

Course: Environment in the European Union: Funding Mechanisms and Policy Processes

Hotel Continental, Conference Hall – Continental Club,
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14-15 November 2014

Training program

Context

The ENV.net is a network of seven organisations from Western Balkans, Turkey and the EU created in 2012 to support the civil activism, give citizens a voice and influence the public reform processes in the approximation to the environment acquis. The ENV.net project, financed by the EU, builds on the experience of a previous EU-funded project, namely the Environment Forum (<http://www.envforum.eu/doku.php>), implemented in the period 2009-2012.

The project strategy is expected to consolidate the ENV.net role in fostering the state-civil society dialogue at national and regional levels, in analysing and monitoring the on-going process reforms and finally at providing actual opportunities to give citizens and CSOs a voice in the environmental reform process and in the integration with EU.

Two main activities are implemented through this action:

- A) Awareness & information activities
- B) Capacity development activities

Under the capacity development activities, the ENV.net team has planned a 2-day training session to strengthen the capacity of Serbian CSOs in working with the EU.

Target group and Objectives

During the survey conducted by the ENV.net on March 2013, it was underlined the need of further information on EU mechanisms for environmental CSOs.

For this reason a **2-day training session**, titled *Environment in the European Union: Funding Mechanisms and Policy Processes* will be organised in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia, targeting CSOs, Youth organisations, academic institutions, community groups, environment Networks/coalition and other type of non-profit organisations).

Overall aim of the course is to encourage environmental NGOs to be involved in the EU processes and become more competent while doing so. The course will provide brief introductory information on EU and its main institutions, EU programming system and financial decisions. This would enable participants to actively participate in calls for proposals launched by the European Commission and the EU Delegation for projects to be implemented in the Republic of Macedonia.

Moreover the course will provide a general understanding of the monitoring of EU accession process (monitoring of authorities' activities etc.) and provide further information on the channels NGOs can use in the approximation process.

To this end, the following table defines more concrete learning objectives of the 2-day training session as follows:

Key elements of the 2-day training session		
Course objective/ General objective	After the 2-day training session, participants are equipped with the information on being involved in the EU processes and realize the added value in this participation.	
Learning objectives		After this training, the participants will be able to :
	Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe main roles of the different EU Institutions, esp. those with environment related tasks Identify relevant EU funding opportunities and calls for proposals List proper channels to be involved in the EU approximation process
	Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select EU funding opportunities according to own organisation's mission and strategy Prioritize areas of work that would be relevant to lobby at the EU level
	Attitudes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feel the added value and are motivated to participate more actively in EU processes Plan in advance the programs to be implemented according to EU funding opportunities
Assessment	<p><u>During course:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practical group works on several sessions – facilitators' debriefing will show level of learning in terms of KSA (see above table) <p><u>End of course:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation – written and oral 	
Key topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU institutions, programming system EU funding system EU approximation monitoring 	

Assumptions

The course is designed for beginners and does not require a preliminary knowledge of the subject. On the other hand, participants do have a basic knowledge and experience on EU processes and funding system.

The number of participants for this course is limited to maximum 25. In principle, **only one participant per organisation** will be accepted. However, in case where places will be still available, more than one person from the same organisation will be welcome.

The course will be delivered in English, with simultaneous translation in Macedonian.

Hereafter we present the two day program:

Day 1	Content	Day 2	Content
1	Introduction Welcome and Introduction of participants Presentation of course objective EU Institutions and the programming system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The role of the European Commission and other Institutions The EC project cycle: how the Commission design programmes (instruments, action plans) 	5	Recap NGO channels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Channels NGOs can intervene in the approximation process and the relations with the EU
2	EU accession policy: environmental acquis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of authorities' activities etc. 	6	Preparing a project proposal (key topics) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workplan Budget Filling of an application
3	Apply to a call a call for proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main steps: use the guidelines for applicants Tips to fill in the application form Application process 	7	Group work : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Macedonian most important environmental problems How the approximation process can support environmental work of CSOs
4	EU as a resource partner for Environmental CSOs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO envisaged strategic approach (roles and functions) Find relevant calls for proposals Main rules of Grants	8	Conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to improve missions and field actions evaluation

Timing schedule

Day 1		Day 2	
Module 1	9:00 - 10:45	Module 5	9:00 - 10:45
Coffee break	10:45 - 11:00	Coffee break	10:45 - 11:00
Module 2	11:00 - 12:30	Module 6	11:00 - 12:30
Lunch break	12:30 - 13:30	Lunch break	12:30 - 13:30
Module 3	13:30 - 15:15	Module 7	13:30 - 15:15
Coffee break	15:15 - 15:30	Coffee break	15:15 - 15:30
Module 4	15:30 - 17:00	Module 8	15:30 - 17:00