



# SARAJEVO OPEN CENTRE

## **SARAJEVO OPEN CENTRE FINANCIAL AND NARRATIVE REPORT for 2013**

Prepared in April 2014.  
Adopted by the Steering Board in May 2014.

Sarajevo Open Centre // Čobanija 12 // 71000 Sarajevo  
office@soc.ba // www.soc.ba // 00387 33 200073

## Introduction

Sarajevo Open Centre (SOC) is an independent, non-partisan and non-profit organisation dedicated to advocating for the full respect of human rights and decreasing the level of discrimination on the grounds of sex, sexual orientation and gender identity.

SOC is an organization that empowers women and LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) persons through community activities and promotes the human rights of women and LGBT persons in the general public. SOC advocates for improved legislation and policies and the implementation of existing ones within BiH institutions and international bodies.

SOC was established in 2007, registered as an association of citizens on the state level and has grown to become a respected non-governmental organization in BiH. From 2007-2011 we worked on different projects related to political science research and political education, literature, film and art promotion, and interreligious education, not having clear programmes, an office or employed staff. In 2011 we opened our first office and had the first three team members working full-time in the Sarajevo Open Centre. The team has grown from three (2011) to nine (July 2013/April 2014) full time employees.

Recognizing the fact that the SOC needs to be more focused, professionalized and result-oriented, we decided to outsource our social science research work to a new a spin-off organisation that was founded at the beginning of 2013: the Centre for Political Studies ([www.cps.ba](http://www.cps.ba)).

For the upcoming period 2014-2017, SOC will focus on two programmes:

- LGBT rights, and
- Women's rights.

We will also continue to support other human rights and civil society initiatives that contribute to social and political change in Bosnia and Herzegovina, like the work on anti-discrimination and hate crime in general, as well as action related to ethnic discrimination.

## LGBT RIGHTS Programme 2013

2013 was marked by numerous encouraging developments for the human rights of LGBT people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Public events in multiple cities celebrating LGBT culture and rights drew large audiences; the media's depiction of the LGBT population took a quantitative turn for the positive, and ties between local educational and security institutions and the LGBT community were strengthened.

**International advocacy:** SOC united other regional LGBT rights organizations and human rights institutions from EU and Western Balkans in two conferences to consolidate knowledge and make connections for future cooperation. We also advocated on the European and national levels for better implementation of international and national obligations that BiH has ratified, including 2009's anti-discrimination law, writing and defending many reports to European and international accountability bodies in order to ensure that the violation of LGBT human rights in BiH does not go unnoticed.

**Community survey:** Since one of our two main target groups is lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people, SOC's work in 2013 was based on a survey of the LGBT community that was comprised of 545 participants. The survey was completed in late spring of the same year and is titled "Numbers of Life." The survey shed light on a number of the community's greatest issues, including lack of support from family members – 70% claimed that this was their biggest problem – and the study suggested that each LGBT person who is out of the closet has experienced discrimination. Meanwhile, 94% of cases of discrimination went unreported. These results further solidified our conviction that offering free legal counselling and support activities should remain a core priority. We have also concluded that building trust between the LGBT community and law enforcement institutions is crucial for LGBT people to feel comfortable reporting cases of the violation of their human rights, and this must continue to be a strong component of our work.

**Institutional capacity building:** In order to build this trust, SOC commenced LGBT sensitization trainings with police officers in Sarajevo Canton, which have now become a permanent part of their educational programme. Similar workshops have been performed with high school teachers throughout the region. These trainings offer participants an introduction to LGBT terminology and the legislation in BiH as well as the specifics regarding the human rights violations that this community faces in our country.

**Cultural programming:** On International Human Rights Day, December 10, members of the LGBT community participated in a Human Rights March organized by SOC, where, thanks to our collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Sarajevo Canton, the police acted professionally and protected all demonstrators. In 2013, SOC also sponsored dozens of cultural events, including three exhibitions focusing on LGBT people, a film series entitled Sex, Pop, and Politics, a series of events for International Coming Out Day, an awards ceremony for journalists who positively report on LGBT themes, and community self-empowerment and creative workshops. Events were well attended countrywide – besides Sarajevo, the programmes took place in Mostar, Banja Luka, Tuzla, and Zenica.

Based on this programme, several LGBT local initiatives started to show interest in creating an LGBT programme in their towns. Sarajevo Open Centre provides materials and expertise to those initiatives, and in the case of Banja Luka, we helped coordinate and funded their registration with the local authorities.

**Hate crime legislation and monitoring:** SOC became a leading member of the Coalition to Combat Hate Speech and Hate Crime, which drafted amendments to the Federation of BiH's criminal law in order to add legislation that would specify hate crime as a criminal offense. Unfortunately, the amendments were blocked in the FBiH House of Peoples, but they are being presented in front of the House again in this year. Hate speech and hate crime also became a focus of SOC's monitoring efforts: from March to October 2013, we collected information about 18 cases of hate crime, 5 cases of discrimination on the basis of identity, and over 20 cases of hate speech on the grounds of sexual orientation and/or gender. This information, as well as a description of the legal background of hate crime in BiH, was compiled and published in 2014.

**Conference:** In December, SOC sponsored the first regional conference on LGBT human rights entitled Advancing the State of Human Rights of LGBT People, which included participants from all countries in the Western Balkans coming both from the civil sector and human rights institutions including the European Union Parliament and EQUINET, as well as other international organizations present in BiH. The conclusions of the conference were compiled as a set of specific recommendations that were sent to BIH institutions in order to improve the state of the human rights of LGBT people ([link](#)).

Despite the fact that the convoluted and stagnant political system of Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to be an obstacle in realizing LGBT human rights because laws and their implementation cannot be efficiently harmonized, SOC has a lot to celebrate looking at the past year when it comes to the LGBT community. A framework for more efficient reporting of hate crimes has been established as well as the basis for a better relationship with law enforcement bodies in the Federation, among a great many successes.

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS Programme 2013

In 2013, there were significant developments when it comes to women's rights in BiH. In April, a 40% quota for women was adopted in nation-wide election laws, and in September, a 2013 – 2017 Gender Action Plan was adopted. New legislation on domestic violence was also adopted on the individual entity level. However, recent reports still show that gender-based inequalities and discrimination in women's access to the labour market remains a serious problem, parental rights remain discriminatory, and in public and the political sphere, women are still underrepresented. Violence against women and girls continues to be alarming.

SOC, in order to achieve its mission of advocating for the full respect of human rights and decreasing the level of discrimination on the grounds of sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, has developed several projects within the women's rights programme.

**Public events:** We sponsored two large-scale public events for the promotion of women's rights in 2013: the lecture series "Somebody Said Feminism?" and a tour of the documentary drama SEVEN. The "Somebody Said Feminism?" lectures were implemented in order to encourage public debate on feminism and its history and connect it with contemporary events and themes. Lecturers were academic experts in their fields, including Arijana Zaharijević, Amila Ždralović, Nerzuk Curak and Dragana Todorović. Topics in 2013 included Betty Friedan's 1963 book *The Feminine Mystique*, which is associated with the beginning of second-wave feminism, gender and religion, gender and nationalism and women in the 18th century. The events were often attended by more than 20 participants and up to 70, including college students, fellow scholars, and representatives of Sarajevo CSOs. The series was so successful that SOC is continuing it through 2014.

SOC also implemented the BiH tour of the documentary drama SEVEN. It intertwines the stories of seven women's rights activists from all around the world on the topics of violence, family, and political rights. Seven prominent Bosnian women were selected to play the roles of these activists, including three women involved with theatre and film, one journalist, one musicologist, an entrepreneur, and a politician. The production travelled to Mostar and Banja Luka after being performed in Sarajevo and was met by huge audiences in all three cities.

**Gender and Security:** In June 2013, SOC coordinated the preparation of the 3rd Gender and Security Forum, which was held in Sarajevo on 12th and 13th of June. The event is traditionally hosted by NATO HQ Sarajevo, Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina and UN Women. This forum gathers representatives from BiH state and international institutions, NGOs, and embassies. The purpose of the event was to provide a platform for information sharing and coordination as well as networking amongst participants. This is one of the largest gatherings of institutions that work on implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Gender Diversity Programme:** 2013 also saw the implementation of a Gender Diversity programme featuring workshops on the inclusion of women's voices in civil society organizations taught by a Belgrade expert, Dragana Todorović. SOC also held two modules of the Gender Diversity training, which were primarily intended for civil

society organizations within Bosnia and Herzegovina that do not work on gender equality projects, in order to sensitize CSO workers about the significance and methods for including aspects of gender equality in the organizations' work. The focus was not only on activities and programmes that the organizations sponsor, but also on the internal structure and functions of the organizations themselves.

**Advocacy:** The advocacy of the Women's Network, of which SOC is a member, was a significant contributor to the legislative victories for women that were achieved in 2013. SOC is proud to be a part of this network and looks forward to collaborating on future successes. We also see the importance of holding institutions accountable for the implementation of such laws and consider our contributions to the fight for women's rights on the societal level a crucial part of this battle.

SOC coordinated the informal coalition of civil society organizations that worked on the creation of the Alternative Report on the Implementation of the CEDAW Convention and Women's Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina that was advocated at the 55th review session in Geneva in July 2013.

Finally, Sarajevo Open Centre is working in cooperation with other women's organizations to monitor the human rights situation of women throughout the country. The results of this monitoring project will be presented in an Annual Report in 2014.

## **Internal development of Sarajevo Open Centre 2013**

Sarajevo Open Centre was established in 2007 and has been a relevant civil society actor in the sphere of LGBT and women's rights since 2011, when we opened our first office and had a staff of three. Today, SOC employs nine people full time and usually hosts three to four interns.

In 2013, we implemented 11 large-scale projects as well as collaborated with other CSOs on their own projects.

SOC is currently in a consolidation phase after a period of much growth in terms of team, programme and budget in the period 2011-2013. Due to these changes and the changes in the local political context, we are undergoing a process of defining a new strategic plan. This document is being developed through a consultative procedure, first internally within the team – including programme coordinators, the Programme Manager, the Executive Director, the Board and volunteers – and then asking our partners and allies to give inputs to our draft. The Strategic Plan is now (May 2014) under revision and amendments to it will be adopted.

The planning process we are undergoing includes mid-level financial planning in order to meet the needs of the organization and the programmes.

In order to ensure the full participation of all team members, we allocated time outside of the office in an intensive team building get away. We organized several debates and working groups in order to come up with a strategy that better represents us and our needs to fulfil our mission and keep working to achieve our vision.

## Financial development of Sarajevo Open Centre 2013

Table 1. *GROWTH/FALL OF INCOME THROUGH THE YEARS*

Income through the years	KM	EUR	Growth/fall (%)	Notes
Income received in 2007	-			No income in 2007
Income received in 2008	104.318	53.337		
Income received in 2009	55.554	28.404	-47%	
Income received in 2010	123.904	63.351	123%	
Income received in 2011	218.011	111.467	76%	
Income received in 2012	493.607	252.377	126%	
Income received in 2013	448.008	229.063	-9%	
<b>Total income 2007-2013</b>	<b>1.443.401</b>	<b>737.999</b>		

Table 2. *FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR 2013*

	KM	EUR
Unspent balance from 2012	149.433	76.404
Receipts from international partners/ donors in 2013	445.263	227.659
Receipts from other sources in 2013	2.745	1.403
<b>Total funds available for 2013</b>	<b>597.440</b>	<b>305.466</b>

Table 3. *EXPENDITURES FOR 2013*

	KM	EUR	%
Gross staff costs	121.144	61.940	22%
Office costs (rent, utilities, maintenance, cleaning, materials and supplies)	38.523	19.697	7%
Communication costs (phone and internet)	3.136	1.603	1%
Travel costs	15.893	8.126	3%
Bank provisions	3.411	1.744	1%
Accounting and auditing costs	12.652	6.469	2%
Project costs	353.891	180.942	64%
Depreciation costs	1.300	665	0%
<b>Total expenditures for 2013</b>	<b>549.950</b>	<b>281.185</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 4. *SUMMARY OF INCOMES AND EXPENDITURES FOR 2013*

	KM	EUR
Total funds available for 2013	597.440	305.466
Total expenditures for 2013	549.950	281.185
<b>Balance of funds to transfer to 2014</b>	<b>47.490</b>	<b>24281</b>



## MAIN DONORS OF SARAJEVO OPEN CENTRE 2013

Our donors are divided into

- institutional donors (Open Society Fund BiH and US Embassy Sarajevo/DRL grant) and
- project based donors.

Here is a list of the main donors in 2013.

Table 5. *MAIN INCOMES IN 2013* (compare with table 1 and 2)

	KM
<b><i>International partners/donors 2013</i></b>	
Royal Norwegian Embassy Sarajevo www.norveska.ba	110.712 KM
Open Society Fund Bosnia and Herzegovina www.osfbih.org.ba	85.225 KM
Civil Rights Defenders www.civilrightsdefenders.org	51.634 KM
Internews/USAID www.internews.ba	32.109 KM
Norwegian Defense Ministry	28.484 KM
US Embassy Sarajevo/DRL grant sarajevo.usembassy.gov	27.196 KM
National Endowment for Democracy www.ned.org	24.921 KM
Heinrich Boell Foundation, BiH Office ba.boell.org	19.485 KM
ILGA Europe www.ilga-europe.org	14.564 KM
Royal Netherlands Embassy/MATRA bosniaherzegovina.nlembassy.org	10.188 KM
Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice www.astraeafoundation.org	9.866 KM
Swiss Embassy Sarajevo www.eda.admin.ch/sarajevo	6.975 KM
Traduki/S. Fischer Stiftung www.traduki.eu	6.830 KM
Kvinna till Kvinna kvinnaatillkvinna.se/en/	5.867 KM
Other international donors (UNWOMEN, PlanetRomeo Foundation, Schüler Helfen Leben, others)	11.207 KM
<b>Subtotal International partners/donors 2013</b>	<b>445.263 KM</b>
Other sources	2.745 KM
<b>TOTAL INCOMES 2013</b>	<b>448.008 KM</b>

## Sarajevo Open Centre structure

Sarajevo Open Centre  
Čobanija 12  
71000 Sarajevo  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tel/Fax 00387 33 200073 // [www.soc.ba](http://www.soc.ba) // [office@soc.ba](mailto:office@soc.ba)

Steering Board since 2013:  
Arijana Aganović, Elmaja Bavčić, Aida Spahić

### The team of the Sarajevo Open Centre (April 2014):

**Saša Gavrić**  
Executive Director  
[sasa@soc.ba](mailto:sasa@soc.ba)

**Mariña Barreiro**  
Programme Manager  
[marinha@soc.ba](mailto:marinha@soc.ba)

**Jozo Blažević**  
Programme Coordinator  
[jozo@soc.ba](mailto:jozo@soc.ba)

**Emina Bošnjak**  
Programme Coordinator  
[emina@soc.ba](mailto:emina@soc.ba)

**Jasmina Čaušević**  
Programme Coordinator  
[jasmina@soc.ba](mailto:jasmina@soc.ba)

**Lejla Huremović**  
Programme Coordinator  
[lejla@soc.ba](mailto:lejla@soc.ba)

**Vladana Vasić**  
Programme Coordinator  
[vladana@soc.ba](mailto:vladana@soc.ba)

**Fedja Bobić**  
Coordinator  
Finances&Administration  
Layout&Design  
[fedja@soc.ba](mailto:fedja@soc.ba)

**Dina Vilić**  
Coordinator  
Finances&Administration  
Layout&Design  
[dina@soc.ba](mailto:dina@soc.ba)

**Interns**  
Edina Sprečaković  
Jordan Maze  
Marina Veličković