBT persons. Thousands of LGBT people in B&H are discriminated, stigmatised and victims of violence and discrimination because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. They cannot fully enjoy their universal human rights, especially when it comes to labour rights, freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. There is an urgent need to remedy this situation and take policy and legislative measures to combat homophobia and transphobia.

B&H did not show any efficient and strategic plans to work on the empowerment of LGBT persons and their better legal protection. Sexual orientation and/or gender identity are named in some laws but there is no action plan on state, entity or cantonal level when it comes to LGBT rights. Nevertheless, some specific CSOs have already begun to work together in order to get a better implementation of the international and national legal framework. For instance, in 2011 Sarajevo Open Centre initiated the first informal network of LGBT activists in B&H. During the several meetings, they have achieved important steps such as organizing future activities and fundraising, creating of a board body in order to make the fundamental decisions, and sharing of knowledge among its members. Additionally, Sarajevo Open Centre is part of several LGBT networks: in particular with other LGBT organizations

from Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro, which started to cooperate in projects together since the beginning of 2011, such as organization of trainings for different stakeholders, included the LGBT population and this cooperation is really strong at the moment.

The patriarchal societal system in B&H makes women not represented equally in the public sphere and consequently women issues are not included in political decisions. The consequences of this are the inequality between men and women when it comes to economical and social areas of life, as well as the political. So the system, as it is nowadays, is not taking into account the majority of the B&H population's needs. Sarajevo Open Centre is working to empower women through education and public actions, giving them the possibility to express themselves. We also want to raise Bosnian-Herzegovinian society awareness about the importance of the equal social, economical and cultural development of women to achieve a better development of the country itself. Finally we want the authorities of B&H to work on a better and full implementation of the law in force, both at national and international level.

Lastly, the political sphere in B&H is developing slowly or not at all, lagging behind the neighbouring countries in the European integration process, which means that B&H is not progressing because of several reasons. One of the most important reasons is the lack of political will from the authorities but also the passive attitude of citizens towards the political developments of the country. The B&H society, coming from a communist and much wealthier system, had went to convulsive times during 90's and since then remained in a stagnant situation where more than the 25% of the population is unemployed and the citizens are not enjoying social protection system and equal opportunities. Nevertheless, we can assure that Bosnian-Herzegovinian individuals are not stepping up for their rights and for having an accountable and non-corrupt political class. In Sarajevo Open Centre we believe that for active individuals who would constitute a responsible and active citizenship we need to create a programme where education and information is reaching out important strata of the society. We are developing this programme with the main aim of increasing the political participation of citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina by educating and informing them about political procedures, institutions and actors. We also find that increasing the capacities and skills of the political party members and CSOs is fundamental effort and that they will strengthen democratic processes in mutual cooperation. The more the stakeholders are educated, the more accountable the system is.

Programmes May 2007 – May 2012

In the period 2007-2012, we have been working in the following areas and have been implementing the following projects.

Interreligious Education Programme

Educational training programme: for teachers of the inter-religious school subject Culture of Religions in different B&H federal units, together with Goethe Institute in B&H and the OSCE Mission in B&H; 140 teachers have been trained in 12 trainings (2007-2010). We have also created the first textbook and teacher's manual for the subject Culture of Religions, funded by HEKS Swiss Interchurch Aid and the German Stability Pact for South East Europe, and published by the textbook publishing house Sarajevo Publishing (2009-2011);

Human Rights Programme

Coming out: Together with Civil Rights Defenders, we have worked on legal and networking project that resulted with the publication of "Rights and Freedoms of LGBT persons", an analysis of legal framework that applies to LGBT persons in B&H and its lack of implementation and also with the founding of the non-formal LGBT network in B&H, for which we have organized 4 basic trainings on LGBT activism and human rights (all activities in 2011). This LGBT network in B&H includes all LGBT groups that are currently developing in the country.

LGBT cultural programme: together with our partners Heinrich Boell Foundation and the Embassy of Sweden in Sarajevo, we have organized monthly film screenings about LGBT issues within the programme *Sex, Pop and Politics* in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar and Zenica (during the whole year 2011) and the exhibition *Article One* (July 2011). We also have published the first *Textbook on LGBT human rights* with Heinrich Boell Foundation in 2011.

Culture Programme

European Film Weeks: organization of film programmes in 12 B&H cities, in cooperation with the Delegation of the European Commission in B&H, the Ministry of Culture and Sports of the Canton Sarajevo and several Embassies of EU member states (2007-2010); in these five years we have organized 50 film weeks, with 8000 persons in attendance; *National film programmes:* Spanish Film Week (2009, 2010, 2011), French Film Week (2010, 2011, 2012), Slovenian Film Week (2010), Hungarian Film Week (2011), Dutch Film Week (2011) etc.

Literature Programmes: Bosnian Stand at the *International Book Fair in Leipzig in Germany* (2010 and 2011), with literature programme, which was the first Bosnian representation at this international book fair, supported by three cultural ministries in Bosnia and Herzegovina; a two-year *European Writers in Residence Programme*, with 19 guest authors from Europe (2011 and 2012)

Social Sciences Programme

Political Education: in cooperation with the Swiss Development Cooperation and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation we produced the first Bosnian-Herzegovinian textbook on the *Political system in Bosnia and Herzegovina* which is used in four universities in B&H (2008/2009); in October 2011, the second edition of this book has been published, presenting 24 articles on 560 pages under the title *State, Politics and Society in Bosnia and Herzegovina* and has been distributed to all public universities of B&H.

Financial development of the Sarajevo Open Centre 2007-2012

Table 1:
Financial development of the incomes

| Total incomes for projects by year | KM (BAM) | Increase in incomes compared to the year before (in %) | Notes |
|------------------------------------|------------|--|---------------------|
| 2007 | 0,00 | - | No incomes for 2007 |
| 2008 | 104.318,00 | - | |
| 2009 | 55.554,00 | - 47 % | |
| 2010 | 123.904,00 | + 123% | |
| 2011 | 218.011,00 | + 76 % | |
| Total 2007-2011 | 501.787,00 | | |
| Planned incomes 2012 | 250.000,00 | + 15% | Planned incomes |

Table 2:
Incomes for 2011

| Incomes for 2011 | KM (BAM) | Notes |
|---|------------|---------------------------------------|
| Transferred from 2010 to 2011 | 7.405,00 | not spent project resources from 2010 |
| Incomes from local and international partners/donors 2011 | 210.606,00 | |
| Total incomes 2011 | 218.011,00 | |

Table 3:
Expenditures for 2011

| Expenditures for 2011 | KM (BAM) | In % | Notes |
|-------------------------------|------------|------|-------|
| Stuff brutto payments | 36.874,96 | 17% | |
| Office rent | 4.000,00 | 2% | |
| Project costs 2011 | 128.287,04 | 59% | |
| Transferred from 2011 to 2012 | 48.849,00 | 22% | |
| Total expenditures 2011 | 218.011,00 | 100% | |

Partner and donors 2011

The main financial supporters have been

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Foundation Heinrich Böll, Sarajevo Office www.boell.ba | 14.000 KM + 8.200 EUR |
| Civil Rights Defenders www.civilrightsdefenders.org | 21.000 EUR |
| Literature Network Traduki www.traduki.eu | 11.000 EUR |
| Royal Norwegian Embassy in B&H www.norveska.ba | 18.000 KM |
| Goethe-Institut Bosnien und Herzegovina www.goethe.org/BiH | 5850 EUR |
| ILGA Europe www.ilga-europe.ba | 16.000 EUR |
| Schüler Helfen Leben, Sarajevo Office www.shl.ba | 9.500 KM |

Our partners, amongst other, have been

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| OKC Abrašević Mostar | US Embassy Sarajevo |
| City Theatre Jazavac Banja Luka | Concil of Europe, B&H office |
| Art cinema Kriterion Sarajevo | Spanish Embassy Sarajevo |
| Museum of the City Zenica | French Embassy Sarajevo |
| Press Council in B&H | Polish Embassy Sarajevo |
| | Czech Embassy Sarajevo |
| | Slovak Embassy Sarajevo |
| | Hungarian Embassy Sarajevo |
| | Italian Embassy Sarajevo |
| | European Union Police Mission |

What are our development plans for the period 2012 - 2014?

Mission

Sarajevo Open Centre is an independent, non-political and non-profit organization promoting active citizenship through political education and advocating for human rights through equality policies based on gender, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Vision

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a society of equal rights and opportunities for everybody built upon active and political engaged citizenship and an accountable state.

Values

- *Dedicated, responsible and transparent* in our daily work
- *Proactive*: we are finding solutions before problems arise
- *Communicative*: we have established adequate channels of communications with stake holders and our target groups
- *Innovative and creative*: we introduce new methods and working areas
- *Partnership and networking*: we have established good relationships with similar NGOs and initiative working in the same areas
- *Sensible for minority groups*: posses adequate expertise that enable us to have a sensible approach towards the needs and problems of our target groups
- *Solidarity and support*: we have solidarity with other initiatives that share the same values and we provide support to those in need
- *Good position within the society*: our image as an proactive and reliable NGO insured us the position of one of the leaders in our working area
- *Team work*: we are effective and efficient due to the good management and skilful personal
- *Capable to learn continually*: we posses willingness to enhance our capacities in order to response to new challenges

Target groups

- *LGBT persons and activists/LGBT human rights defenders* are proactively participating in our activities
- *Civil society organisations active in the field of human rights protection/anti-discrimination*, particularly those that are ready to support our gay-straight alliance action
- *State officials* (legislative and executive) active in different ministries and agencies accountable for human rights and anti-discrimination, but also civil servants in the field of health, security and judiciary.

- *Women* active in political, social and cultural life, interested in political participation activities
- *Youth* interested into human rights and politics, between 18 and 35 years, with affiliation to voluntarism
- *Representatives of political parties* that are willing to increase the accountability of the B&H state
- *Media*
- *Bosnian-Herzegovinian citizens*

INTERVENTION AREA 1: HUMAN RIGHTS

Overall objective 1

To provide full respect of human rights and decrease the level of discrimination on grounds of gender, sexual orientation and gender identity in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Sarajevo Open Centre is empowering marginalized groups through community activities, promoting their rights among the society and advocating for change to the state institutions.

Specific objectives

- To increase awareness among state institutions/officials about the necessity to fully implement International, European and National human rights standards towards women and LGBT persons
- To raise citizens awareness about the LGBT rights and political, social and cultural rights of women
- To empower and strengthen the LGBT community by implementing supportive community based activities, related to their rights and needs

INTERVENTION AREA 2: POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Overall objective 2

To increase political participation of the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina by educating and informing them about political procedures, institutions and actors.

Specific objectives

- To increase awareness of citizens about political developments by being a watchdog in order to put pressure on the state institutions with the aim of making them more accountable
- To increase the capacities and skills of the political party members and CSOs that in mutual cooperation will strengthen democratic processes
- To introduce scientific approach in politics in order to increase the quality of the available knowledge.

INTERVENTION AREA 3: ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Overall objective 3

To raise the sustainability of Sarajevo Open Centre by increasing the capacities, skills and knowledge of the employees and volunteers and the level of partnership with other actors in the society.

Specific objectives

- To build capacities in areas of project and financial management, research methodologies, advocacy and lobbying
- To bust the process of networking with CSOs both on national and European level to facilitate access to information specifically when it comes to women and LGBT rights
- To enhance already existing cooperation with the institutions on state, entity and cantonal levels as well as with intra-governmental and international stakeholders

Sarajevo Open Centre structure

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