

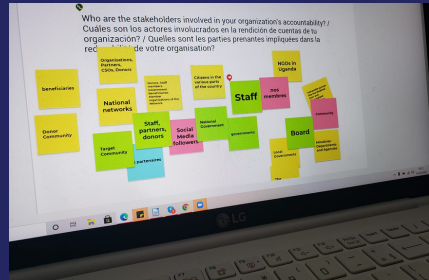
# CSO ACCOUNTABILITY CAMPAIGN



BALKAN CIVIL SOCIETY  
DEVELOPMENT NETWORK



**#BEACCOUNTABLE**





## CSOs Reflections and Lessons Learned from GAW 2020: On What Future We Can Hope?

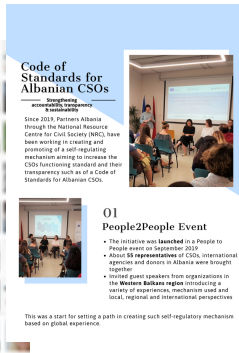
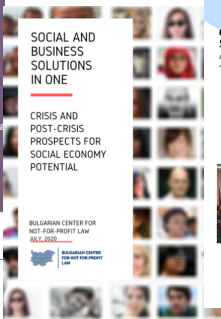
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uring crises, CSOs have learnt that they can influence the future by changing their present. All countries worldwide were caught unprepared to handle the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and its immediate effects. Struggling with the new reality, CSOs adjusted their work in order to address the stakeholders' needs in the communities they serve. Despite the lack of acknowledgement by governments, or proper CSO inclusion in emergency response mechanisms and policies, CSOs have proved they can be a crucial partner to the state, even in such unprecedented times. By embracing their achievements and successfully overcoming new challenges, CSOs have been regaining public trust, and thereby strengthening their future legitimacy.

[Read the full blog-post here](#)

# Collection of CSO Accountability Practices amid COVID-19

## BCSDN members



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### Creating of the Code of Standards

#### 1 Informing & discussing roundtables

200 civil society organizations from Tirana, Vlore, Shkoder and Korce participated in a series of roundtables on the Code of Standards initiative.

#### 2 The Working Group

Inviting of the CSOs to become part of the process with their concerns, suggestions, questions and involvement is a most inclusive step as part of the working group on this issue. 18 organizations joined the Resource Centre and Partners Albania, becoming part of the working group for the creation of the Code of Standards.

#### Adopting International Experience into Local practice

Based on the experience of the Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN) and other CSOs around the globe, part of the Global Standards Initiative, the Code of Standards was further developed by experts and the working group, tailored with the dynamics of sector development in Albania. July 2020, finalizing of the Code of Standards, the Self Assessment Questionnaire, and the Code-implementing structures.

#### 3 Consulting process on Code of Standards

Four regional consulting meetings with around 140 CSOs from around the country getting to know about the Code Standards principles and engagement, implementing structures and evaluation process.

#### A dedicated online platform

Designing of an interactive tool based on successful international examples, combining two functions:

- Informing and promoting the Code
- offer an easy and quick pre-self-evaluation CSOs form.

#### Ready to start

01

### People2People Event

- The initiative was launched in a People to People event on September 2019
- About 50 representatives of CSOs, international agencies and donors in Albania were brought together
- Invited guest speakers from organizations in the Western Balkans region introducing a variety of experiences, mechanisms used and local, regional and international perspectives

This was a start for setting a path in creating such self-regulatory mechanisms based on global experience.



**BCNL** prepared a Brief on Crisis and Post-Crisis Prospects for Social Economy Potential.

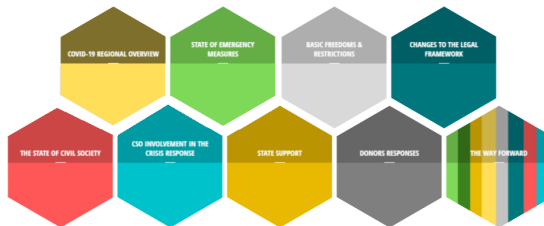
**MCIC** published Guidelines for Effective Management and Governance of Civil Society Organizations and Report on Governance Practices on Transparency and Report on Accountability of CSOs in North Macedonia.



**PA** prepared Fact sheets on the Code of Standards in Albania and with the National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania published a quick assessment of the situation of CSOs, along with a public appeal to the donor community in the country to react to the situation with more flexibility and targeted support.

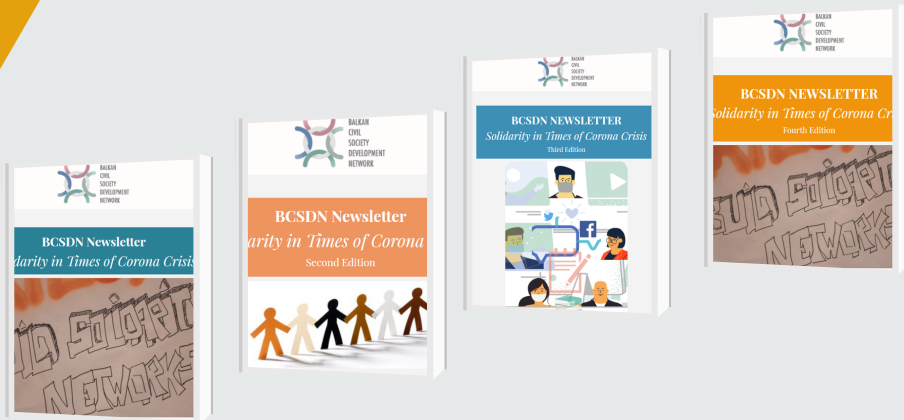
# BCSDN Special Edition on the Impacts of COVID-19 on Civil Society in the Balkans

## BALKAN CIVIC PRACTICES: CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



To explore the scope of civic space restrictions and CSOs difficulties amid COVID-19, together with its member organizations, BCSDN developed [new Balkan Civic Practices online edition](#). The website provides regular updates on the two regional overviews, and other future advancements. The first issue: [Restrictions on Civic Space and Citizens' Basic Freedoms](#) informs on the restrictions on basic human freedoms, restrictions of media work and access to information, etc. The second issue: [The State of CSOs, their involvement in the Crisis Response & State, and Donors Support](#) shows the challenges with which the civil society in the Balkans has been faced amid COVID-19. The website allows for the comparison of several trends across Balkan countries and incorporates recommendations to CSOs, governments, and donors to tackle the ongoing crisis.

# BCSDN Thematic Newsletter: Solidarity in Times of COVID 19



BCSDN delivered its thematic newsletter, ***Solidarity in Times of Corona Crisis***, encompassing regional and global examples of CSOs' responses and adaptation to new circumstances caused by the COVID- 19 outbreak. In the four editions, we present our members' actions and products on CSOs' needs and response amid COVID-19, demonstrating CSOs' challenges, opportunities, and governments and donors' efforts to handle the crisis.



**BALKAN CIVIL SOCIETY  
DEVELOPMENT NETWORK**

December 2020