



SARAJEVO OPEN CENTRE

FINANCIAL AND NARRATIVE REPORT for 2012

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Introduction

Sarajevo Open Centre (SOC) is an independent, non-political and non-profit organization that promotes full respect of human rights and decreases the level of discrimination on grounds of gender, sexual orientation and gender identity by empowering marginalized unprivileged groups through community activities, promoting human rights within the society and advocating for policy change towards the public authorities.

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. The team is composed of 10 employees, 1 trainee and 2 interns (April 2013).

We actively participate in the following networks: BiH Women's Network; BiH Coalition against hate speech and hate crime; BiH Coalition "Equality" against ethnic discrimination; Regional Network against Homophobia, BaBelNor Network on LGBT rights; BiH Peace Network; BiH Justice Network.

SOC has collaborated since 2007 with national (Ministry of Civil Affairs BiH, Ministry of Culture Canton Sarajevo and FBiH) and international donors (EU, EUPM, NATO, several Embassies, international foundations like Heinrich Boell Foundation, National Endowment for Democracy etc.).

At the end of 2012 we decided to outsource our social science research work to a new spin off organisation that has been recently funded: the Centre for Political Studies (www.cps.ba). The Centre for Political Studies is an independent and non-profit think tank organization that promotes active political participation through research, education and advocacy. The *Centre for Political Studies* deals with: Research (institutions, structures, processes); Education (researchers, political parties, civil society organizations, general public) and Advocacy (cultural policies, educational policies, political system reforms).

For the upcoming period 2013-2014 SOC is going to focus on two intervention areas: women and LGBT rights. We find these two intervention areas crucial in order to achieve our vision.

Background

In the post-Dayton period, positive developments have been made in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH) 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, BIH 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. BIH* that has not yet been implemented (even if it is a precondition for the EU candidate status) and that obliges BIH 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 BIH and we identified them and foremost in two areas: human rights and political participation of citizens.

Nowadays in BIH 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 BIH, 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 BIH 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.

BIH 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. 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 BIH 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 BIH population's needs. Sarajevo Open Centre is working to empower women through education and public actions, giving them the possibility to express themselves. We want the authorities of BIH to work on a better and full implementation of the law in force, both at national and international level.

Programmes 2012

Here we will present only chosen activities, projects and achievements in 2012, giving an overview of our total work in this year.

Advocacy of rights of LGBT persons:

- we established the only civil society lead LGBT human rights violation documentation system in BiH, that have resulted in an Annual report on LGBT rights for 2012;
- we started the first educational programme for young lawyers on LGBT rights;
- we implemented a countrywide monitoring of the implementation of the of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation on measures of combat against discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity;
- we built up first relations to the police agencies in different parts of BiH, and agreed with them to set up posters saying "Police is there to protect all citizens! LGBT persons are welcome here!" in their police stations, and we made contact with the police in Canton Sarajevo and now have our own contact officer within its police;
- we advocated against the discriminatory questionnaires' at the blood donation institutes in BiH which stated that "everyone who had permanent or occasional contact with homosexuals was prohibited from donating blood", after the action of LGBT activists and advocacy work of SOC, the discriminatory questionnaire is changed, and another one, which emphasises sexual behaviour of any person instead of sexual orientation as a deferral criteria;
- we gave the initiative to the FBiH Parliament to introduce hate crime in the Criminal law of FBiH which is accepted and are one of the founders of the Coalition for combat against hate crime and hate speech which is advocating for proper regulation of hate crime and hate speech on all state levels.

Promoting rights of LGBT persons in culture and media

- in order to provide a web portal that will contain news concerning LGBT persons/issues which as well as information on the position of LGBT persons and their rights in BiH, we have started the first web portal on LGBT rights in BiH: www.lgbt-prava.ba
- we published different books and promoted and distributed them countrywide: Dictionary of LGBT culture, Textbook on LGBT rights, Guide for journalist on LGBT rights; Publication on non heterosexual women in BiH, Guide for LGBT persons on how to exercise their rights.
- we organized more than 32 of LGBT film screenings in Sarajevo, Mostar, Tuzla and Banja Luka aimed at raising the awareness of public on the issues LGBT persons face every day.

Support to LGBT persons

- we started offering a specialized legal counselling to LGBT persons, that is supported by different guides for the LGBT community
- we are organizing touring empowerment workshops for LGBT persons in Tuzla, Mostar, Sarajevo, Zenica and Banja Luka, which all consist of different educational areas, such as history of LGBT persons, religion and its relationship towards LGBT persons, language and its proper usage, proper terminology and human rights of LGBT persons and their protection.

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Women rights

- we started a programme related to the topic Gender of Security, with countrywide round tables and a publication;
- we have published the book on feminism from very diverse perspectives (from linguistic, to politics, etc) and presented within the programme of the 8th of March, the International Day of Women.

Political participation

- we organized seven public discussions with experts from throughout the Balkan region on relevant political topics during the whole year
- we have organized for the first time the 7 day Leadership Political Academy which brought together 30 politicians from 17 parties
- we are leading a network of NGOs that are working on issues related to the functionality of BiH political system and that has carried out an extensive campaign related to the implementation of the Census Law.

Social science research

- we published a first introduction to the parliamentarianism in BiH
- we implemented a research on parliamentarianism in BiH, Montenegro and Serbia

International representation

- Sarajevo Open Centre representatives have been representing the human rights situation of LGBT persons in BiH in different international conferences/programmes, as for example the Human Dimension Meeting of the OSCE in Warsaw in October 2011, the First regional LGBT conference in Tirana in June 2012 and the first US State Department organized study visit that is dealing with LGBT rights in four US cities

Capacity Building and networking

- we organized different capacity building actions, related to: free legal aid, documentation of human rights violation, advocacy and lobbying, organisational management
- we have been invited and successfully attended all capacity building activities and networking events that have been offered to our team in BiH and different European countries.

Financial development of the Sarajevo Open Centre 2012

Table 1:

Financial development of the incomes

| Total incomes 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 % | |
| 2012 | 493.606,80 | + 126 % | |
| Planned incomes 2013 | 400.000,00 | | Planned incomes |

* NOTE: 1 EUR = 1,95583 BAM

Table 2:

Fund available for 2012

| | KM (BAM) | Notes |
|---|------------|--|
| Project funds transferred from 2011 to 2012 | 48.698,00 | project resources that were not spent 2011 |
| Incomes from international partners/donors 2012 | 493.606,80 | |
| Total funds available 2012 | 542.304,80 | |

Table 3:

Expenditures for 2012

| | KM (BAM) | In % | Notes |
|---|------------|--------|-------|
| Stuff brutto payments | 120.037,91 | 22,13% | |
| Office costs (rent, utilities, material) | 26.168,01 | 4,83% | |
| Accounting agency & audit reports | 6.379,08 | 1,18% | |
| Project costs 2012 | 247.147,80 | 45,57% | |
| Transferred project funds from 2012 to 2013 | 142.572,00 | 26,29% | |
| Total expenditures 2012 | 542.304,80 | 100% | |

Partner and donors 2012

The main financial supporters have been

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Royal Netherlands Embassy in BiH, MATRA bosniaherzegovina.nlembassy.org | 52.774,17 KM |
| Open Society Fund BiH www.soros.org.ba | 49.991,50 KM |
| Royal Norwegian Embassy in BiH www.norveska.ba | 45.476,54 KM |
| Civil Rights Defenders www.civilrightsdefenders.org | 41.072,44 KM |
| National Endowment for Democracy www.ned.org | 40.135,13 KM |
| US Embassy Sarajevo sarajevo.usembassy.gov | 38.957,35 KM |
| Foundation Heinrich Böll www.boell.ba | 34.543,30 KM |
| NATO Headquarters Sarajevo, Gender Programme | 29.337,42 KM |
| Swiss Embassy Sarajevo www.eda.admin.ch | 29.324,80 KM |
| ILGA Europe www.ilga-europe.ba | 22.989,34 KM |
| European Union Police Mission in BiH www.eupm.org | 20.532,51 KM |

Our partners, amongst other, have been

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| OKC Abrašević Mostar | Concil of Europe, BIH office |
| City Theatre Jazavac Banja Luka | Kvinna till Kvinna |
| Art cinema Kriterion Sarajevo | RRPP |
| Museum of the City Zenica | Internews |
| Planet Art Zenica | Spanish Embassy Sarajevo |
| Youth Initiative for Human Rights | French Embassy Sarajevo |
| Zasto ne Sarajevo | Polish Embassy Sarajevo |
| Fondacija CURE Sarajevo | Czech Embassy Sarajevo |
| Press Council in BiH | Slovak Embassy Sarajevo |
| | Hungarian Embassy Sarajevo |
| | Italian Embassy Sarajevo |

Sarajevo Open Centre structure

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