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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

Forum

“Developing stakeholder participation in the working groups and bodies for EU integration: civil society views“

18 march, 2013 (Monday)

Journalist's club, Skopje

PROGRAM

11:00 – 11:15 *Registration of participants*

11:15 – 11:25 Welcoming remarks

- Ms. Tanja Hafner Ademi – representative of the Civil Platform of Macedonia in the National European Integration Council
- Mr. Aleksandar Nikolov – Association for Development Initiatives – Zenith

11:25 – 11:50

Presentation of the provisions for stakeholder participation from the Rules of Procedure of the WG23 - Justice and Fundamental Rights

- Mr. Aleksandar Nikolov – Association for Development Initiatives – Zenith **Initiatives for identification and use of existing expertise in the process of EU integration**
- Dr. Malinka Ristovska Jordanova, European Policy Institute – Skopje

11:50 – 12:20

Discussion

- What are the recommended modes of participation in working groups for preparation of the NPAA and negotiating positions in the EU membership negotiations? Advantages and disadvantages of information sharing, consultation and participation
- Perceived risks for civil society organizations (e.g. participation without real power to influence decisions)
- Perceived risks for state authorities (e.g. disclosure of sensitive or controversial information to the wider public)
- Required capacities on the part of state authorities for facilitation of stakeholder participation
- Required capacity on the part of civil society organizations
- Who and in which manner can maintain a database of stakeholders and available expertise for EU integration?
- Who will fund the participation of stakeholders?
- Is a unified approach needed in order to ensure stakeholder participation in working groups?

12:20 – 12:30 *Coffee break*

12:30 – 12:50 Comparative analysis of approaches and selection criteria of CSOs in working groups and bodies related to EU integration

- Emina Nuredinovska, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation

12:50 – 13:20

Discussion

- Discretionary right or selection process?
- Selection process conducted by state authorities or selection by the civil sector?
- Can the criteria be universal or should they be specific for each working group?
- What criteria are most relevant?
- Could the excessive formalization of the process lead towards the exclusion of smaller CSOs?

13:20 – 13:30 Closing remarks and future steps

- Ms. Tanja Hafner Ademi – representative of the Civil Platform of Macedonia in the National European Integration Council
- Mr. Aleksandar Nikolov – Association for Development Initiatives – Zenith

13:30 – 14:00

Cocktail

For further information please contact Aleksandar Nikolov (076/744-811; nikolov@zenith.org.mk)