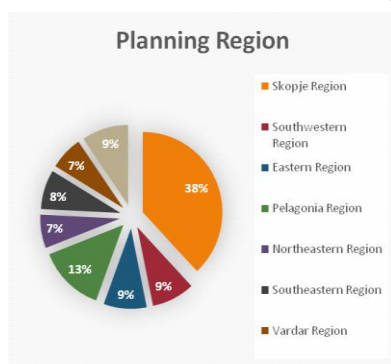


## NEWSLETTER #1

### CSOs' Needs Analysis provided basis for identification of sectors in which Active CSOs need support

***“Improving the Macedonian CSOs active participation in decision – making process through the empowerment of grass – root CSOs”*** also known as ***“Active CSOs”*** is an EU funded project which aims to strengthen CSOs and grass root CSOs in Macedonia, as well as to influence the civil-public sector dialogue, especially on inclusion of all relevant stakeholders in order to increase the participation of grass-root CSOs in decision making processes in Macedonia. The Foundation for Sustainable Economic Development PREDA Plus partnered up with Arbiter Samariter Bund – ASB, and starting from February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 until May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 will jointly implement series of support mechanisms for improving the enabling environment for active inclusion of CSOs in advocacy and policy development.

Through a thorough analysis of the current conditions related to the legal and social frameworks that influence opportunities for active inclusion of CSOs in decision-making processes in Macedonia, the developed Project Baseline Study provides critical review of past and current efforts to advance the related interests of CSOs and their respective target groups. The results of this analysis present the current state of affairs with suggested identified areas and topics with the biggest potential for changes that could be initiated by CSOs. It also gives relevant information of the current state of affairs as a basis for advocacy plans and policy papers, public debates, conferences and meetings, study visits, traineeships, public and advocacy campaigns.



During July 2017, 252 CSOs throughout the country answered the 25-question survey from which key information about needed assistance for capacity building was received and the key areas for further activities under this Project were identified.

In that regard, the Baseline Study identified key sectors in which key changes in decision-making processes can be achieved by CSOs actions. Additionally, the Study considers the relations between the key public sector initiatives and reforms along with the good community practices that promote CSOs involvement in the decision-making processes.



Implemented by:

The following four areas were identified as areas in which this type of CSOs were included in the Study and the following sectors were identified as 4 key sectors in which key changes in the decision-making processes can be made:

- Sports and recreation
- Culture and arts
- Education and research
- Health, Social work and Humanitarian work

The cross analysis that is referring to the **capacities of the CSOs** which were taken as a criterion for this survey **in the terms of lobbying and advocacy**, indicate that the following sectors have the greatest need for support:

- Ecology, Environment and Animals
- Youth activism and Student organizations
- Economic development, Technology and Innovation
- Sports and Recreation

The following cross analysis shows the areas of action in which organizations are mostly active in line with the regions in which they belong. We can see that when it comes to the area of Education/Research, Economic Development/Technology/Innovation, Ecology/Environment/Animals North Southern Region is most active compared to the other regions. In the area of Health/ Social work/ Humanitarian work Skopje region has the first place. When it comes to Culture/Art Southwestern region is leader. Regarding the area of Sport/ Recreation Vadar region has best results. Youth Activism/Student Organizations have been mostly concentrated in the Eastern region.

