



ROUNDTABLE DEBATE

CSOs PROVIDING SOCIAL SERVICES IN THE WESTERN BALKANS: CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

11 October 2016 | 10:30 – 13:00

Venue: SOLIDAR, Rue de Pascale 4-6, 1040 Brussels

Language: English

Background and objective of the event

The current refugee crisis as well as the latest political and economic pressures inside the European Union and the Western Balkans have provoked a slowdown of the Enlargement process. Civil society organisations (CSOs) need to find ways to revamp the Enlargement process and its social dimension in order to enhance economic, social and territorial cohesion. In particular the innovative capacities of CSOs providing social services needs to be strengthened and they need to be supported to strengthen their capacity and directly engage local and regional beneficiaries in decisions around the 'EU Social Acquis'. These are the main objectives of the EU funded project "**Improving the provision of Social Service Delivery in South Eastern Europe through the empowerment of national and regional CSOs**" led by **ASB-SEE** that will be presented at this round table.

This round table will offer to policy makers and members of the civil society the possibility to discuss about the challenges and opportunities for CSOs providing social services in the Western Balkans as well as the best solutions to make sure that Enlargement process is a catalyzer for social progress and enhancement of socio-economic rights.

As a part of transferring best practices, three national innovative case studies will be presented, as showcase examples of innovative and sustainable solutions based on a social investment approach to deliver social services and to improve people's opportunities to participate in society, with a special focus on young people, Roma population and persons with disabilities.

Draft programme

Roundtable debate with

Elmir Bojadžić, ASB-SEE, Regional director

Gordan Velez, ASB-SEE, Country director

Masa Mitrović, ASB-SEE Project coordinator

Dragan Joković, Executive director of Association of the citizens for the promotion of education of Roma OTAHARIN, IRIS B&H

Predrag Radulović, Secretary, CSO "Education centre Smile", IRIS Serbia

Ilir Lico, Programme Development Officer, ARSIS - Social Organisation for the Support of Youth, IRIS Albania

Biljana Zgonjanin, President of Management Board LIR CD, IRIS B&H

Key stakeholders invited

Olga FIMIN, DG NEAR, Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes

Liselotte ISAKSSON, DG NEAR, Unit D5 Civic society & social inclusion

Catherine WENDT, DG NEAR, Unit D2 Serbia

Ionut SIBIAN, EESC, Co-chair of the EU-Serbia Joint Consultative Committee

Vincenzo GRECO, S&D Secretariat, Policy Advisor on Neighborhood and Enlargement policies

Followed by Q&A with participants and the **IRIS Network** (Improving social services in SEE).

